



Sports & Recreation

49-0929 GV867 2010-42051 CIP
Alpert, Rebecca T. **Out of left field: Jews and black baseball.** Oxford, 2011. 236p bibl index afp ISBN 9780195399004, \$27.95

Alpert (religion and women's studies, Temple Univ.) explores the origins of baseball comedy, which emerged from vaudeville, and how Jewish owners of black teams made it part of their business model. Using stories of Jewish sport entrepreneurs, Jewish and black sportswriters, and a team of black Jews called the Belleville Grays, she also provides a fresh perspective on the complex interactions between African Americans and Jews in the US during the first half of the 20th century. Tensions around race, religion, power, and money are revealed in the perceived motives and intentions of the Jewish owners who traded in racial stereotypes in the marketing of black baseball teams by casting black athletes in the roles of clowns to render them less threatening to white audiences, thus undermining their ability to be seen as serious candidates for integrated baseball. According to the author, Jewish owners and sportswriters were also motivated by their own understanding of prejudice and commitment to social justice, helping to finance and grow black baseball and overcome the barriers created by a societal investment in the concept of separate but equal. Well worth reading, this volume complements Rob Ruck's *Raceball: How the Major Leagues Colonized the Black and Latin Game* (2011). **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ All readers.—*E. J. Staurowsky, Ithaca College*

49-0930 GV706 2010-13448 CIP
Participation in sport: international policy perspectives, ed. by Matthew Nicholson, Russell Hoye, and Barrie Houlihan. Routledge, 2011. 318p bibl index ISBN 9780415554770, \$155.00; ISBN 9780425554787 pbk, \$49.95; ISBN 9780203870495 e-book, \$49.95

Including the work of 26 established scholars, this volume looks at sport-participation policies in 18 nations (including the US and Canada) and at the effectiveness of those policies in providing competitive sporting opportunities for non-elite performers. Nicholson, Hoye, and Houlihan (all based in Australia or the UK) asked contributors to address certain common points, a method that allows for a focused look at structural arrangements that are successful at encouraging the masses to be active throughout their lives. Although most public policy addresses reducing disease through physical activity, this volume looks at competitive sport only. The main point of this collection concerns "sport for all," but the contributors provide considerable data about allocation of funds for elite competitors. The paucity of information and the disparate ways in which each country reports statistics of this kind makes comparisons difficult, but the editors have done a good job and created a resource that will be valuable to those interested in public policy as well as sports administration. **Summing Up:** Recommended.★★ Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.—*J. A. McClung, Berea College*

49-0931 GV581 2010-24252 MARC
Routledge handbook of sports development, ed. by Barrie Houlihan and Mick Green. Routledge, 2011. 648p bibl index ISBN 9780415479967, \$200.00; ISBN 9780203885581 e-book, \$200.00

Houlihan and Green (both Loughborough Univ., UK) have done a remarkable job of editing this comprehensive, exhaustive book on sports development around the world. Governments and organizing bodies must contend with two competing realities—sports for all and

talent identification/ development—and this ubiquitous tension is skillfully addressed throughout the volume. Of particular interest is the inside look at how governing bodies have tried to improve participation through programs within the context of each culture and political structure. This effort has many variations, and the volume does an excellent job of exploring it in sections devoted to individual countries. This will be a valuable resource for all students of physical education and sport, providing them with a worldview of how sport is used as a tool in development and in producing world-class athletes. And specialists will find this handbook to be a valuable starting point in this emerging field of study. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.—*J. A. McClung, Berea College*

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

49-0932 HT123 2010-38987 CIP
Biles, Roger. **The fate of cities: urban America and the federal government, 1945-2000.** University Press of Kansas, 2011. 445p index afp ISBN 070061768X, \$39.95; ISBN 9780700617685, \$39.95

Biles (history, Illinois State Univ.) adds to his substantial body of work on cities and the policies that shape them, covering presidential administrations from Truman to Clinton. He follows each administration's urban policy directives and focuses on their effects on housing, transportation, and poverty. Especially strong is the chapter on Johnson's Great Society; it could stand on its own as a reading in undergraduate history, urban studies, or political science courses. Biles shows that while only Carter's policies advanced the interests of cities, uneven political support hindered the implementation and sustained success of his programs. The transfer of power (and funding) from federal to local and state levels under Reagan's New Federalist policies (endorsed and continued by Bush I) paved the way for Clinton's neoliberal programs, such as Empowerment Zones and workfare. The final chapter restates the main points too briefly; Biles misses an opportunity to reflect upon the larger picture of US urban places and to contextualize the 21st-century US city. Meticulously researched and documented, yet accessibly written, this book rewards students of the policies of particular presidential administrations as well as careful readers seeking to understand the waning of urban revitalization programs during the late 20th century. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*A. E. Leonard, New York City College of Technology*

49-0933 HQ1240 MARC
Bradley, Tamsin. **Religion and gender in the developing world: faith-based organizations and feminism in India.** I.B. Tauris, 2011. 274p bibl index ISBN 9781848854277, \$92.00

Bradley (anthropology, London Metropolitan Univ.) brings together research in the sociology of religion with research in international development by employing an ethnomethodological approach to studying faith-based development organizations in India. The selection of a national context coupled with the assessment of work organizations at several sites allows the research to speak to variety across and within one cultural context. An initial set of chapters reviews and synthesizes the literature in the fields of religion and gender in development. The author