Career Opportunities in Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
By: Echaore-McDavid, Susan and Richard A. McDavid
S 494.5 .A4 E24 2011
Review from: Booklist April 1, 2011
This entry in the Career Opportunities series describes an almost dizzying variety of jobs, ranging from organic farmer, cowboy, and logger to pest-control technician, animal trainer, and ecotour operator. There are more than 95 jobs in all, and for each, the reader will find a brief career profile (duties, salary range, prospects, etc.) and a narrative that expands on that data. Additional features are a typical career ladder and a section offering Tips for Entry...

The War of 1812: Conflict for a Continent
By: Stagg. J.C.A.
E 354 .S83 2012
Review from: Booklist March 1, 2012
For most laymen, the War of 1812 conjures up a few striking images, such as General Andrew Jackson destroying the British forces at New Orleans, but general history texts often underplay the importance of the conflict. In this bicentennial year of the war, one can expect reappraisals. Stagg has written a short narrative history of the war that touches the important causative factors, battles, and key personalities. He also offers an interesting reinterpretation that places the war in the broader context of international power politics and the emerging nationalism of the U.S. and, especially, Canada. He usefully reminds us of the major role played by Native Americans, who fought and sacrificed on both sides...

Loyalty in Time of Trial: the African American Experience During World War I
By: Mjagkij, Nina
D 639 .N4 M55 2011
Review from: Choice December 1, 2011
African Americans have served in virtually every US war from the Revolution to the present. But their loyalty has not always been appreciated or rewarded. This was never more the case than during and after WW I. Historian Mjagkij meticulously describes the feudal world of the Jim Crow South with its sharecropping, lynching, and segregation on the eve of the war. During the war, more than 2 million African Americans reported to draft boards, and nearly 370,000 were inducted into the military. Black Americans hoped that loyalty to country and sacrifice on the battlefield would reinforce claims for equal rights once the war ended. Black soldiers served valiantly in segregated black units, but were routinely mistreated by white soldiers and subjected to atrocious conditions. African American soldiers returned home to lynchings and a wave of race riots. White supremacists such as Theodore Bilbo proclaimed "This is strictly a white man's country," and others insisted that the "Negro" would have no more after the war than he had before. For African Americans, WW I was an experience of bitter betrayal.

Grand Pursuit: the Story of Economic Genius
By: Nasar, Sylvia
HB 75 .N347 2011
Review from: Booklist July 1, 2011
The historical transformation of economics from laissez-faire into an “instrument of master” thematically presides over these biographical sketches of some of those who were instrumental in the process. Showing them all wrestling in some way with the causes of poverty and prosperity, Nasar opens with Marx and his habit of supporting himself on cadged capital while he wrote Das Kapital. Indeed, the way Nasar’s subjects dealt with their own funds enlivens her presentations of what they advised businesses, banks, and governments to do with theirs. In Nasar’s time frame, about 1870-1960, the booms and busts her economists lived through affected their wallets as much as their theorizing...Nasar creatively deploys lives-and-times to show the evolution of economics from an explanation of fate into an application of policy...

The Tell-Tale Art: Poe in Modern Popular Culture
By: Jackson, Christine A.
PS 2638 .J27 2012 eBook
Review from: Choice May 1, 2012
In this eclectic study, Jackson attempts to answer a seemingly simple question: why do people continue to read Poe? Her broad critical response suggests that the answer is both unpredictable and complex. Acknowledging Poe’s well-documented literary influences, Jackson seeks to trace Poe-like narratives, motifs, and patterns of imagery in a wide variety of other genres: popular fiction, television drama, contemporary film, and video games. Jackson’s strongest and most compelling analysis focuses on Poe’s narratives of detection ("The Murders in Rue Morgue") and on his often obsessive focus on questions of identity ("William Wilson")...
Why Capitalism?
By: Meltzer, Allan H.
HB 501 .M45 2012 eBook

Review from: Publisher’s Weekly  December 19, 2011
In this polemic, Meltzer brings forth argument after argument to show how for all of its flaws, “there is no better system for providing growth and personal freedom” than capitalism. Grounded in Kant’s dictum that “most of the faults and flaws on which critics dwell are human faults,” Meltzer defends capitalism while criticizing communism and socialism, the role of government and governmental policies (both historical and current), and the idea of redistribution of income. Too-big-to-fail and fiat currency also have their place in the mix, his choice of topics being both timely and pertinent. Out of these topics, it is government’s reach, policies, regulations, and expansion that seem to have captured the author’s attention...

Eleanor Roosevelt: Transformative First Lady
By: Beasley, Maurine H.
E 807.1 .R48 B43 2012

Review from: Choice  July 1, 2011
...It has become fashionable for first ladies to adopt a pet cause and campaign to raise awareness for it. Lady Bird Johnson’s efforts to beautify interstate highways, Nancy Reagan’s “just say no” substance abuse prevention campaign and Michelle Obama’s crusade to end childhood obesity are just a few examples. This sort of social activism on the part of the East Wing can be credited largely to Eleanor Roosevelt, whom biographer Beasley justifiably calls a “transformative First Lady”. The reluctant political spouse found her political voice in her syndicated newspaper columns, monthly magazine features, and press conferences. During the depths of the Great Depression, she worked as a tireless advocate for the nation’s downtrodden and fought to open up relief programs to women. Beasley suggests that Franklin Roosevelt’s good standing with African Americans is due largely to his wife’s often-controversial stands on racial matters. Like many avid New Dealers, Eleanor lost the president’s ear when the national agenda turned to war. Beasley excels at capturing the complex, dynamic partnership the Roosevelts forged, often at a high personal cost to both...

Land of Promise: an Economic History of the United States
By: Lind, Michael
HC 103 .L438 2012

Review from: Reference & Research Book News  August 1, 2012
...Lind provides a look back at America’s economic history and its frequent jolts of change brought about by technology and changes in the political order. And, as the pace of such change increases, the author contends that new technology adoption changes industries so quickly that today’s political institutions cannot effectively govern them. The consequences, in the form of depression or the possibility of war, warrant the development of a new political order...

By: Hyde, Anne F.
F 596 .H94 2011

Review from: Choice  December 1, 2011
This innovative study examines the vast area of the Trans-Mississippi West during the first half of the 19th century. It affirms the vital importance of French, Spanish, Indian, and Métis populations throughout the sub regions even before the 1803 Louisiana Purchase and the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo delivered the West into US hands. Systems of commerce, cultural exchange, diplomacy, and familial ties connected the peoples prior to the establishment of a national identity...

The Reconstruction of Mark Twain: How a Confederate Bushwhacker Became the Lincoln of Our Literature
By: Fulton, Joe B.
PS 1342 .S58 F853 2010

Review from: Reference & Research Book News  April 1, 2011
Fulton presents this new analysis of the political evolution of the preeminent American author of the late nineteenth century. Based on several little known pieces written before and after the Civil War, the author argues that Twain, contrary to the popular narrative, was not always a defender of the Union and a friend to abolitionists, freed slaves and reconstruction but that his political views changed throughout the course of the war from initial secessionist beliefs to the liberal persuasion he is so well known for...