on Occupy Wall Street. The book is more a co-publication than a collaboration. Each has written his own essay, independent of the others, and from a different methodological perspective. Tausig is an ethnographer, Harcourt a political theorist, and Mitchell an iconologist. Nevertheless, they share a basic point of view—and develop a valuable understanding of the Occupy movement. Tausig contributes a personal account of waiting for a police raid in Zuccotti Park, Harcourt explores the ethics of political disobedience, and Mitchell treats the use of public space by Occupy. There are many valuable insights, most notably a positive understanding of the movement’s refusal to appoint leaders and adopt demands, either of which would have subverted its true purpose for the sake of helping politicians. Aside from a false claim that Occupy invented the “people’s mic,” which was used in Seattle in 1999, the account gives an accurate picture of the movement and its importance. Summing Up: Recommended. ★★★ General readers, undergraduate students, graduate students, and research faculty.—J. C. Berg, Suffolk University


In the early 21st century, tyrannical governments and the threat of tyranny continue to haunt the human race. Although tyranny is deplorable from any point of view, however, tyranny may only be the logical extension of the conviction that politics is power. Newell (Carleton Univ.) masterfully explores the phenomenon of modern tyranny, and contemporary confusion about it, with an extensive historical, philosophical, and psychological examination of older views of tyranny that were abandoned in the early-modern West. By reminding readers of the classical view of political life, Newell exposes a stunning tension within modern political thought—human beings can be liberated if they admit that “nature does not support either classical or Christian hopes for virtue and offers no prospect for lasting peace, justice, and decency,” but this awful truth means that the only difference between the people and the tyrant is one of degree. This engaging and comprehensive study of tyranny also serves as a provocative and sometimes original history of political thought through the epochs of classical antiquity, Christianity, and modernity. Newell’s argument will provoke disagreement, but it cannot be dismissed. Summing Up: Highly recommended. ★★★ General readers, upper-division undergraduate students, graduate students, and research faculty.—R. M. Major, University of North Texas


Phillips (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) examines the public policy ramifications of using property rights language about the body and its parts. Her introduction outlines the questions raised by a commodification view of the body. The first chapter enlarges the concept of body integrity to include reciprocity with social relationships. In an extensive examination of rape, the next chapter illustrates the limitations of property language for understanding the concept and act of rape. The third chapter focuses on the surrogacy use of the body for child birthing. Although she supports payment of some form of compensation, Phillips clearly rejects the idea that surrogacy should be seen as a market transaction. Kidney transplants and the use of other organs also fall outside the narrow range of body-as-property language and raise important ethical issues about broad social needs generally. Phillips’s conclusion reaffirms her belief that property language should incorporate social relationships and avoid the narrow, skewing effects that an individualistic view of the body has on public policy. This is a valuable and balanced survey of the various positions on issues that evolving social views and medical technology are making important, if not vital. Summing Up: Recommended. ★★★ General readers; upper-division undergraduate students and above.—R. Heineman, Alfred University


The past 25 years have witnessed an explosion of studies undermining philosophical and historical analyses that posit fixed distinctions between church and state resulting in a wholly secular “public reason.” Charles Taylor (A Secular Age, CH, Mar’08, 45-3741) is the leading example. Scherer (George Mason Univ.) provides exciting and original reasons for this skepticism about secularity. Narratives that recount the new birth of self-standing secular polities—“authorized” narratives of social transformation—hide as much as they reveal. Shot through with stories of sudden rupture between the old and new are “crystalline” structures of conversion—multilayered layers of values, feelings, and ideas from the past self/society embedded in the new. These elements, Scherer argues, are needed resources to cope with the hidden but deeply felt faults, limits, and injustices of the new secular order. Augustine is Scherer’s model of a layered structure of conversion. John Locke’s theory of toleration reveals the two sides of “secular” conversion. Contemporary proof of religious elements in contemporary liberal theory is “Saint John” (Rawls). Secularism must remember this deeper structure if “the wish for a better life”—the source of all conversions—is to continue. Summing Up: Recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduate, graduate, and research collections.—E. J. Eisenach, emeritus, University of Tulsa

U.S. Politics


Brooks (Dartmouth College) argues that women candidates are not harmed by gender stereotypes, a position that challenges much of the conventional wisdom explaining why women candidates lose to male opponents. The book begins by outlining the accepted theories on why gender matters in political campaigns. The concise review is a nice summary of this body of research. Chapter 2 presents the theoretical foundation of the book and introduces the reader to the impact of gender stereotypes on political campaigns. Brooks critiques this research as focusing only on descriptive stereotypes without considering prescriptive stereotypes, or how people should act. The experimental methodology employed in the study forms the core of chapter 3. Chapter 4 presents the baseline descriptive stereotypes held by voters today. Chapters 5-7 examine different campaign behaviors that may affect women more than men: emotional displays, the perceived lack of empathy, and the