



drawing inferences from data. The text is well footnoted and contains a substantial bibliography on the presidency. The importance of this work is its unique quality. There is no other text that combines a substantive examination of presidential theory with a practical guide on how to evaluate it. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduate and graduate collections.—*J. R. Hedtke, Cabrini College*

48-4160 KFN2190 2009-30099 CIP
Paris, Michael. **Framing equal opportunity: law and the politics of school finance reform.** Stanford Law Books, 2010. 322p bibl index afp ISBN 9780804763530, \$75.00; ISBN 9780804763547 pbk, \$27.95

Paris (College of Staten Island, CUNY) writes about the process of litigation regarding school finance reform in Kentucky and New Jersey. The notion of legal translation, or the “conceptual and rhetorical processes through which reformers translate their values and goals into plausible legal claims and arguments,” is central to the author’s argument, and it is well developed throughout the book. The emphasis on legal translation makes this volume unique relative to much of the existing research on school reform. Further, the focus on language and legal arguments is timely, given contemporary discussions—both scholarly and popular—of questions related to constitutional rights and the role of judges. Overall, *Framing Equal Opportunity* is well written and argued, and reflects an impressive amount of research. Paris’s case studies paint a comprehensive picture of the politics of school reform in the two states selected, and the book should be of interest not only to scholars of the courts, but also to those working in education, public policy, and state and local politics. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*N. Kraus, University of Wisconsin—River Falls*

48-4161 KF4545 2010-3026 CIP
The Promises of liberty: the history and contemporary relevance of the Thirteenth Amendment, ed. by Alexander Tsesis. Columbia, 2010. 336p index afp ISBN 9780231141444, \$60.00

The Thirteenth Amendment revolutionized the Constitution, turning it in a more egalitarian direction. The Thirteenth Amendment turned the US away from chattel slavery, opening the path for radically different understandings of race and labor. *The Promises of Liberty* revisits that amendment, unearths its historical meanings, and assesses its contemporary significance. The book suggests that the amendment has lost some of its radical potential and been domesticated by its interpretation. This point is made vividly and persuasively in a chapter by David Brion Davis. Michael Vorenberg skillfully examines the role of the amendment in the era of Reconstruction. Risa L. Goluboff nicely describes the way that the amendment was understood in the period between the New Deal and *Brown v. Board of Education*. As with any edited collection, not all of the chapters here live up to the standards set by the three mentioned above. Nonetheless, this book is filled with high-quality historical scholarship and sophisticated political and social analysis. It is an important addition to the scholarship on an important aspect of America’s constitutional heritage. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. ★★★ Graduate, research, and professional collections.—*A. D. Sarat, Amherst College*

48-4162 GV722 2010-30370 CIP
Sarantakes, Nicholas Evan. **Dropping the torch: Jimmy Carter, the Olympic boycott, and the Cold War.** Cambridge, 2011. 340p bibl index ISBN 9780521194778, \$90.00; ISBN 9780521176668 pbk, \$28.99
If the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was pure folly, one of

President Jimmy Carter’s retaliatory moves—the US boycott of the 1980 Summer Olympic Games in Moscow—was, argues Sarantakes (strategy and policy, U.S. Naval War College), a farcical diplomatic blunder born of misguided moralism. Inspired also by Carter’s desire that the US not appear weak in the wake of the Iran hostage crisis, the boycott, Sarantakes concludes, was ineffectual, destroyed détente, needlessly penalized athletes hoping to compete, and—though initially popular—in the end probably alienated voters. The author details all of this with insight, wit, and occasional sarcasm, and the book is engaging and thoroughly researched. Sarantake’s sympathetic portrait of Lord Killanin, then president of the International Olympic Committee, is especially enlightening. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher supported the Olympic boycott, but Lord Killanin helped persuade the British Olympic Association to allow its athletes to participate. Australia and all Western European nations except West Germany also participated, some parading under an Olympic banner rather than their national flag. Sports historians will welcome the account of the “Miracle on Ice” (at the 1980s Winter Olympics in Lake Placid) and other Olympic highlights. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.—*J. B. Lane, formerly, Indiana University Northwest*

© 48-4163 [Internet Resource]

The State of the News Media

URL: <http://www.stateofthemedial.org/2010/>

[Visited Dec’10] The 2010 *State of the News Media* Web site is the electronic version of the Pew Research Center’s Project for Excellence in Journalism annual report. Although heavily text oriented, it does provide a large number of useful tables and graphs on media usage, media ownership, and opinions toward the media. The breadth of media formats (i.e., newspapers, online, network TV, cable TV, local TV, magazines, audio, and ethnic media) provides an impressive review of the media landscape. Most of the data reflect 2009 conditions. The report focuses heavily on the economic status of various media formats, including a survey of news executives on the future of the media industry. Embedded links take users to previous reports. In some cases, the lack of replication of previous analyses makes it impossible to track conditions over time. Special reports on economic attitudes of online consumers, community journalism Web sites, and religion in the news cover material not found elsewhere. For those seeking graphical data to illustrate writings or presentations, the graphs and charts can be easily captured. In some cases, it is possible to create customized charts.

The 2009 Year in the News Interactive section provides a content analysis of over 68,000 news stories. The interactive tool allows users to look at the comparative coverage of 35 different news topics by various types of media outlets and for different time periods. While users might quibble with the story topics (Sarah Palin and Michael Jackson get listed, while no House or Senate leader shows up on the list of topics, and similarly no country in western Europe or Latin America makes the list of seven countries), some interesting comparisons of media attention are possible. Not quite a one-stop media shopping site, but useful. **Summing Up:** Recommended. ★★ All readership levels.—*S. E. Frantzich, United States Naval Academy*

48-4164 HD4605 2009-44288 CIP
Steinzor, Rena. **The people’s agents and the battle to protect the American public: special interests, government, and threats to health, safety, and the environment,** by Rena Steinzor and Sidney