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I wrote a variety of reviews for Library Journal from June 2007 through January 2009. The books I reviewed mostly came from the Arts & Humanities section. A list of appearances on the journal's website can be found here (<http://www.libraryjournal.com/search/siteall?q=pittman-hassett>). The following are four of the brief reviews published over that period that serve as a representative sample.

Long, Robert Emmet. **Truman Capote, *Enfant Terrible***. Continuum. 2008. c.144p. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-0-8264-2763-2. \$21.95. LIT

Prolific critic Long presents a concise but compelling journey through the works and life of a unique writer in American literature. He begins with a brief and rather shallow sketch of Capote's early life, highlighting his tragic childhood and the relationships the eccentric author maintained with various members of New York's elite. Long draws heavily from Capote's unpublished papers and from Gerald Clarke's *Capote: A Biography*. This brief sketch, however, sets the stage for a compelling analysis of the effect of the author's tragic life on the gothic nature of his prose. Long brilliantly places each piece in the context of the author's life and of the culture at the time of its release. The book ends with a retrospective contemplation of Capote's influence and place in American letters. Each chapter represents a cogent and concise snapshot of Capote's genius in a specific period, while the entire book becomes a journey through Capote's life, work, and demons placed within the context of American literary culture. Recommended for most libraries.—**Shedrick Pittman-Hassett, North Central Texas Coll. Lib., Gainesville (9/1/2008)**

Wallis, Jim. **The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America**. HarperOne: HarperCollins. 2008. c.352p. ISBN 978-0-06-055829-1. \$25.95. REL

In *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, Wallis took the Religious Right to task for usurping the role of faith in politics. His latest book represents a revival in which the progressive evangelical will now change the shape of American politics. From his viewpoint as an activist pastor, Wallis sees that the Right no longer controls the dialog concerning faith-based political action and that evangelicals now embrace wider, more traditionally liberal concerns such as the environment and social justice. The key to Wallis's proposed revival is the faith community's role in fighting poverty and the inequality and moral degradation it inspires. This call to arms is approachable and inspiring, if sometimes repetitive. Wallis's optimistic assertion that the Right holds less sway in the evangelical community is simply not well supported, based merely on anecdotes. Further, his refraining from discussing the inequalities facing same-sex couples and the transgendered weakens his arguments regarding the fight against social injustice. However, Wallis's analysis of the role of faith, especially Christian faith, in embracing progressive "common good" politics is highly astute and, overall, very compelling. Recommended for all libraries.—**Shedrick Pittman-Hassett, Phil Johnson Historic Archives & Research Lib., Dallas (2/15/2008)**

Berger, John. **Hold Everything Dear: Dispatches on Survival and Resistance**. Pantheon. Sept. 2007. c.160p. ISBN 978-0-375-42509-7. \$21. POL SCI

The post-9/11 world is one steeped in and driven by despair. Terrorists are created by an environment of economic and moral poverty, which in turn creates a desperate alienation that results in a cycle of injustice. Terrorists' violent acts feed the despair that fuels their own desperation. Noted art critic and Booker Prize winner Berger (G.) presents an essay collection focused on the underlying causes of the unrest that has violently manifested itself in the form of worldwide terror. In poetic and highly literate prose, he points the finger at hypocritical policies emerging from Israel and the United States that have produced a generation of willing fighters and, too often, martyrs. He also indicates the ethical bankruptcy produced by the world's domination by corporate capitalism. Interspersed are beautifully written reflections on the lives of friends and fellow social commentators as well as personal portraits of life in the Middle East, particularly Palestine. Throughout, Berger rails against the usurpation of meaningful language as a symptom of humanity's disconnection from what should be held dear. Recommended for academic and large public libraries. [See [Prepub Alert](#), *LJ* 5/15/07.]—**Shedrick Pittman-Hassett, Phil Johnson Historic Archives & Research Lib., Dallas (9/15/2007)**

Sacks, Jonathan. **The Home We Build Together: Recreating Society**. Continuum. 2007. c.224p. ISBN 978-0-8264-8070-5. \$24.95. REL

Sacks, an award-winning author and the chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Britain and the Commonwealth, painstakingly presents a history of the breakdown of civil society as well as a compelling philosophy with which to restore civility to British government and daily life. Global communications technology deteriorates our sense of national identity, he states here, while multiculturalism exacerbates the situation by encouraging social fragmentation, especially along religious lines. We have created a "society as hotel," in which individualism and compartmentalization are the rule of the day. By participating in a social covenant devoted to the common good, we can create society as the "home we build together," a society in which we are integrated but not assimilated and in which we all invest of ourselves to support the whole. Sacks's arguments are compelling, as is his analysis of the advent and results of the multiculturalist movement. While applicable to most Western democracies, this work is firmly rooted in British sociopolitical concerns and is written in an approachable but scholarly style. Recommended for academic or larger public libraries.—**Shedrick Pittman-Hassett, North Central Texas Coll. Lib., Gainesville (3/1/2008)**