

# Visions of Slavery

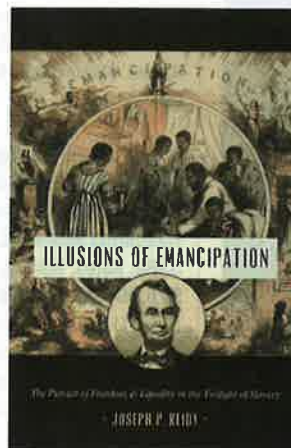
Fox-Amato, Matthew. **Exposing Slavery: Photography, Human Bondage, and the Birth of Modern Visual Politics in America.** Oxford Univ. Mar. 2019. 360p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780190663933. \$39.95. soc sci

In this original, richly illustrated, and brilliant book, Fox-Amato (history, Univ. of Idaho) shows how photography transformed the ways Americans saw slavery, blacks, and ultimately themselves. The author neatly shifts the focus from the photographer to the photographed and back again in revealing the dynamics whereby slaveholders, abolitionists, Union soldiers, and enslaved and free blacks manipulated images of plantations, black bodies, family portraits, wartime camp scenes, and other subjects to assert or contest racial hierarchies through the "reality" of the photograph. In doing so, they made the art form a cultural and political weapon that gave visual representation and authority to written texts for and against slavery. Among the many new insights Fox-Amato offers is the ways some slaves used photography as an instrument of self-representation, akin to narratives, to claim their own personhood. Indeed, photographic images of slaves as persons contrasted powerfully with their status

as property and revealed the danger of the photograph to slavery. **VERDICT** This work brings readers to see slavery, politics, and the development of photography in a new light.—Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia

Jones-Rogers, Stephanie E. **They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South.** Yale Univ. Feb. 2019. 320p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780300218664. \$30; ebk. ISBN 9780300245103. soc sci

Jones-Rogers (history, Univ. of California, Berkeley) expands her award-winning dissertation to correct the historical record on white women's culpability in the perpetuation of the slave system. Using primary resources including newspapers and archives as well as many secondary sources, Jones-Rogers meticulously portrays how these women strived to maintain and control what they saw as their economic stability. Many white women were gifted or purchased slaves in their own right and as separate from their husbands, and there were complex laws available for women to use as a means to protect their investments. Jones-Rogers uses court cases and newspaper advertisements to show that Southern American women were not just victims of the patriarchy



but that they were integral in making the slavery system work. The author uses strong evidence to convince readers to revisit what they think they know about white women and black slavery. Other works that can provide further context include Catherine M. Lewis and J. Richard Lewis's *Women and Slavery in America* and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese's *Within the Plantation Household*. **VERDICT** Strongly recommended for readers interested in this period of U.S. history, or who wish to expand their understanding to include a more honest view of the Southern slave system.—Maria Bagshaw, Elgin Community Coll. Lib., IL

Reidy, Joseph P. **Illusions of Emancipation: The Pursuit of Freedom and Equality in the Twilight of Slavery.**

Univ. of North Carolina. Mar. 2019. 520p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781469648361. \$39.95; ebk. ISBN 9781469648378. soc sci

Reidy (*From Slavery to Agrarian Capitalism in the Cotton Plantation South*) draws on the massive set of documents related to emancipation, black soldiering, Reconstruction, and related issues in the National Archives to bring us into the intimate worlds of people working out the meanings of "freedom" during the Civil War era. The author's insightful study of the many complex, contradictory, and contentious ideas about and engagements with fighting for or against black freedom shows that experience counted more than ideology, practice more than promise, in determining the scope and scale of equality. By his reckoning, blacks drove and thus in critical ways defined the issues through such actions as throwing off bondage, fighting for the Union, creating their own institutions, and working to gain property. One conclusion that comes from Reidy's telling and compelling accounts is the persistence black Americans used to claim and stake out freedom, however incomplete, on their terms. **VERDICT** Reidy's important book shows that the movement toward freedom was neither linear nor inevitable but was and must be constant. In that, he speaks to not only history but our own day.—Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia

lands that came under new control. After the closure of the frontier, Grandin demonstrates how the term took on an ideological meaning related to social and scientific progress and describes how President Trump's call to build a wall signaled the end of the frontier with its promise of growth and prosperity. **VERDICT** Grandin's own ideas are in plain view; however, that should not distance readers interested in American history and the frontier from this insightful book. [See Prepub Alert, 9/10/18.]—Chad E. Statler, Westlake Porter P.L., Westlake, OH

Klein, Christopher. **When the Irish Invaded Canada: The Incredible True Story of the Civil War Veterans Who Fought for Ireland's Freedom.** Knopf. Mar. 2019. 384p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780385542609. \$28.95; ebk. ISBN 9780385542616. HIST

Klein (*Strong Boy: The Life and Times of John L. Sullivan*) has written a very readable history of the attempts by 19th-century Irish American nationalists (the Fenian Brotherhood) to invade, or at least threaten, Canada. After the American Civil War, U.S.-based Irish nationalists wished to take

advantage of recent military training and the ease of availability of arms supplies and find a way to "strike a blow for Irish freedom." The author details how, with involvement from Irish nationalists in America and Ireland, the idea emerged to attack Canada, at the time a British colony. More than one effort—mostly planned from New York and executed across the northern borders of Maine and Vermont—failed quite dramatically, never getting more than a few miles across the international border. A last attempt in 1871 didn't even manage

# GUILTY at GUNPOINT

How the Government Framed Me

Crime & Corruption in  
the Department  
of Justice, FDA, and  
Big Pharma

Paul Singh

When Paul Singh left India to flee a land filled with corruption, he chose America to make his home, a country he admired for its freedom and justice. Decades after his arrival, his idealistic vision of our nation died while being targeted and framed by the very government he trusted. Assured by the FDA that the most widely used IUD in Europe was approved for use here, he continued using it for two years while the FDA and DOJ tracked his every move to build a case against him for using the device. Singh knew nothing about this until a team of armed agents raided his office and expelled undressed female patients from their exam rooms. The FDA then fabricated documents, destroyed and suppressed evidence, intimidated witnesses, and coerced him into signing a plea deal by threatening to imprison his wife, as well, giving him two hours to sign it...or else. This book is perfect for law students and anyone interested in the way justice is administered in the United States.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

to reach Canadian territory. These incidences make for dramatic history, though, featuring well-known figures including American actor James Stephens and Irish author John Mitchel. **VERDICT** This is solid popular history; fans of Irish historian Tim Pat Coogan will find it most enjoyable.—**Hanna Clutterbuck-Cook, Harvard Univ. Lib., Cambridge, MA**

★**Lee, Heath Hardage. *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government To Bring Their Husbands Home*. St. Martin's. Apr. 2019.**

**336p. notes. bibliog. ISBN 9781250161109. \$28.99; ebk. ISBN 9781250161123. HIST**

Lee (*Winnie Davis*) presents the astonishing, untold story of a group of wives who mobilized and organized in an attempt to bring their husbands home from Vietnam. The group's leader, Sybil Stockdale, whose spouse spent more than seven years as a POW, stepped out of her role as a military wife and mother to lobby the U.S. government for better treatment as well as the swift and safe return of her husband and more than a hundred of his fellow Navy and Air Force pilots. Armed with the knowledge that their loved ones were being tortured and denied medical care as POWs, some of the women teamed with the government to send and receive coded messages; this series of clandestine activities earned them the moniker "Jane Bonds." Despite their many challenges, including a "keep quiet" policy enforced by the Johnson administration, wives across the country banded together to bring attention to the issue, support one another, and ultimately bring their men home. **VERDICT** This unputdownable story of strength and determination is a must-read. [See Prepub Alert, 10/15/18].—**Mattie Cook, Flat River Community Lib., MI**

★**Miller, Douglas K. *Indians on the Move: Native American Mobility and Urbanization in the Twentieth Century*. Univ. of North Carolina. Apr. 2019. 272p. illus. notes.**

**bibliog. index. ISBN 9781469651385. pap. \$29.95; ebk. ISBN 9781469651392. HIST**

In 1952, the Bureau of Indian Affairs inaugurated the Volunteer Relocation Program (VRP), which was intended to encourage Native Americans to move from rural res-

ingenuity and determination to chart their own futures. Some used educational opportunities to become academics, doctors, lawyers, or politicians. Others returned to their home communities to assume leadership roles, such as Wilma Mankiller, who rose to principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. It is not coincidental that Pan-Indian organizations, including the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the National Congress of American Indians, emerged from the urban milieu. **VERDICT** Miller's narrative expands significantly beyond the VRP in order to contextualize it within the broader scope of Native American migration over the course of the 20th century. In doing so, he has created a fascinating monograph highly recommended for anyone interested in Native American studies or American history.—**John R. Burch, Univ. of Tennessee at Martin**

**Strong, Roy. *The Story of Britain: A History of the Great Ages; From the Romans to the Present*. Pegasus. Feb. 2019. 608p. illus.**

**index. ISBN 9781643130132. \$35; e bk. ISBN 9781643131009. HIST**

National identity is at the center of this chronicle of the British people by art historian Strong (*The Quest for Shakespeare's Garden*). As with Robert Tombs's *The English and Their History*, Strong's work suggests that British identity and cultural values stem from a historical process that reaches back to Roman times. Tombs fulfilled this purpose by telling Britain's story through tracing English history, beginning with the Venerable Bede. Strong achieves it by concentrating on major historic developments that will enable an understanding of contemporary events within historical circumstances. As he focuses on political events, Strong intertwines social, economic, cultural, and religious factors. The narrative style is often spare, and treatment of events necessarily terse. The work ends with the start of a new historic era as Britain prepares to leave the European Union; the final chapters giving context to why Brexit is happening. **VERDICT** Strong succeeds in making British history a page-turner for general readers in this excellent introduction to the grand sweep of British history. The incisive language and short chapters allow readers to be absorbed in the story at their own leisure.—**Glen Edward Taul, Campbellville Univ. KY**