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Civilization: the West and the rest, Niall Ferguson (book review)

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paragraph level. Nonetheless, recommended for all interested readers and specialists.—**Frederic Krome, Univ. of Cincinnati Clermont Coll.**

DeRose, Chris. *Founding Rivals: Madison vs. Monroe, the Bill of Rights, and the Election That Saved a Nation. Regnery History, dist. by Perseus. Nov. 2011. c.336p. index. ISBN 9781596981928. \$27.95. HIST*

DeRose, an attorney and veteran political strategist, uses contemporary sources to trace the development of James Madison's and James Monroe's position on the U.S. Constitution and how they opposed each other for a Virginia congressional seat in 1789. While Madison was a significant contributor to and supporter of the Constitution, Monroe was more suspicious of it, largely owing to his worries about federal powers trumping states' rights. Monroe felt that granting a federal power of direct taxation was unnecessary and unjust, and the Constitution did not include a Bill of Rights at the time to preserve liberties like religious freedom. In covering this territory, DeRose doesn't offer anything new until he moves to the congressional election between the two—and this, which he doesn't cover until two-thirds of the way through the book, would have been fine as an article. DeRose is correct that the stakes were high in that election: if Monroe had won, the Bill of Rights might not have passed the First Congress as Monroe would not have been the advocate that Madison was. But DeRose tries to build up some personal drama between the two that didn't exist, since both admitted that the election did not affect their friendship. **VERDICT** This book is a capable introduction for general readers interested in this time period and Madison and Monroe.—**Bryan Craig, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville**

generate debate, but Ferguson's arguments lack thorough, consistent development, and at times the six-application structure seems a stretch, with a reliance on vivid but tangential subjects to cover the gaps; e.g., the chapter on medicine ostensibly focuses on how colonization of Africa led to improved treatment of disease but gives far more space to discussions of the French Revolution and the horrors resulting from eugenic theory. **VERDICT** Fans of Ferguson will find him as engaging as ever, but numerous digressions and simplistic treatments mar the book's potentially intriguing points. [See Prepub Alert, 5/2/11.]—**Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

Flood, Charles Bracelen. *Grant's Final Victory: Ulysses S. Grant's Heroic Last Year. Da Capo. Oct. 2011. c.288p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780306820281. \$27.50. HIST*

Flood (*Grant and Sherman*) writes movingly of the last months of Ulysses S. Grant's life, 1884–85, when, in the wake of financial ruin from a failed investment and suffering from terminal throat cancer, he labored to complete his memoirs (which would be published by Mark Twain) so that his family might once again prosper after his death. Flood paints a vivid picture of Grant's earlier

achievements and of the United States in the decades after the Civil War, moving back and forth between the turmoil surrounding Grant in 1884 and his conduct of the war, paying special attention to his relationships with his family and friends, the troops he commanded, and his humane treatment of Confederate troops in the terms of surrender. Flood has great respect for his subject and succeeds in transmitting it to the reader. **VERDICT** Those who like presidential or post-Civil War history will especially enjoy this book, aimed at general readers, with its compelling portrait of a well-known historical figure. Grant's *Personal Memoirs* has never been out of print and is recommended, with this one, for readers from high school to undergraduate students and history buffs.—**Becky Kennedy, Atlanta-Fulton P.L., GA**

★ **Hansen, Jonathan M. *Guantánamo: An American History. Hill & Wang: Farrar. Oct. 2011. c.448p. illus. index. ISBN 9780809053414. \$30. HIST***

Hansen (social studies, Harvard; *The Lost Promise of Patriotism: Debating American Identity, 1890–1920*) here isn't simply presenting the history of America's naval base (GTMO) on the southeastern coast of Cuba; his story takes readers from the

Ferguson, Niall. *Civilization: The West and the Rest. Penguin Pr: Penguin Group (USA). Oct. 2011. c.402p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781594203053. \$35. HIST*

In the 15th century, Asia and the Middle East seemed to possess tremendous advantages in power and intellect, while the disorganized cluster of nations that made up the West lagged behind. How then did Western civilization come to dominate? According to Ferguson (*The Ascent of Money*), who holds professorships at Harvard, Harvard Business School, and the London School of Economics, it was six “killer applications”—competition, science, property rights, modern medicine, consumerism, and the work ethic—that enabled the West to charge ahead. Furthermore, he asserts, as many of these “apps” have now been globally assimilated, the time of the West's ascendancy may be over. It's an interesting thesis, sure to

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