

radical Republicans. He breaks with those historians who have suggested that Johnson followed what would have been Lincoln's path to reconstruct the South, as he discusses the complex impeachment proceedings against Johnson and the effectiveness of the impeachment process in calming political tensions, if not in removing Presidents from office. Readers who wish to broaden their understanding of Lincoln in this anniversary year will do well to select this well-researched work even if their collection already includes such examinations as Howard Mean's narrower *The Avenger Takes His Place: Andrew Johnson and the 45 Days That Changed the Nation*.—Theresa McDevitt, Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania Lib.

**The Indonesia Reader: History, Culture, Politics.** Duke Univ. (The World Readers). Apr. 2009. c.536p. ed. by Tineke Hellwig & Eric Tagliacozzo. illus. index. ISBN 978-0-8223-4403-2. \$94.95; pap. ISBN 978-0-8223-4424-7. \$25.95. HIST

Editors Hellwig (Asian studies, Univ. of British Columbia; *In the Shadow of Change: Images of Women in Indonesian Literature*) and Tagliacozzo (history & Asian studies, Cornell Univ.; *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier, 1865–1915*) here introduce the understudied nation of Indonesia. Reading their book is like exploring an eclectic, brightly colored museum—and leaving with a multifaceted understanding of one nation's history and cultures. The book is chronologically organized into ten sections, each beginning with an introduction by the editors and then providing ten to 12 engaging pieces relating to the time period. The primary sources included here are the book's gems; they range from fifth-century stone pillars and writings by travelers throughout many centuries to fiction, newspaper articles, manifestos, and more in the 20th and 21st centuries. Unfortunately, there are a couple of minor drawbacks. First, the introductions do not always provide background on the applicable author's affiliations. Second, both Indonesian words and social science terms need definitions. Finally, future versions of this book would benefit from suggestions for additional reading. Recommended for all students of Asian studies.—Karen Sobel, Univ. of Denver Lib.

**Jonnes, Jill. Eiffel's Tower.** Viking. May 2009. c.347p. photogs. index. ISBN 978-0-670-02060-7. \$27.95. HIST

With the 1889 World's Fair fast approaching, the French wanted a grand monument built to represent the greatness of

their republic. The fair's commissioner chose Gustave Eiffel's design for a 1000' tower, but opposition and monetary considerations threatened to prevent the tower's completion in time for the opening day. In addition to a detailed account of the building of the tower, Jonnes (*Conquering Gotham: Building Penn Station and Its Tunnels*) provides mini-biographies of several notable people of the time, including Buffalo Bill, Annie Oakley, Thomas Edison, and Vincent van Gogh, while vividly detailing the visits of renowned personages to the fairgrounds, dissatisfaction among the exhibiting artists, the attractions and people involved in the 228-acre fair, and sites in other parts of Paris. Much of the book takes readers away from the World's Fair and thus the main focus, but these diversions help clarify the historical context. Recommended for students and informed lay readers.—Donna Shuman, Westerville P.L., OH

**Kelly, Christopher. The End of Empire: Attila the Hun and the Fall of Rome.** Norton. Jun. 2009. c.320p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-393-06196-3. \$26.95. HIST

Kelly (ancient history, Univ. of Cambridge; *The Roman Empire: A Very Short Introduction*) paints an engaging portrait of Attila the Hun's rise to prominence and places the feared warlord in the context of his own time. The title is something of a misnomer, as Kelly writes of Attila's ability to build his own empire as well as his significant part in the destruction of Rome's empire. As the author explains, Attila was aware that it was not in his best interest to hasten the decline of the Roman Empire because much of his control over his own people and lands was paid for with Roman gold that he received through bribes and raids. Kelly's well-written narrative is founded on extensive research, and he provides informative notes as well as suggestions for further reading. Recommended as an excellent addition to libraries with collections in ancient history, Roman history, European history, or classical studies.—Crystal Goldman, Univ. of Utah Lib., Salt Lake City

**Morgan, Edmund S. American Heroes: Profiles of Men and Women Who Shaped Early America.** Norton. May 2009. c.352p. index. ISBN 978-0-393-07010-1. \$27.95. HIST

This book is a perfect gem. None of the 17 essays here has been published previously in book form, and three of them appear here for the first time. Morgan (Sterling Professor Emeritus, Yale; *Inventing the People*), the winner of just about every ma-

lor book award, including the Pulitzer, ranges from Christopher Columbus, to the Puritans and sex (which they liked, providing it was in marriage), William Penn, the Anti-Federalists, and historian Perry Miller. Two characteristics that tie the essays together are Morgan's penchant for taking contrarian views of accepted orthodoxies and his admiration for individuals who stood up against authority. His piece on the development of Yale's library in the 18th century demonstrates that books are valuable because they keep alive the memory of dissident voices that otherwise might be drowned out by official, hagiographical versions of a nation's past. His chapter on George Washington and Benjamin Franklin points out that one of the traits that made them great was their ability to say "no" when popular opinion wanted them to act in one way or another. Both specialists and general readers will find this book both authoritative and fun to read. Highly recommended.—Thomas J. Schaeper, St. Bonaventure Univ., NY

**Raphael, Ray. Founders: The People Who Brought You a Nation.** New Pr., dist. by Norton. May 2009. c.608p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 978-1-59558-327-7. \$35. HIST

Raphael (*A People's History of the American Revolution; Founding Myths*) again attempts to give credit to patriots whose contributions to the nation's founding are not celebrated or even widely known. Stars of this entertaining yet informative account include military bankroller Robert Morris, conservative politician and reluctant rebel Henry Laurens, blacksmith-turned-insurgent Timothy Bigelow, young and eager soldier Joseph Plumb Martin, rabble-rousing country doctor Thomas Young, and Puritan poet-turned-political commentator and historian Mercy Otis Warren. The final key player in this narrative is George Washington, and Raphael manages to put a fresh spin on his overly familiar story. The author relies heavily on primary sources, especially diaries, letters, and Martin's and Warren's published works, to craft a highly readable work of popular history that is sure to be a hit among readers who prefer to look at history from a bottom-up perspective. A worthy complement to Raphael's previous works, this is recommended for American history collections in all public libraries.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

**Standage, Tom. An Edible History of Humanity.** Walker. May 2009. c.304p. illus. index. ISBN 978-0-8027-1588-3. \$26. HIST

ANTHRO

Standage's previous book, *A History of*

*the World in 6 Glasses*, theorized that the titular six drinks were reflections of the eras in which they were created. In this new work, he instead shows how one of humanity's most vital needs (hunger) didn't simply reflect but served as the driving force behind transformative and key events in history. Dividing the vast subject into six general sections (such as food's role in the development of societies and social hierarchies, its impact on population and industrialization, and its uses as a weapon both on the battlefield and off), Standage illustrates each section with historical examples and observations. Some topics, like the spice trade's encouragement of exploration, are fairly obvious choices, but the concise style and inclusion of little-known details keep the material both entertaining and enlightening. Perhaps the most interesting section is the final one, which looks at the ways in which modern agricultural needs have acted as a spur for technological advancement, with Standage providing a summary of the challenges still faced by the green revolution. Recommended for both public and academic libraries.—**Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia**

**Sugarman, Tracy. *We Had Sneakers, They Had Guns: The Kids Who Fought For Civil Rights in Mississippi*. Syracuse Univ. Apr. 2009. c.320p. illus. ISBN 978-0-8156-0938-4. \$34.95. HIST**

Sugarman (*Stranger at the Gates: A Summer in Mississippi*), a participant in Freedom Summer in Mississippi in 1964–65, where the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worked for voter registration efforts and community organizing, writes an introspective memoir complete with many of his original illustrations composed that summer. For Sugarman, there are no easy answers to the intricacies shown in movement organizing, state-sanctioned violence, and passionate discourse with the white establishment. This account of Freedom Summer is significant by virtue of the insights into the lives of the youth of the Civil Rights Movement. Many blacks in Mississippi had never worked closely with whites; for students of the North, who had been so isolated from the terror of the South, Freedom Summer represented a fascinating experiment. Many, such as Fannie Lou Hamer, depicted by Sugarman, gave their lives so that all citizens would have the right to vote. This book is a testament to the courageous civil rights workers whose perseverance and courage will inspire all readers.—**Jim Hahn, Univ. of Illinois Lib., Urbana**

**Swallow, Betty & Helen Bradley. *Dear Helen: Wartime Letters from a Londoner to Her American Pen Pal*. Univ. of Missouri. Apr. 2009. c.264p. ed. by Russell M. Jones & John H. Swanson. photogs. ISBN 978-0-8262-1850-6. \$34.95. HIST**

A shared interest in movies brought Betty Swallow of London and Helen Bradley of Kansas City, MO, together as correspondents (they met through writing to *Picture Play* magazine), from 1938 through World War II and until 1950. This volume presents faithful transcriptions of Betty's letters to Helen, which are now in the collections of Westminster College in Fulton, MO. Betty writes with verve, wit, and strong opinions about her work, family, politics, fears, frustrations, leisure-time pursuits, and her abiding love for various stage and screen stars, especially John Gielgud. Her letters are detailed yet conversational; for example, during the Blitz she might describe the terrible air raid the night before but also ask Helen to send a particular movie magazine to boost morale. Betty's writings become not just a portrait of herself, including her strong and disturbing anti-Semitism, but of London life at an extraordinary time. There are a few distracting editorial mistakes, including a failure to understand British slang, but the footnotes about personalities and films no longer popular are helpful. Specialists and general readers will both appreciate this book.—**Megan Hahn Fraser, UCLA Lib.**

**Weiss, Elaine F. *Fruits of Victory: The Woman's Land Army of America in the Great War*. Potomac. 2008. c.400p. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-1-59797-273-4. \$29.95. HIST**

Weiss, who has written for such publications as the *New York Times* and *Harper's*, chronicles the largely forgotten history of the Woman's Land Army (WLA), a group of women in the United States who left their homes and college dorms in droves to volunteer when American involvement in World War I called young men from the fields to the trenches of Europe. Weiss shows how these "farmerettes" faced an uphill battle, as they were often met with disdain by shorthanded farmers and Washington politicians who did not feel the situation was dire enough to warrant hiring women to do men's work. WLA architects, many of whom earned their stripes in the suffrage movement, developed a blueprint for managing a group anywhere in the United States, and they were able to secure wages—and an eight-hour workday—equal to their male counterparts. The group was dis-

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