

FEATURED TITLES JANUARY 2020

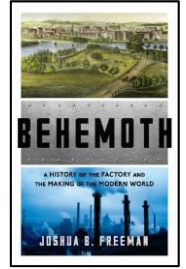
Behemoth: A History of the Factory and the Making of the Modern World

By: Freeman, Joshua B.
HD2351 .F68 2018

Review from: [Booklist](#)

January 01, 2018

Besides their unfortunate contribution to urban blight and toxic waste, factories have played an enormous role in shaping our consumption-driven society. As Queens College history professor Freeman observes in this absorbing, multi-layered history of these large manufacturing facilities, the vast majority of goods in our homes and workplaces, from microwave ovens to blue jeans, were made in factories. Beginning with mid-eighteenth-century silk and cotton mills that employed a few hundred people, Freeman follows the growth of factories to today's sprawling behemoths that mass-produce toys and sneakers with the labor of several hundred thousand. In addition to discussing the visions of business titans, ranging from Ford to Tesla, while tracing how manufacturing processes evolved from cotton gins to robotic assembly lines, the author turns the spotlight on the changing conditions of workers, with unionized teams mercifully supplanting child and slave labor...



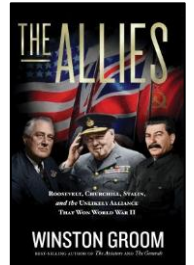
The Allies: Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and the Unlikely Alliance that Won World War II

By: Groom, Winston
D736 .G735 2018 eBook

Review from: [Library Journal](#)

November 15, 2018

Military historian (The Generals) and fiction writer Groom (Forrest Gump) presents an accessible work about the "Big Three" of World War II: Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Joseph Stalin. According to the author, who cites well-regarded secondary sources throughout this readable history, it was the brutal international conflict that led to this triumvirate rather than the compatibility of their personalities. After recounting the early lives of the leaders, he offers a traditional overview of the Allies' strategies to victory. Stalin, without ever visiting a battlefield, assigned himself the rank of field marshal while common soldiers waged war. Groom argues that time has nuanced the motivations and actions of Roosevelt and Churchill as being more practical than idealistic, while substantiating Stalin's ruthlessness. All, however, shared a sense of their own indispensability, especially when detailing the events of the 1943 Tehran Conference and 1945 Yalta Conference...



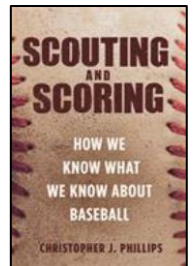
Scouting and Scoring: How We Know What We Know About Baseball

By: Phillips, Christopher J.
GV880.22 .P48 2019

Review from: [Booklist](#)

March 01, 2019

A sharp critic of the movie Moneyball, Phillips discerns a profound distortion in the film's depiction of a gap separating the tradition-bound baseball scouts (who rely on subjective judgments formed through direct observation) and the savvy statistical analysts (who trust only numerical data mined from scoresheets). As he retraces the histories of scouting and of scorecard-based analysis, he uncovers surprising convergence: ever since the nineteenth century, scouts have used statistical tools to clarify their intuitions; for just as long, scorekeepers have disguised subjective judgments as objective numbers. The interplay between baseball's scouts and its statistical analysts teaches readers a great deal specifically about the game in view, more broadly about the social process that generates any body of knowledge...



Understanding Suicide: A National Epidemic

By: Goldsmith, Connie
HV6548.U5 G66 2017 eBook

Review from: [Horn Book Guide](#)

April 13, 2017

A well-balanced combination of personal stories, expert commentary, and statistics makes this an approachable and informative exploration of the risk factors, issues, and trends associated with suicide. Chapters separately address child and teen suicide, adult suicide, and suicide among military personnel, acknowledging ethical questions each raises. Anecdotes and photographs occasionally approach melodrama, but the overall tone remains respectfully matter-of-fact...



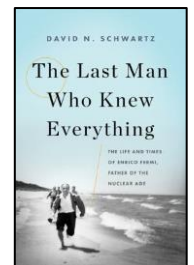
The Last Man Who Knew Everything: The Life and Times of Enrico Fermi, Father of the Nuclear Age

By: Schwartz, David N.
QC16.F46 S39 2017

Review from: [Choice](#)

July 01, 2018

All physicists, and many others, know of Enrico Fermi--an extraordinary genius who was among a handful of individuals to revolutionize particle physics in the twentieth century. He is known as a Nobel laureate who worked on the Manhattan Project, but less widely known are the details of his life: his fascination for gambling, which first drew him to probability and statistics (a field he also revolutionized with the development of Fermi-Dirac statistics); his collaboration with Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar on cosmic rays; his secret hope that he wouldn't have to share a Nobel Prize with another physicist as Schrödinger and Dirac did; his detached attitude to death from an early age..

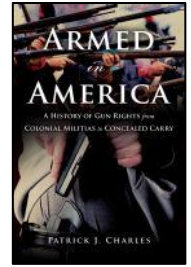


Armed in America: A History of Gun Rights from Colonial Militias to Concealed Carry

By: Charles, Patrick J.
KF3941 .C425 2018 eBook

Review from: [Booklist](#) December 01, 2017

The debate in America over gun rights versus public safety lacks a comprehensive and objective overview of the intellectual history surrounding the Second Amendment. Award-winning writer Charles has produced a strong contender for this spot. Impeccably sourced and including useful illustrations, *Armed in America* delves into the complete history of American gun rights, republican virtue, and militia ideology and offers a keen critique of the NRA's highly influential rhetoric and stance. Gun rights is a serious issue in America that requires experts to weigh in on the public debate, and Charles is a professional historian writing for the general audience...

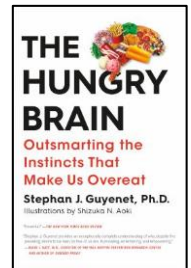


The Hungry Brain: Outsmarting the Instincts that Make Us Overeat

By: Guyenet, Stephen J.
RC552.C65 G89 2018

Review from: [Choice](#) August 01, 2017

Medical and allied health professionals have been sounding an alarm since the late 1990s for what is widely known today as the "obesity epidemic." In lay terms, the clearly written and illustrated *The Hungry Brain* introduces a robust body of evidence implicating the brain in overeating and obesity. Author Guyenet, an obesity researcher and health writer, distinguishes between the influential "nonconscious brain," which evolved over millennia of food scarcity, and the "conscious, rational brain," which is capable of understanding what constitutes a healthy diet and the harm caused by overeating. Scientific research posits an "evolutionary mismatch," which can occur when environmental conditions undergo dramatic change. In this case, environmental factors increasingly favored a diverse and abundant food supply, but adaptations to the nonconscious brain continue to lag far behind. *The Hungry Brain* is an important book, especially in terms of the tips it offers for "outsmarting" the nonconscious brain...

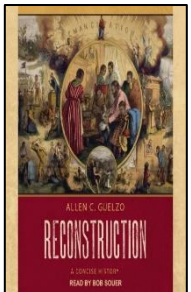


Reconstruction: A Concise History

By: Guelzo, Allen C.
E668 .G89 2018 eBook

Review from: [Kirkus Reviews](#) April 01, 2018

Reconstruction, the brainchild of Abraham Lincoln and carried out or not by successors Andrew Johnson and Ulysses S. Grant, was meant to rebuild the rebellious Southern states and reincorporate them into the Union while altering their political structure to allow for the suffrage and citizens' rights of former slaves. From 1865 to 1877, that federal project ground down before achieving its ambitions, though parts were put in place. As Guelzo (Director, Civil War Era Studies/Gettysburg Coll.; *Redeeming the Great Emancipator*, 2016, etc.) notes, there's something in Reconstruction for nearly everyone to hate but also something powerful by way of an object lesson: Much of the South's "Lost Cause" myth was born in the time, as a pointed morality tale in resisting a tyranny in which whites and not blacks were disenfranchised and the extraordinary levels of graft and corruption allowed do-gooders on all sides to point to the doomed effort with I-told-you-so smugness...

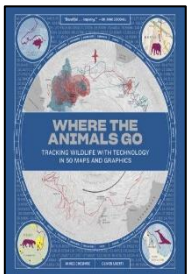


Where the Animals Go: Tracking Wildlife with Technology in 50 Maps and Graphics

By: Cheshire, James
SK282 .C44 2017

Review from: [Library Journal](#) November 15, 2017

This gorgeous data trove is refreshing in its admission that scientists are nowadays awash in the flood of information that comes from animal tracking devices and methods, and that even that is a fraction of what could be collected. Cheshire (geography, Univ. Coll. London) and Uberti (formerly senior design editor, National Geographic; both, London: The Information Capital) are relative amateurs in a field that doesn't even have a fixed name yet come across as pleasantly wonderstruck by the technology involved in, and the results of, animal tracking work. They impart earnest accounts of scientists' endeavors and some of the individual subject creatures involved. Accompanying the text are beautifully designed four-color maps and other visualizations that illustrate some of the breakthroughs that have been made using this newly found information...



The Fracking Debate: The Risks, Benefits, and Uncertainties of the Shale Revolution

By: Raimi, Daniel
TD195.G3 R34 2018 eBook

Review from: [Kirkus Reviews](#) October 15, 2017

An examination of the pros and cons and the unknowns of the shale revolution, bringing much-needed light to the hot topic of fracking. Raimi (Energy Policy/Univ. of Michigan) is a research associate at Resources for the Future, an organization that focuses on natural resource and environmental issues. In his first book, the author aims to address the most important issues of the debate surrounding hydraulic fracturing, or fracking as it is commonly called, and he draws on the expertise of state regulators, environmental lawyers, leaders in the gas and oil industry, working scientists, and academics...

