

Editor's Shelf

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by Kathryn Mora

The purpose of Editor's Shelf is to highlight the following: new editions of important previously published works; reissues of significant works that had been out of print; U.S. editions of works published elsewhere in English; additional volumes in a publisher's series that *MultiCultural Review* has reviewed; translations; previously published works that have been reissued in a new form, such as audiocassettes, audio CDs, floppy disks, CD-ROM, or DVD; and online reference sources. Paperback reprints are not included unless the reprint contains at least some new material. The initial releases in a publisher's series and works that have undergone major changes in the course of their republication in new edition or new media will receive full-fledged reviews in *MCR*. The Publisher Directory contains addresses and phone numbers of publishers whose works appear in Editor's Shelf.

NEW EDITIONS

Dougherty, Steve. *Hopes and Dreams: The Story of Barack Obama*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal, 2008. 160 pp. Updated ed. ISBN 978-1-57912-790-9, \$9.95 (pb).

This revised and updated volume documents the life of the man who would become president of the United States. The almost up-to-the-moment biography contains 140 photographs, including some from Election night, and presents an inside look at one of the most mesmerizing and inspiring political figures of our time. Obama's message of hope has stimulated the interest of a generation of new voters and brought renewed energy into American politics. Dougherty documents both struggles and his many successes in school and in later life. The author shows how this 46-year-old senator from Chicago captivated people with his speeches and made him a frontrunner in the 2008 presidential race.

Dougherty also writes for *People* magazine and contributes to the *New York Times*. He has written for Gannett, the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and co-authored *Amateur Night at the Apollo*.

Dupus, Martin, and Boeckelman, Keith. *Barack Obama, the New Face of America*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO/Praeger, 2008, 2009. Updated edition of Barack Obama, the New Face of American Politics. Series: Women and Minorities in Politics. ISBN 978-0-313-37784-6, \$19.95 (pb).

First published in 2008 and updated to cover his victory in the presidential election, *Barack Obama, the New Face of America* is part of a series that supports the study of women and minorities

in politics. The new edition shows how Obama made political history as the first African American elected president of the United States.

The authors, both political science professors, give a detailed account of Obama—an almost unknown Illinois state legislator at the time he gave his famous speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. He was running for the U.S. Senate, and even then, his charismatic style spurred people to become involved in politics. Over the next few years, his grassroots and netroots campaign drew millions of new voters into the presidential race. This book is recommended for academic and public libraries, political science students and researchers, and general readers.

Henderson, Helene, ed. *Holiday Symbols and Customs*. Detroit: Omnigraphics, 2008. 1,300 pp. Fourth ed. ISBN 978-0-7808-0990-1, \$94.00.

This newly expanded oversized volume includes additional Native American celebrations, non-religious celebrations, major annual sporting events, and over 1,000 symbols and customs. Students, teachers, and librarians will benefit from this guide.

The entries are listed alphabetically by the name of the holiday; the type of holiday; when and where it is celebrated or observed; a list of traditions, symbols, customs, and colors associated with the holiday; closely related holidays; contact information for key organizations; and web sites. Each entry includes a short essay that describes the holiday's history and cultural significance, the meaning of principal symbols, and the way the holiday is observed today. A list of sources and readings for additional research follows the text for each entry.

McCluskey, John, Jr. *The City of Refuge: The Collected Stories of Rudolph Fisher*. Columbia: Univ. of Missouri Press, 2008. 342 pp. Revised and expanded ed. ISBN 978-0-8262-1812-4, \$24.95 (pb).

Newly expanded, this edition of collected stories presents the opus of a man who was a dynamic force during the Harlem Renaissance, even though he also worked full-time as a physician. The new volume includes two unpublished speeches and the popular article "The Caucasian Storms Harlem," along with an updated introduction.

The versatile and talented Fisher also performed as a storyteller and as a musician at cabarets, speakeasies, and nightclubs in Harlem.

Romano, Dugan. *Intercultural Marriage: Promises & Pitfalls*. Boston: Intercultural Press/Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2008.

212 pp. Third ed. ISBN 978-1-931930-52-9, \$23.95 (pb).

The author's own international marriage over 30 years ago led her to write the first edition of this book, published by Intercultural Press in 1988. Romano covered the challenges and joys of cross-cultural marriages. In the preface of the new third edition, Romano describes how she traveled the world and listened to the stories and the observations of couples. Life has changed for intercultural couples in the past three decades. Some of the reasons include the Internet and e-mail, immigration, study abroad programs, the democratization of travel, and multinational businesses.

Romano found that there are fundamental differences in beliefs and behaviors, then and now. She interweaves the lessons learned from the couples she met along the way and includes information from the many books and papers on the subject written since her first book. The author found that many things have remained the same, because it's never easy when two people live together, whether they are in an intercultural marriage or not.

New topics and themes since the second edition (2001) include religious and spiritual reflections, changes in cross-cultural awareness, and the increasing number of cross-cultural marriage counselors. Romano states that the third edition has grown in depth and breadth not only because she met with couples throughout the world but also because of the feedback and comments she received from people who read and critiqued the first and second editions.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Endo, Shusaku. *The Final Martyrs*. New York: New Directions, 1993, 2009. 200 pp. Trans. from Japanese by Van C. Gesel. Introduction by Caryl Phillips. ISBN 978-0-8112-1811-5, \$13.95 (pb).

Endo's collection of 11 short stories was first published in English in 1993. However, the stories in this book were actually written between 1959 and 1985. The new introduction is written by Carl Phillips, and the afterword is by the author. The short stories are in chronological order, based on the award-winning author's own erratic childhood. Born in Tokyo in 1923, he spent part of his childhood in Japanese-occupied Manchuria and later moved to Kobe with his mother when his parents divorced. To add even more confusion to his life, he was baptized Catholic in 1935 and bullied because of it. He felt like an outsider for most of his life.

Endo's novel *Silence* was adapted to film by Martin Scorsese. It was reported by Endo's British publisher that Scorsese paid with a personal check to ensure that the film would be made.

Le Clézio, J. M. G. *The Interrogation*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1964, 2008. 243 pp. Trans. from French by Daphne Woodward. ISBN 978-1-4391-4918-8, \$25.00.

The author's biographer, Jennifer Waelti-Walters said, "He can

draw a word painting of a storm, and you'd feel as though you got wet." The distinguished French novelist, winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize, wrote his first novel, *The Interrogation*, when he was 23 years old—over four decades ago. The story takes place in the summer in Nice, France, just after World War II. It is about a young man who has just left either the army or a mental institution. Readers are unsure which one but recognize that the protagonist is in conflict with society.

Le Clézio's second wife is Moroccan, and the couple divides its time between Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Le Clézio has taught literature for many years, Nice, where he was born in 1940, and Mauritius. Le Clézio is referred to as a nomadic writer whose work has been defined by his life of travel. He is someone who does not belong anywhere. However, as he moves from culture to culture, he writes in the space he creates and becomes one with it while there.

During an interview for his 2008 Nobel Prize in Literature, Le Clézio said,

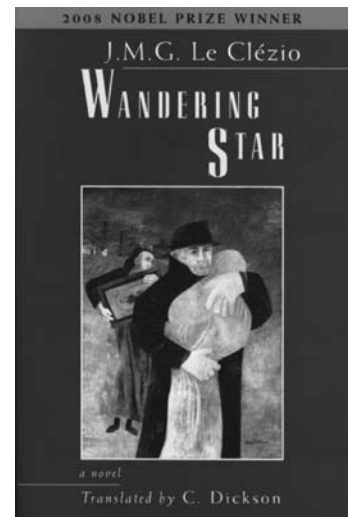
"A writer is not a prophet, is not a philosopher, he's just someone who is witness to what is around him."

Le Clézio, J. M. G. *Wandering Star*. Willimantic, Conn.: Curbstone Press, 2004, 2008. 320 pp. Trans. from French by C. Dickson. ISBN 978-1-931896-11-5, \$15.00 (pb).

The novel, described as a "painful chronicle and a romance in the epic sense," is about two girls who are linked together by unexpected circumstances. Esther is Jewish. She and her parents tried to hide their identity after they emigrated to the south of France at the beginning of World War II. Nejma is Palestinian, forced to flee to refugee camps after the establishment of Israel. Although the girls have different cultural backgrounds, they are essentially no different—both "wandering stars," who possess courage, inner strength, and faith that sustain them through their suffering.

Le Clézio has been writing since he was seven and is said to be one of the most widely translated modern French authors. His more than 40 published books include short story collections, novels, essays, and several children's books. After he received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2008, several of his out-of-print books were quickly returned to print. A new edition of *Wandering Star*, with a lengthy introduction and reading guide, is slated for fall 2009.

Peck, Graham. *Two Kinds of Time*. Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 1950, 2008. 734 pp. ISBN 978-0-295-98852-8, \$28.95 (pb).



Almost six decades after its original publication, this travel memoir is back with a new introduction written by Robert A. Kapp. People who read this guide will feel as though they are journeying with the author through China. Kapp writes in the introduction that this book is “hilarious and horrifying, heart-warming and heart-breaking, educational and entertaining.” Peck’s vivid descriptions, illustrations with personalities, convey the traveler’s affection for pre-1949 China and its people.

The author was born in Connecticut. He had just graduated from Yale in 1935 when he made his first trip to China. Intending to visit only for a few weeks, he stayed for a couple of years. His first book, *Through China’s Wall*, published in 1940, was a result of his first trip to China. Throughout the 1940s he served with the U.S. Office of War Information in China.

Kapp is president of the United States–China Business Council and has served on the history faculties at Rice University and the University of Washington.

FIRST U.S. PUBLICATION/DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE IN ENGLISH

Pung, Alice. *Unpolished Gem: My Mother, My Grandmother, and Me*. New York: Plume, 2006, 2009. 282 pp. ISBN 978-0-452-29000-6, \$15.00 (pb).

This debut book, a memoir written by the Melbourne-based writer and lawyer, tells how she lived in two worlds, East and West. She searches for identity, acceptance, and healing. In 1980 Pung’s family—her father, mother (8 months pregnant with Pung), grandmother, and Auntie Kieu—escaped the killing fields of Cambodia to Australia. They arrived by airplane with only one empty suitcase. The following Cambodian proverb paints a vivid picture of what Pung’s life was like growing up as a Cambodian in Australia, caught between traditional proscriptions for women and the opportunities presented by a booming economy and an open society: “A girl is like white cotton wool—once dirtied it can never be clean again. A boy is like a gem—the more you polish it, the more it shines.”

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

Akashic Noir

Ziyalan, Mustafa, and Spangler, Amy, eds. *Istanbul Noir*. New York: Akashic Books, 2008. 300 pp. ISBN 978-1-933354-62-0, \$15.95 (pb).

The award-winning series of original noir anthologies, first published in 2004, contains new stories, each set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the city of the book title. The stories contained in *Istanbul Noir* are rich portraits of the city

and written by 16 different authors. Istanbul is the only city in the world that lies at the junction of two continents, Europe and Asia. It is said to be one of the most stunning geographical locations on earth. Most contributors are either natives of Istanbul or longtime residents. Their stories often reflect religious extremism and governmental repression. Ziyalan, a co-editor and contributor who wrote *Black Palace*, was born on the Black Sea coast of Turkey and worked as a general practitioner and a coroner in a rural Antolian village. He now practices psychiatry in Brooklyn, New York.

Story titles such as “The Tongue of the Flames,” “The Bloody Horn,” “The Spirit of Philosophical Vitriol,” and “Burn and Go” might be an indication of the dark and maybe torturous but thrilling ride readers are in for.

Bluford Series

Kern, Peggy. *No Way Out*. West Berlin, N.J.: Townsend Press, 2009. 140 pp. ISBN 978-1-59194-176-7, \$4.95 (pb).

Langan, Paul. *The Fallen*. West Berlin, N.J.: Townsend Press, 2007. 133 pp. ISBN 978-1-59194-066-1, \$4.95 (pb).

Langan, Paul. *Schooled*. West Berlin, N.J.: Townsend Press, 2009. 140 pp. ISBN 978-1-59194-177-4, \$4.95 (pb).

Langan, Paul. *Search for Safety*. West Berlin, N.J.: Townsend Press, 2007. 128 pp. ISBN 978-1-59194-070-8, \$4.95 (pb).

Langan, Paul. *Shattered*. West Berlin, N.J.: Townsend Press, 2007. 123 pp. ISBN 978-1-59194-069-9, \$4.95 (pb).

The first ten titles in this series of urban novels for reluctant teen readers, published between 2002 and 2005, were re-released by Scholastic in 2007. These five are the newest novels in this fast-paced, action-filled, and compelling series. Two, *Shattered* and *The Fallen*, feature familiar students at fictional Bluford High. The other three introduce new characters and the personal crises they face.

In *Shattered*, Darcy Wills’s boyfriend, Hakeem Randall, returns from several months with relatives in Detroit, where his father was recovering from cancer treatments. Darcy cannot bring herself to tell Hakeem about her disastrous relationship with an older youth, while Hakeem has a relationship complication of his own. In addition, Darcy fears that her father has begun drinking again, jeopardizing her parents’ fragile reconciliation. *The Fallen* features Latino transfer student Martin Luna, still recovering from the death of his little brother, killed in the crossfire of a gang shootout. Martin’s old gang wants him back, but he cannot forget the gang leader’s role in his brother’s death.

Bluford High’s new crop of freshmen includes Ben McKee, the protagonist of *Search for Safety*. Ben’s mother has just married an abusive man who locks Ben in his room, starves him, steals the money he earns working at a grocery store, and has threatened to beat him to death if he tells anyone about a robbery at the store. In *Schooled*, talented basketball player Lionel Shephard is about

to lose his spot on the team due to failing grades. The problem is, Lionel cannot read. His dropout friends urge him to quit school and move in with them. And why is his father, a truck driver, hanging around a woman other than his mother? Harold Davis, the protagonist of *No Way Out*, seems to face insurmountable problems. His aged grandmother, his sole guardian, suffers multiple health problems and cannot pay her bills from a recent hospitalization. If she cannot support him, he fears he will be placed in a juvenile home. Harold's obesity and clumsiness make him the target of bullies. To earn money, he turns to drug dealer Londell, the sociopathic "father figure" to a group of children growing up without parents.

In all five books, the characters resolve their problems in part through their own efforts and in part through the intervention of caring adults that include parents (*Shattered, Schooled*), police officers (*The Fallen, Search for Safety*), school officials (*Search for Safety*), relatives (*Search for Safety*), and neighbors (*No Way Out*).

Lyn Miller-Lachmann

The Civil Rights Movement

Aretha, David. *Montgomery Bus Boycott*. Greensboro, N.C.: Morgan Reynolds, 2008. 128 pp. ISBN 978-1-59935-020-2, \$28.95.

This nonfiction series for middle and high school readers educates students about various key events in history. *Montgomery Bus Boycott* provides details about how Rosa Parks, a Black woman, was arrested because she refused to give up her seat in the bus. A young Black preacher, Martin Luther King, Jr., was chosen to lead the strike against the buses—the event that sparked the civil rights movement.

A time line, sources, a bibliography, web sites, and an index assist students to understand and to learn more about the civil rights movement and what motivated it.

Countries of the World

Croy, Anita. *Colombia*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0257-2, \$27.90.

Deckker, Zilah. *Brazil*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0298-5, \$27.90.

Green, Jen. *Jamaica*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0300-5, \$27.90.

Jackson, Barbara. *New Zealand*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0301-2, \$27.90.

McQuinn, Anna, and McQuinn, Colm. *Ireland*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0299-2, \$27.90.

Russell, Henry. *Russia*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0259-6, \$27.90.

Whitfield, Susan. *Afghanistan*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0256-5, \$27.90.

Young, Emma. *Israel*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Books, 2008. 64 pp. Illus. ISBN 978-1-4263-0258-9, \$27.90.

Readers from the older elementary level onward learn about a major nation and its unique place in the world. Using the motif of a trip abroad, each author presents the geography, people and culture, history, government and economy, and natural environment of the country. For example, in *Colombia* students learn that this country has the second-largest Spanish-speaking population in the world and is the fifth-largest Latin American country in land mass. The author explores Colombia's geographic and natural diversity and, in presenting its history and culture, goes beyond the dominant stereotypes of violence and drug lords. The theme of diversity—natural and cultural—informs *Brazil* as well. The largest country in South America, Brazil borders every other South American country except Chile and Ecuador. With a large population of people who trace their heritage to Africa, indigenous tribes, and immigrants from Europe, Brazil embodies the intermingling of "three cultures" in the Americas. Along with its booming economy, Brazil, unfortunately, has one of the highest rates of inequality in the world.

Jamaica is more than a low-key and good place to relax; it too has a rich heritage and culture. *New Zealand* reveals that the nation sits on some of the youngest islands in the world, formed by a violent uplifting of the Earth's crust. New Zealand also has some of the largest insects in the world; the giant weta is as big as a man's hand. When one thinks of Ireland, he or she most likely thinks of lush green fields. However, at one time Ireland was covered in glaciers. *Ireland* shows that the climate wasn't always as mild, and what changed to make it so today. In *Russia* students learn that only one-tenth of the country is inhabited because the rest is permanently frozen, a situation that may change due to global warming. However, the bulk of attention is given to other changes in the country, notably the seventy-plus years that the country was under Communist rule and known as the Soviet Union and what happened once the Communist regime fell.

One of the precipitating factors in the decline and breakup of the Soviet Union was a disastrous war in Afghanistan from 1970 to 1989. *Afghanistan* tells the story of that war as part of a history lesson beginning around 7,000 B.C.E, when farmers settled in the river valleys of this mountainous land. Some people in this country are constantly on the move; these nomads are called the Kuchi.

Israel guides the reader to Jerusalem, a city over 5,000 years old. The reader learns that billions of Jews, Muslims, and Christians throughout the world feel that Jerusalem is an important place.

Charts, time lines, and full-page maps highlight vegetation and

ecosystems, history, populations, and political organization. All the photographs are tied to a location on the main map for that specific chapter; smaller maps zoom in on special topics, such as migration, rainfall, changing borders, resources, industry, and more. Sidebars introduce intriguing people, places and events. A glossary, an extensive bibliography, and an index round out these colorful, appealing, and easy-to-navigate country studies.

Food Culture Around the World

Van Esterik, Penny. *Food Culture in Southeast Asia*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 144 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34419-0, \$49.95.

Students and general readers will gain information from this comprehensive series comprised of interdisciplinary reference volumes of the featured country and an appreciation of the role of food in shaping human cultures. Each similarly structured volume contains a chronology with food-related dates and chapters offering a general introduction, a historical overview, major foods and ingredients (including where and how they are grown or otherwise obtained), cooking methods, typical meals, eating out (including, in this volume, the myriad of Vietnamese, Thai, Indonesian, and other Southeast Asian restaurants overseas), meals for special occasions, and dietary and health issues. Each title also includes a glossary, a bibliography, a resource guide, illustrations, and an index.

The author presents herself as a nutritional anthropologist who writes about food in Southeast Asia and its relationship to the various cultures. She captures the range of meals in the region, from the padi fields to the palaces. She also explores rice as an ingredient that unifies the region. Fish, preserved and prepared in a number of ways, is also important to the peoples who live on islands or near the sea. This journey through the region's cuisines covers Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Global Connections

Donovan, Sandy. *Teens in Cuba*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2008. 96 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7565-3851-4, \$33.26 (list), \$24.95 (school/library).

Donovan, Sandy. *Teens in Peru*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2008. 96 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7565-3852-1, \$33.26 (list), \$24.95 (school/library).

Seidman, David. *Teens in South Africa*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2008. 96 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7565-3854-5, \$33.26 (list), \$24.95 (school/library).

Skog, Jason. *Teens in the Philippines*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2008. 96 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-0-7565-

3853-8, \$33.26 (list), \$24.95 (school/library).

The four new volumes in this series designed for preteen readers offer a colorful look at world geography and contemporary cultures. The point of view is from the students' peers, making this a unique and appealing series.

Teens in Cuba shows how this Latin American country has struggled to provide for its people. Cuban teens today grew up after the 1959 revolution and were at best babies during the "special period" following the collapse of Cuba's benefactor, the Soviet Union. Thus, they only know a life of poverty and deprivation. Even so, Cubans continue to value their strong families and their schools in a country that has the highest literacy rate in the developing world. In *Teens in Peru* readers learn that the lives of Peruvian teens depend on where they live and their family's position in society. Some teens live high in the Andes Mountains and others in populated cities overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Some live in large, comfortable apartments in modern high rises while others endure squalid conditions in shacks without electricity or running water. Generally, wealthy people live in the center of the city while the poor commute hours each day from suburban shantytowns. *Teens in South Africa* illustrates the generation that is the first in 50 years to grow up without apartheid. The AIDS epidemic, poverty, and pregnancy continue to be big problems for young people in South Africa. But as in Cuba, young South Africans of all backgrounds value their strong family units, music, and sports. *Teens in the Philippines* shows young people living in a country that mixes the old-fashioned ways with the newest technology. Although they see the latest movies, work extra jobs for spending money, and study hard, Filipino teens continue to see their families as the most important part of their lives.

Along with the text, each volume contains maps, charts, a time line, a glossary with definitions from the official language and indigenous languages, statistics, and links to the FactHound.com web site.

Global Organizations

Connolly, Sean. *Greenpeace*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-306-5, \$31.35 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Connolly, Sean. *The International Red Cross*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-304-1, \$31.35 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Connolly, Sean. *OXFAM*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-305-8, \$31.35 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Connolly, Sean. *UNICEF*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-303-4, \$31.35 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Connolly, Sean. *The United Nations*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-

59920-301-0, \$31.35 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

Connolly, Sean. *The World Health Organization*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-302-7, \$31.35 (list), \$21.95 (school/library).

This six-volume series designed for students grade six and up offers an in-depth overview of humanitarian organizations, ones that students have heard about for years but perhaps did not know the specifics about. Advanced placement courses, social studies classes, current events discussions, debate teams, and related classes will find this series useful. Each volume takes a close look at the work that non-governmental organizations around the world are involved with in order to decrease poverty, provide people in need with disaster relief, improve the environment, and much more.

Greenpeace describes the origin of this multinational organization in the late 1960s when a small group of people protested the testing of nuclear bombs in the North Pacific. Today Greenpeace has branches in 41 countries around the world. Students learn through charts and outlines about its many successes and setbacks. Readers are given the chance to develop their opinions about the tactics that Greenpeace uses and the issues that the organization has taken on. Who hasn't heard about the International Red Cross? However, most students might think this organization started in the United States, when in fact it began Switzerland. The Red Cross helps people around the world who are affected by natural disasters and wars.

OXFAM might not be as familiar a name as the American Red Cross. This organization began during World War II and brings aid to people facing starvation. Today OXFAM works in over 100 countries to find solutions to poverty and injustice. UNICEF stands for The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund and was founded in 1946 to help children displaced by World War II. Today the organization works to protect children's rights all over the world and helps young people to reach their full potential. Readers learn details about this and the other organizations through case studies and eyewitness accounts.

The United Nations details how this organization, still another that came into existence following World War II, was founded and how it is organized. Students learn that one of the jobs of the United Nations is to safeguard human rights around the world.

The World Health Organization (WHO) was formed in April 1948. Its goal is to help people throughout the world reach the highest standards of health. Today WHO works to prevent disease and to share information about specific health issues. While most of the WHO's efforts are focused on the developing world, this isn't always the case. The reduction in Cesarean rates is one example of a campaign sponsored by WHO that impacts the United States and other developed nations. WHO states that an acceptable Cesarean rate is 10–15 percent. In 2006, the rate in the United States was 31.1 percent.

Also included in this series are a glossary, a booklist for further reading, and an index.

The Global School Room

Ofori-Attah, Kwabena Dei. *Going to School in the Middle East and North Africa*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 136 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34294-3, \$65.00.

The sixth volume in this series provides a comparison for post-secondary students of the educational systems in the Middle East and North Africa. The 12 country chapters are organized by theme. They examine similarities and differences of different systems with attention paid to school organizations, the history of their educational systems, the relationship between religion and schooling, issues of education and inequality, the relationship between education and development, and groups including ethnic and religious minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. The countries featured are Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Yemen and the small lands of the United Arab Emirates are among those not included. Even so, the coverage of these two regions is more complete than that of other volumes in the series.

The volume includes a foreword, a preface, a bibliography, and an index.

The Global Village

Baines, John. *Food and Farming*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-103-0, \$32.80 (list), \$22.95 (school/library).

Bojang, Ali Brownlie. *Aid and Development*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-099-6, \$32.80 (list), \$22.95 (school/library).

Bowden, Rob. *Trade*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-098-9, \$32.80 (list), \$22.95 (school/library).

Inskipp, Carol. *Travel and Tourism*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-100-9, \$32.80 (list), \$22.95 (school/library).

Morgan, Sally. *Natural Resources*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-102-3, \$32.80 (list), \$22.95 (school/library).

Senker, Cath. *Migration and Refugees*. Mankato, Minn.: Black Rabbit Books, 2008. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-101-6, \$32.80 (list), \$22.95 (school/library).

Designed for grades five and up, this important, student-friendly series deals with key issues today. Our world is shrinking due to improvements in communication and transportation. The volumes in this series investigate the effects of globalization on individuals, companies, and governments throughout the world and explores whose responsibility it is to make sure that globalization is controlled and managed in a way that protects the rights of all.

Aid and Development assesses the positive and negative effects of aid given by richer countries to poorer countries. How food is produced and traded among countries is the subject of *Food and Farming*.

What are the rules that affect trade and how do they impact people, the environment, and the economy? *Trade* proposes and attempts to answer important questions such as, “How can small local shops compete with major global companies?” “Do government subsidies really work to benefit everyone or just the wealthy nations?” “Do organizations like the World Trade Organization reinforce or break down inequalities in global trade?” and “Is Fair Trade really fair?”

Travel and Tourism addresses the positive and negative effects of travel and tourism, specifically its impact on the environment, wealth distribution, and economic growth in developing countries. *Natural Resources* discusses where the earth’s natural resources come from, how they are traded between countries, and what the negatives and positives are of mining and other types of exploitation of these (generally non-renewable) resources. The issues that come up when people move from one country to another, the effects that immigrants and refugees have on the economy, and their contributions to multicultural societies are discussed in *Migration and Refugees*.

Each volume in the series contains “The Great Debate,” which presents pros and cons about the topic; facts and figures; further information; a glossary; and an index.

Greenwood Biographies

Schaefer, Claudia. *Frida Kahlo*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2009. 115 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34924-9, \$35.00.

Summitt, April R. *Sacagawea*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 136 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34628-6, \$35.00.

Tracy, Kathleen. *Jennifer Lopez*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 144 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-35515-8, \$35.00.

Written for high school and undergraduate students, these straightforward biographies detail the subjects’ lives from birth through adulthood, including family background, influences, struggles, successes, and contributions.

The overall theme is how Sacagawea, Lopez, and Kahlo achieved greatness despite the challenges they faced. Sacagawea is depicted as a quiet American Indian girl who rose to become a great heroine, a role model for American women and girls. Even though many books have been written about her, most of what is known is through third-person writings in journals kept by Lewis and Clark in the expedition of 1804–1806, as well as through three other members of the expedition—Sergeants John Ordway and Patrick Gass, and Private Joseph Whitehouse. The author discusses the challenge of creating an accurate account of this young woman through the little information that is known about her.

While Jennifer Lopez remains close to her roots in the Bronx, she continues to command national appeal through her expansive

body of work in film, music, dance, television production, and fashion. The author, a Hollywood journalist, captures the essence of the highest paid Latina actress in history not only as an entertainer but also as an individual. The triumphs and high and lows of her career and intriguing personal life are shown as well as other significant events in her life. Through this volume, readers will learn more about Lopez and use the provided resources for researching the role of race in the U.S. entertainment business.

Art students and general readers are introduced to the magnificent, but tormented artist Frida Kahlo. Magdalena Carmen Frieda was born in the Blue House just outside of Mexico City in 1907. Her father was of German descent and her mother of indigenous Mexican and European blood. Kahlo had many health issues early in life and at the age of 18 was permanently scarred in a serious bus accident. These events shaped her life and strongly influenced her career as a painter. Health problems and her difficult marriage to artist Diego Rivera inspired Kahlo’s vibrant works of art that portrayed Mexican culture and her life of pain through symbolism. In 2007, fifty-three years after Kahlo died, a hidden room in the Blue House was discovered; it contained over 22,000 documents, drawings, books, magazines, and sketches by Kahlo and Rivera. This discovery brought renewed interest to the artistic couple.

An in-depth time line at the beginning of each biography helps students understand the significant contributions of these women. The glossaries and bibliographies as well as electronic resources will be valuable sources for students writing reports. Each volume also contains a series foreword and an introduction.

The Greenwood Histories of the Modern Nations

Malik, Iftikhar H. *The History of Pakistan*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 244 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-34137-3, \$45.00.

This comprehensive history series provides students and general readers with up-to-date, concise, and well-written information about nations of the contemporary world.

Pakistan, often in today’s headlines, is the featured country of the new volume. Pakistan is an ancient society. This country’s ancestors communicated with conquerors, scholars, visitors, preachers, Sufis, and immigrants from western and central Asia. Some of the highest mountains and most arid deserts in the world are in this predominately Muslim land. The in-depth time line in this volume provides comprehensive information from B.C.E. c. 2,500 to 2007. A series foreword and a preface, along with a list of acronyms, assist readers in understanding the text. The volume contains information about the Indus Valley civilizations, British rule, independence movements, military takeovers following independence and partition with India, battles between East and West Pakistan (1958–1971) which culminated in East Pakistan’s becoming the independent nation of Bangladesh, the rule of General Pervez Musharraf in the twenty-first century, and Pakistan’s involvement in neighboring Afghanistan’s conflicts between 1979 and the present.

Also contained in this volume are notable people in the history of Pakistan, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

Greenwood Icons

Bruns, Roger. *Icons of Latino America: Latino Contributions to American Culture*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 2 vols., 648 pp. Foreword by Ilan Stavans. ISBN 978-0-313-34086-4, \$175.00.

Bruns offers an in-depth look at approximately 24 iconic figures, in a style accessible to secondary and college students and general readers. In this multivolume set, readers learn what it takes to become an icon, to challenge the status quo, to influence millions, and to impact history.

Volume 1 includes brief biographies of a diverse group of icons from A to H: Desi Arnaz, the Cuban bandleader, actor, and founder of Desi-Lu Productions; the farmworkers' union organizer Cesar Chavez; the company Chiles Tortillas, which played a major role in the marketing of Mexican cuisine in the United States; writer Sandra Cisneros; baseball hero Roberto Clemente; artistic director of the Washington Opera, Placido Domingo; Bolivian-born teacher Jaime Escalante, who inspired his students at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles to excel; and many more. Volume II features a glossy color photo of Jennifer Lopez on the front cover and inside a biography of the film and recording star who portrayed Selena in the 1993 film of the same name. Other notables in this second volume include Tito Puente, "King of the Mambo," who played his Latin music all over the world and received a National Medal of the Arts from President Bill Clinton; Spanish-language talk show host Cristina Saralegui; Lee Trevino, winner of the U.S. Open Golf Tournament; Ritchie Valens, who made his mark with hit songs such as "Donna" and "La Bamba" before dying too young in a plane crash; and Zorro, who became a cultural icon and was last played by actor Antonio Banderas.

Each title includes photos, a series forward, a preface, a timeline, a selected bibliography, and an index.

Groundwork Guides

Lorinc, John. *Cities*. Toronto: Greenwood, 2008. 144 pp. ISBN 978-0-88899-820-0, \$18.95 (cl); 978-0-88899-819-4, \$10.00 (pb).

These well-written books with a strong point of view provide an overview of contemporary political and social issues and sometimes deal with controversial topics. Lorinc, a journalist who specializes in urban/municipal issues, business, politics, and culture, writes in *Cities* that for the first time in history, more than half the people in the world live in cities rather than rural areas. This put challenges and pressures on cities all over the world. Among the problems the book examines are poverty, homelessness, overconsumption of energy, and contamination of air and water.

Hot Spot Histories

Fernandes, Clinton, ed. *Hot Spot: Asia and Oceania*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 280 pp. 312 pp. ISBN 978-0-313-35412-0, \$65.00..

Many diverse people live in Asia and Oceania, a region of massive size and vast cultural history and also a location of many conflicts. This volume covers civil strife and international conflicts involving China, East Timor, Fiji along the India-China border, Indonesia, Kashmir, Korea, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Maps, a time line, an index, and an annotated bibliography supplement each chapter for students and general readers. This book is an excellent source for reports and research papers in global history and political science.

Fernandes is a senior lecturer in strategic studies at the Australian Defence Force Academy campus of the University of New South Wales and was Head of Intelligence for Australian Defence Force Support to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

How Can I Deal With...? (A+ Books)

Hewitt, Sally. *How Can I Deal with Bullying?* Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-227-3, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Hewitt, Sally. *How Can I Deal with My Parents' Divorce?* Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-230-3, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Hewitt, Sally. *How Can I Deal with My Stepfamily?* Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-228-0, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Hewitt, Sally. *How Can I Deal with Our New Baby?* Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-229-7, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Hewitt, Sally. *How Can I Deal with Racism?* Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-228-0, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Hewitt, Sally. *How Can I Deal with When People Die?* Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-59920-231-0, \$27.10 (list), \$18.95 (school/library).

Well-written books with a strong point of view characterize this series that provides an overview for elementary-grade students with practical advice to help them face difficult situations in their lives. Real-life case studies told in the first person by the readers' peers along with role-playing exercises help children understand their feelings and send them on the path toward working out their problems. The large print, reader-friendly books contain oversized color photos of members of diverse families who look

much like the young readers.

It's not always possible for young children to resolve problems on their own. *How Can I Deal with Bullying?* can help a child understand what is happening, the first step to resolving the problem, and where help can be found. Today more and more young children deal with the divorce of their parents. It's confusing for the children, and reading *How Can I Deal with My Parent's Divorce* will help them better understand what is happening. With divorce, more blended families and stepfamilies are created. These blended families bring on their own set of unique challenges. *How Can I Deal with My Stepfamily?* shows children that they aren't alone in this situation. New babies in a family are special; however, existing children might feel left out because so much attention is given to the babies. *How Can I Deal with Our New Baby?* not only offers insight to children about how to cope with their feelings but also advises these left-out older siblings on how to reconnect with their parents. Parents who may have forgotten what it is like to be a child in one of the above situations might benefit from reading these books written from a child's point of view.

Children moving to a new country often feel shy and uncomfortable with the English language. All the newness is a shock, and in addition, many new immigrants may also experience racism. *How Can I Deal with Racism?* shows that understanding racism is just as important for the child moving to the new country as it is for the children already living there. Children who live in the United States will have the opportunity to understand how a newcomer, particularly one who does not look like them, feels in their country. *How Can I Deal with When People Die?* helps children relate to death through the death of Lola's grandmother. This true story will make sense to children who have had the same experience and could very well create an opportunity for children to talk to each other about death, whether or not they've actually experienced the death of a family member or friend. This kind of conversation would be comforting to grieving children.

Also included in each volume are a glossary, sources for further information, an index, and notes for parents, caregivers, and teachers.

Latino Biography Library

Guzmán, Lila and Guzmán, Rick. *George Lopez: Latino King of Comedy*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2008. 128 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-2968-2, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (school/library).

Lee, Sally. *Freddie Prinze, Jr.: From Shy Guy to Movie Star*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2008. 128 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-2965-1, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (school/library). (NOT SENT TO ME)

Schraff, Anne. *Jaime Escalante: Inspirational Math Teacher*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2008. 128 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-2967-5, \$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (school/library).

Shull, Jodie A. *Pablo Neruda: Passion, Poetry, Politics*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2009. 128 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-2966-8,

\$31.93 (list), \$23.95 (school/library).

Designed for ages eleven and up, these books explore the lives of Latinos who have had a positive impact on the lives of young people in the United States and around the world. On Christmas Eve 1963, at the age of 33, Jaime Escalante emigrated from Bolivia to the United States. He left his wife and young son behind until he found a job and a place for them to live. In Bolivia he'd been a respected and highly sought after math and science teacher although he was unhappy with the unrest of the country. Here in the United States Escalante was just another immigrant who did not know any English. He took a job mopping floors at VandeKamp's restaurant directly across from Pasadena City College, but had dreams of teaching again. By 1974 he had earned his Associate of Arts degree from Pasadena City College, his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from California State University, Los Angeles, and his California teaching credential and he was teaching Advanced Placement calculus at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles. In 1988 the story of Escalante and his students was made into the award-winning film *Stand and Deliver*. His story will inspire young students to follow their dreams and remember, "The greatest thing you have is your self image, a positive opinion of yourself. You must never let anyone take it from you."

The only subject of this series never to live in the United States, Pablo Neruda was technically not Latino; however, his poetry touched readers and influenced writers the world over. He counted among his influences the great U.S. poet Walt Whitman. Shull draws readers in by describing Neruda's dramatic escape from his native Chile in 1949, following a government crackdown against leftists; ironically, his despondency following the bloody military coup in that country in 1973 hastened his death. The biography focuses on Neruda's childhood and youth, and the natural surroundings and tumultuous history that inspired his writing.

Two other books in this series present entertainment figures George Lopez and Freddie Prinze, Jr. The biography of Prinze focuses on his growing up in the shadow of his actor father's death when he was just a baby and his resolve to avoid the temptations that destroyed the elder Prinze's marriage, career, and life. A chronology, chapter notes, further reading, Internet addresses, and an index appear in each volume.

Let's Read in Spanish and English

Rabley, Stephen. *Danny's Blog/El blog de Daniel*. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. by Martin Ursell. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Rosa María Martín. ISBN 978-0-7641-4047-1, \$4.99 (pb).

Rabley, Stephen. *The Twins and the Time Machine/Los mellizos y la máquina del tiempo*. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. by Elizabeth Udes-Pascal. Bilingual (English-Spanish) ed. Spanish translation by Rosa María Martín. ISBN 978-0-7641-4049-5, \$4.99 (pb).

These bilingual storybooks are for independent readers who want to explore a new language with original, exciting, and unique stories. The parallel text, pictures, and speech bubbles will provide a child-friendly bridge to reading and speaking in another language.

What children wouldn't want to read about the orangutan reserve at Purnai? In *Danny's Blog* they follow a young hero who uses the Internet to save the reserve from a villain who seeks to destroy everything. In an equally exciting story, *The Twins and the Time Machine*, Tom and Sophie discover Grandpa's latest invention and travel back in time.

A parallel text helps the reader follow the adventures in English and in Spanish with a quiz page at the end of the book to gain vocabulary, with new Spanish words and phrases from the story.

Mike Lupica's Comeback Kids

Lupica, Mike. *Long Shot*. New York: Philomel, 2008. 184 pp. ISBN 978-0-399-24717-0, \$9.99.

The Comeback Kids novels entertain young readers with a sports theme, but each story also depicts other parts of the young protagonist's life. Ultimately, a life's lesson is learned. Lupica, the creator of these popular novels is also a successful sports columnist. His column appears in New York's *Daily News* and is syndicated nationally. He has a weekly show on ESPN's, *The Sports Reporters*.

Long Shot is about a young point guard of Latino heritage who values the fact that he is a team player. When he decides to run against the star forward for class president, Pedro learns a lot about teamwork, life, and how things often don't play out the way one expects.

The Revolutionary War Library

Micklos, John, Jr. *African Americans and American Indians Fighting in the Revolutionary War*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2008. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7660-3018-3, \$23.93 (list), \$17.95 (school/library).

This new series for the middle elementary grades ties into the social studies curriculum while providing information about relatively unknown aspects of the Revolutionary War. In this volume, the author presents the story of African Americans and American Indians fighting in this war.

When the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775, half a million Black slaves lived in the 13 colonies, and approximately 200,000 American Indians lived on land east of the Mississippi River. Young readers will learn about the contributions of African Americans and American Indians, some of whom supported the colonists while others fought to remain part of England.

Features in this series include a time line, chapter notes, a glossary, further reading, and an index.

Robbie Readers/What's So Great About...?

Hinton, KaaVonia. *What's So Great About Martin Luther King, Jr.?* Newark, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2008. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 978-1-58415-724-3, \$17.95..

Short, easy-to-read informational chapter books characterize this series for beginning readers. Young children will be enticed to learn more about the featured subject, to whom they may have just been introduced for the first time.

Martin Luther King, Jr., knew in his teens that he wanted to make life easier for African Americans and told the world about his dream for racial harmony and peace in the United States. Ultimately he was shot for what he believed, but he never wavered from his conviction that nonviolence could be used to bring about positive change in society.

This series contains a chronology, a time line, a list of other easy-to-read books, a list of works consulted, Internet resources, a glossary, and an index.

Signature Lives

Burgan, Michael. *Confucius: Chinese Philosopher and Teacher*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 112 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3832-3, \$34.60 (list), \$25.95 (school/library).

Dell, Pamela. *Hapshepsut: Egypt's First Female Pharaoh*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 112 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3835-4, \$34.60 (list), \$25.95 (school/library).

With over 100 titles to date, this series for middle school readers presents biographies of the notable and the notorious from ancient times to the present. These recent entries present a man and a woman who not only impacted their ancient societies but also changed the world from that point on.

Confucius: Chinese Philosopher and Teacher provides information about Confucius in a clear and straightforward manner. Born in China in 551 B.C.E, his teachings inspired his students. They in turn traveled throughout China and to nearby countries to preach his philosophy. Today people still study and follow the tenets of Confucianism. One of the most intriguing mysteries of the ancient world was that more than 3,500 years ago, a woman rose to become the most powerful leader in Egypt. Students will learn about the conspiracy to erase the female pharaoh from history in *Hapshepsut: Egypt's First Female Pharaoh*.

Key additional features of this series include a world events time line, a chronology of the subject's life, source notes, a selected bibliography, web sites, a glossary, and an index.

We the People

Englar, Mary. *Dutch Colonies in America*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3837-8, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Englar, Mary. *French Colonies in America*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3839-2, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Fishkin, Rebecca Love. *English Colonies in America*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3838-5, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Lilly, Alexandra. *Spanish Colonies in America*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3840-8, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Raatma, Lucia. *African-American Soldiers in the Revolutionary War*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3848-4, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Raatma, Lucia. *Selma's Bloody Sunday*. Minneapolis: Compass Point Books, 2009. 48 pp. ISBN 978-0-7565-3847-7, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (school/library).

Information about topics in United States history from pre-colonial to modern times is provided in this series for students at the older elementary and middle school levels. These dynamic and fact-filled books feature colorful and appealing pictures and are ideal for students who seek more in-depth knowledge of important places, people, and events.

Dutch Colonies in America reveals to students how the Dutch colony of New Netherland was established in the early 1600s by a diverse group of immigrants who traveled from Europe to develop the fur trade along North America's Atlantic coast. In *French Colonies in America* the author tells that the French colonial empire was also established to develop the fur trade in the same place at the same time. However, the French quickly expanded into the interior and gained a foothold north of the St. Lawrence River. On the other hand *English Colonies in America* discusses the many reasons why England established its first North American settlement in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607 and English settlers continued to flock to North America over the next decades. Ultimately, thirteen colonies were established over the next 126 years, and their fight against the rule of their original homeland led to the birth of the United States of America.

Spanish Colonies in America highlights the Spanish presence in the New World from the time of Christopher Columbus's historic voyages. Decades before the Dutch, French, and English settled in North America, the Spanish conquered indigenous empires, overran smaller tribes, established cities, and founded missions to convert the indigenous population to their beliefs.

African-American Soldiers in the Revolutionary War shows how enslaved African Americans fought on both sides of the war. In 1870 after the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution, a different kind of battle was brewing. This amendment stated that all men had the right to vote. However, over 100 years later, most African Americans in the South were still disenfranchised and discriminated against in a variety of ways. In March 1965, a group of Black people, along with their White allies, marched from Selma, Alabama, to the State Capitol in Montgomery. They were brutally attacked by state troopers on a day now known as "Bloody Sunday." *Selma's Bloody Sunday* describes the march, the events leading up to it, and its place in the

history of the civil rights movement.

Historical documents and sites, time lines, maps, color and sepia illustrations and photos, and the FactHound.com web site offer additional resources for learning about these six topics.

You Choose

Hanel, Rachel. *Mexican Immigrants in America: An Interactive History Adventure*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 2009. 112 pp. ISBN 978-1-4296-2013-0, \$27.93 (list), \$20.95 (school/library).

The You Choose series for middle grade readers in many ways resembles the Choose Your Own Adventure series, except that instead of one longer story line, the author presents several with fewer choices in each. This allows students to select from multiple scenarios that span a longer historical period and introduce a wider range of characters.

In the case of *Mexican Immigrants in America*, readers can leave Mexico to become a migrant farmworker in California in the 1970s with a chance to meet Cesar Chavez and join the strike, work as a housekeeper in Houston or New York City trying to gain citizenship and bring their children to the United States, or cross the desert to work in a meatpacking plant in the Midwest. Not all the choices lead to positive outcomes. Arrest and deportation, illness, getting scammed, job loss, and dying of thirst in the desert are some of the fates readers may encounter, thus showing the difficulties migrants face and their determination in the face of these challenges. Following the scenarios are a time line, discussion questions, books for further reading, Internet sites, a glossary, and an index. 🌐