spiritual philosophy are clear and candid yet often surrounded by stretches of more prosaic detail such as family histories and accounts of his years as a physician. Editors Lau (postdoctoral fellow, Univ. of California) and Partridge (lecturer, Harvard Divinity Sch.) use Dillon’s writings to create successfully a historical document. The public revelation of this transition and subsequent press attention spurred Dillon to flee to India, where he became a Buddhist monk as relayed in his memoir *Imji Getsul: An English Buddhist in a Tibetan Monastery*. Descriptions of emotional and psychological struggles regarding the author’s gender identity and of the area’s economic, political, and social issues, provide much-needed context to explain Louverture’s shifting loyalties and self-reinventions. While Louverture’s role in the revolution comprises a large portion of this work, Girard also considers the hero’s life after the conflict, when he became governor and rebuilt Saint-Domingue’s agrarian economy by instituting a cultivator system. At the height of his power, Louverture was deposed by Napoleon and imprisoned in France, where he later died. The book ends with a brief discussion of Louverture’s legacy. 

**VERDICT** A compelling look at an extraordinary historical figure. Recommended for anyone interested in revolution and/or Caribbean history.—Rebekah Kati, New Orleans

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**BIOGRAPHY**


Completed in 1962 but unpublished until now is the long-neglected autobiography of Dillon/Jivaka (1915–62), born Laura Maud Dillon, who transitioned from female to male in the 1940s through testosterone treatments, a double mastectomy, and phalloplasty (the first performed on a transgender man). The public revelation of this transition and subsequent press attention spurred Dillon to flee to India, where he became a Buddhist monk as relayed in his memoir *Imji Getsul: An English Buddhist in a Tibetan Monastery*. Descriptions of emotional and psychological struggles regarding the author’s gender identity and of emotional and psychological struggles regarding the author’s gender identity and transitioned from female to male in the 1940s through testosterone treatments, a double mastectomy, and phalloplasty (the first performed on a transgender man). The public revelation of this transition and subsequent press attention spurred Dillon to flee to India, where he became a Buddhist monk as relayed in his memoir *Imji Getsul: An English Buddhist in a Tibetan Monastery*. Descriptions of emotional and psychological struggles regarding the author’s gender identity and autobiography. 

**VERDICT**

Worthwhile, purely for its status as a personal voice from the shadowed world of 20th-century transgender history, though more of a general biography than a work on gender issues. Reading this in conjunction with *Self: A Study in Ethics and Endocrinology*, Dillon’s study on transsexuality, might provide a fuller experience on the topic.—Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans

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Toussaint Louverture (1743–1803) is best known as the leader of the Haitian Revolution, a slave revolt in the French colony of Saint-Domingue that resulted in the establishment of the Republic of Haiti. Born a slave of African descent, Louverture saw himself as French; this dichotomy would define his life and shape his political policies. Girard (*Haiti: The Tumultuous History—From Pearl of the Caribbean to Broken Nation*) attempts to reconcile the contradictions of Louverture’s life. Sources documenting his subject’s early days are scarce, and the author spends the first part of the biography exploring the unusual race relations of Saint-Domingue, which along with discussions of emotional and psychological struggles surrounding his legacy. Black Elk Speaks: Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux was published in 1932, it was scarcely noticed by readers. When republished in 1962, its spiritualism spoke to the emerging counterculture, thus becoming one of the most influential American Indian works of the 20th century. Jackson (*The Thief at the End of the World*) endeavors to extricate the historical Black Elk from the mythology surrounding his legacy. Black Elk (1863–1950) lived during the most turbulent time in Oglala Lakota history. He fought in the Battle of Little Big Horn, witnessed the
yet needed one another, offer a window into a complex early chapter of East-West relations. **VERDICT** This microlevel history for nonhistorians is strong on realpolitik; not a quick read but a rewarding one. —Lisa Peet, *Library Journal*


In 1956, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, fresh from the revolution that ousted King Farouk, took possession of the Suez Canal. Britain and France, heretofore operating the canal for their profit, objected and threatened to invade. U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower refused to agree to reasserting colonial control over Egypt, kicking off an unbearably complicated series of events that ultimately failed to halt Nasser’s Pan-Arabism or prevent Soviet inroads but led to decades of American influence in the Middle East. In the years since, various interpretations for Eisenhower’s actions and their consequences have been offered. Doran, (senior fellow, Hudson Inst., Washington, DC), offers a reappraisal of the diplomatic fencing among the major participants while largely eschewing historiography. He primarily references *Foreign Relations of the United States*, with limited citations of British and Arab documents, although there are numerous secondary sources. **VERDICT** A well-documented narrative of complex diplomacy, with supporting roles by Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden. Historians and specialists in Middle East foreign affairs will be interested in Doran’s reinterpretation of the crisis. —Edwin Burgess, Kansas City, KS


Many readers will associate the B-17 Flying Fortress with the European theater of World War II. While most were employed with the 8th Air Force in Europe, some were stationed with bombing groups in the Pacific. The crew of “Old 666” is the subject of this story, particularly pilot Jay Zeamer Jr. Providing a mixture of Zeamer’s story with background on World War II in the Pacific theater, Drury and Clavin (coauthors, *The Heart of Everything That Is*) offer more of a biography of Zeamer and a history of bombing from the areas of Papua and Northern Australia than an overview of this specific mission. Zeamer is painted as a persistent, rebellious soul who struggled to find his place despite his abilities. Other crew members’ accounts are also included, though generally to a lesser extent. Reliance on a relatively small number of sources, a sensationalist flair, and flaws in the citation style hinder the book’s historical value. **VERDICT** Despite minor concerns, this title is an entertaining popular history that will appeal to fans of adventure-style *World War II* stories. —Matthew Wayman, Pennsylvania State Univ. Lib., Schuylkill Haven


Egerton (Merrill Family Visiting Professor in History, Cornell Univ.; *The Wars of Reconstruction*) presents a captivating narrative of 14 men who served with the 54th and 55th Massachusetts infantry and the 5th Massachusetts cavalry. Four white officers commanded the regiments, all wealthy and well-educated men, including Robert Gould Shaw and Charles Francis Adams Jr. At the center of this volume’s biographical portrait are African Americans from a variety of backgrounds who sought to end slavery: escaped slave William Carney, former schoolteachers Nicolas Said and James Trotter, and seamen Henry Jarvis and James Gooding. Egerton details the regiments’ training and their participation in battles at Fort Wagner, SC, and their participation in the occupation of Charleston, SC, at the conclusion of the Civil War. The men proved their worth as disciplined soldiers and helped focus the nation’s attention on freedom and equal rights for African Americans. **VERDICT** Egerton’s study of the individuals and attention to their lives after the war is extremely well researched and well documented. This is an important addition to the shelves of Civil War books. —Patricia Ann Owens, formerly with Illinois Eastern Community Colls., Mt. Carmel


Ferreiro (history, George Mason Univ.; *Measure of the Earth*) presents the American Revolution in a global context, detailing the many Europeans who played critical roles in American Independence, delving into the histories of the players whose decisive actions gave George Washington the men, material, and ships necessary to wrestle the colonies from Britain. Readers will discover important figures such as French minister Charles Gravier, Comte de Vergennes, and admiral Charles Hector, Comte d’Estaing, as well as Spanish commander Bernardo de Galvez. Ferreiro also discusses the intricate Atlantic supply chains that fed the U.S. army, as well as critical naval technology and tactics like copper plating. The text describes the motivations of numerous French and Spanish ministers, traders, sailors, and soldiers, unveiling many underappreciated actions, including the Spanish seizure of British Pensacola, the chess match in the Caribbean islands, and the cat-and-mouse game between the French and British fleets. **VERDICT** This work is scholarly and heavily researched, a denser read than David McCullough’s *1776*, providing much information from an often neglected perspective. Even seasoned American history readers will likely find new content on a pivotal era. —Jeffrey Meyer, Mt. Pleasant P.L., IA


Welcome to a highly irreverent tour of the darker sides of the Victorian age. Popular history writer and blogger Onelli points out that although films and fiction set in this period have great appeal today, they omit significant parts of the less-than-comfortable aspects of the time, including bad hygiene, poor medical knowledge resulting in hack treatments, and restrictions on social interactions. The author’s wicked sense of humor saves the subject from devolving into a dry tome, instead providing laugh-out-loud moments on the most unthinkable and unmentionable subjects. The brilliance of this study is Onelli’s ability to transport readers back in time and have them experience the day-to-day life of women battling the issues of the era. In doing so, this work both educates and amuses in its historical approach of the unseen and unseemly sides of the time. **VERDICT** This fun romp of a book will appeal to history aficionados and lovers of the Victorian age and its etiquette, as well as anyone who enjoys a good laugh at the oddly absurd. [See “Editors’ Fall Picks,” *LJ* 9/1/16, p. 27.]—Stacy Shaw, Orange, CA


Historical studies of the ancient world, posit Scott (Delphi: A History of the Center of the Ancient World), have the unfortunate habit of letting disciplinary and geographical boundaries limit their scope. The author seeks to provide a view of interconnected ancient worlds, exploring how civilizations