

World Leaders



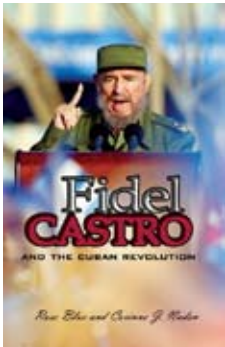
Booklist

August 1, 2007

Young, Jeff. *Hugo Chavez: Leader of Venezuela*. Aug 2007. 128 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (978-1-59935-068-4). 987.06.

Chronicling the controversial leader's life from childhood to the present, this biography discusses Chavez's military career, his brief imprisonment for leading a coup, his early political activities, and his presidency. Closing chapters cover aspects of his leadership that worry many observers, including Chavez's consolidation of power and antagonistic policies toward the U.S. Chavez is depicted as a learned student of political history and philosophy who rose to power by appealing to the masses through populist promises, which he has largely fulfilled through Venezuela's oil profits. Bolstering arguments with quotations from political analysts and newspapers, Young portrays Chavez as a potential threat to U.S. security due to Venezuela's vast oil reserves and strong alliances with

openly anti-American states. Useful for reports, this effectively written, informative biography is illustrated with color maps and photographs and includes a time line, source notes, and a bibliography.— Ed Sullivan



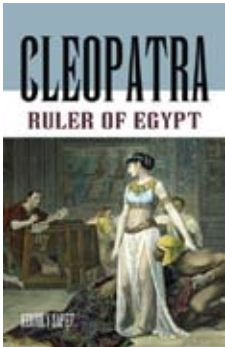
The Horn Book Guide

Fall 2007

Naden, Corinne, and Rose Blue *Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution*

144 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 1-59935-029-7 \$27.95

(3)YA Published fall 2006. This book gives a detailed, evenhanded account of the life of the Cuban leader, from his privileged childhood through his youth as a revolutionary through his ride to power on the world stage. Plenty of historical context is provided, helping readers understand the bigger picture. Well-captioned illustrations, maps, and photographs (including Castro as a child) further illuminate the text. Timeline, websites. Bib., ind. ERG



School Library Journal

July 2007

SAPET, Kerrily. *Cleopatra: Ruler of Egypt*. 176p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2007. PLB \$27.95. ISBN 978-1-59935-035-6. LC 2006033381.

Gr 8 Up—This biography of the legendary but somewhat mysterious Cleopatra provides a balanced account of her life and legacy while making clear that much of what is known about her comes from the Romans, who considered her a villain. The text is strongest in its descriptions of Egyptian culture and religion, the role of women, and life in the Nile Valley. In later chapters, the complicated sequence of battles and events might be difficult for readers to follow. Numerous color reproductions and illustrations brighten the text, but the maps vary widely in style and quality and are often difficult to read.—*Marcia Kochel, Olson Middle School, Bloomington, MN*

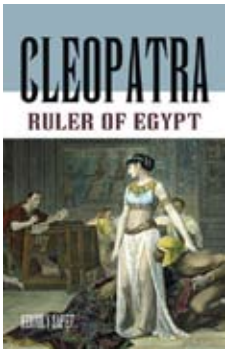


The Horn Book Guide, Fall 2007

Sapet, Kerrily ***Cleopatra: Ruler of Egypt***

176 pp. Morgan LE ISBN 978-1-59935-035-6 \$27.95

(4)YA World Leaders series. This comprehensive biography places Cleopatra in historical context by providing background on the Egyptian pharaohs, the Ptolemaic dynasty, Roman culture, and the political machinations of figures such as Caesar, Mark Antony, and Octavian. The text paints a vivid, balanced portrait of Cleopatra, but some pictures and maps bear limited connection to the text and there are some minor mistakes. Timeline, websites. Bib., ind. AHK



Booklist

June 1, 2007

Sapey, Kerrily. *Cleopatra: Ruler of Egypt*. Apr 2007. 176 p. Morgan Reynolds, library edition, \$27.95. (978-1-59935-035-6). 932.

As familiar as Cleopatra's name may be, the fascinating details of her life will be new to most students. This strong biography presents a comprehensive portrait of the legendary Egyptian queen while offering a vivid sense of life across the highly sophisticated ancient world, from Alexandria to Rome. Sapey's engaging text is smoothly organized and filled with memorable details of the glamour, treachery, romance, and political machinations that marked Cleopatra's life. Quotes from classical texts, reproductions of artwork featuring the historical figures cited in the text, and maps greatly enhance the account. Back matter includes a time line, source notes for direct quotes, recommended Web sites, and a bibliography of both youth and adult titles. Suggest this solid title not only to teachers and student researchers but also to older teens whose interest in the ancient world has been kindled by recent films and television shows, such as the Rome series on HBO. —Gillian Engberg

School Library Journal

September 2006

DUBERSTEIN, John. *A Velvet Revolution: Václav Havel and the Fall of Communism*. 160p. (World Leaders Series). maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-85-0. LC 2006000008. Gr 9 Up



Havel's life is inextricably tied to significant events in the history of Czechoslovakia in the 20th century, in which he became a key player. Early chapters explore his childhood during World War II and its aftermath with keen attention to the impact of being from a bourgeois family. The heart of the book examines his path from a passionate intellectual and playwright to leader of Charter 77, the human-rights group that played a crucial role leading to the collapse of the communist regime. Closing chapters deal with Havel's successes and failures as a political leader and first president of his country after the Velvet Revolution. Throughout the book, the author superbly integrates explanations of the relevant historical background and events with his subject's life, thus providing readers with an introduction to a dramatic swath of six decades of history. At the same time, he does

not sanitize the life of Havel, whose personal shortcomings are not overlooked. Black-and-white and full-color photos and reproductions further complement this excellent biography.—Elizabeth Talbot, University of Illinois, Champaign

Booklist

July 1 & 15, 2006

Duberstein, John. *A Velvet Revolution: Václav Havel and the Fall of Communism*. June 2006. 160p. Illus. Index. Morgan Reynolds, \$26.95 (1-931798-85-0). 943.704. Gr. 8-11.



Against a backdrop of Czechoslovakian history from the end of World War I to just beyond the end of its Communist regime, Duberstein profiles one of the century's most unusual political leaders—a dissident writer who rose to power on the strength of his satirical plays, eloquent public statements, and movie-star good looks. Although the author's focus on events more than on personalities unnecessarily distances readers, most will still emerge with a sense of how Havel's stage works reflected his "often absurd and treacherous world" and of the challenges he faced once his skills as a gadfly won him the presidency of the Czech Republic. Duberstein adds admiring glances toward Havel's wife, Olga, with mentions of both spouses' scandalous affairs. Enhanced by archival photographs and brief lists of book and Web resources (most targeting adults), this is an intriguing

introduction to a turbulent place and time as well as a case study in how a country came to be run by "a group of long-haired, suede-jacket-wearing intellectuals."—John Peters

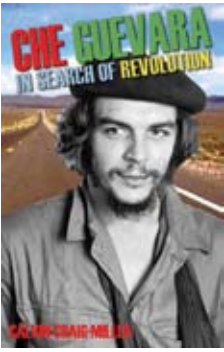
The Horn Book Guide

Fall 2006

Duberstein, John *A Velvet Revolution: Václav Havel and the Fall of Communism*. 160 pp. Morgan ISBN 1-931798-85-0. World Leaders Series.



Despite some amateurish writing, this biography is one of the only books for young adults to detail the inspiring life story of Václav Havel, one of the twentieth century's most commanding political personalities. As a playwright dissident, and the president of Czechoslovakia, he worked hard to bring about an end to totalitarianism in Eastern Europe. Photos appear throughout the book. Timeline, websites. Bib., ind. CLS

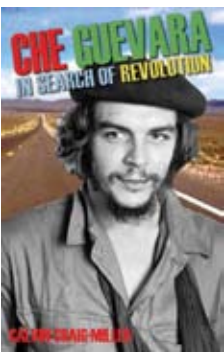


School Library Journal

March 2007

MILLER, Calvin Craig. *Che Guevara: In Search of Revolution*. 192p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-93-1. LC 2006005975. **Gr 7 Up**

Guevara's life, from his early years in one of Argentina's wealthiest families to mythic guerrilla revolutionary, is covered in detail. The author recounts how Che's childhood in a prominent but socialist-leaning family influenced many early decisions, including an all-important choice to study medicine. Guevara traveled Latin America as a young man, and encounters with peasants in the countryside sparked a determination that would guide his ideology throughout his life. A burning desire to see the downfall of capitalism through whatever means necessary, including armed revolution, spurred him to seek out causes and people that could help make that happen. The bulk of the book focuses on Guevara's time spent working closely with Fidel Castro to overthrow Batista and his U.S.-backed government. The writing is engaging and thorough; even students with just a passing knowledge of the man will find much here to capture their attention. Copious source notes, a detailed time line, and helpful black-and-white and color photographs round out this volume.—*Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA*

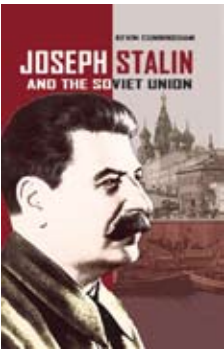


Booklist

August 2006

Miller, Calvin Craig. *Che Guevara: In Search of the Revolution*. 2006. 192p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. Ed., \$26.95 (1-931798-93-1). 980.03. Gr. 7-10.

The man behind the public icon is the subject of this compelling biography that tells the complex story of the famous radical leftist, his failure, his weakness, and his inspirational leadership in the fight for social justice. Born into one of the wealthiest families in Argentina, Guevara fought as a guerrilla leader for his dream of revolution throughout Latin America and Africa. His life story is closely woven into a detailed account of the global politics of his day, including his role in the Cuban revolution and the showdown with the U.S. The design is appealing, with clear type, occasional photos, and maps, and teens will be drawn to the account of the young leader who made a difference in spite of an inglorious defeat. A detailed time line, a bibliography, a list of Web sites, and well-documented chapter notes round out this volume.—*Hazel Rochman*

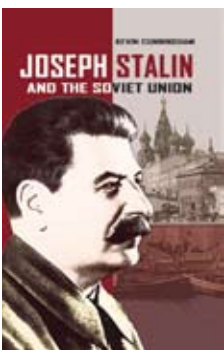


School Library Journal

June 2006

CUNNINGHAM, Kevin. *Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union*. 208p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. glossary. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2006. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-94-5. LC 2005032540. **Gr 8 Up**

This informative biography emphasizes Stalin's role in the creation and evolution of the Soviet Union. It opens with the Georgian's arrival in Vienna in 1913, where he was sent by Lenin to do research on the many national groups living in Russia. There he met other important underground figures, who later became his rivals. The first three chapters then trace Stalin's life and his role as a revolutionary through 1917. Civil war and Stalin's rise to power and his determination to industrialize the country and force the peasants into collectivized farms despite the great human suffering that these policies cost are discussed. Cunningham details the terror unleashed by Stalin in the 1930s. Subsequent chapters examine World War II and its aftermath. Throughout the book, the author speculates on aspects of Stalin's personal life that probably fed into his ruthlessness and provides an excellent broader historical context where needed. Black-and-white and full-color photos, maps, and reproductions of cartoons, posters, and paintings are an added bonus, and the layout is attractive. A fine acquisition. —*Elizabeth Talbot, University of Illinois, Champaign*



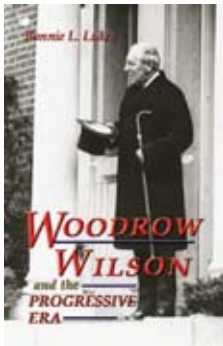
Booklist

June 1 & 15, 2006

Cunningham, Kevin. *Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union*. 2006. 208p. illus. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$26.95 (1-931798-94-5). 947.084.

Gr. 9–12. Packed with information yet quite readable, this biography reviews the life of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and the changes within the country during his long tenure. While not ignoring his youth and his personal life, the discussion centers on his political leadership and its far-reaching effects. The story opens in 1913 in Vienna, where Lenin had sent Stalin to research an article on

Marxism. Cunningham notes that three others were in Vienna at that time, Bukharin and Trotsky, who would later die by Stalin's orders, and Hitler, who would later stun him by invading the Soviet Union. Stalin's ruthlessness and single-mindedness become drumbeats throughout the book, as he rises to power through duplicity, rules without mercy, and refuses to listen to others' points of view. The book concludes with a glossary, a time line, citations for quotes, a bibliography, and an annotated list of Web sites. Illustrated in color with portraits, photos, posters, and maps, this attractive volume offers a solid biography of Stalin. —Carolyn Phelan

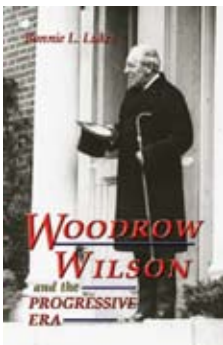


**Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee
January 2006**

***Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era*, Bonnie L. Lukes.**

Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era is a well-written book that documents the life of Woodrow Wilson and the impact that he had on the world as a president. From his early childhood in Washington, D.C. through his years as a professor and president at Princeton University, and last but not least, his years as president of the United States of America—Woodrow Wilson made an impact. Wilson's strong commitment to values and his intelligence started early in his career. As governor of New Jersey, Wilson created many reforms that helped him obtain the democratic parties nomination for president in 1911. A split in the Republican Party between William Taft (Republican Party) and the former Republican President Theodore Roosevelt (Bull Moose Party) caused Woodrow Wilson to be elected president in 1912. As president, Wilson would keep America out of World War

I until events, such as German submarine warfare attacking civilian cruise liners prompted Wilson to rethink America's position in the world. With Wilson's help, America joined the allies and won the war. However, Wilson had the belief that he could make this the final world war. Wilson created his Fourteen Points and the League of Nations, which he believed would help struggling nations and preserve the peace. However, Wilson was becoming ill at the end of his presidency and he continued to battle a Republican Congress who failed to pass his programs due to rival party lines. Wilson died a well-respected man who earned the title of peacekeeper as his programs benefited many people foreign and abroad. This book carefully illustrates a brilliant career in public service. Included are photographs, maps, a timeline, chapter notes, bibliography, web sites, and an index. This would be a great addition to a middle or high school collection. —Charleen Forba-Mayer

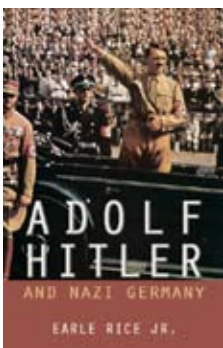


**School Library Journal
February 2006**

LUKES, **Bonnie L. *Woodrow Wilson and the Progressive Era***. 192p. (World Leaders Series). photos. reprod. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-79-6. LC 2005015999. Gr 6-10

This well-documented, chronological account begins with Wilson's birth in 1856, describes his varied careers, and continues through his death in 1924. A Princeton graduate, Wilson followed an academic career, culminating in his appointment as Princeton's president. Soon after, he was elected governor of New Jersey, then, two years later, President of the United States. The author describes the intense political conflicts of the time, mostly concerning America's involvement in World War I and then in the League of Nations. Lukes's approach is balanced as she maintains a steady chronological narrative. Mention is made of Wilson's romantic involvement with Mary Peck in Bermuda. Good-quality, full-color and black-and-white photos and reproductions appear throughout.

This book is more thorough than James T. Rogers's *Woodrow Wilson: Visionary for Peace* (Facts On File, 1997). —Linda Beck, Indian Valley Public Library, Telford, PA

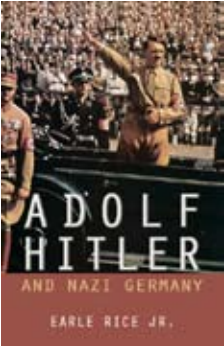


**Booklist
January 15, 2006**

Rice, Earle. ***Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany***. 2005. 176p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$26.95 (1-931798-78-5). 943.086. Gr. 7-10.

There are shelves of books about Hitler, but this biography in the World Leaders series, a fine choice for junior-high and high-school readers, is a clear discussion of both the history and the personal story. Rice begins with details about Hitler's childhood, his early years as an artist, and his time as a soldier in World War I. He then focuses on Hitler's rise to power as dictator and leader of the Nazi Party, the causes and course of World War II, and the Führer's obsessive determination to exterminate the Jews and other "undesirables." The spacious design and well-chosen photos make the book accessible, and clear maps, extensive back matter, a bibliography, a time line, and up-to-date Web sites will help student researchers. Recommend this for the Holocaust curriculum, for biography assignments, and as background to Susan Bartoletti's *Hitler Youth* (2005), Booklist's 2005

Top of the List—Youth Nonfiction. Don't miss the interview with Bartoletti in this issue, on p. 000. —Hazel Rochman

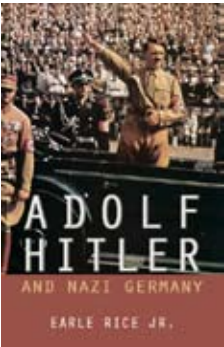


**School Library Journal
January 2006**

RICE, Earle, Jr. *Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany*. 176p. maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. PLB \$26.95. ISBN 1-931798-78-8. LC 2005017825. Gr 6-9

Clear, concise writing coupled with impressive illustrations that include black-and-white and color photos of cityscapes and individuals make this book a useful resource. Rice discusses the political parties and leaders who most influenced Hitler and the economic changes in Germany before and after World War I. He documents Hitler's failures in school and lack of direction as a young adult after failing to be accepted into art school, and describes the impact of his army service on his politics. The growth of the Nazi Party and Hitler's increasing involvement and influence on it is adequately covered, including a detailed account of how he achieved legitimacy after the failed Beer Hall Putsch. His seizure of power and repeated violations of the World War I settlement are

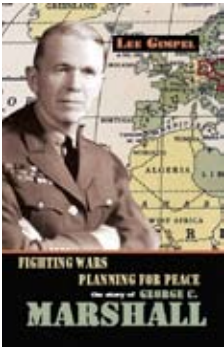
discussed, as is how he staged and planned the outbreak of World War II. Quotes from Mein Kampf and other sources are effectively intertwined into the text. The only weaknesses in this otherwise excellent biography is that the author fails to provide an in-depth discussion of the Holocaust and the devastation that Hitler caused Europe.—Rachel Kamin, Temple Israel Libraries & Media Center, West Bloomfield, MI



**Tri State Young Adult Book Review Committee
January 2006**

Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, Earle Rice.

This biography of Hitler follows him from birth to death, with emphasis on what made him the person he became and how he rose to power. Quotes from his writings and speeches are interspersed throughout the text. This is a fairly straightforward biography that gives the reader a glimpse of Hitler's personality and his effect on people and the world. The pages contain color maps and black and white sepia photographs to illustrate the text. At the end of the book, there is a timeline of his life as well as the events happening around him. The author includes chapter notes, a bibliography that contains annotated web sites, and an index. This would be a good biography for middle and some high school collections. —Tina Weinraub

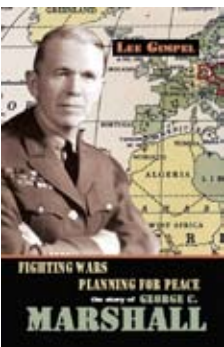


**Booklist
January 15, 2006**

Gimpel, Lee. *Fighting Wars, Planning for Peace: The Story of George C. Marshall*. 2005. 176p. illus. index. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$24.95 (1-931798-66-4). 973.918. Gr. 9-12.

This insightful, well-written biography, part of the World Leaders series, reveals the lasting importance of Marshall as both soldier and statesman. Although the text focuses primarily on Marshall's World War II and postwar accomplishments, readers will find sufficient background on his childhood, youth, and early military service. Gimpel goes on to show how Marshall's organizational and planning skills as army chief of staff were as vital to achieving victory as the more celebrated battlefield exploits of Eisenhower and MacArthur. As ambassador to China and secretary of state, Marshall also proved himself a talented diplomat; his Marshall Plan to rebuild postwar Europe, for instance, demonstrated to the world the links between democracy, economic prosperity, and world

peace. Motivated YA readers will come away with an excellent understanding of the legacies of this important twentieth-century leader. Maps, photographs, and other visual materials illustrate; end matter includes a time line, citations for quotes, a bibliography, and Web resources. —Ed Sullivan

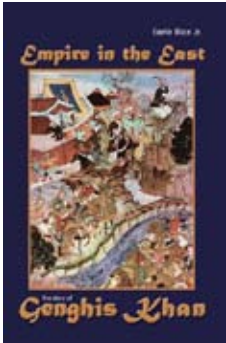


**School Library Journal
December 2005**

GIMPEL, Lee. *Fighting Wars, Planning for Peace: The Story of George C. Marshall*. 176p. (World Leaders Series). maps. photos. reprints. bibliog. chron. index. notes. Web sites. CIP. Morgan Reynolds. 2005. PLB \$24.95. ISBN 1-931798-66-4. LC 2005005037. Gr 8 Up

Although Roosevelt publicly credited Marshall for the allied victory in World War II, the general remains much less well known than his more colorful contemporaries, whose battlefield successes made them national heroes. This biography includes material about Marshall's education and personal life as well as his lengthy and successful military and diplomatic careers. Gimpel is admiring of his subject, explaining how the man's intelligence, diligence, and endless devotion to his country gave him the patience to accept the slow promotions and bureaucratic strictures he encountered in the shrunken post-World War I army. He describes how Marshall used those years as a learning period,

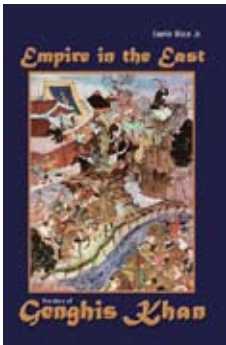
and how he used his knowledge to create an effective fighting machine when he commanded all American forces during the Second World War, and to rebuild Europe and Japan when he served as Secretary of State under Truman. Gimpel places him in the larger perspective of 20th-century military history. The lengthy background sections slow the narrative and make for dry reading. Average-quality color photos of Marshall, his family, and world leaders are included. –Mary Mueller, Rolla Junior High School, MO



**The Horn Book Guide
2005**

Rice, Earle, Jr. ***Empire in the East: The Story of Genghis Khan*** 160 pp. Morgan 1-931798-62-1

This in-depth biography of Temujin (his name before he was proclaimed Genghis Khan)—who conquered most of Asia and part of what is now Eastern Europe—is well documented and well written. Both family history and world events are covered. Though the maps are too small to be useful, the reproductions and photographs help to break up the text. Source notes, timeline, websites. Bib., glossary.

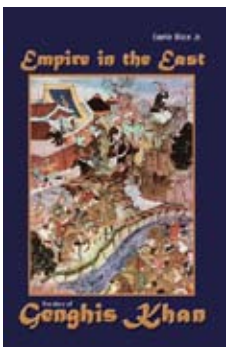


**Booklist
August 1, 2005**

Rice Jr., Earle. ***Empire in the East: The Story of Genghis Khan***. 2005. 160p. illus. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$24.95 (1-931798-62-1). 950. Gr. 8–11.

Rice begins by discussing The Secret History of the Mongols, document that was written within 20 years after Genghis Kahn's death in 1227, rediscovered in the nineteenth century, and finally made available in English in the 1980s. Based on this source, the biography offers background information about social customs of the times as well as detailing the biography of the man originally called Temujin. At the age of 44, Temujin became Genghis Khan, leader of the Great Mongol Nation, and over the next 20 years he and his well-disciplined army conquered an immense empire. Rice acknowledges that Genghis Kahn will be remembered for "the havoc he wrought and the blood he spilled," but respects his greatness as a general. The many color illustrations include reproductions of period paintings, maps, and photos of sites. A detailed time line, source notes for quotes, a

lengthy bibliography, several Internet sites, and a glossary are appended. A good introduction to the life and brutal times of Genghis Kahn. —Carolyn Phelan



YOUNG ADULT REVIEWERS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Recommended Titles for Young Adults

October-November, 2005 Vol. 43 Number 4

Rice, Earl. *Empire in the East: The Story of Genghis Khan*.

Morgan Reynolds, 2005. 1-931798-62-1. 160p.

Excellent account of the life of Genghis Khan especially some of his battles. It is a good resource for the school assignment. The glossary is very helpful on many foreign terms. Maps and bibliography are included for further study.

Dora Ho, Los Angeles Public Library.