**John Quincy Adams: American Visionary**
By: Kaplan, Fred
E377 .K34 2014

**Review from: Choice**
November 01, 2015

In this new biography of John Quincy Adams, Kaplan reexamines the sixth president of the US using a wealth of previously untouched archival material. Reflecting his literary background, Kaplan focuses more on Adams's writings and interactions with others, highlighting Adams's emotions and personal beliefs. A stark departure from the typical historian-authored biography, this is a powerful, intellectual portrait of a brilliant leader whose contribution to US history (especially concerning the anti-slavery movement) has been long overshadowed by the successful administrations of James Monroe and Andrew Jackson. Kaplan's exhaustive research into Adams's literary talents and the development of his progressive anti-slavery attitude make this work valuable...

**Wounded: A New History of the Western Front in World War I**
By: Mayhew, Emily
D629.G7 M19 2014 eBook

**Review from: Library Journal**
15, 2013

The stories of the men and women who cared for millions—yes, millions—of wounded and dying during World War I remain largely untold. Much of the archival record, personal, medical, and military, documenting that infrastructure of care has been lost. Mayhew (research associate, cocurricular studies, Imperial Coll., London; The Reconstruction of Warriors: Archibald McIndoe, the Royal Air Force and the Guinea Pig Club) tells the accounts of surgeons, nurses, chaplains, orderlies, regimental medical officers, stretcher bearers, and hospital staff who not only sacrificed their time and talent but often their own personal resources as they offered care on the western front. Mayhew has mined the extant record, including unpublished testimonies, to narrate individual tales amid the sheer enormity of the battles and the unrelenting numbers of wounded that often overwhelmed the medical systems in place...

**The Human Age: The World Shaped by Us**
By: Ackerman, Diane
GF13 .A35 2014

**Review from: Library Journal**
September 15, 2014

Ackerman, author of literary discussions of science and nature, including Dawn Light and Natural History of the Senses, has taken on the Anthropocene (Age of Man), the term for the current geologic epoch popularized by Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen in 2000. Ackerman describes how our world has changed because of our choices and actions and how this, in turn, has changed us, and optimistically asks how we can change our path and our world for the better. Very literate chapters describe a variety of topics, such as living buildings, blurring the indoor and outdoor, apes using computers, world changes in weather, robotics, and DNA. The material includes approachable examples—climate change in the author's own backyard...

**Big, Hot, Cheap, and Right: What America Can Learn from the Strange Genius of Texas**
By: Grieder, Erica
F391 .G847 2013 eBook

**Review from: Publishers Weekly**
February 18, 2013

Journalist Grieder pens a primer on Texas that is serious and lighthearted in turn. She might as well have referred to the "strange genesis" of Texas in her subtitle, as she runs through historical highlights and lowlights from the state's beginnings to explain its present. Grieder's account includes notably bizarre episodes, including the 1951 election in which both the governor and the state attorney general ran on both Democratic and Republican tickets, with the Democratic incarnations of each pulling easy victories. One of the book's main themes is that by its annexation, "every single weird thing about Texas... was already established." Another is that, despite its reputation, Texas is more than simply a bastion of conservative values, although the vaunted "Texas model" is basically defined by a "commitment to small government" as well as broad support for business...

**Food Politics : What Everyone Needs to Know**
By: Paarlberg, Robert
HD1415 .P12 2013

**Review from: Choice**
October 01, 2010

Paarlberg (political science, Wellesley College) delivers an accessible, largely balanced primer on food politics in an engaging question-and-answer format drawn from his lectures on the topic. This easy style carries though the book, which offers short, authoritative responses to questions ranging from "What is genetically modified food?" to "Does the industrialization of agriculture make food less safe?" and others on topics of hunger, obesity, and agricultural practices...
Spam: A Shadow History of the Internet
By: Brunton, Finn
HE7553 .B78 2013 eBook

Review from: Choice November 01, 2013
Brunton (NYU) enriched his doctoral dissertation to produce a well-crafted, masterfully researched, and engaging scholarly history of Internet spam. He defines spam as “the use of information technology infrastructure to exploit [or waste] existing aggregations of human attention.” Something is not spam when it “respects our attention and the finite span of our lives expended at the screen.” Such statements warrant close reflection as people experience the Internet and its various expressions: the web, e-mail, search engines, and social networks. Spam entered the Internet lexicon early; the word “spam” was repeated across screens of primitive computers to wipe away user text, a running gag and tribute to a 1970 Monty Python’s Flying Circus sketch...

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban
By: Yousafzai, Malala
LC2330 .Y68 2013

Review from: Library Journal February 01, 2014
In October 2012, 15-year-old activist Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban in her home city of Mingora, Pakistan. The world watched as she was taken to England for treatment and ultimately recovered from her wound. Co-written with journalist Lamb, this work is much more than the story of Yousafzai’s young life. Her narrative examines and elaborates on politics, Pakistan’s history, friendship, faith, and, above all else, the need for education for girls. Following in her outspoken father’s footsteps, Yousafzai uses every opportunity to champion the cause for which she became a target...

The Politics Book
By: Dorling Kindersley Publishing Staff
JA71 .P64185 2013 eBook

Review from: Library Journal April 15, 2013
How do people choose their leaders and government? What schools of thought have shaped our expectations of ruling regimes and defined the values of different cultures? This book attempts to provide a broad overview of theories and concepts from around the world and across the ages. More than 100 political philosophers, among them Confucius, Plato, Machiavelli, Mary Wollstonecraft, Karl Marx, Ito Hirobumi, Emiliano Zapata, Jomo Kenyatta, and Mao Zedong, are covered in seven chronological sections ranging from "Ancient Political Thought" to "Postwar Politics." Entries are arranged within the sections in chronological order. Sections start with an introduction to the historical period covered, including a time line of philosophers and historic events, providing background and context for the various theories examined. The book is heavily illustrated with flow charts, pictures of important individuals, events, propaganda posters, advertisements, and political cartoons that support the explanations of the different political theories...

What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions
By: Munroe, Randall
Q173 .M965 2014

Review from: Library Journal October 01, 2014
Have you ever wondered at what point in history there were too many English-language books to read in one lifetime? Or what would happen to the Earth if the Sun didn't exist? Munroe has your answers. A former NASA roboticist, the author launched the weblog xkcd.com, which purposely has no phonetic pronunciation, in 2005. The blog’s blend of math and science, sarcasm, and stick-figure drawings has gained a loyal following. (His etching of someone who reads a book on juggling, tries to juggle, fails, and immediately trashes the book is especially poignant.) In 2012, Munroe started answering reader-submitted hypotheticals using Internet research along with his own knowledge. That series, "What If," is the focus of this witty nonfiction debut, which features a plethora of new black-and-white cartoons...

Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and Their Accusers in the Salem Witch Trials
By: Roach, Marilynne K.
KFM2478.8.W5 R63 2013 eBook

Review from: Library Journal June 01, 2014
Roach (The Salem Witch Trials) here weaves together the narratives of six of the women accused of witchcraft between February 1692 and May 1693 through the use of court records, trial documents, vital records, sermon notes, family lore, and diaries, offering a fresh perspective on often-told stories from the trials. Her writing style offers a refreshing lack of sensationalism. Kate Reading is perfectly matched to the material. Her low-key style provides a genuine sense of intimacy.