Schaller's analysis of the Reagan era is critical but measured. Lawrence Walsh, *Firewall: The Iran-Contra Conspiracy and Coverup* (1997). Lawrence Walsh, the Republican prosecutor charged with leading an independent investigation of the Reagan White House role in the Iran-Contra Affair, ended up thwarted by what he called a "cover-up" to protect senior officials from prosecution. This long, dense book recounts his investigation in painstaking detail. The Reagan-Bush era witnessed some of the most dramatic events of the latter half of the 20th century: the collapse of the Soviet Union, a presidential assassination attempt, political scandal, a stock market crash, military invasions, and the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. The *A to Z of the Reagan-Bush Era* relates these events and provides extensive political, economic, and social background on this era through a detailed chronology, an introduction, appendixes, a bibliography, and several hundred cross-referenced dictionary entries on important persons, events, institutions, poli Book Description: In this concise yet thorough history of America in the 1980s, Doug Rossinow takes the full measure of Ronald Reagan's presidency and the ideology of Reaganism. Believers in libertarian economics and a muscular foreign policy, Reaganite conservatives in the 1980s achieved impressive success in their efforts to transform American government, politics, and society, ushering in the political and social system Americans inhabit today. Rossinow links current trends in economic inequality to the policies and social developments of the Reagan era. He reckons with the racial poli The *A to Z of the Reagan-Bush Era* relates these events and provides extensive political, economic, and social background on this era through a detailed chronology, an introduction, appendixes, a bibliography, and several hundred cross-referenced dictionary entries on important persons, events, institutions, poli Another key legacy of the Reagan era involved the crafting of social policy not premised on ideas about the basic structures of opportunity and constraints facing individuals and communities, but rather on ideas about the choices and cultural affinities of individuals. During the Reagan era this thrust was most prominently exemplified by Charles Murray's hotly contested anti-welfare tract, *Losing Ground* (1984). In this issue of *DBR* we launch the first of an occasional series of special *State of the Discourse Symposia* that focuses very much on this paradigm for social analysis.