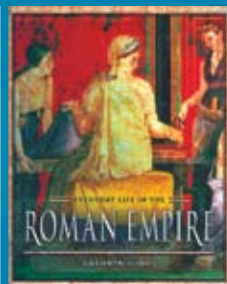


★ **Everyday Life in the Roman Empire.**
By Kathryn Hinds.

2010. 320p. illus. Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark, \$42.79
 (9780761444848). 937. Gr. 7–10.

Among the many titles about the Roman Empire published for youth, this survey in Hinds' *Everyday Life* series stands out for its unusually detailed look at the daily lives of "all who contributed to the vitality and strength of ancient Rome," from emperors to slaves. Much of the colorful sense of the individuals' worlds comes from numerous excerpts from primary sources, including quotes from Homer and Ovid as well as anonymous poets. In fluid, approachable text, the chapters examine the varying customs, responsibilities, and domestic lives of patricians and citizens in both the city and countryside before moving on to a final, in-depth chapter about religion. It's the specifics that make this so engrossing, such as sample menus: roasted peacocks and flamingo tongues for the upper class, porridge and beans for humble rural dwellers. Also noteworthy are inclusive sections about women and children, even though, as Hinds points out, "Roman historians rarely wrote much about women; when they did, it was usually to criticize a woman for scandalous behavior." Frequent color images of ancient statues, friezes, and ruins contribute to the sense of immediacy; a mosaic of Roman women working out with weights in bikini-like clothing looks like a scene from *Self* magazine, for example. A glossary, extensive bibliography, and chapter notes conclude this title, a strong choice for students' research or personal interest. —*Gillian Engberg*



Continued from p.50

Teens in the Holocaust series collects accounts of young people who hid from the Nazis, under floorboards, inside caves, or underground. Some successfully "became somebody else . . . hiding in plain sight" with false identities. The first-person stories draw on oral histories and interviews in museum archives, and Altman does a great job of providing historical context and realistic commentary for the individual experiences. Photos of teens and news pictures, including images of SS troops in the ghetto and lines of people being shot into mass graves, add further dimensions to the text. Stories of rescuers are also included, as is one about a teen who wanted to remain Christian and continue to live with her loving foster family after the war. The uncluttered design includes long primary quotes in bold type, and everything is meticulously documented in appended chapter notes. Students will want to move on to the useful listing of archival Web sites included in the back matter. —*Hazel Rochman*

Karl Marx.
By Wolfgang Rössig.

2010. 112p. illus. Morgan Reynolds, lib. ed., \$28.95
 (9781599351322). 335.4092. Gr. 10–12.

From the Profiles in Economics series, this book presents the life of Karl Marx and places his social and economic theories within the useful context of his youth in a prosperous German family. Marx's studies, at university and beyond, turned from law to poetry to philosophy to social and economic theory. Though devoted to his wife and children, he was seldom able to support them without help from others. Brilliant and idealistic, if sometimes difficult, Marx developed his ideas about an egalitarian society and promoted

them in influential books, newspapers, and pamphlets. Rössig provides a well-researched account of Marx's life and his work, pointing out ironies between the two but commenting on the context, meaning, and importance of writings such as *The Communist Manifesto* and *Capital*. Illustrations include period photos, paintings, prints, and documents. A time line, source notes, bibliography, and list of Web sites are appended to this clearly written biography of Marx. —*Carolyn Phelan*

Legalizing Drugs: Crime Stopper or Social Risk?

By Margaret J. Goldstein.

May 2010. 160p. illus. Lerner/Twenty-First Century, lib. ed., \$35.93 (9780761351160). 364.1. Gr. 7–10.

The author opens this title in the *USA Today's Debate: Voices and Perspectives* series with a history of the government's war on drugs, which began with Prohibition. She goes on, with frequent breaks for flagged extracts from *USA Today*, to describe that war's varying approaches, summarize its ongoing cost-benefit analyses, and lay out the salient arguments of the public debate over whether continued repression or general legalization would be the more effective strategy. Though given to using *drugs* as a vague umbrella term for a select list of illegal substances with a range of effects and hazards, Goldstein does devote a separate chapter to the specific marijuana question and also provides at least glancing references to the use and abuse of alcohol, cigarettes, and prescription drugs. The occasional charts and diagrams are more informative than the small, infrequent color photos. Questionable subtitle aside, this book provides an acceptable introduction to the controversy, and students looking for more resources will find a pleasingly generous quantity of titles, Web sites, and addresses in the back. —*John Peters*



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