

through UN Security Council resolutions. Support for the new Jewish state came from American liberal and left-leaning politicians and writers, socialists in France, and the Soviet bloc. Israel's survival was dependent on Jewish immigration through France and weapons from Czechoslovakia. Of particular interest is Herf's lengthy discussion of Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin al-Husseini's Nazi collaboration during WW II, the failure to indict him on war crimes, his escape from France, and his influence on the Arab Higher Committee, which spoke for the Palestinian Arabs. His consideration of France's role in "Israel's Moment" is also insightful. **Summing Up: ★★★★★** Essential. General readers through faculty.—*W. T. Lindley, Union University*

60-2394 DR486 MARC
Pfeifer, Helen. **Empire of salons: conquest and community in early modern Ottoman lands.** Princeton, 2022. 320p bibl index ISBN 9780691195230 cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 9780691224954 ebook, contact publisher for price

The recalibration of the Ottoman Empire after the retreat of the Timurids has been recognized as a process initiated by the expansion of a state bureaucracy working at the behest of the sultan. In her excellent first book, Pfeifer (Univ. of Cambridge, UK) upsets this claim that the Ottoman Empire of the 16th century was the product of a centralizing state. At the heart of a dynamic process that successfully integrated the previously independent Syrian lands into the Ottoman bureaucracy was the gentlemanly salon. As arenas where men of status in Syrian society debated the politics of their time, literary salons, as Pfeifer argues, were intellectually critical to the long-term success of this imperial enterprise. Moreover, upon looking at the role Syrian scholar Badr al-Din al-Ghazzi (d. 1577) played in 16th-century Damascus, Pfeifer convincingly demonstrates that the empire's political stability depended on the interactions taking place in explicitly intellectual and artistic circles based in faraway Syria. These so-called laboratories of Ottoman culture, society, and politics that accommodated men such as al-Ghazzi helped integrate the Arab-speaking regions into an Ottoman regime once thought to exist centrally in faraway, Turkish-speaking Istanbul. **Summing Up: ★★★★★** Highly recommended. Advanced undergraduates through faculty.—*I. Blumi, Stockholm University*

60-2395 D766 MARC
Wartime North Africa: a documentary history, 1934–1950, ed. by Sarah Abrevaya Stein and Aomar Boum. Stanford, 2022. 384p bibl index ISBN 9781503611511 cloth, \$90.00; ISBN 9781503631991 pbk, \$30.00; ISBN 9781503632004 ebook, contact publisher for price

Wartime North Africa is a massive undertaking that brings to light the inner work of Nazism and Fascism and their deleterious impact on disparate Indigenous populations, particularly the Jewish one, in North Africa between 1934 and 1950. In this distinctive book, Stein and Boum (both, Univ. of California, Los Angeles) assemble numerous testimonials about the survivors in North Africa. Through the translation or transcription of various original texts, including poems, interviews, diaries, and correspondences originating in Arabic, French, Hebrew, Italian, Moroccan Arabic, Tamazight, and Yiddish, this volume vividly describes the extent to which anti-Semitic regimes, such as the Vichy regime, stifled the lives of Jewish individuals in North Africa. The book illustrates the complexity of the allegiances among various Indigenous groups as they all sought to survive the brutal machine of European oppression before, during, and after Nazism and Fascism in Europe. Because of its multidimensional structure and cohesive and timely themes, such as war, internment, persecution, displacement, anti-Semitism, racism, and identity, this well-researched, gripping text is best suited for

scholars and for classroom discussions in history, ethnic studies, Jewish studies, and studies of colonial and postcolonial North Africa. **Summing Up: ★★★★★** Highly recommended. Advanced undergraduates through faculty.—*H. Bahri, The City University of New York, York College*

North America

60-2396 HV6789 CIP
Brauer, Stephen. **Criminality and the modern: contingency and agency in twentieth-century America.** Lexington Books, 2022. 212p bibl index ISBN 9781793608444 cloth, \$100.00; ISBN 9781793608451 ebook, \$45.00

Brauer (English, St. John Fisher College) frames his work using the organizing principle of *modernity*—the emphasis on rationality and science to understand society. He meticulously describes four general schools of thought that emerged over the last 150 years to explain criminal behavior. The first, popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, highlights physical characteristics believed to predispose people to a life of crime. Brauer illustrates this by discussing the oddly drawn criminals in the Dick Tracy comics and the “simian” (p. 35) attributes of Tony Camonte in the 1932 film *Scarface*. The second addresses psychological traits, e.g., sexual compulsions, as explanations of criminal behavior. The 1925 Leopold and Loeb murder trial and the novel *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1934) are discussed as exemplars. The third describes how social environments can circumscribe individuals' life choices and channel them toward crime. The 1938 film *Boys Town* offers a portrait of this perspective. The final explanation views criminality as a reasonable choice for becoming financially successful, as illustrated by the 1972 film *The Godfather*. Media depictions still use aspects of these explanations, sometimes in combination, to yield common, though perhaps incomplete, accounts of criminal behavior. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Advanced undergraduates through faculty.—*J. P. Hoffmann, Brigham Young University*

60-2397 E780 CIP
Doenecke, Justus D. **More precious than peace: a new history of America in World War I.** Notre Dame, 2022. 560p bibl index ISBN 9780268201852 cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 9780268201876 ebook, \$27.99

More Precious than Peace is the author's follow-up volume to *Nothing Less than War: A New History of America's Entry into World War I* (CH, Sep '11, 49-0478). Here, Doenecke (emer., New College of Florida) makes clear that despite historical analysis of President Woodrow Wilson as a dynamic and intellectual wartime leader, Wilson had major flaws that corresponded with the eventual dissolution of US foreign policy following the war. Just as in his earlier volume, Doenecke breaks down the opposition to war among socialists, pacifists, and anarchists in the US, and the Wilson administration's harsh retaliation against them via the Espionage Act of 1917. Reelected on a peace platform in 1916, Wilson had determined that German submarine warfare had crossed the line toward war by April 1917. However, war preparation had been poorly conceived, and, despite American aid to the Allies, US forces were only successful on the western front in the final six months of the war. Finally, to understand why Wilson was so unsuccessful in applying his “Fourteen Points” to the final settlement at Versailles, one must thoroughly comprehend his deficiencies in diplomatic parlance and military reality. Solely blaming the Republican Party for eventually rejecting the League of Nations is not only unrealistic but extreme historical mythmaking. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Graduate students and faculty.—*A. M. Mayer, emeritus, College of Staten Island/CUNY*