

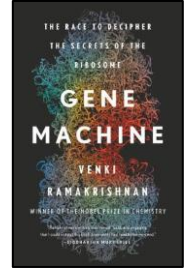
***Gene Machine: The Race to Decipher the Secrets of the Ribosome***

By: Ramakrishnan, Venki  
QH442 .R244 2018

Review from: *Publishers Weekly*

August 06, 2018

Ramakrishnan, winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work on the ribosome, shares his excitement about the scientific process in this enlightening if pedestrian memoir. As he traces his journey from India to the United States to attend graduate school at Miami University in Ohio, through various research and teaching positions in the U.S. and England, three things become clear: Ramakrishnan is an incredibly talented scientist; he is a kind and generous person; and he is a workmanlike writer. He describes the process and challenges of mapping the ribosome, the part of every cell that enables proteins to be constructed, in almost excruciating detail (while diligently giving appropriate credit to his collaborators and competitors)...

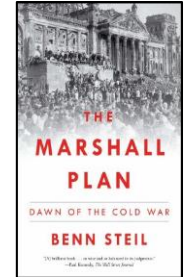
***The Marshall Plan: Dawn of the Cold War***

By: Steil, Benn  
HC240 .S6755 2018 eBook

Review from: *Booklist*

January 01, 2018

Steil, a director of international economics at the Council of Foreign Relations, begins his important examination of the Marshall Plan by providing a convincing and stark portrayal of conditions in continental Europe in 1947, two years after the end of WWII. The scale of physical destruction was immense, industrial and agricultural production remained dormant, and chances for rapid improvement seemed bleak. Local Communist parties, amply supported by the Soviets, seemed capable of seizing power in Italy, even France, as they had already done in Eastern Europe, and the American-Soviet wartime alliance was rupturing. So President Truman and Secretary of State Marshall decided to launch a massive and unprecedented foreign-aid program...

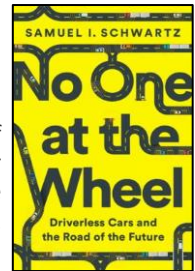
***No One at the Wheel: Driverless Cars and the Road of the Future***

By: Schwartz, Samuel I. with Karen Kelly  
TL152.8 .S35 2018

Review from: *Publishers Weekly*

September 10, 2018

The bold opening prediction that autonomous vehicles, or AVs, will be the "most disruptive technology... since the advent of the motorcar" is amply and insightfully supported by Schwartz (Street Smart: The Rise of Cities and the Fall of Cars), former New York City traffic commissioner and the New York Daily News's "Gridlock Sam" columnist. He clearly illuminates both the promise and the peril of driverless vehicles, which will affect "family and work life, business, politics, ethics, the environment, travel, health, and yes, our happiness." Before the expected expansion of the AV industry in the coming decades into a "multitrillion-dollar business-bigger than Amazon and Walmart combined as they exist today," Schwartz hopes that both policymakers and average citizens will think carefully; while AVs could make streets safer, they could also create an even more sedentary and unhealthy society...

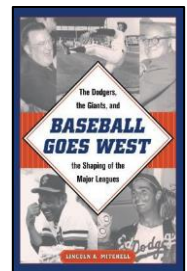
***Baseball Goes West: The Dodgers, the Giants, and the Shaping of the Major Leagues***

By: Mitchell, Lincoln A.  
GV863.A1 M55 2018 eBook

Review from: *Library Journal*

November 01, 2018

After the 1957 baseball season, owners Walter O'Malley of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Horace Stoneham of the New York Giants decided to sell their respective teams; O'Malley to Los Angeles and Stoneham to San Francisco. This shocking move caused many fans to harbor anger and resentment. Here, Mitchell (Will Big League Baseball Survive?) offers a well-researched and compelling argument that the move of those baseball teams to the West Coast is responsible for the current state of Major League Baseball. He details the histories of both teams during that era, and how the move brought more attention to the sport and even broke attendance records...

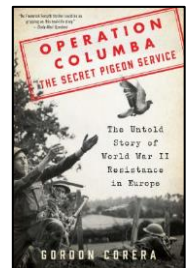
***Operation Columba – The Secret Pigeon Service: The Untold Story of World War II Resistance in Europe***

By: Corera, Gordon  
D810.S7 C635 2018

Review from: *Library Journal*

October 01, 2018

BBC News correspondent Corera (Cyberspies) crafts a remarkable tale about an aspect of World War II espionage that is probably little known to most readers. Since the days of the Romans, armies have used an old technology to gather information about the enemy: homing pigeons, or Columba livia. Between April 1941 and September 1944, British forces dropped more than 16,000 of these highly trained birds across the entire western coast of Europe. Thousands did not survive; they were either eaten or turned over to the occupying German army. But thousands more did return to England with tiny messages enclosed in metal bands around their legs. Brave individuals living under the extreme stress of German control sent information with the birds...

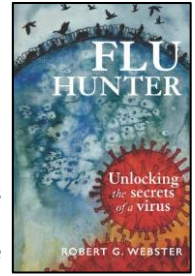


### *Flu Hunter: Unlocking the Secrets of a Virus*

By: Webster, Robert G.  
RA644.I6 W43 2018 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

Webster, a renowned virologist who devoted his career to studying influenza pandemics, has written a compelling and accessible account of the influenza virus. *Flu Hunter* guides the reader through the mechanisms of the virus and describes its unique genome reassortment, which allows it to evolve every season. The narrative takes us from the Great Barrier Reef to Canada, Delaware Bay, and China to demonstrate how scientists discovered influenza strains in birds and how strains can move from one species to another...



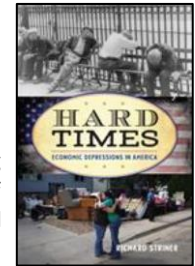
### *Hard Times: Economic Depressions in America*

By: Striner, Richard  
HB3743 .S887 2018

Review from: *Publishers Weekly*

May 21, 2018

In this concise overview of economic depressions in the United States, Striner, a professor of history at Washington College, highlights the boom-and-bust nature of economic growth, paying special attention to the role of financial panics in precipitating economic contractions. Striner begins in colonial times and covers the bank wars of the antebellum period and the tide of populist anger embodied by the "Greenbackers," who advocated increasing the country's money supply with non-gold-backed currency, before devoting three chapters to the Great Depression and its lessons. The final section sketches an intellectual history of the two major schools in economic thinking-Keynesianism and monetarism-before concluding with reflections on the Great Recession of 2008...



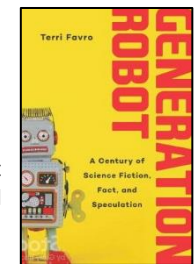
### *Generation Robot: A Century of Science Fiction, Fact, and Speculation*

By: Favro, Terri  
Q335 .F38 2018 eBook

Review from: *Booklist*

January 01, 2018

This isn't just a book about the intersection between science fiction and science fact. Rather, author Favro tells us, it's about my generation's relationship with robots, artificial intelligence, and computers (she was born in the mid-1950s) and is intended to take stock of the fantastic voyage we've been on throughout our lifetimes... What Favro is saying, in prose that is lively and even (in places) tinged with an appealing aura of childlike gosh-wow, is this: for people of her generation, growing up with robots and artificial intelligence didn't just mean growing up reading about those things in books; it meant watching the world's most brilliant minds taking other people's wild ideas and making them real. Favro makes us see and appreciate that it really has been a fantastic voyage...



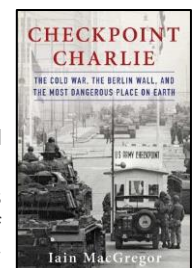
### *Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War, the Berlin Wall, and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth*

By: MacGregor, Iain  
DD881 .M23 2019

Review from: *Booklist*

November 01, 2019

For Americans growing up during the 1950s and 1960s, Berlin's Checkpoint Charlie was the all-too-familiar symbol of the Cold War confrontation between East and West, between communism and the free world. If World War III were to break out, it often seemed that this unremarkable little hut might be the flashpoint igniting universal conflagration. Briton MacGregor details the significance of this history-laden fulcrum as part of the larger story of Berlin. When the wall went up in 1961, dozens of crossing points from one sector of the city to the others were sealed, and Checkpoint Charlie figured in the tense 1961 display of brinkmanship between Soviet and American tanks. There President Kennedy delivered his famous Ich bin ein Berliner address, followed years later by President Reagan's challenge to tear down the wall. When finally the wall fell in 1989, celebrations centered at the old guardhouse, which now sits in a Berlin museum. MacGregor chronicles the tragic stories of those who died trying to escape the suffocating East German regime...



### *Immune: How Your Body Defends and Protects You*

By: Carver, Catherine A.  
QR181.7 .C37 2017 eBook

Review from: *Library Journal*

August 01, 2017

Every activity we engage in exposes us to potentially harmful invaders in the form of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. In fact, as Carver, who has written blogs for the *Lancet* and *Scientific American*, notes, "a single 10-second French kiss is thought to transfer 80 million bacteria." For the most part, our immune system protects us from this constant barrage of invaders. But how? Carver presents an in-depth exploration of the human immune system, beginning with an explanation of how neutrophils and other key cells function to thwart disease. Carver then investigates related topics, such as organ transplants (successful transplants are dependent on suppressing the immune system). Readers are left with hope for a future in which the functions of the immune system will be used to create even more effective drugs to battle illness...

