



49-4162 RC569 2010-53656 CIP
Adler, Patricia A. **The tender cut: inside the hidden world of self-injury**, by Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler. New York University, 2011. 252p bibl afp ISBN 9780814705063, \$70.00; ISBN 9780814705070 pbk, \$22.00; ISBN 9780814705186 e-book, contact publisher for price

Penetrating deeply into the lives of those who engage in self-injury, the authors, respected and prolific sociologists of deviance from the University of Colorado, Boulder (Patricia) and the University of Denver (Peter), gained the trust of self-injuring students who shared their intimate viewpoints. Though it may seem that self-injury is a purely psychological phenomenon, the authors show its sociological underpinnings. Self-injury has expanded dramatically in the cybernetic age with chat groups, listservs, and Web sites bringing together those engaging in self-injury and promoting its proliferation in like-minded communities. A common theme among many who injure themselves is that the experience of emotional hurt and self-injury serves to distract those who would otherwise be enduring intolerable pain. The Adlers collected over 135 in-depth life history interviews and over 30,000 Web postings, offering readers solid evidence of the social and psychological causes of self-injury, population diversity among practitioners, the extent of physical harm, and self-injury's time-limited nature. Mental health professionals and students of youth behavior will not want to miss this unforgettable and important study. **Summing Up:** Essential. ★★★★★ All levels/libraries.—*W. Feigelman, Nassau Community College*

49-4163 HM641 MARC
Allen, Kieran. **Marx and the alternative to capitalism**. Pluto, 2011. 233p bibl index ISBN 9780745330037, \$80.00

Allen is a sociology lecturer at University College Dublin. His writings include works on Weber, Marx, and Irish and European politics. Allen is also closely associated with the Socialist Workers Party, a post-Trotskyist political organization active mostly among students and academics. In this book, he attempts to provide a lively introduction to Marx's key theories, with a brief outline of Marx's life and work. Although Allen intends to offer readers a refreshing new way into the thought of Marx—for example, taking on issues such as “gender and race” and featuring up-to-date statistics and cultural references—he nevertheless does not go much beyond well-traversed paths. Issues of political analysis and revolutionary strategy that continue to drive debates within post-Trotskyist socialist circles lie not far beneath the book's surface. This suggests that Allen's selection of issues and their treatment may not be especially appropriate for readers looking for a more open-minded introduction to Marx that is especially relevant to contemporary issues. But for beginners seeking the basics of Marxism, the book is an unobjectionable, if selective, start. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ General and undergraduate collections.—*P. Amato, Drexel University*

49-4164 HM711 2010-29208 CIP
Buechler, Steven M. **Understanding social movements: theories from the classical era to the present**. Paradigm Publishers, 2011. 259p bibl index ISBN 9781594519161 pbk, \$33.95

There is certainly no shortage of introductory texts on social movements. Buechler's new book, however, fills a niche by placing scholarship on social movements in a historical and theoretical context. Buechler (Minnesota State Univ.) traces social movement theories to classical sociology by devoting three chapters to sociology's three founding fathers: Marx, Durkheim, and Weber. He then tells a story of the emergence of social movement research in the US from the early 20th

century to the 1960s, covering the Chicago Schools before and after WW II, early political sociology, and theories of collective behavior represented by strain and deprivation models. The volume's second half considers the establishment of social movements as a mature field of study in sociology. The author succinctly documents the rise of four paradigms—resource mobilization, political process, framing, and new social movements. In the final section, Buechler discusses the recent development in social movement theory, including the cultural turn and the synthetic attempt of contentious politics. In a world abounding with theory bashing, Buechler's volume stands out for its comprehensive, balanced, and unbiased presentations. Excellent for students, the book, with its historical and macro perspective, is also a valuable tool for researchers looking for the big picture. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*J. Li, Columbia University*

49-4165 HV8705 2011-2072 CIP
Drucker, Ernest. **A plague of prisons: the epidemiology of mass incarceration in America**. New Press, 2011. 226p index afp ISBN 9781595584977, \$26.95

Drucker (John Jay College of Criminal Justice) has produced an outstanding work whose research is as innovative as it is compelling for all social science academics, especially criminal justice faculty and scholars. The author has skillfully crafted an indictment against the discredited, misguided practice of the attenuated use of imprisonment in the US as a continually dysfunctional correctional policy. By brilliantly focusing on three key variables (gender, age, and social class) through the illuminating light of historically significant facts, Drucker provides irrefutable comparative data challenging flawed practices of the corrections system. The author challenges readers to dispute his facts and conclusions regarding the epidemic of prison construction and its use in correctional application. This enlightening text is a superb literary work of genuine lasting value that will stand prominently in the field of incarceration literature. Appropriate for any topic-related criminal justice or sociology-based course at either the graduate or undergraduate level. Enthusiastic and highest endorsement. **Summing Up:** Essential. ★★★★★ All levels/libraries.—*R. M. Seklecki, Minot State University*

49-4166 E185 2011-13885 CIP
Du Bois, W. E. B. **The sociological souls of black folk: essays**, introd. and ed. by Robert A. Wortham. Lexington Books, 2011. 211p bibl index afp ISBN 9780739150733, \$70.00

By lifting up out of the scholarly reservoir the essays of Du Bois, Wortham (North Carolina Central Univ.) calls attention to one of the most significant works by one of the most gifted scholars of sociological thought in the modern era. Wortham's contribution raises one major academic question immediately: why has Du Bois not been given the academic accolades of other scholarly giants in the discipline of sociology? Wortham makes the point that *The Souls of Black Folk* has been mostly viewed as a classic in African American literature, or for scholars studying the African American experience. But it has not been seriously considered a major scholarly contribution within the discipline of sociology. Also, why are not Du Bois's works, especially the essays, a part of the core curriculum within the discipline of sociology, including a focus on Du Bois's research methodology and conceptual and analytical skills as demonstrated in the essays? Wortham's presentation, including the reconstructed essays, makes one of the most significant contributions to the modern era of sociological thought. And he raises a most significant question: where is Du Bois's place among the discipline's scholarly



giants, such as Tönnies, Weber, Parson, and Durkheim? **Summing Up:** Essential. ★★★★★ All academic levels/libraries.—*E. A. McKinney, Cleveland State University*

49-4167 HM886 2011-11181 CIP
Gallab, Abdullahi A. **A civil society deferred: the tertiary grip of violence in the Sudan.** University Press of Florida, 2011. 239p bibl index afp ISBN 9780813036885, \$74.95

Gallab (African and African American religious studies, Arizona State Univ.) adds his voice and concern to the ever-growing literature on Sudan as the country struggles to reconstruct itself amid continuous violence. Not content to offer up a simple history, the author wants to describe how Sudan was socially constructed by deconstructing, rather than merely describing, the historical process. As implied by the book's title, Gallab's view of the precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial eras is consistently negative. An epilogue commenting on the recent division of Sudan into two countries also calls for liberation from the existing repressive regime in the north. This text is somewhat jargon laden, as it misapplies some sociological concepts better suited for other concerns and contexts. Nonetheless, professionals will find this book stimulating. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Graduate students/faculty.—*W. Arens, Stony Brook University*

49-4168 HT156 2011-24796 CIP
The Ghetto: contemporary global issues and controversies, ed. by Ray Hutchison and Bruce D. Haynes. Westview, 2012. 340p bibl index afp ISBN 9780813345031 pbk, \$40.00; ISBN 9780813345048 e-book, contact publisher for price

Following the long, hot summers of the sixties in the US, historians and sociologists such as Gilbert Osofsky, Allan H. Spear, and William Julius Wilson scrutinized the nation's black ghettos, especially New York City's Harlem and Chicago's Southside. This text, edited by two well-published sociologists, Hutchison (Univ. of Wisconsin-Green Bay) and Haynes (Univ. of California-Davis), includes essays by such globally renowned modern sociologists as Elijah Anderson, Michel Agier, and Loïc Wacquant. The contributors not only revisit that scholarship but also situate the subject of racialized and changing urban space in the US within the broader context of globalization, deindustrialization, and concentrated poverty. Unique in its field, this edited volume reconsiders the Chicago School's "iconic ghetto" against other marginalized, stigmatized spaces worldwide, such as Paris's banlieues, Rio's favelas, and Kenya's refugee camps. Whether "weak ghettos" in the US or banlieues in France, these institutionally delimited spaces, the authors agree, are marked by poverty and stigma. Consisting of 12 generally richly analytical—but occasionally opaque—presentations, this volume should be enticing for senior and graduate-level seminars in sociology or urban studies. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*J. F. Bauman, University of Southern Maine*

49-4169 HM1151 2011-20543 CIP
Hakim, Catherine. **Erotic capital: the power of attraction in the boardroom and the bedroom.** Basic Books, 2011. 295p bibl index ISBN 9780465027477, \$26.00; ISBN 9780465027965 e-book, contact publisher for price

British sociologist Hakim (London School of Economics) makes the case that erotic capital should be considered a fourth kind of personal asset, along with economic, human, and social capital. The elements of erotic capital are beauty and handsomeness, sexual attractiveness, social

interaction skills, liveliness, social presentation, and sexual skill. In some cultures, fertility is also an element of erotic capital. Hakim's other basic claim is that there is a "male sexual deficit"; that men, as a group, desire sex more than women do. This means that erotic capital is women's great asset, balancing male domination of economic capital. Hakim argues that an unholy alliance of patriarchy and radical feminism has suppressed the idea of erotic capital. She thinks people who successfully develop and profit from their erotic capital should be celebrated, which would include normalizing all forms of prostitution. Hakim's idea is interesting, but her empirical support is spotty. Much of the book is given to a repetitive polemic against patriarchy, radical feminism, and Protestantism for suppressing both sex and knowledge of erotic capital. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ General collections/public libraries.—*B. Weston, Centre College*

49-4170 HV6254 2011-12282 CIP
Human rights, suffering, and aesthetics in political prison literature, ed. by Yenna Wu and Simona Livescu. Lexington Books, 2011. 216p bibl index afp ISBN 9780739167410, \$65.00; ISBN 9780739167427 e-book, \$64.99

Interest in prisons, particularly in the US, has been increasing in the past ten years or so, but for the most part the interest has led to scholarly or popular books detailing the extent of incarceration. Works devoted to prison writing have tended to be anthologies—among the recent ones, Bell Gale's *Doing Time* (2011). The current volume is surprising in that Yu (comparative and Chinese literature, Univ. of California, Riverside) and Livescu (PhD candidate, UCLA) focus on the aesthetics of past and present political prison literature, from Mao's forced-labor camps to Morocco's gender-biased justice system. The "aesthetics" in general—whether marked by decentered "rhizomatous forces" (to quote Yu) or articulating a quest for freedom—is seen in relation to the central problem of the material: the inexpressibility of the political prisoner's experience. Steering clear of broad sociological theories about repression or authoritarianism, the essays have a laudable sobriety, treating prison writings as imperfect evocations of torture, attempts at resistance, and even expressions of happiness in captivity. The wide geographical scope of the volume adds to the sense of objectivity. A fascinating and welcome book. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★★★ Lower- and upper-division undergraduates; faculty; general readers.—*R. K. Mookerjee, Eugene Lang College, The New School for the Liberal Arts*

49-4171 HQ756 2010-49631 CIP
LaRossa, Ralph. **Of war and men: World War II in the lives of fathers and their families.** Chicago, 2011. 307p index afp ISBN 9780226467429, \$96.00; ISBN 9780226467436 pbk, \$32.00

Following up his earlier book, which traced the history of fatherhood from the colonial period to the early 20th century (*The Modernization of Fatherhood*, CH, May'97, 34-5395), LaRossa (Georgia State Univ.) now examines the role that WW II played—and continues to play—in shaping modern fatherhood. In a detailed, comprehensive analysis of a wide variety of cultural artifacts from the 1940s to the 1960s (including magazine articles, newspaper reports, child-rearing manuals, TV and radio shows, advertisements, and family correspondence), the author uncovers patterns and identifies phases in the transformation of fatherhood. He notes how the creation and consumption of these cultural artifacts were instrumental in shaping fatherhood ideals and beliefs. How men of that era interpreted, socially constructed, and attached meanings to such artifacts becomes a key focus throughout the text. LaRossa incorporates numerous engaging,