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soon after its publication in 1973 fear of flying brought erica jong immense popular success and media fame alternately pegged sassy and vulgar jong s novel embraced the politics of the women s liberation movement and challenged the definition of female sexuality

yet today more than twenty years and several books later literary reputation continues for the most part to elude jong typecast by her adversaries as a media seeking sensationalist erica jong has been unfairly side stepped by academia charlotte templin contends in this carefully researched study augmented by personal interviews with jong templin assembles and analyzes the medley of responses to jong s books by reviewers critics writers academics and the media by liberals conservatives and feminists she examines the diverse opinions on the merit and relevance to contemporary life of fear of flying the invocation of a high culture low culture dichotomy to discredit how to save your own life the anatomy of literary success with fanny jong s reception in a postfeminist age and the trivialization of jong s works that is inevitable with mass media exposure templin also shows how antagonistic reviewers tend to identify jong with her fictitious characters a practice more common when the author is a woman and judge her to be guilty of the sin of not being a proper woman in turn she shows how reviewers reveal something of their own values and ideological biases in their critiques and how literary reputations are built destroyed and altered over time the first book to make a detailed examination of the reputation of a woman writer feminism and the politics of literary reputation provides an excellent case study for the literary reception of women writers within a broad cultural context templin s analysis offers valuable insight into the reception of women writers especially commercially successful women writers and dramatically illustrates the relation of literary reputation to popular appeal and cultural mores

examines in rich detail the daily lives of pioneer women journal of american history anyone interested in women s history and western history will want to read this pacific historical review copyright libri gmbh all rights reserved

a leading political historian of antebellum america examines the hard fought three way presidential race of 1848 reveals how martin van buren and his free soil party challenged whigs and democrats by making slavery a key issue representing a harbinger of the change that was to come even though they only garnered 10 percent of the vote

individual liberty is ingrained in american culture yet in contrast to this cherished ideal american men were inducted into military

service under a system that flourished for more than twenty years before its rationalization was seriously questioned by more than a small minority of citizens analyzing this paradox george flynn provides the first comprehensive look at an institution that managed to sustain political and public favor through two wars before dying out under a barrage of protests during a third placing the american draft within a historical context he shows how social and political considerations determined the character of conscription in the united states the draft developed as it did he argues not mainly because of military needs or strategy but because of political decisions initiated by civilians with nonmilitary agendas explaining why the draft remained relatively immune to political criticism prior to the vietnam conflict flynn chronicles the draft s military and strategic successes and failures in america s mid century wars he shows how major institutions and lobbies representing science education and various professions and religions influenced it and how ultimately and ironically the selective character of the draft eventually made the system inequitable and helped cause its downfall book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

popular writers and historians alike have perpetuated the powerful myth of the rugged individualist single handedly transforming the american west in reality william robbins counters it was the guggenheims and goulds the harrimans and hearsts and the morgans and mellons who masterminded what the west was to become remove the romance he shows and a darker west emerges a colonial like region where industrial statesmen aided by eastern u s and european capital manipulated investments in pursuit of private gain while controlling wage earning cowboys and miners robbins argues that understanding the impact of capitalism on the west from the fur trade era to the present is essential to understanding power influence and change in the region showing how global capitalism had a more profound impact on the modern west than individual initiative he explores violence and racism along the texas mexican border colonial style company towns in montana and the northwest contrasting traditions astride the u s canadian boundary pace setting agribusiness and exploitation of labor in california the growing power of metropolitan centers and dependence of rural areas and the emergence of a sizable federal influence to grasp the essence of the west s dramatic transformation robbins contends you must look to the mainstays of material relations in the region the perpetually changing character of political and economic culture the inherent instability of resources and the larger constellations of capitalist decision making consequently he shows shy western

success and failure prosperity and misfortune and expansion and decline were all inseparably linked to the evolution of capitalism at the local regional national and global levels in the tradition of patricia nelson limerick s legacy of conquest robbins s study challenges some of our most revered images of the west and invigorates the ongoing debates over its history and meaning for our nation

from truman to clinton presidents have aggressively tried to expand their control over national government in the process they have vastly enlarged their white house staffs and politicized the federal bureaucracy with thousands of appointees in key administrative positions thomas weko argues that the presidential personnel office ppo charged with screening and recommending such appointees both exemplifies and helps explain the enormous growth of presidential power since world war ii originally conceived as a small advisory group within the white house office the ppo has grown enormously from a staff of two under truman to as many as sixty under other presidents and now oversees nearly four thousand appointments per administration weko charts the ppo s evolution and influence and shows how central it is to our understanding of modern presidential leadership weko s starting point is terry moe s rational choice theory that it is the institution of the presidency not the sitting president that fosters centralization and politicization within the executive branch amplifying and extending moe s theory weko persuasively links the ppo s explosive growth to the weakening of political parties the post eisenhower disintegration of policy networks the growing impact of television news and the public s increasing readiness to hold the president accountable for policy failures the ppo s growth clearly has increased presidential control and bureaucratic responsiveness but weko argues those results have had unanticipated and unwanted consequences that among other things have undermined the integrity and capabilities of administrative agencies any improvement in the leadership of the executive branch he contends can only emerge from changes in the current institutional arrangement of the presidency itself based on exhaustive research in white house files oral histories and memoirs and personal interviews with over 100 white house aides weko s study provides a provocative new look at the white house office and the modern presidency

in this provocative and readable volume eleven leading constitutional authorities challenge business as usual in american foreign policymaking for far too long they contend americans have acquiesced to presidential claims to sweeping executive powers in foreign

affairs thanks to imperial minded presidents a weak willed congress and neglectful scholars these authors forcefully argue that the president is not the supreme crafter of foreign policy and that congress must provide more than a rubber stamp for the president s agenda unilateral presidential control of foreign relations they warn can pose a grave threat to our nation s welfare and is simply without constitutional warrant combining constitutional theory with keen historical insights these authors illuminate the roots of presidential abuse of executive power and remind us of the past and potential costs of such disregard for our unique system of checks and balances an essential guide for all concerned citizens and members of congress this volume should help revive a proper understanding of this crucial dimension of american democracy

reexamination of the role of the west in u s history and of the field of western history itself told by ten historians

for as long as they have existed the national parks have been the scene of some of the most intensive commercial activity in the american west selling yellowstone recounts the story of such activities in our oldest park from the 1870s through the 1960s it is the first book to examine critically the role of business in the development of america s national parks demonstrating how profit driven entrepreneurs shaped the physical landscape of what is generally perceived as unaltered wilderness jacket

examines the united states efforts to create and project a strong counterintelligence capability both at home and abroad during the 1930s several federal agencies governmental departments and military divisions vied for that role before it was eventually handed to the fbi the author a former fbi agent chronicles the evolution achievements and failure of that effort

james k polk was one of the strongest and most active presidents ever to occupy the office in the nineteenth century only jefferson jackson and lincoln matched his overall leadership and domination of national government bergeron s crisp insightful narrative shows how and why polk achieved such stature and yet failed to attract the kind of popular support or retrospective recognition granted other presidential luminaries a native of north carolina polk prepared for the presidency by honing his leadership skills as a seven term congressman speaker of the house and governor of tennessee bergeron s summary and analysis of those years shed light on

the foundations of the presidency that followed he provides fresh new perspectives on polk s relationship with his cabinet his skirmishes with congress over domestic economic legislation and the curse of presidential patronage but perhaps the most fascinating portions of this study are devoted to polk s role as the western expansionist by the end of his term the united states had acquired enormous territories in the southwest and far west bergeron demonstrates that polk adroitly used both war and diplomacy to acquire and protect these lands when the annexation of texas led to the outbreak of war with mexico polk was forced to become commander in chief of the american forces in contrast the potentially explosive dispute with great britain over oregon s borders was settled through purely diplomatic means norman a graebner in america s top ten presidents declares polk s achievements in diplomacy were among the most remarkable in american history drawing upon a careful review of the extensive literature on our eleventh president as well as polk s personal diary bergeron has written a significant and balanced reassessment of the polk presidency in the process he has also created a revealing portrait of a complex man who led the nation with imperial determination tempered with compassion generosity and even humor

a bancroft prize winning historian chronicles the modern history of impeachment and the shift in american politics and constitutional culture revealed by its evolving interpretation and use

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