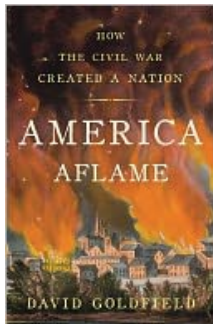


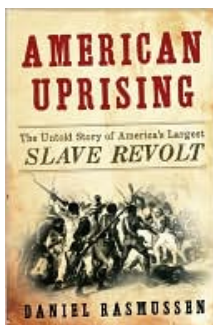
New Non-Fiction October 2011



America Aflame: How the Civil War Created A Nation

By David Goldfield

A specialist in southern history, Goldfield assesses Civil War causes and consequences chronologically from 1834 to the termination of Reconstruction. Why begin in 1834? That year a Boston mob destroyed a Catholic convent; for Goldfield, that event is symbolic of a toxic factor in the period's politics, evangelical Protestantism. Arguing that it promoted eschatological mentalities on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line, Goldfield, as his narrative navigates the 1850s, personifies evangelicals' influence in Uncle Tom's Cabin author Harriet Beecher Stowe and in southern preachers who sermonized on God's sanction for southern rights, slavery included. The overtly religious aren't the sole culprits in Goldfield's interpretation. He critiques the increasing inflexibility of such politicians as former Whigs Abraham Lincoln and Alexander Stephens. Frederick Douglass and Walt Whitman stroll through Goldfield's pages as eyewitnesses while he considers that the South's fear for slavery's future and for its exclusion from industrialization and westward expansion underlay variously argued causes of the war. But it is his emphasis on the religious angle that readers may find distinctive among Civil War overviews. (*Booklist*)



American Uprising: The Untold Story of America's Largest Slave Revolt

By Daniel Rasmussen

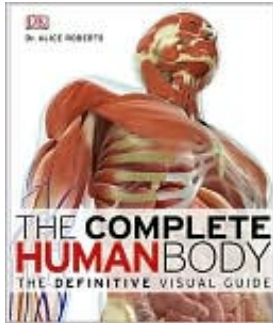
When Americans think of slave rebellions, Nat Turner and John Brown come to mind, but the largest armed resistance to slavery in U.S. history was commanded by Kook, Quamana, Harry Kenner, and Charles Deslondes. The four led an army of several hundred slaves in 1811 to revolt against plantation masters and to march on New

Orleans. Historian Rasmussen details the political climate of the time, including French sugar plantation owners destabilized by efforts of the U.S. government to Americanize the region, threats from nearby Spanish-held territories, and the recent slave revolts in Haiti, 6,000 miles away. The slaves were emboldened by Haiti and aided by a cosmopolitan mix of ethnic groups—Africans, Native Americans, people of mixed race, slaves, and Maroons—who enjoyed fairly free movement around the area. Rasmussen details the history and politics of the region, the revolt itself, and the vengeful reprisals that followed, including efforts to rewrite the history of the revolt. Readers will appreciate not just the historic recollection of the attempt to overcome the oppression of slavery but also the more recent developments that have recovered it from obscurity. *(Booklist)*



Brilliant Disaster: JFK, Castro, and America's Doomed Invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs
By Jim Rasenberger

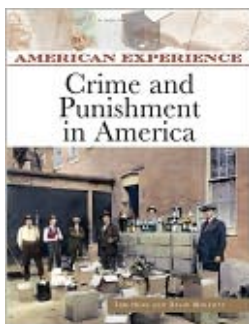
Striving for a balanced history of the CIA's April 1961 attempt to spark a revolt against Fidel Castro, Rasenberger thoroughly combed the resources about the inception, planning, and combat of the Bay of Pigs operation. Retrospectively, the project has been picked apart to ascribe its failure, with either JFK, for altering major elements of the plan, or the CIA, for myriad bureaucratic sins, receiving recriminations. Rasenberger avoids the retrospective blame game and places the principal actors in the elapsing swirl of decision-making as the operation developed. Kennedy's reaction to the plans presented to him impels the narrative as Rasenberger depicts CIA officials changing the plan according to his orders. Although the changes lengthened the odds against success, bureaucratic momentum overwhelmed all doubts, including those of an apparently conflicted Kennedy. Rasenberger's ensuing account dramatically depicts the landing, three days of brutal fighting, and frantic communications between the CIA and the White House as the invasion unraveled. Seeking to explain rather than condemn, Rasenberger informatively guides readers through this controversial cold war event. *(Booklist)*



The Complete Human Body: The Definitive Visual Guide

By Dr. Alice Roberts

Incorporating hundreds of stunning images and a clearly written text, Roberts's hefty volume begins with an overview of the body covering such topics as human evolution, the human genetic formula, the cell, and body composition. It then moves on to systems, devoting most of its pages to an atlas of human anatomy. Starting from the head and neck and ending at the lower leg and foot, this section illustrates seven regions of the body, primarily employing computer-generated illustrations, but also incorporating cutaway diagrams and clear photos and microscopic and x-ray images. For each designated section of the body, double-page renderings of the skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, and lymphatic and immune systems are presented, each clearly introduced and extensively labeled. The extraordinary detail of these pictures will give students an excellent understanding of the body's structure and organization, depicting, layer by layer, the organs that are normally "packed closely together and nestled into cavities, with nerves and vessels twisting around...." Other sections focus on "How the Body Works," "Life Cycle," and "Diseases and Disorders," offering the same graphic detail. There's more text in these chapters, which devote two pages each to a multitude of topics ("Nerve Cells," "Taste and Smell," "Blood Cells"); the images are smaller, but well chosen and more numerous. The DVD offers a selection of pictures from the book. While not all libraries may need such extensive mapping of the human body—Steve Parker's *The Human Body* (DK, 2007) may suffice for many—there is nothing that rivals Roberts's singular volume. (*School Library Journal*)

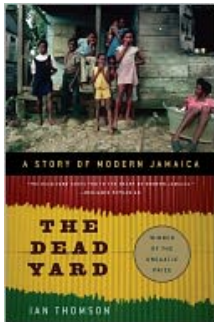


Crime and Punishment in America (American Experience)

By David B. Walcott and Tom Head

Expansive in scope, this highly readable and illustrated compendium covers from the Spanish conquests of the New World and the Salem witch trials to the September 11

terrorist attacks and cyber-crime in the 21st century. Extending beyond the traditionally infamous gangsters, juvenile delinquents, and serial killers, Wolcott and Head's thoughtful and thorough analysis brings gender, race, and political issues into focus as well. It attends to women criminals (Lizzie Borden) and activists (Ida B. Wells) and issues such as domestic abuse and abortion-clinic bombing. There is a strong emphasis on the treatment of African Americans by the justice system, linking societal and justice issues to conditions established under slavery—a relationship that is traced from the abolition movement and the Underground Railroad up to the Rodney King beating and the Los Angeles riots of 1992. Each chapter presents a 10- to 12-page chronological analysis of an era, followed by a year-by-year time line and a fascinating three- to seven-page compendium of primary-source quotations and narratives. The four appendixes include 25 pages of excerpts from important documents, 33 pages of capsule biographies, and sections of maps, graphs, and tables. Though much of this material can be found in online databases, this engaging volume will prove useful to researchers who have an interest in the legal system. (*School Library Journal*)



Dead Yard: A Story of Modern Jamaica

By Ian Thomson

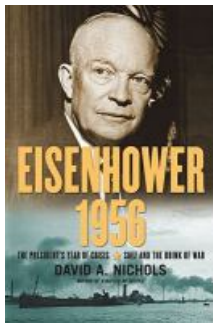
For a not particularly large Caribbean island, Jamaica has had an outsized influence on the rest of the world. Bob Marley's reggae briefly dominated popular music, and the land's mineral and agricultural bounty made many fortunes. Despite a half century of independence from British colonial rule, Jamaica remains an exceedingly troubled land, whose lush resorts mask intractable divisions that continue to beset the island. Racism dominates just about every aspect of existence as descendants of African slaves, British, East Indians, Chinese, Lebanese, Germans, and Jews vie for political and economic advantage. Lucrative trade in illegal drugs and guns corrupts even the best, transforming the body politic into vicious gangs of warring thugs and turning murder into an unremarkable daily commonplace. Thomson has done an extraordinary job of casting light into the dark corners of a nation very much at war with its own history. His great gift is for fearlessly letting Jamaicans from every class and race and all walks of life speak about their nation for themselves. The tales they tell bespeak tragedy and despair almost too profound for words. (*Booklist*)



Declaration: The Nine Tumultuous Weeks When America Became Independent, May 1-July 4, 1776

By William Hogeland

Although the story of the Declaration of Independence has been told many times, imprecise historical sources encourage its retelling. Hogeland expounds upon one gray area, the furtive activity of Samuel Adams, John Adams, and radical cohorts to overturn the Pennsylvania government. Its lack of enthusiasm for independence was their motive; its leader, John Dickinson, was their target; and exploitation of class animosities was their means. Hogeland opens his history with one of their planning meetings, then dispatches them to various precincts of revolutionary Philadelphia on their missions to influence events. Thwarted by a May 1776 election won by the Dickinson forces, the Adams cousins adopted a dual-track strategy: to get the Continental Congress to advise the colonies to form new state governments and to engineer one for Pennsylvania. Congress, of which both Adams were members, enacted their desired resolution, and extralegal popular committees of artisans and mechanics brought about a new state constitution and the eclipse of Dickinson. Readers of Hogeland's *The Whiskey Rebellion* (2006) will be ready for the author's independent, bottom-up narrative of July 4, 1776. (Booklist)

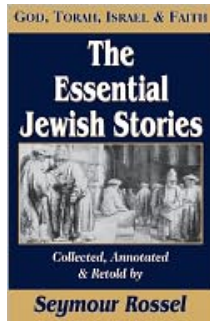


Eisenhower 1956: The President's Year of Crisis, Suez and the Brink of War

By David A. Nichols

Ascending in the opinion of historians, Eisenhower's reputation receives another boost in this examination of his decisions concerning the Middle East crisis of 1956. Nichols, who studied Ike's role in desegregation in *A Matter of Justice* (2007), recounts several trains of events that eventually led to Eisenhower's resolution to reverse Britain's and France's attempts to regain control of the Suez Canal, which Egypt's Nasser had nationalized. One train was of diplomacy related to construction of a Nile River dam,

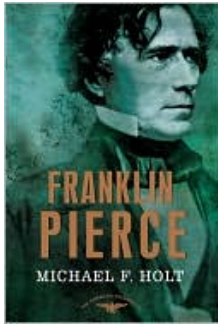
another concerned Eisenhower's health, and a third followed the year's presidential campaign. With additional context provided by the maneuvers of the Soviet Union, Nichols' behind-the-scenes account launches from Ike's decision to seek reelection and accelerates to minute-by-minute pace with the October 1956 attack on Egypt by Israel, which was in secret cahoots with Britain and France. Showing Ike decisively thwarting the operation, Nichols nevertheless argues that his hospitalization in mid-1956 had a negative impact on the course of events. Nichols' history significantly contributes to the annals of Eisenhower's leadership. *(Booklist)*



Essential Jewish Stories

Collected, Annotated & Retold by Seymour Rossel

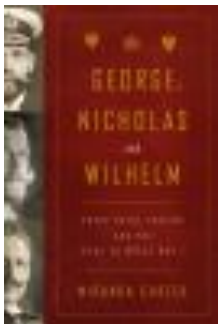
For thousands of years, Jewish scholars have used stories and legends, Midrash, to interpret and explain core religious texts such as the Torah and the Talmud and to impart values to their students. Rossel, a Reform rabbi and educator who loves these stories, has collected more than 300 of them for this book. He has re-imagined and rewritten each of the stories to make them accessible to a contemporary audience. He has also done extensive research to track down the original sources of each tale. The notes and the bibliography at the end of the book provide these references for interested readers. The stories are grouped thematically into four chapters: God, Torah, Israel (the worldwide Jewish community, not the country), and faith. Each story is short, ranging in length from a few sentences to one page. They are excellent material for teachers explaining Jewish values and anyone preparing a dvar Torah (sermon). This book is a nice addition to school and synagogue libraries as well as public libraries serving interested communities. *(Booklist)*



Franklin Pierce

By Michael F. Holt

Pierce deserves his low ranking by historians, but not, Holt argues, because he was a bad man or politician. Handsome and athletic, he'd been a state representative at 24, a congressman at 29, a one-term U.S. senator at 34, and was New Hampshire's leading Democrat when he became the first dark-horse candidate to secure the presidency in 1852. With congressional, state-legislative, and governorship majorities, the Democrats were riding high, and Pierce aimed to keep it that way. He chose cabinet members to represent the party's factions and crafted his domestic policy to quash divisive squabbles. But his era's big issue was slavery. He backed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, arguing that it nullified all previous limitations on the extension of slavery, and stood by during subsequent terrorism in Kansas on the grounds that the Constitution barred the president from intervening. Despite foreign-policy successes and a squeaky-clean administration, he wasn't nominated for a second term because Kansas-Nebraska, foreboding all too well what lay ahead, fractured his beloved party. Another excellent American Presidents series volume. (*Booklist*)



George, Nicholas and Wilhelm: Three Royal Cousins and the Road to World War I

By Miranda Carter

The slippery slope into horrific armed conflict is a tale often told about World War I, but this author's take on the antecedents of the European war of 1914-18 is distinct. Carter views the shifting alliance entanglements of the Great Powers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and especially the growing animosity and rivalry between Britain and Germany, with particular focus on the attitudes and actions of three royal first cousins: Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany, Emperor Nicholas II of Russia, and King George V of Great Britain (who also reigned as emperor of India, hence the book's title

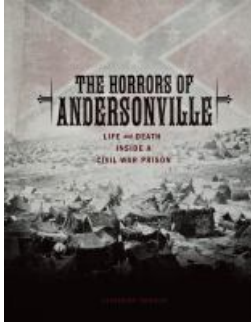
reference to three emperors). Rich in concrete detail, elegant in style, and wise, fresh, and knowledgeable in interpretation, the author's account observes a profound anachronism at play: that these three monarchs, in what they didn't realize were the waning days of the institution of monarchy, handled foreign diplomacy as if it were a family business. Despite the reality of growing fissures separating their countries, each emperor continued to paper over the cracks with cousinly gestures, each increasingly irrelevant. Europe plunged over the precipice of war in August 1914, revealing in stark terms the inability of royal familial ties to control and contain national disagreements; as the author has it, the fact that Wilhelm, Nicholas, and George were out of touch with actual politics could not have been more apparent. An irresistible narrative for history buffs. *(Booklist)*



Hearts Touched By Fire: The Best of Battles and Leaders of The Civil War

Edited and with an Introduction by Harold Holzer

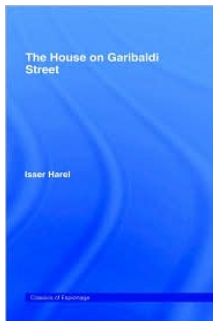
An abridgment of an enduringly popular four-volume title published in 1887, Holzer's edition consists of 63 reminiscences by officers North and South two-thirds of the original content plus introductions by heavyweight contemporary Civil War historians like James McPherson. Then, as now, the main audience-attraction is the preservation of top commanders' memories before the sounding of final taps; for example, Ulysses Grant's Battles articles became the core of his famous Personal Memoirs before cancer carried him off. The abundant illustrations are another draw. Meticulous productions for their time, they remain a strong asset in Holzer's edition, which also augments Battles' original microscopic cartography with new maps that are easier for modern readers to follow. The work will certainly enthrall the buffs, offering eyewitness vividness and palpable purpose in putting the battlefield actions of the authors, their comrades, and their enemies in the best historical light. Ned Bradford's previous single-volume Battles (1956) is still out there, so some collection developers' must decide between adding Holzer and/or keeping Bradford. Whichever, they should have one for the Civil War sesquicentennial. *(Booklist)*



The Horrors of Andersonville: Life and Death Inside a Civil War Prison

By Catherine Gourley

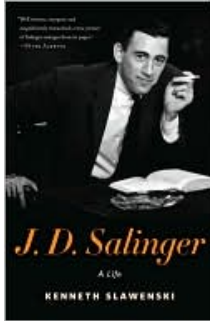
To tell the story of the notorious Civil War prison, the author relies upon memoirs of soldiers who survived the camp; government documents, including the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion; and contemporary newspapers and periodicals. A history of the camp's origins is followed by an engrossing story of deterioration and despair not only for the Union soldiers housed within Andersonville's walls, but also for the Confederacy. The author focuses on six Union soldiers, including John McElroy, who was 16 when he enlisted in the Illinois Cavalry in 1862 and spent 14 months at the prison and later wrote a memoir. Others include James Madison Page, who wrote a book about Henry Wirz, commandant at Andersonville and the only Confederate officer hanged for war crimes, and John Ransom, who kept a detailed diary of his experiences. Along with Wirz, two other Confederate officers played a part in this story as well as three individuals who were associated with Wirz's trial. Combined with photographs and illustrations, the firsthand accounts and quotations make a compelling, interesting book. Numerous sidebars offer intriguing stories about hospital gangrene and surgical fevers, distribution of rations, escape attempts, and cleanliness issues such as lice. A welcome addition for all Civil War collections. *(School Library Journal)*



House on Garibaldi Street

By Isser Harel

This is the true story of the kidnapping of Adolf Eichmann in Argentina by the Mossad, Israel's secret intelligence service under the leadership of Isser Harel. This is his account, revised and updated, with the real names and details of all Mossad personnel. *(Synopsis, Barnesandnoble.com)*



J.D. Salinger: A Life

By Kenneth Slawenski

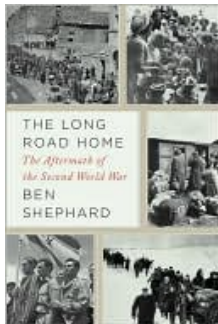
Slawenski, creator of the DeadCaulfields.com website, has been working on this biography of the famously reclusive J. D. Salinger for eight years. He is more fan than scholar, but his research is remarkable, given the paucity of material on the author available to the public. Still, Slawenski has read everything that can be read and has constructed a surprisingly coherent version of a life that is likely to remain clouded with uncertainty for decades to come. What emerges from Slawenski's reading is two different lives divided by one cataclysmic event: WWII. Before the war, Salinger was a struggling writer from a well-to-do New York family who was driven by ambition to become famous. Then came the war, during which Salinger, a sergeant in the army, was transformed by chance into a kind of nightmare version of Zelig, turning up in all the wrong places: Utah Beach on D-Day, where two-thirds of his division were killed; the disastrous ambush in the Hurtgen Forest; and the snow-misted horror of the Battle of the Bulge. Throughout the war, Salinger continued to write stories, and gradually, Slawenski argues, he became another kind of author altogether, a man who wrote not for fame but as a kind of meditation, fiction as prayer. With the success of *The Catcher in the Rye* in 1951, fame itself became Salinger's new nightmare, driving him deeper into his wartime psychology. From the point of view of a man who wrote to block out the world, Salinger's decision to stop publishing altogether makes perfect sense. Slawenski's interpretation of Salinger's life is more compelling than his analysis of the writer's stories. As a critic, he suffers from a mix of too much affection, a graduate-student style, and a bad case of symbol-hunting. Still, Slawenski's life of Salinger makes at least speculative sense of a seemingly unknowable story, one that has beguiled readers for more than 50 years. That alone makes his book must reading. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** To be published one year to the day after Salinger's death on January 25, 2010, an event that reenergized the public's compulsion to know more about the reclusive author, this biography, by far the most complete so far, will kick Salinger fever into another gear. (*Booklist*)



The L life: Extraordinary Lesbians Making a Difference

By Erin McHugh

There have been few cultural touchstones to open people's eyes to everyday lesbian life—until now. Through fascinating interviews and stunning portrait photography, *The L Life* introduces us to the women who are changing our view of the world. This candid collection is a celebration of real women, alongside headline-makers such as breast cancer researcher and bestselling author Dr. Susan Love; groundbreaking authors Alison Bechdel and Ann Bannon; entertainers such as actress Jane Lynch and comedian Kate Clinton; Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and longtime activist Phyllis Lyon; award-winning film producer Christine Vachon; and many more. (*Overview, Barnesandnoble.com*)

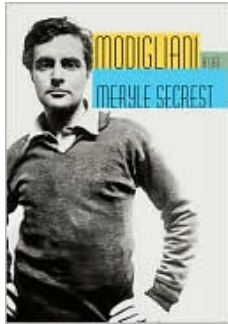


The Long Road Home: The Aftermath of the Second World War

By Ben Shephard

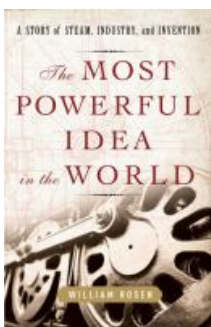
The enduring images of VE Day are of the unrestrained, joyful celebrations that swept European and American cities. But as this detailed and absorbing study illustrates, massive human suffering and even violence was far from over. Left in the wake of the cataclysm were millions of so-called DPs (displaced persons), many of whom were Jewish survivors of the concentration camps, although the massive scale of the Holocaust was not yet evident. But the miserable also encompassed numerous other nationalities tossed about by the vagaries of war. Tasked with the responsibility for dealing with their misery was the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). Oxford-educated historian, writer, and documentary-film producer Shephard is sympathetic to the difficulties of the mission. Yet his description of the efforts of UNRRA is replete with examples of bureaucratic bumbling and political manipulation that imposed an immense human cost on already destitute people.

Shephard has provided a depressing but valuable examination of a largely neglected aspect of WWII. (*Booklist*)



Modigliani: A Life
By Meryle Secrest

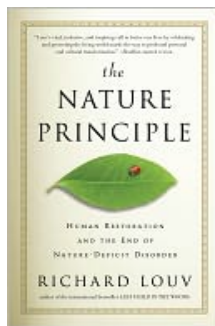
Secrest, respected biographer of art world personalities (Being Bernard Berenson), musicians such as Leonard Bernstein, and others, sets out in this volume to resurrect the reputation of the modernist painter Amedeo Modigliani (1884–1920). Long the stuff of myth and sensationalism, Modigliani's life was fictionalized in book and film while his lifelong battle with tuberculosis was ignored and his art marginalized. Up until recently the literature has portrayed Modigliani as a ranting, drunken, stoned womanizer—"the archetypal accursed artist," as Secrest puts it. Rather, she says, he suffered throughout his life from various illnesses that he attempted to conceal. But the misperception contributed to Modigliani's status as a minor artist. The "separation of truth from fiction" is the author's cause. In her revisionist account, Secrest delves into numerous primary sources to weave together a comprehensive and well-rounded biography of the artist and to bring to life bohemian society in early 20th-century Paris. Additionally, the author surveys the history of Modigliani scholarship, the ongoing problem of forgeries of the artist's work, and the "chaotic field" of authentication. The result is an enjoyable read for all, and a most welcome contribution to Modigliani scholarship. (*Publishers Weekly*)



The Most Powerful Idea in the World: A Story of Steam, Industry, and Invention
By William Rosen

The Industrial Revolution inspires more academic theories than absorbing narratives. Rosen, however, crafts one from subplots that connect with primitive industrialism's premier symbol: the steam engine. Ardent about historical technology, Rosen

modulates his mechanical zeal with contexts underscoring that Thomas Newcomen and James Watt did not operate in a social vacuum. Fixing on patents as one prerequisite to their inventions, Rosen describes intellectual property's English legal and philosophical origins as he segues to Newcomen's and Watt's backgrounds. A degree of social mobility in eighteenth-century Britain enabled their rise, but it was the specific economic situations in mining and textiles to which they responded that ensured it. These business matters provide Rosen with storytelling opportunities that feature capital investors, scientists studying heat, and over time, innovators who improved the steam engine from a stationary to a mobile power source: Rocket, the famous railroad engine built in 1829. Readers who like enthused authors will like Rosen, and fans of his Roman history *Justinian's Flea* (2007) augment their number. *(Booklist)*



The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder

By Richard Louv

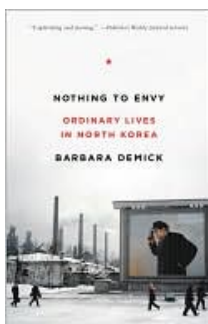
Louv struck a resounding chord in the best-selling *Last Child in the Woods* (2005) when he identified nature-deficit disorder, a debilitating syndrome affecting children who spent scant time playing outdoors. But what about adults? Louv distills his latest findings about our lifelong need for direct experience of nature into another essential concept, the Nature Principle, which holds that reconnection to the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit, and survival. A prodigious researcher and inspired interpreter and synthesizer, Louv offers a finely crafted interdisciplinary argument to support this claim, drawing on eye-opening scientific and medical studies as well as the timeless observations of poets. Louv profiles such trailblazers as public-health expert Howard Frumkin and South Central L.A. ecoactivist Juan Martinez as well as citizen naturalists who are strengthening our understanding of the crucial connections between human, economic, and ecosystem health. As he cogently explains why time spent in nature is quantifiably therapeutic, Louv reminds us that nature is everywhere and that the simplest of engagements with nearby nature, such as taking a walk or admiring a tree, are immensely restorative to mind and body. Louv's vital, inclusive, and inspiring call to better our lives by celebrating and protecting the living world marks the way to profound personal and cultural transformation. *(Booklist)*



The New York Times on Critical Elections: 1854-2008

By Gerald Pomper

History in the making, as recorded by one newspaper. The collection of news articles, editorials, op-eds, essays, letters to the editor, columns, and news analyses provides overviews of 6 congressional and 15 presidential elections from 1854 ("Renewal of the Slavery Agitation-The Nebraska Bill") to 2008 ("Obama Takes Oath, and Nation in Crisis Embraces the Moment"). The pieces, also available through the newspaper's website, are tied together by excellent commentaries that provide historical background and impart a solid understanding of the relevant era. Most of the articles are full text (excerpts are clearly labeled) and are signed. The chronologically arranged, double-column text features a variety of headline fonts, relative to the importance of the original piece. Content focuses on early contenders in a given race, primaries, party conventions, campaigns, presidential change due to assassinations, and changes resulting from midterm elections. A few black-and-white political cartoons, captioned photos, and charts of state-by-state popular votes add value. Typos that appeared in the original pieces have been corrected, but spellings now considered archaic remain. The reasons why specific elections were considered "critical" are not outlined, but criteria for determining general inclusion are listed. Also, it is unclear why the election of 1960 is discussed six pages before the September 1957 dispatch of federal troops to Little Rock, AR, and the Sputnik launch in October of that year. Overall, however, researchers will find this title useful in understanding 150 years of U.S. politics. (*School Library Journal*)

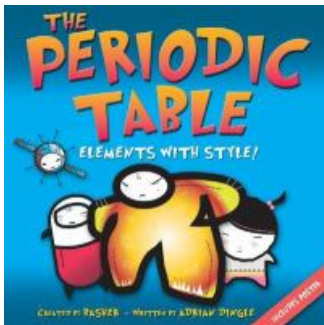


Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea

By Barbara Demick

In spite of the strict restrictions on foreign press, award-winning journalist Demick caught telling glimpses of just how surreal and mournful life is in North Korea. Her chilling impressions of a dreary, muffled, and depleted land are juxtaposed with a

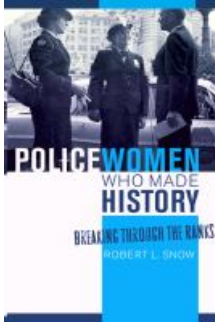
uniquely to-the-point history of how North Korea became an industrialized Communist nation supported by the Soviet Union and China and ruled by Kim Il Sung, then collapsed catastrophically into poverty, darkness, and starvation under the dictator's son, Kim Jong Il. Demick's bracing chronicle of the horrific consequences of decades of brutality provide the context for the wrenching life stories of North Korean defectors who confided in Demick. Mi-ran explains that even though her tainted blood (her father was a South Korean POW) kept her apart from the man she loved, she managed to become a teacher, only to watch her starving students waste away. Dr. Kim Ki-eum could do nothing to help her dying patients. Mrs. Song, a model citizen, was finally forced to face cruel facts. Strongly written and gracefully structured, Demick's potent blend of personal narratives and piercing journalism vividly and evocatively portrays courageous individuals and a tyrannized state within a saga of unfathomable suffering punctuated by faint glimmers of hope. (*Booklist*)



Periodic Table: Elements With Style!

Written by Adrian Dingle

Dingle introduces one element per spread. One page features a cartoon drawing of its anthropomorphic character and the other presents a simple introduction to its "personality." However, the premise of the book can be misleading. While the book is about the periodic table, fewer than half of the elements are actually discussed in the text. The information is presented in a chatty and conversational tone. For example, Hydrogen says, "I may be undersized, but don't underestimate me. I'm a petite package that packs a punch, and I have a fiery character to boot-always remember that I'm numero uno!" Basic information, such as the element's symbol, color, standard state, classification, density, and melting and boiling points, is included, but there's no explanation of what atomic number, atomic weight, etc., actually mean. While this book provides a brief introduction to some of the elements, students requiring more comprehensive information would be better served by Ron Miller's *The Elements* (21st Century Bks., 2005) or "The Elements" series (Benchmark). (*School Library Journal*)



Policewomen Who Made History: Breaking Through the Ranks

By Robert L. Snow

In this straightforward study, retired police officer Snow delves into the history of American women in policing. From the days of prison matrons to the first female team deployed in a patrol car (in Indianapolis, where Snow served as well), the battle to break the blue ceiling is patiently recorded. The number of interviews and statistics (all thoroughly sourced with extensive end notes) is impressive, and Snow nicely blends numbers and personal stories to keep the narrative lively. He writes evenhandedly about sexism and discrimination, and handles detail with notable briskness. Some of the more compelling subjects he delves into are specific physical differences between men and women and what they mean when it comes to getting the job done (readers will be surprised) and the strain policing places on relationships for both genders. Readers should not expect thrilling accounts of chases and captures; instead this is an exceedingly professional look at an important aspect of our social history. *(Booklist)*

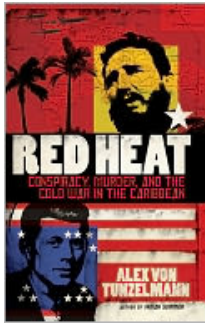


Pox: An American History

By Michael Willrich

Willrich's account of the early days of the American progressive movement couldn't be more instructive or timely. In the years leading up to and following the turn of the twentieth century, the U.S. was struggling with questions regarding the limits of government-imposed, compulsory health mandates. As smallpox ravaged America, local governments, in particular, were hard-pressed to deal with the disease. An epidemic had the power to effectively shut down everyday life, shuttering businesses and even, in some cases, quarantining entire towns. Public health tools were limited to reactively quarantining sick individuals and proactively mandating compulsory vaccination. Even though the new-found smallpox vaccine had its drawbacks, including unreliable quality and occasional severe side effects, public health officials felt it was the better option.

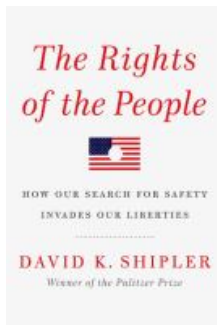
Battle lines formed. Many, the antivaccinationists, rebelled. They objected to compulsory vaccination on the grounds that it was unconstitutional and socialist. With an increasingly urban population, however, government first local, then state, finally federal determined that this mandate was for the public weal and superseded individual choice. The issue was finally decided when the U.S. Supreme Court reached a landmark decision in *Jackson v. Massachusetts*, a case still cited. Despite occasionally teetering on the edge of too-much-detail, this is a worthy read. *(Booklist)*



Red Heat: Conspiracy, Murder, and the Cold War in the Caribbean

By Alex von Tunzelmann

Three dictators, circa 1960 Castro in Cuba, Francois Duvalier in Haiti, and Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic are the principals in von Tunzelmann's political history. Recounting alarms that trio set off in Washington, she ponders how well the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations understood situations on the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola. Not very realistically, runs the tenor of von Tunzelmann's narrative. Prone to see Reds under every palm tree, they misunderstood the motivations of Duvalier and Trujillo, which were mainly to enrich themselves and torture and kill personal enemies, and they did not appreciate the depth of nationalist, anti-American feeling in Cuba and consequent support for Castro. The effects of viewing events through anti-Communist lenses unfold in von Tunzelmann's detailing of American activities to topple Castro and prevent Haiti and the Dominican Republic from going Communist. Punctuated by accounts of such major incidents as the Bay of Pigs, the assassination of Trujillo, the Cuban missile crisis, and LBJ's 1965 intervention in the Dominican Republic, von Tunzelmann's diligent work will widen the eyes of cold war buffs. *(Booklist)*

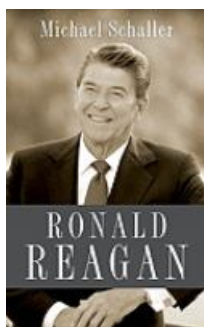


Rights of the People: How Our Search for Safety Invades Our Liberties

By David K. Shipler

Shipler began worrying deeply about threats to civil liberties after 9/11, becoming concerned about government impulses in the impending war on terror and the longtime erosion of rights in the war on drugs. The former New York Times reporter talked to lawyers, legal scholars, police, government officials, and citizens to make an insightful analysis of the erosion of basic civil liberties within the past decade. He focuses on free speech, privacy, and protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, rights that have been eroded under the Patriot Act. He traces the bumpy legal history of civil liberties, which have occasionally been suspended during wartime and are threatened by government aims to protect against terrorism. He draws on court cases and his own experiences riding on patrol with police and witnessing firsthand how they negotiate between their suspicions and citizens' rights against unreasonable search and seizure. He details cases of nonsuspect suspects, caught in a web of counterterrorism investigations and the myriad ways the government is now conducting wiretaps and drug raids and monitoring phone calls, e-mails, and library usage. Shipler, author of *Russia* (1983) and *Arab and Jew* (1986), draws parallels to his coverage of Soviet Russia, in which he found citizens were under such constant surveillance that it eroded their expectations of privacy. A sobering look at the rights Americans take for granted.

(Booklist)

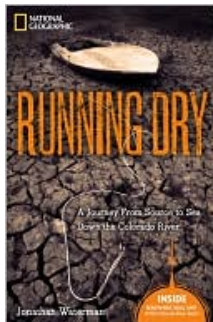


Ronald Reagan

By Michael Schaller

The hands-down most controversial president in recent memory receives notably evenhanded treatment by Schaller in Oxford's series of brief lives of the U.S. chief executives. There's no getting around the erstwhile actor's habit of borrowing from his

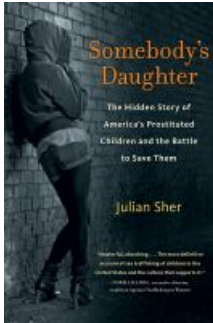
screen experience for ostensibly true exempla for his inspirational speeches. But that same experience guaranteed that he could react winningly to stress, and he won the nation's admiration for the humor and grit with which he treated the assassination attempt on him early in his first term. His political habit of campaigning for policies tax and spending cuts, shrinking the federal government, prohibiting abortion that he very quickly abandoned presents difficulties for his right-wing encomiasts, in particular. Reagan was much more pragmatic and prone to compromise than his reputation then and now allows, and that served him especially well in his dealings with Gorbachev's faltering Soviet Union. A fine stepping-stone to the vast literature on Reagan, pro and con, Schaller's summary belongs in virtually all U.S. libraries. *(Booklist)*



Running Dry: A Journey From Source to Sea Down the Colorado River

By Jonathan Waterman

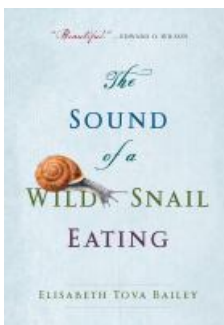
Waterman, whose earlier books illuminate the Arctic, strikes an impressive balance between the personal and the political in chronicling his journey down the Colorado River. Quoting those who have traveled its depths before, such as John Wesley Powell and Wallace Stegner, he writes not only about the river's now-dying power but also the extensive regulations put in place to control and possess it. And yet as much as this is about the river, Waterman also discusses individuals invested in its survival from biologists to the many watermen and -women whose livelihoods come from navigating its length. The misguided playground of Lake Powell proves to be an unsavory stopping point, but the author perseveres in his search for answers. From Vegas to Mexico, he finds waste and ruin and then turns a corner to discover the fruits of hard-won battles for bird sanctuaries and brilliant uses of drip irrigation. Through it all, he ruminates about the choices between life and death for humankind and rivers. An evocative and bold take on a river and what winning the West really means, Waterman's book epitomizes the best of environmental writing. *(Booklist)*



Somebody's Daughter: The Hidden Story of America's Prostituted Children and the Battle to Save Them

By Julian Sher

Sher takes on the story of teen prostitution in the U.S. by primarily focusing on three cities, Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and Dallas. His interview subjects include a small group of teens who explain how they came to prostitution and how they broke out of it. He also talks to police officers investigating vice crimes as well as lawyers, judges, and survivors of the sex trade now working to rescue other victims. Interspersed with these personal stories are discussions of statistics regarding gender, age, and recidivism. The situations are alternately sad or graphically violent, but always tragic. Sher clearly has a great deal of empathy for his interview subjects, and is at his most gripping when writing about their decisions to stand up against former pimps. He also writes in detail about the glamorized pimp image and how it has flooded pop culture (Ice T's career is particularly ironic). (*Booklist*)

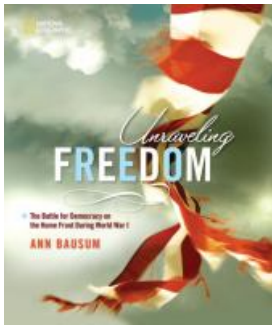


Sound of a Wild Snail Eating

By Elisabeth Tova Bailey

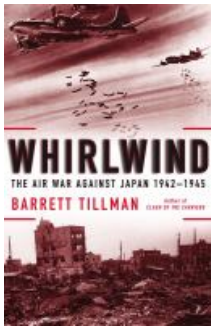
At age 34, Bailey was stricken with a mysterious virus while on a trip to Europe. Her healthy life had been full of activity, and now just the thought of getting up to get something was exhaustive. When a friend found some violets and brought her one in a pot, she also added a live snail below the violet's leaves. Bailey wondered why she needed a snail, but after square holes began to appear in a letter propped on the violet's pot, it occurred to Bailey that the snail needed food. She put a withered flower in the saucer below, and when the snail began to eat, Bailey realized that she could hear it eating it was the sound of someone very small munching on celery. Soon the author realized she was attached, the snail providing an oasis of calm for her frantic and frustrated thoughts. She worried that the snail's world was too artificial, so her caregiver

created a woodland terrarium. Not only did the snail have a new home but Bailey had a new game: hide-and-seek with a snail. She began to read about snails, learning from scientists, early naturalists, poets, and writers, and found herself beginning to understand a snail's world. And when her snail began to lay eggs, Bailey discovered that she might be the first person to record observations of a snail tending its eggs. This beautiful little book will not only make snail lovers of its readers, it will make them appreciate the small things in life. *(Booklist)*



Unraveling Freedom: The Battle For Democracy on the Home Front During World War 1
By Ann Bausum

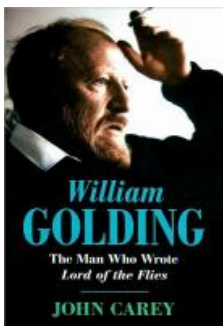
Comparing the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 to the 9/11 attacks, Bausum describes the events that would eventually lead the U.S. into the European conflict that ultimately became World War I. She then turns her attention to describing the destruction of civil liberties by President Wilson, Congress, and those in control of political power during the country's campaign to "make the world safe for democracy." Freedom of speech was especially limited by the Espionage Act of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918. Various government agencies and the courts encouraged citizens to spy on one another. Socialists such as Eugene Debs were tried, convicted, and given long prison sentences for speaking out against the war. Specific attention is also paid to the efforts of Edith Wilson and the president's cabinet to deceive the public and hide his debilitating illness. Black-and-white archival photos and political cartoons are arranged in an artistic manner with informative captions. Red and blue backgrounds create a dramatic effect in the layout of the text. Appropriate quotations by various people of the time are displayed in elegant fonts. Make this unique and timely offering a definite first purchase. *(School Library Journal)*



Whirlwind: The Air War Against Japan 1942-1945

By Barrett Tillman

Tillman, who has written many books on WWII aviation, scales from histories of particular types of warplane up to, in this volume, a history of an entire air war. Spanning the American air campaign against the Japanese home islands, which began with the famous Doolittle Raid of April 1942 and concluded with several conventional attacks mounted after the obliteration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Tillman centers on the B-29 bomber as the war-winning weapon. Hampered by technical problems in development, the plane's effectiveness was also limited by its initial basing in India and China and its operators' doctrinal fixation on high-altitude precision bombing. As Tillman recounts, only when based in the Mariana Islands and commanded by a general (of whom Tillman is a biographer, LeMay, 2005) who firebombed enemy cities from low altitude did the B-29 vindicate its fearsome potential. Also recounting attacks by American carrier aircraft and the atomic bombings, Tillman tenders his verdicts on controversies about their strategic utility or justification, and embeds combat experiences in a narrative sure to engross WWII readers. (*Booklist*)



William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of The Flies

By John Carey

Lord of the Flies may be one of the most powerful (and widely taught) novels in postwar English literature, but until now, a comprehensive biography of William Golding has not been available. One suspects this may be because of the sheer difficulty of attaining some sort of perspective on the writer, whose complicated personality and enigmatic, symbol-laden works present prospective biographers with a formidable literary-psychological knot. And yet Carey's biography soars, presenting a nuanced and sensitive portrait of the small-town schoolteacher with a proclivity for Greek mythology and

abiding class issues, the wartime ship's captain perennially drawn to the power of the sea, and the extraordinarily talented (if often blocked) writer who used fiction to plumb the murky depths of his subconscious. Recognizing Golding as a literary outsider and embracing him as such, the anti-elitist Carey (*The Intellectuals and the Masses*, 2002) may be the perfect explicator for Golding's life; he also enjoyed the benefit of 5,000 pages of Golding's diaries, which, including summaries of his dreams, seem to have helped sew together Golding's life and art. Likely to lead *Lord of the Flies* fans to Golding's other works, this book is highly recommended. (*Booklist*)