Writing a Historical Book Review

Writing a historical book review can be different from a standard review, since it must be read and critiqued on the topic with understanding and research. Unlike a summary, a historical book review needs to be effective and analytical.

The following links will assist you in the writing a book review:

Writing an Historical Book Review
http://homepages.csp.edu/saylor/Documents/WRITING_AN_HISTORICA/4826_5328.htm

On Writing Book Reviews
http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/review.html

How to Write a Historical Book Review

U of Toronto Writing Support – The Book Review or Article Critique

How to Write a Book Review
http://www.library.dal.ca/How/Guides/BookReview/

Finding Book Reviews in History

Specialized Book Review indexes include:

America History and Life (has book reviews)
Historical Abstracts (no book reviews other than lengthy essay reviews)
History: Reviews of New Books (from 1996 online)
Iter: Gateway to the Middle Ages and Renaissance
Reviews in American History (from 1973 online)

General sources to also consider include:

Academic Search Complete
Book Review Index Plus
Readers’ Guide Abstracts
Social Sciences and Humanities Index Retrospective

For more information and additional sources, consult the book reviews guide.
Another good source for reviews of non-fiction books is peer-reviewed journals. Many of these journals include reviews of books that touch on their field. For example,

*History Today*
*American Historical Review*
*History (Reviews of New Books)*

have reviews of books that deal with historical topics. Not all peer-reviewed journals have reviews, but the majority of them do.

Remember, if you need help deciding which sources are the best places to look for reviews of your book, feel free to ask for help at the Research Help desk in Stauffer or by e-mail via our Ask a Question service.

*Elizabeth Gibson*
*Learning and Research Services*
*Stauffer Library*  
*Fall 2011*