

provides samples of what some libraries have used to get the same idea across by means of an online form.

With an extensive index, endnotes, and a bibliography at the end of each chapter, the reader is provided with bibliographical leads to research the topic further. Academic librarians have, as Janes notes, "an opportunity to provide direct, mediated services to people, breaking the boundaries of place and time that have constrained us (and our users) for millennia." Academic libraries should be grateful to have such an enthusiastic, concise, well-organized, and well-written guide for the direction or implementation of digital reference services. —*Elizabeth M. Williams, Appalachian State University.*

Knuth, Rebecca. *Libricide: The Regime-Sponsored Destruction of Books and Libraries in the Twentieth Century.* Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2003. 277p. alk. paper, \$39.95 (ISBN 027598088X). LC 2002-44542.

The appalling phenomena of genocide (destruction of peoples) and ethnocide (destruction of cultures, often part of a genocidal campaign) are well known. Although the local conditions and specific historical circumstances can be quite varied, there is a persistent underlying focused hatred, often mindless, routinized, and administratively managed as if it were a problem in sanitation maintenance or road construction. When these impulses specifically turn to books, manuscripts, and other forms of information and knowledge records, the apt, if less familiar, term *libricide* naturally suggests itself.

For those not already familiar with at least the outlines of the story, it is starkly sobering, and the rich accounts of these case studies provide much to think about. Methodologically speaking, the evidence appears to come not directly from prima-

ry sources but, rather, from the author's readings of secondary sources. This may account for the suspiciously close fit between the theoretical discussion and the evidence of the cases. (For readers—like this reviewer—unfamiliar with whatever sources provide the foundations for the cases, a summary discussion would have been appropriate.)

Chapters 2 and 3 provide first a conceptual and historical overview ("The Evolution and Functions of Libraries") and second a conceptual framework ("A Theoretical Framework for Libricide"), which contextualizes the five case studies presented in chapters 4 through 8 (Nazi Germany, Greater Serbia, Iraq's 1990 attack on Kuwait, the Chinese cultural revolution, and the Chinese attack on Tibet) while a final summary discussion, "The Collision of Ideas," is presented in chapter 9.

The subject matter and details presented in the case studies are both compelling on their own and skillfully presented in a narrative that is engaging and readable. But I can't recommend the book unreservedly, particularly for classroom use, except for readers already quite familiar with the outlines of the social, political, and economic history that supply its larger context. Without this, one might be too easily misled by the author's unexamined bias toward the more conservative versions of free-market, Western-style liberalism. Somewhat paradoxically, her own views seem to partake of the ideological fervor she so rightly decries. For Professor Knuth, first there are the good guys: that's the modern Western intellectual tradition, bent on nothing but the discovery of the truth, the accumulation of wisdom, and the triumph of civilization. And then there are the very bad guys, such as Communists, Fascists, and extremist ideologues of various stripes. (See chapters 4 through

8, where these are described in detail.) The author adds, gratuitously, that this Western tradition has, however, at times been treasonously attacked by some of its own wayward native offspring, such as Rousseau, Ibsen, Marx, Shelley, and Tolstoy, all of whom are dismissed for being too eager to exchange “objectivity and intellectual freedom” for the fanaticism of the true believer.

Given this wooden opposition between nonideological “democracy” and ideologically saturated “totalitarianism,” it isn’t surprising that Knuth fails to draw on the concept of ideology usefully. Librarians in market societies are simply pitted against “political ideologues.” Similarly, in the theoretical discussions, modernity and modernization are depicted in one-sidedly positive terms only, with no sense of the poverty, inequality, alienation, cultural and psychic malaise, and environmental devastation they have also unfortunately brought along in their wake; and there is thus no inkling that democracy and dictatorship, as political systems, have issued from much the same set of large-scale socioeconomic and political changes (e.g., Barrington Moore, *The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston, 1966). Obviously, one cannot speculate here on the origins of totalitarianism, except to point out that this book would have greatly benefited from considering the issue—for if it is true that “the ... origins of mass killings ... lie in responses to the social disintegra-

tion brought on by way and/or upheaval from rapid urbanization, secularization, and economic depression,” it is also true that the same phenomena have occurred in industrialized market economies. And herein lies the real problem, I suspect, with the analysis, for there is no sense that market societies have their own highly developed ideologies.

For the author of *Libricide*, only a totalitarian society can have an ideology, which she defines as:

a political belief system that seeks the total reconstruction of society, differing from creeds and outlooks in its greater explicitness, systematization, comprehensiveness, and urgency... . In an ideology-based political climate, both individual and cultural behavior must conform to a comprehensive pattern of moral and cognitive beliefs. In the eyes of political extremists, for example, reading and research are political acts, their purpose to further ideological goals, rather than inherently valuable activities that enrich the individual and advance the knowledge base of the human community.

Ideology, extremism, and totalitarianism—all tied into one lethal package.

This approach is so one-sided—an obvious neoconservative incursion—that it cannot help but bias the choice of cases toward authoritarian and totalitarian societies. In Karl Mannheim’s terms, Knuth has fixed on the “particular” conception of ideology and stops short of the “total” conception of ideology, where all symbolic systems are, in principle, subject to social and political analysis. (See Karl Mannheim, *Ideology and Utopia: An Introduction to the Sociology of Knowledge*. London, 1936). When we make this jump from the more parochial to the more expanded concept, we get a much more powerful

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conceptual tool for analyzing phenomena, particularly those as emotionally charged as these; would that the author had made that step here.

This is not entirely a theoretical question, as a consideration of a different set of cases could easily show, for liberal regimes have enthusiastically carried out genocide, ethnocide, and their own versions of libricide, but of course they have used different techniques, not considered in Professor Knuth's account. Such a consideration would amply illustrate Mark Twain's observation about the three inestimably precious virtues of American democracy: freedom of thought, freedom of speech, and the wisdom to exercise neither. Libricide is obviously an important phenomenon, which calls for an analysis acknowledging this reality.—*Michael F. Winter, University of California, Davis.*

Musings, Meanderings, and Monsters, Too: Essays on Academic Librarianship. Ed. Martin H. Raish. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Pr., 2003. 195p. alk. paper, \$24.95 (ISBN 0810847671). LC 2003-2085.

This book is about change in academic librarianship. It is organized in nineteen chapters. Most of the chapters include a list of references or suggested further readings. Several of the authors' names are not recognizable as frequent contributors to academic library literature. The new ideas and perspectives are refreshing. Relevant quotations are used at the beginning of the chapters; the quotes used at the end of chapters are not always relevant to the respective chapter, but nonetheless they are enlightening. Those quoted range from Indiana Jones to Edna St. Vincent Millay.

Various topics on change in academic librarianship/libraries are addressed in this easy-to-read volume. I, however, suggest that companion reading to this book include Paul Wasserman's *The*

New Librarianship: A Challenge for Change (New York, 1972) and Spencer Johnson's *Who Moved My Cheese? An A-mazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life* (New York, 1998). Wasserman's landmark volume will set the theoretical and philosophical stage for change in librarianship. Notwithstanding the publication date of Wasserman's work, it remains highly relevant to today's changing landscape of librarianship. Johnson's best-seller is a simple (but powerful) parable that reveals profound truths about change. Both these works complement Raish's volume but, more important, they add a prerequisite understanding about the genesis and development of change and its aftereffects.

Raish and the contributors to the book are to be commended for their inclusion of wit and a sense of humor. Without this slant, the reader could prematurely conclude that the seriousness about the "sky is falling on academic librarianship" is a bit too much. The book is loaded with negative twists. The use of the word *monsters* in the title and introduction could turn off some readers. The chapter titles "Slipping Sanctuaries" (chapter 2), "Reference Librarians As Wild Animals" (chapter 4), "Giving Away the Keys to the Kingdom" (chapter 14), and "Will Time Tame This Tyrant" (chapter 19) contain unfortunately negative connotations. Chapter 6 ("Ketchup Has Always Been a Vegetable") is an example of a nonspecific title. Some chapters (e.g., chapter 13, "From Custodian to Navigator: The Amazing Heroic Journey of the New Information Specialist") are more straightforward. Regrettably, the book does not have an index; thus, the reader has to seek specific information by wading through the entire volume.

When editor Raish contacted the potential contributors, he asked them to focus their respective essay on one generic