

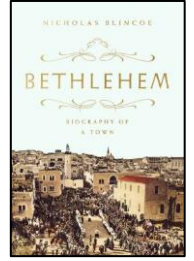
FEATURED TITLES APRIL 2021

Bethlehem: Biography of a Town

By: Blincoe, Nicholas
DS110.B4 B55 2017 eBook

Review from: *Library Journal* October 15, 2017

Novelist, playwright, and screenwriter Blincoe is an Englishman married to a native of the Palestinian city of Bethlehem. They divide their time between London and Bethlehem, so he is in a good position to introduce readers to this small town located on the West Bank. He employs apt images to help visualize a scene and historical comparisons to help understand particular events. While situating the historical Bethlehem in religious as well as Jewish and Roman history, the author also provides the flavor of the contemporary city. Similar to James Martin's *Jesus*, this is part travelog, part history, and part memoir...

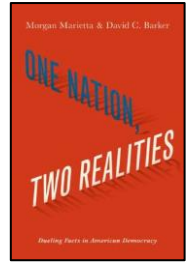


One Nation, Two Realities: Dueling Facts in American Democracy

By: Marietta, Morgan and David C. Barker
JA85.2.U6 M3745 2019 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

This rich and fascinating work examines the increasing prevalence of dueling fact perceptions among the American public. It starts from three assumptions: facts cannot be known easily, conclusions from personal knowledge often fill the gap, and perceptions of the impersonal world reduce trust. The work employs multivariate empirical analysis of several surveys of the American public. Individual value projections drive factual perceptions regarding many current public issues such as climate change, racism, and the origins of sexual orientation. Liberals and conservatives are equally likely to project their values onto their perceptions of reality...

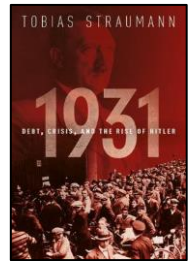


1931: Debt, Crisis, and the Rise of Hitler

By: Straumann, Tobias
HB3789 .S88 2019 eBook

Review from: *Foreign Affairs* Sep/Oct 2019

In this engaging book, Straumann, a leading Swiss economic historian, examines a critical factor in Adolf Hitler's rise to power. In the last days of the Weimar Republic, Germany faced a punishing international economic environment: a financial crisis was radiating outward from the United States, and Germany's opponents in World War I continued to demand reparations. Market pressure forced the German government to impose austerity by lowering wages, raising taxes, and slashing government spending. This triggered a wave of dissatisfaction with establishment political parties and made the half-truths in Hitler's radical critique of democratic government and the Treaty of Versailles seem plausible. That, in turn, allowed the Nazi Party, up to that point a fringe group, to win enough votes to enter government...

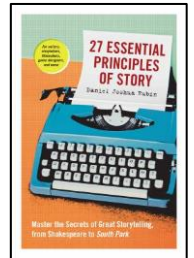


27 Essential Principles of Story: Master the Secrets of Great Storytelling from Shakespeare to South Park

By: Rubin, Daniel Joshua
PN3378 .R83 2020 eBook

Review from: *Booklist* April 30, 2020

Seasoned writing instructor Rubin has spent his entire career analyzing the recipe for a compelling narrative. This book is his guide for writers of all skill levels to better understand what makes a memorable, satisfying story. As the title suggests, the book is broken down into 27 lessons covering a myriad of topics, from plot to character to setting to theme. Each lesson includes an explanation of a concept; an example of that concept from a published master; a list of ways to execute the concept in one's own practice; and a mini-final exam...Rubin's book reads like an intimate college writing workshop. His preferences in style and tone shine through with repeated references to *Breaking Bad*, Quentin Tarantino, and Anton Chekov...

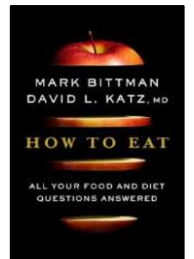


How to Eat: All Your Food and Diet Questions Answered

By: Bittman, Mark and David L. Katz
TX355 .B5835 2020 eBook

Review from: *Booklist* January 24, 2020

Along with doctor and nutritional expert Katz, *How to Cook Everything* series author Bittman has some advice for how to eat (not quite) everything. Formatted as a conversational Q & A with readers, the book shares the authors' responses in one collective voice: an approach that works well for both browsing and reading straight through, and delivers decidedly un-gimmicky advice. Acknowledging the near impossibility of highly controlled nutritional experiments on populations over generations, the authors assert that there's still a lot we do know thanks to both scientific study and good sense...



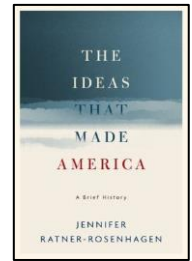
The Ideas That Made America: A Brief History

By: Ratner-Rosenhagen, Jennifer
E169.1 .R35 2019 eBook

Review from: *Publishers Weekly*

January 07, 2019

In this excellent work, Ratner-Rosenhagen, a University of Wisconsin historian, offers "a brief survey of some of the most compelling episodes and abiding preoccupations in American intellectual history," with the aim of discerning what that history is, in terms of its context as well as its central ideas. In so doing, she takes a chronological approach, but also emphasizes the movement of ideas across boundaries of time and space, as well as between elite and popular cultures...Beginning with the early modern European idea of *translatio imperii* ("translation of empire," an imagined line of succession connecting Alexander the Great to the U.S.), Ratner-Rosenhagen surveys America's intellectual history and influences upon it...

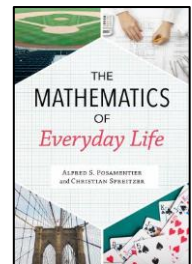


The Mathematics of Everyday Life

By: Posamentier, Alfred S. and Christian Spreitzer
QA93 .P6725 2018 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

The introduction to this general readership book states that its goal is to persuade readers "not only that mathematics is useful, but also that it can explain many things in everyday life that we tend to take for granted—and in unexpected ways." The book complements traditional K-12 mathematics, which is focused on skill-building and preparation for more advanced courses in mathematics, by examining a wide spectrum of everyday life activities that can be explained mathematically. These applications range from art and architecture to sports, games, and technology. There are also excursions into the mathematics of home construction and even how to optimally wrap a present. There are initial chapters on mathematical thinking and the history of numerals. Each chapter can be read independently. While the book is clearly focused on lower-level mathematics, inquiring members of the university community may find interest in its very readable presentation...



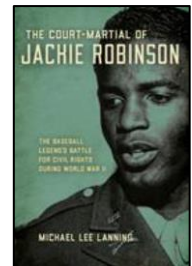
The Court-Martial of Jackie Robinson: The Baseball Legend's Battle for Civil Rights During World War II

By: Lanning, Michael Lee
GV865.R6 L38 2020 eBook

Review from: *Army Magazine*

May 01, 2020

...In *The Court-Martial of Jackie Robinson: The Baseball Legend's Battle for Civil Rights during World War II*, historian Michael Lee Lanning follows the life of Jackie Robinson from his childhood, through his time in the Army that ended with a court-martial, and eventually his Hall of Fame-worthy baseball career. The author argues that while Robinson's two years in the Army is only a footnote in his life story, his service and subsequent court-martial played a significant role in Robinson making the transition from second lieutenant to professional baseball player. The book is a short biography, coming in at only 148 pages; however, the author includes over 100 additional pages of historical perspectives to help frame the time period in which Robinson lived, a transcript of the court-martial, and sworn statements taken from witnesses at the time of Robinson's arrest. The biographical chapters are only a few pages each, breaking the book into easily digestible chunks...

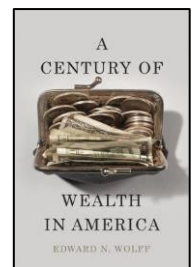


A Century of Wealth in America

By: Wolff, Edward N.
HC110.W4 W6469 2017 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

This tome by Wolff, the leading scholar on wealth and wealth inequality in the US, is a timely historical exploration of developments in household wealth over the last century. Wealth, for the lay reader, is the water in the pool, while income is the flow of water entering the pool. Wealth tends to be more concentrated than income within and across generations, mainly because wealth, say, a piece of land, is easier to bequeath to the future than, say, income from being a carpenter. Wolff plumbs the landscape of such issues, teasing out many interesting details about the personal wealth distribution, the demographic composition of the rich, the asset holdings of the rich versus the poor, wealth-poor yet high income people, the effects of bequests, the importance of marriage, and so on...



The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln and the Struggle for American Freedom

By: Brands, H.W.
E451 .B795 2020 eBook

Review from: *Booklist*

September 25, 2020

In this dual biography, historian Brands (*Dreams of El Dorado*, 2019) explores how two radically different men contributed to the abolition of slavery in the U.S. Both John Brown and Abraham Lincoln had stepmothers, but that was about the extent of their similarities. From early on, Brown felt a calling, a sense of urgency, to free the nation's enslaved peoples from their bondage. He believed education was key, but his convictions demanded more immediate action. In contrast, Lincoln was the calculating politician, nevertheless determined to realize the assertions of equality proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence...

