Book Dissection Exercise

HIST2303: Historical Research, Methods, and Writing
Professor McCullar
Due: September 16, 2015 to Dana Tuley-Williams

Locate one scholarly book/monograph on your topic and evaluate its usefulness as a resource. Use complete sentences (unless directed otherwise) to write a paragraph (2-5 sentences) on each of the following:

1. Provide a bibliographical citation for your book using Chicago or Turabian style.
2. How did you find out about this book? (OCCC Catalog, WorldCat, other.) What search terms did you use?
3. Write a description of the author’s credentials and why he or she is (or is not) an authoritative source on this topic.
4. Review the preface, introduction and/or acknowledgements section. Who edited the book? What other experts did the author work with or consult with? Is there other interesting information here? Were there archives, libraries or other organizations mentioned?
5. Provide a summary of the book. What is the author’s main argument(s)? What information do they impart? (You may use additional paragraphs here.)
6. Review the author’s sources. Describe how they are presented (footnotes, endnotes, bibliography; there will likely be more than one way.) Were their annotations? What significant primary sources did the author use? Did the bibliography lead you to other sources?
7. How useful will this book be for your research? If you were able to narrow your research or change focus based on this book, address that here.