

FEATURED TITLES

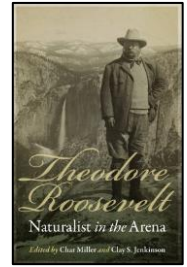
MARCH 2021

Theodore Roosevelt, Naturalist in the Arena

Edited By: Miller, Char and Clay S. Jenkinson
E757 .T388 2020 eBook

Review from: *Publishers Weekly* January 27, 2020

In this revealing and sometimes critical view of the 26th president and his passion for the natural world, scholars Miller and Jenkinson assemble a thought-provoking work of environmental scholarship. Through essays by naturalists and historians and excerpted writings from Theodore Roosevelt's contemporaries, including John Muir, and Roosevelt himself, the book explores the many facets of his conservationism...

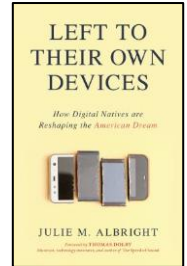


Left to Their Own Devices: How Digital Natives Are Reshaping the American Dream

By: Albright, Julie M.
HQ799.2.M352 U63 2019 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

Albright (Univ. of Southern California) argues that "untethered" is the key concept to understand how youth live with technology. Disconnected from traditional modes of social inclusion, including marriage, religion, and permanent employment, they no longer pursue the same life goals as previous generations, suggesting that they are reshaping the American dream. Instead, highly connected via technology, youth are forming new values that include flexible lifestyles, immediate gratification, and social awareness, as Albright argues. Marriage, permanent jobs, religious affiliations, and other traditionally important values no longer matter as much, disrupting old social norms and even changing the world's economy...

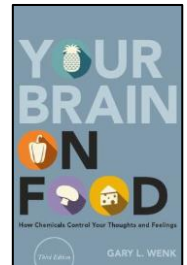


Your Brain on Food: How Chemicals Control Your Thoughts and Feelings

By: Wenk, Gary Lee
RM315 .W46 2019 eBook

Review from: *Choice* August 01, 2019

Wenk (Ohio State Univ.) has written a book that is both accessible to readers with limited knowledge of the relevant science and also highly informative. The text is divided into 10 chapters dealing with various aspects of how food affects our brain functions. Starting with normal biological functions such as supplying energy and sustaining life, Wenk moves on to addiction, depression, and sleep. This logical, broad subject organization allows readers to easily find the topics they are most interested in...Despite being written by an academic, the writing is clear and concise, and as such it should not be a deterrent for general readers...

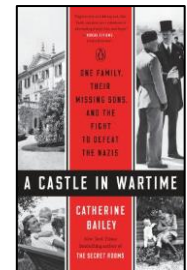


A Castle in Wartime: One Family, Their Missing Sons, and the Fight to Defeat the Nazis

By: Bailey, Catherine
DD256.3 .B266 2020 eBook

Review from: *Booklist* October 01, 2019

Life on a spectacular estate nestled between the Alps and Venice seems idyllic. And so it was for Fey von Hassell, until the coming of WWII. Her father, Ulrich, was Germany's ambassador to Italy, but, like many German aristocrats, he heartily disapproved of Hitler. Von Hassell married a titled Italian, Detalmo Pirzio-Biroli, antipathetic to the fascist regime of Mussolini. All this put von Hassell and her two young sons in mortal danger as the Allies invaded Europe. Her father was hanged for his connection to the unsuccessful bomb attack on the führer, and her husband joined the Italian Resistance in Rome. She herself was arrested, and her sons were sent to a Tyrolean orphanage. Bailey's deep research and her amazing craft at reproducing in vivid detail the stories of von Hassell and the people she encounters as she is first imprisoned and then shipped through the Nazi concentration-camp system make for chilling prose...

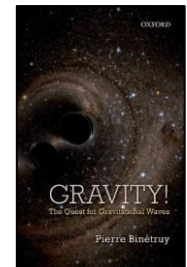


Gravity!: The Quest for Gravitational Waves

By: Binetruy, Pierre
QC178 .B56 2018 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

This slim volume contains quite a lot of physics. Binetruy (Paris Diderot Univ., France) begins with a brief history of classical gravity before merging it with an introduction to general relativity. This enables readers to start to understand key features of modern cosmology, such as the expanding universe, the role of the Doppler effect, and the big bang. Much of the text is concerned with the currently understood contents of the universe. Readers are introduced to the forces of nature, the particles associated with those forces, and special characteristics of gravity (e.g., black holes and gravity waves). The somewhat extended discussion of dark matter and dark energy supplies what is needed to complete scientists' present explanation of why the universe is flat and has its special geometry. The heart of the book is the exceptionally clear treatment of gravitational waves-including the history, theory, and experimentation that led to their detection....



Isolationism: A History of America's Efforts to Shield Itself from the World

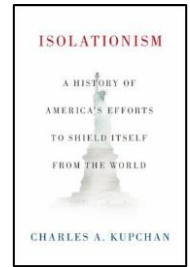
By: Kupchan, Charles

E183.7 .K86 2020 eBook

Review from: *Publishers Weekly*

August 17, 2020

Kupchan (The End of the American Era), a professor of international relations at Georgetown University, offers an erudite and evenhanded study of the isolationist impulse in American foreign policy. Beginning with President George Washington's 1796 farewell address advising the nation to steer clear of foreign entanglements, the idea of maintaining American independence served the country well during its economic ascent, according to Kupchan. He links "isolationist logic" to the notion of American exceptionalism and explains how the subjugation of Native Americans and the seizure of lands from Mexico in the 19th century was seen not as expansionism, but as the fulfillment of America's "messianic mission." Despite U.S. involvement in WWI, isolationism only fell out of favor after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Kupchan writes, and the U.S. has since overextended itself in foreign wars and alliances, sowing discord at home and abroad...



The Panic of 1819: The First Great Depression

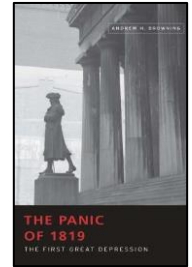
By: Browning, Andrew H.

HB3717 1819 .B76 2019 eBook

Review from: *Journal of Southern History*

February 01, 2020

Ten score and zero years ago, a financial panic precipitated a decrease in per capita economic output as well as a decrease in the overall price level that lasted several years. Ostensibly comparable to the output and price declines of the 1930s, the "First Great Depression," as historian Andrew H. Browning terms the Panic of 1819 and its aftermath, was certainly the worst peacetime downturn in the American economy since the real estate bust of the early 1760s sparked the imperial crisis...Browning stresses the importance of his subject, placing the Panic of 1819 in the room during all the momentous congressional debates and U.S. Supreme Court decisions between 1819 and the Andrew Jackson administration...Browning seriously engages with the important scholarship on early U.S. economic development produced by economist historians over the last thirty years....



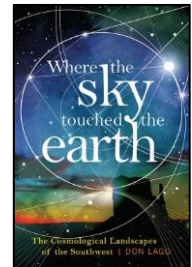
Where the Sky Touched the Earth: The Cosmological Landscapes of the Southwest

By: Lago, Don

QH76.5.S695 L34 2017 eBook

Review from: *Choice*

This is an unusual book in the distinctive genre of popular science. The author typically begins each chapter with a narrative of the southwestern United States landscape or a description of Native American culture. The narrative then slowly segues into an account of a theme in modern astronomy, which the author uses to enlighten the reader about scientific thought...



Character Still Counts

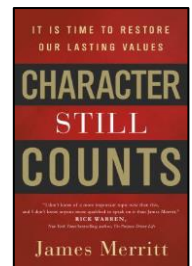
By: Merritt, James

BJ1521 .M56 2019 eBook

Review from: *Publishers Weekly*

December 16, 2019

Merritt (*52 Weeks with Jesus*), pastor and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, encourages readers to develop character traits worth emulating in this striking examination. Defining character as "what you know is true on the inside," Merritt explores different qualities of character through biblical role models who either taught or exemplified each quality, among them integrity, perseverance, generosity, and respect. Each chapter also references historical and current events, touching on famous and lesser-known heroes, both scandalous and admirable...



The Hidden History of Guns and the Second Amendment

By: Hartmann, Thom

KF3941 .H375 2019 eBook

Review from: *Booklist*

May 01, 2019

The statistics are staggering: more than 80,000 injuries from firearms annually, nearly 20 children shot every day in the U.S., 34,000 gun-related deaths, 16-million new weapons sold every year. How did America get to be a nation fixated on firearms? Why is the Second Amendment so sacrosanct, and can it be properly interpreted by the courts and the court of public opinion? In this precise primer on firearms practices and policies, progressive talk-show host Hartmann examines the history of routine gun usage and extreme gun violence and assesses the influence of gun ownership on contemporary political, economic, and social norms. He demonstrates how the Founding Fathers were confounded by the complexities of both personal and national defense and how the precise wording of the Second Amendment was written and revised to reflect that conundrum. Hartmann also illustrates how, in more contemporary times, institutionalized racism, corporate complicity, legal skulduggery, and marketing wizardry create unassailable protections for an increasingly virulent gun culture. A brief but powerful analysis of a searing national crisis.

