

\$27; ebk. ISBN 9781451606249. POL SCI

President Donald Trump's divisive rhetoric and unorthodox governing style has highlighted a rift in the American electorate which existed long before he came into office. In the past, this rift was largely papered over by candidates who rose above (Barack Obama) or stayed below it (Bill Clinton). Trump, however, has made this division his *raison d'être*. How did we get to this point? How can a populace so divided and with such contrastive ideas about the function of government keep together? Schneider (policy, government & international affairs, George Mason Univ.; with Seymour Martin Lipset, *The Confidence Gap*) investigates this question, and mostly offers a recounting of national political trends over the past 50 years, describing why some politicians have succeeded and others have failed. As a longtime political reporter and analyst, Schneider has had a front seat in the political theater and presents unique insights. **VERDICT** While compelling, this book is slow to tie its various threads together and answer the central question. Overall useful and important, even if it does not quite close in on a clear conclusion. [See Prepub Alert, 12/4/17].—Brett Rohlwing, Milwaukee P.L.

## PSYCHOLOGY

★ Segal, Nancy L. & Yesika S. Montoya. *Accidental Brothers: The Story of Twins Exchanged at Birth and the Power of Nature and Nurture*. St. Martin's. Apr. 2018. 352p. illus. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9781250101907. \$26.99; ebk. ISBN 9781250101914. PSYCH

A life-changing mistake took place at a Colombian hospital in 1988: two sets of identical twins were switched at birth, splitting up the siblings and sending one of each set to a completely different family as the supposed fraternal twin of another. The error was discovered in 2014, when the boys were 25. In what should be required reading for all who study nature and nurture, Segal (psychology & director, Twin Studies Ctr., California State Univ., Fullerton) and Montoya (associate director of advising, Columbia Univ. Sch. of Social Work) reveal how the boys' families could not have been more different—one, urban, well educated and well connected; the other, hardworking and living in a rural area, where the house lacked electricity and running water. Each mother believed her twins to be fraternal. Lucky for readers, there are many pictures of the twins, parents, siblings, and other relatives, plus charts and maps to help keep track of everyone. The authors delve deeply into the boys' abilities, personalities, religions, goals, and behaviors. There are only seven known cases of identical twins switched at

birth, so this research is new and thorough. **VERDICT** Essential for psychology and sociology students; fascinating for lay readers. [See Prepub Alert, 10/22/17].—Linda Beck, Indian Valley P.L., Telford, PA

## SOCIAL SCIENCE

Barrett, Dawson. *The Defiant: Protest Movements in Post-Liberal America*. New York Univ. May 2018. 224p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781479808656. \$24.95; ebk. ISBN 9781479846771. SOC SCI

This new book from Barrett (history, Del Mar Coll.; *Teenage Rebels*) purports to examine protest movements since the 1970s, but its real strength lies in the author's ability to weave policies and actions across political parties to reveal how neoliberalism (or postliberalism as Barrett labels it) echoes the Gilded Age with the same predictable, at times, devastating outcomes. In Barrett's recounting of the George W. Bush era, we see history repeating itself. From welfare rollbacks under Bill Clinton to deportations during Barack Obama's first term, Barrett finds much to protest under democratic administrations as well. The second chapter explores how 1980s punk rock culture grew in reaction to the social and economic conservatism of the Reagan era, yet Barrett's narrative of two specific punk clubs reveals fundamental compromises that seemingly undermine their role in the resistance. Later chapters describe student protests and boycotts that had a positive impact on the conditions of Mexican farm workers, and how the Bush administration attempted to cast protesters as traitors. The epilog, which opens with the airport protests following Trump's executive order halting refugees from entering the United States, now feels like an introduction to the country's next chapter. **VERDICT** A perfectly timed history of resistance.—Bart Everts, Rutgers Univ.—Camden Lib., NJ

Jameson, A.D. *I Find Your Lack of Faith Disturbing: Star Wars and the Triumph of Geek Culture*. Farrar. May 2018. 304p. notes. index. ISBN 9780374537364. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9780374717070. SOC SCI

Despite the mainstream popularity of *Star Wars* and the Marvel cinematic universe, Jameson (coauthor, *Cinemaps*) argues that geek culture has not received the recognition it deserves as an art form. Besides simply gravitating toward the genres of sf, fantasy, and horror, Jameson suggests that geeks desire an immersive world that maintains continuity across multiple formats. Geek culture has exploded over the past 20 years, with the growth of the Internet, as barriers to entry have decreased. In order to find success, franchises catering to these audiences must balance their wishes

with those of more general audiences. Geek movies have adopted the appearance of a lived-in universe, in which *Star Wars'* old and broken droids have replaced the shiny facade of previous sf films. One drawback is that Jameson treats his subject as a monolith, not accounting for why certain genres or formats resonate more than others. He also fails to address the prevalence of sexism and racism within the culture. **VERDICT** Nostalgia is the main appeal of this work, which will find audiences among fans of the documentary *The People vs. George Lucas* and Ernest Cline's novel *Ready Player One*.—Chris Wilkes, Tazewell Cty. P.L., VA

Rowe-Finkbeiner, Kristin. *Keep Marching: How Every Woman Can Take Action and Change Our World*. Hachette. May 2018. 336p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9780316515566. pap. \$16.99; ebk. ISBN 9780316515559. SOC SCI

Rowe-Finkbeiner (cofounder, Moms-Rising) creates a manual for women who are newly politically engaged and wish to advocate for women's issues. Using the 2017 Women's March as an entry point, the author explains key issues currently impacting women: income inequality, access to health care, maternal mortality, abortion restrictions, domestic violence, and mass incarceration. For each issue, she offers a concise overview with statistics and common criticisms interspersed with individual stories of women affected and a summary of desired changes. Refreshingly, Rowe-Finkbeiner is intersectional in her analysis; she breaks down how each issue affects women of color, but her treatment of the LGBTQIA+ population is sparse. Additionally, the chapters are written to encourage readers to advocacy and, owing to the narrative's nature, are necessarily devoid of deep analysis. Each chapter ends with a how-to guide on how to advocate for positive change based on Rowe-Finkbeiner's extensive experience. Policy recommendations and lists of supported advocacy groups are also included. **VERDICT** A crucial resource for women interested in beginning political advocacy work.—Rebekah Kati, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Smith, Nicholas. *Kicks: The Great American Story of Sneakers*. Crown. May 2018. 320p. notes. index. ISBN 9780451498113. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9780451498137. SOC SCI

Journalist Smith examines the history of sneakers in the United States, from the invention of vulcanized rubber by Charles Goodyear to modern-day designer models. As organized sports and leisure activities gained in popularity in the early 20th century, sneakers became the shoes of choice for athletes. Smith recounts the origins of several shoe