The Land of Promise: an Economic History of the United States  
By: Lind, Michael  
HC 103 .L438 2012  
Review from: Booklist  February 1, 2012  
Lind offers a broad examination of American economic history, citing the common argument that technological and economic innovation comes in bursts of change, followed by long periods in which the implications of the latest innovations are worked out. Over time, during a war or depression, the political order dissolves, and a new American republic is built. We learn about the inventors, entrepreneurs, financiers, and statesmen in America’s economic history as well as essential contributions from groups such as southern slaves, immigrants, and women laborers during WWII (Rosie the Riveters). The author suggests that future historians will determine that governments since the 2008 Great Recession are doing too little rather than too much as they succumb to excessive fears of deficits and national debt and excessive optimism about the self-healing powers of the market, and the post-2008 wreckage of the middle class requires a specific strategy to rebuild it...

The Calculus Diaries: How Math Can Help You Lose Weight, Win in Vegas, and Survive a Zombie Apocalypse  
By: Ouellette, Jennifer  
QA 303.2 .O94 2010  
Review from: Choice  January 1, 2011  
Ouellette is a science writer who specializes in physics topics, yet avoided calculus as a student. Here, she provides a variety of links between everyday events and the mathematics behind them. However, this is not in any respect a computational treatise. Basing her presentations on such events as driving to Las Vegas, gambling at the casinos, experiencing the Tower of Terror at Disneyland, taking on a mortgage, and losing weight, Ouellette describes the clear connections between these experiences and the underlying principles of derivatives, integrals, and probability. In many ways, the epilogue presents the most powerful point. The clear message is that many highly capable individuals do not necessarily benefit from traditional calculus teaching methods that emphasize abstraction (which the author agrees is crucial). Instead, people gain considerable insight and a stronger appreciation of the subject when connections are made in context between the abstract and the concrete, encouraging them to actually learn the calculus...

Nutrition and Feeding of Organic Cattle  
By: Blair, Robert  
SF 203 .B57 2011  
Review from: Reference & Research Book News  August 1, 2011  
Completing a trilogy that has already dealt with pigs and poultry, Blair presents information on how to feed both dairy and beef cattle so that the milk and meat produced meet the various though similar organic standards across the industrialized world. After an introduction and background, he discusses aims and principles of organic cattle production, elements of cattle nutrition, ingredients for organic diets, breeds for organic production, and feeding organic cattle...

From Cochise to Geronimo: the Chiricahua Apaches, 1874-1886  
By: Sweeney, Edwin R.  
E 99 .C86 S94 2010  
Review from: Choice  May 1, 2011  
Sweeney provides a meticulously researched account of the Chiricahua Apaches’ forced removal from their southwestern homelands in the late 19th century. Following the death of Cochise in 1874, the Chiricahua found themselves enmeshed in a convoluted web of disease and dislocation that drastically reduced their population and ultimately drove some tribal members to engage in bloody raids of reprisal. In 1886, federal authorities compelled the entire band—including members who had remained peaceful and even those who had assisted the government in tracking down the resisters--to move to a malaria-ridden reserve in Florida ...

The Ripple Effect: the Fate of Freshwater in the Twenty-first Century  
By: Prud’homme, Alex  
TD 345 .P77 2011  
Review from: Library Journal  June 15, 2011  
What does water mean to individuals, to daily life, to a society? We frequently take its availability for granted. This complacency is what provoked Prud’homme to write this book. With his acute journalist’s instincts, he investigates numerous issues surrounding water, including its quality, availability, ownership, and infrastructure in both the United States and the rest of the world.
How the States Got Their Shapes Too: the People Behind the Borderlines
By: Stein, Mark
E 180 .S744 2011

Review from: Library Journal June 15, 2011
Stein presents a plentitude of varied and compelling biographical sketches associated with the setting of our national boundaries. The personalities, both the notable (e.g., Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Webster, Ethan Allen, Charles Mason, and Jeremiah Dixon) and the more obscure (Zebulon Butler, Clara Nichols, John Meares) and their agendas are central to the book. Readers are reminded that under President James K. Polk, U.S. boundaries grew exponentially to include Texas and all lands between the Rockies and the Pacific, producing a colossal headache for Congress and a dilemma largely solved by such outsize local personalities as Sam Houston and Brigham Young. The author also treats lands we attempted to annex but lost: Canada, the remainder of Mexico, Cuba, and the persistent issue of Puerto Rico. Readers will be inspired by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton’s dogged campaign to win statehood for the District of Columbia...

Plagues in World History
By: Aberth, John
RA 649 .A24 2011 eBook

Review from: Choice June 1, 2011
Medieval historian Aberth presents interactions of humans and epidemics in case studies of six infectious diseases: plague, smallpox, tuberculosis, cholera, influenza, and AIDS. He chose these because they have known pathogens, can be fatal, and have had long histories. Not merely narrative or descriptive, his study is an attempt to demonstrate how human reactions and attitudes to these diseases have in turn shaped how they affect human communities. Going beyond an exercise in the social construction of disease, Aberth's historical focus on the interaction of disease and human response leads him to be optimistic about human abilities to adjust to and even neutralize biomedical effects...

The First World War: a Concise Global History
By: Storey, William Kelleher
D 523 .S745 2009 eBook

Review from: Reference & Research Book News February 1, 2010
In a narrative account of the 1914-18 war for college students and general readers, Storey takes a global perspective that highlights environmental and technological factors into account in order to clarify the social and political history of the war. He considers such aspects as empires and high tide and low tide, the naval arms race, the war in eastern and southern Europe 1914-15, war in the Middle East 1914-16, the big offensives of 1916, domestic politics in wartime, Wilson's plan for peace, the western front in 1918, the impacts of war, and the peace settlements...

A Question and Answer Guide to Astronomy
By: Bely, Pierre-Yves, Carol Christian and Jean-René Roy
QB 52 .B45 2010

Review from: Choice January 1, 2011
Engineer Bely and astrophysicists Christian and Roy present a wealth of astronomical information in an innovative question-and-short-answer format. The 250 questions cover a wide range of interests and sophistication, from elementary ("What is a shooting star?") through introductory astronomy course material ("How did the Moon form?") to esoteric ("What is dark energy?" and "What is cosmic inflation?"). The questions are well organized by topic area so, for example, a reader interested in amateur astronomy can skip directly to relevant questions such as "Which telescope should you choose?" or "What is a Dobsonian telescope?" The answers are concise and astronomically accurate, but avoid technical jargon or mathematical detail. The many color illustrations are aptly chosen and support the necessarily brief answers very well (at 262 pages, each question and answer occupies about one page). Naturally, some questions are more easily answered than others in this format. For example, the answer to why tides form is complete and includes several clear illustrations, whereas the question "What is a black hole?" can only skim the conceptual surface of these enigmatic objects. ...

Character and Cops: Ethics in Policing
By: Delattre, Edwin
HV 7924 .D45 2011 eBook

Review from: Reference & Research Book News November 1, 2002
Delattre implicitly promoting the "bad apple" theory of police corruption and brutality, discusses how to promote good values in individual police officers through training and discusses how those values should lead officers to act in a variety of situations...