**FEATURED TITLES**

**JANUARY 2015**

*Just the Arguments: 100 of the Most Important Arguments in Western Philosophy*

By: Bruce, Michael and Steven Barbon


Review from: *Choice* September 01, 2012

This book consists of short entries purporting to present the "100 most important arguments in Western philosophy." The editors acknowledge two likely criticisms in their introduction. First, any selection of the most important arguments will be controversial; second, philosophers generally do not like short encyclopedic treatments of complex texts... The arguments are organized into six sections: "Philosophy of Religion," "Metaphysics," "Epistemology," "Ethics," "Philosophy of Mind," and "Science and Language." One positive attribute of this collection is the diversity of the authors, mostly up-and-coming scholars, and the mix of men and women and US and international scholars...

*When the United States Invaded Russia: Woodrow Wilson's Siberian Disaster*

By: Richard, Carl J.

DK265.42.U5 R53 2013 eBook

Review from: *Choice* July 01, 2013

Richard's concise account of the US intervention in Siberia fuses new and old scholarship, details historians' theories to explain US intervention, and settles upon the hypothesis that Woodrow Wilson dispatched US forces to Siberia to help the Czech Legion and Russian anti-Bolsheviks overthrow the Soviet government as prelude to recreating the Eastern front against the Central Powers. What follows is a careful detailing of Wilson's dispatch of the army in August 1918, about three months before the armistice. Richard maintains that Wilson kept US forces there to assist in toppling the Soviets and prevent Japanese hegemony in Eastern Siberia. His conclusions are noteworthy. The Siberian intervention was an example of "mission creep": a US presence that continued through modifying the original goals from reestablishing the Eastern front to focusing on overthrowing the Bolsheviks and preventing Japanese control in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria. Intervention was "a complete failure."...

*America Bewitched : Witchcraft after Salem*

By: Davies, Owen

BF1573 .D39 2013


In 1711 the Massachusetts Bay colony compensated the families of those persecuted as witches in the 1692 Salem trials, but Davies (social history, Univ. of Hertfordshire; The Haunted: A Social History of Ghosts) demonstrates that neither America's belief in witchcraft nor the attendant accusations, defamations, and even killings had ended. He combed newspaper stories from all over the country plus secondary sources to report innumerable cases exhibiting the lies, prejudice, superstition, lawsuits, and savagery continuing to surround the fear of witchcraft and suspicions of bewitchment well into the mid-20th century...

*Securing Your Financial Future : Complete Personal Finance for Beginners*

By: Smith, Christopher

HG179 .S5495 2012 eBook


Beginners befuddled by the morass of available financial advice need look no further-Smith offers a thorough and straightforward approach to personal finance in this clear guide. Though his target audience is folks in their 20s and 30s, readers in all stages of life will benefit from Smith's insights. Broken up into four sections, the author covers "The Essential Concepts," "Building Your Foundation," "Big-Ticket Items," and finally, "Long-Term Investing." In addition to explaining basics like credit scores, mortgages, and compounding interest, Smith—a former VP of finance for two of Hewlett-Packard's global divisions—also suggests ways to work against one's natural impulses. ...

*The Men Who United the States : America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible*

By: Winchester, Simon

E178 .W795 2013


Winchester's latest history profiles a huge cast of eclectic characters who helped transform America from a cluster of colonies to a unified nation through the taming of the wilderness and the expansion of the country's infrastructure. The sweeping narrative is cleverly organized into five sections—each corresponds to one of the classical elements (wood, earth, water, fire, metal) and focuses on a different phase of American exploration or development. Winchester (The Alice Behind Wonderland) masterfully evokes the excitement of the nation's early days—when opportunity and possibility were manifest in uncharted mountains and new technologies—while bringing each of his subjects to life...
Cyberbullying: Bullying in the Digital Age
By: Kowalski, Robin M., Susan P. Limber and Patricia W. Agatston
HV6773 .K69 2012 eBook

Review from: Choice November 01, 2012
The rapid growth of the Web has produced an epidemic of cyberbullying among youth in the US. Widespread Internet harassment is forcing teachers, psychologists, school administrators, and parents, as well as the victims themselves, to deal with a complex set of practical dilemmas. The authors provide a clear, concise, comprehensive overview of the academic research on cyberbullying, along with considerable real-world guidance on the development and implementation of school-wide anti-bullying policies. The authors stress the importance of parental communication and oversight, combined with proactive educational strategies...

The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution That Transformed the South
By: Levine, Bruce C.
E487 .L494 2013

Review from: Choice September 1, 2013
The dramatic change in character imposed upon the US South as a result of the Civil War has long been the subject of serious scholarship. The destruction of the slave system, fall from power of the prewar elite, and transformation in identity of the common folk are all well-considered issues. Levine may not offer a great deal of new material or groundbreaking analysis of these same subjects, but he does provide an easy read. The author relies heavily on secondary sources to support his conclusions, revealing the limits of this volume's usefulness in advanced coursework or graduate studies. His interpretation of the destruction of the antebellum social and political structure in the South conforms perfectly with current perspectives in popular culture, which will likely enhance the book's appeal in certain quarters. A lively narrative, almost completely unburdened by statistical analysis or excessive details, provides the volume a nice flow that will render it an accessible selection for virtually all readers.

A History of the World in 12 Maps
By: Brotton, Jerry
G1030 .B7 2013

Review from: Choice March 01, 2014
Brotton, a specialist in the history of maps and mapping, offers his thoughts relating to 12 maps dating from Ptolemy's Geography (circa 150 CE) to Google Earth, 2012. These chapters reveal much concerning the development and growth of map making--the distinctiveness, beauty, and idiosyncrasies of an emerging high art, all facilitating the recognition of a cartographic science. Included among the 12 maps, arranged by philosophical or cultural intent, are these: the Hereford Mappamundi c. 1300 (representing faith); Martin Waldseemuller's World Map, 1507 (discovery); Gerard Mercator's World Map 1569 (toleration); Joan Blaeu's Atlas Maior, 1662 (money); the Cassini Family, Map of France, 1793 (nation); and The Peters Projection, 1973 (equality)...

The Myth of Fair and Efficient Government: Why the Government You Want Is Not the One You Get
By: Marlow, Michael L.
JK421 .M346 2011 eBook

Review from: Choice December 01, 2011
Marlow (economics, California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo) does not care for the federal government as it functions and rejects romantic notions that government intervention can make improvements. In general, he asserts markets work, largely because of competition, and governments do not. Governments waste money through inefficiencies and waste driven by politics. The tax system is inefficient and plays favorites through tax preferences that are disguised spending. Tax incentives direct resources in inefficient directions; direct subsidies to businesses normally represent wasted money...

Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America
By: Bayor, Ronald H.
JV6484 .B39 2014

Review from: Choice October 01, 2014
In elegant prose in 142 pages (a remarkable achievement), Bayor (emer., Georgia institute of Technology) includes painful and positive experiences of immigrants and employees on Ellis and Angel Islands, stories representing 20 million new Americans between 1892 and 1924, and those rejected for entry. The challenges of the past and the present, including laws and enforcement agencies, are here. There are heroes and villains, victims and success stories, all compelling and informative. The eugenics and racist ideologies of the past, now replaced by fears of terrorism, reflect ongoing US dilemmas--who will become good Americans, who threatens American jobs, ongoing rejection of some groups, welcoming of others--each ever-changing...