

HISTORY and CURRENT AFFAIRS

Armed Madhouse by Greg Palast. .New York, NY: Plume, a Division of the Penguin Group, 2007. Palast's diligent detective work is worth digging for under the author's veil of moral outrage. The book further exposes fraud and finagling in the Bush White House, to the sad and probably everlasting detriment of democracy.

Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline by Lisa Margonelli. .New York, NY: Doubleday Broadway Publishing Group, 2007. If you drive a car, you need to read this book so you know what you are doing.

Big Coal by Jeff Goodell. .New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006. An important and timely examination of one of the most problematic energy sources on the planet.

9/11 and American Empire: Intellectuals Speak Out edited by David Ray Griffin and Peter Dale Scott. Northampton, MA: Olive Branch Press, 2007. Suspend judgement and read this. Reputable scholars and observers dispute the conventional wisdom about the 9/11 attack.

Iraq Confidential by Scott Ritter. .New York, NY: Nation Books, 2005. A troublesome expose of government deceit and manipulation leading to the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Written by a former marine who was one of the top UN weapons inspectors.

Blue Frontier: Dispatches from America's Ocean Wilderness by David Helvarg. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books, 2006. A panoramic chronicle of America's coastal and marine environments and the challenges they face today.

The Making of a Cybertariat: Virtual Work in a Real World by Ursula Huws. London, England: The Merlin Press, Ltd., 2003. An insightful set of essays about the transformation of work and technology in contemporary capitalism.

The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of Oil, Climate Change etc. by James Howard Kunstler. New York, NY: Grove Press, 2005. A controversial eye-opening look at the unprecedented challenges we face in the years ahead.

The Upside of Down: Catastrophe, Creativity, and the Renewal of Civilization by Thomas Homer-Dixon. Toronto, Ontario: Knopf Canada, 2006. Thoughtful analysis of the current global situation and humanity's collective ability to respond appropriately.

PowerDown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World by Richard Heinberg. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2004. A review of some likely outcomes of the converging of energy shortage, increasing economic competition, population increase, environmental degradation, and political ineptitude in the 21st Century.

Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq by Thomas E. Ricks. New York, NY: The Penguin Press, 2006. Disaster that happened when multiple errors were made at the same time.

Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back by Amy Goodman and David Goodman. New York, NY: Hyperion Books, 2006. Useful exposé of how the current administration with help of corporate media has manipulated and fabricated the news.

Articles of Impeachment Against George W. Bush by the Center for Constitutional Rights. Hoboken, NJ: Melville House Publishing, 2006. Proposed articles based on pre-emptive damage done by the current occupant of the White House to the US Constitution.

The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright. New York, NY: Alfred A Knopf, 2006. Good read, serious history of the movement.

The Collapse of Globalism: and the Reinvention of the World by John Raulston Saul. Toronto, Canada: Penguin Canada, 2005. Thoughtful but rambling analysis of globalism and where it is headed.

Failed States: The Abuse of Power and the Assault on Democracy by Noam Chomsky. New York, NY: Metropolitan Books, 2006. Meticulous analysis of the US' pretense of being the world's arbiter of democracy.

Reefer Madness: Sex, Drugs, and Cheap Labor in the American Black Market by Eric Schlosser. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin, 2004. Informative investigative reporting by the author of *Fast Food America*.

Confessions of an Economic Hitman by John Perkins. San Francisco, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc, 2004. An interesting read about the fuel that fires the engines of mindless materialism.

Five Past Midnight in Bhopal: the Epic Story of the World's Deadliest Industrial Disaster by Dominique Lapierre and Javier Moro. New York, NY: Warner Books, Inc, 2002. A terrifying account of this manmade 1982 disaster, its toll continuing through the present.

The Assassins' Gate: America in Iraq by George Packer. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. A sobering description of life in Iraq amid the miscalculations and hubris of US leaders, a context for the future.

War and the American Presidency by Arthur M Schlesinger, Jr. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005. Interesting historical information and analysis, partially drowned in a sea of ranting.

The Fight is For Democracy edited by George Packer. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2003. A

collection of essays focusing on the condition of democracy within the USA.

Gag Rule: On the Suppression of Dissent and the Stifling of Democracy by Lewis Lapham. New York: Penguin Books, 2004. A poignant plea in the tradition of Thomas Paine.

Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis by Jimmy Carter. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2005. The former president, born-again Christian, and Nobel Peace Prize winner speaks out.

In the Name of Democracy: American War Crimes in Iraq and Beyond edited by Jeremy Brecher et al. A controversial, chilling and carefully researched examination of national and individual responsibility for actions unthinkable to most Americans.

The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict Between Iran and America by Kenneth Pollack. New York, Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2005. Good combination of history and policy analysis describing the complexities of the US-Iran relationship.

Nuclear Terrorism - the Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe by Graham Allison. An urgent call to action against nuclear proliferation offering a blueprint for eliminating potential nuclear attacks.

Public Enemies - America's Greatest Crime Wave 1933-1934 by Brian Burrough. A ludicrously entertaining thriller, meticulously researched, about the FBI's chase of John Dillinger, Bonnie and Clyde, et al.

Putin's Russia by Anna Politkovskaya. A fearless journalist's analysis of Putin and his iron grip on Russian life.

The Ingenuity Gap by Thomas Homer-Dixon. A must read analysis of humanity's problems and ability to solve them. Outstanding.

Global Crises, Global Solutions edited by Bjorn Lomborg. A dense collection of arguments and data for prioritizing our response to the world's problems.

Resource Wars - the New Landscape of Global Conflict by Michael Klare. An examination of the effects of resource scarcity on conflict among societies and nations.

The Making of a Cybertariat - Virtual Work in the Real World by Ursula Huws. A penetrating set of essays about life in contemporary capitalist societies.

Current History: A Journal of Contemporary World Affairs. <http://www.currenthistory.com>
Founded in 1914, this magazine (no advertising) gathers together articles by leading experts in each of the 9 single-topic issues per year.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown. A classic, meticulously documented account of the systematic destruction of the American Indian during the late 19th century.

Taliban by Ahmed Rashid. A informative political and historical account of the movement's rise to power in Afghanistan.

Bull! A History of the Boom and Bust, 1982 - 2004. by Maggie Mahar. Well written and chilling history of investing cycles and the death of rational behavior in the stock market.

Infectious Greed: How Deceit and Risk Corrupted the Financial Markets. by Frank Partnoy. Compelling and disturbing account of how innovations in trading instruments, failure to regulate, and skewed corporate incentives undermine the global economy.

Global Trends 2005. by Michael Mazar. Published in 1999, this enormously insightful book lays out the forces shaping our world and its future. Another must read.

The End of Oil. by Paul Roberts. Thought provoking and balanced analysis of the economics and politics of our carbon-based economy. Another must read.

Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda. by Roméo Dallaire. Riveting and heart wrenching account of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda. A must read.

A History of the Indians of the United States. by Angie Debo. In depth historical survey of relations between the European intruders and native Americans from discovery to the present.

Conspiracy of Fools. by Kurt Eichenwald. Riveting history of the rise and fall of Enron and the players involved in it.

The Clinton Riddle: Perspectives on the 42nd President edited by three academics at the University of Arkansas. Inter-disciplinary assessment of the 8 years of the Clinton administration, delving into character and policy.

The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron by Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind. Highly readable history of Enron until its bankruptcy filing.

The Informant by Kurt Eichenwald. Fabulously well documented story of corporate greed and corruption at the Archer Daniels Midland company, and the investigations thereof.

Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation by Joseph J. Ellis. An exploration of how a group of gifted and flawed individuals met the challenges of their time and set the course for the USA.

Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden. by Steve Coll. Meticulously researched and exceedingly well written, without editorializing. Outstandingly informative in explaining how we got into our current mess.

World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability by Amy Chua. Essential reading with valuable insights for understanding current global pressures.

The Radical Middle by Mark Satin. A slew of exciting and fresh ideas about how we can solve our collective problems by working cooperatively rather than competitively.

Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books by Azar Nafishi. An eloquent description of the transformative power of fiction.

The Cultural Creatives: How 50 Million People are Changing the World. by Paul H. Ray. Drawing on 13 years of survey research, this text explains how views of what's important are changing and a new "middle" is emerging between right and left.

The Rise of the Vulcans: The History of Bush's War Cabinet. by James Mann. Excellent tracing of careers and ideological development of team who orchestrated Bush's first term foreign policy forays.

House of Bush, House of Saud: The Secret Relationship Between the World's Two Most Powerful Dynasties by Craig Unger. An incisive study of how the seeds of terrorism evolved into sturdy plants over the past 30 years.

The Saudis: Inside the Desert Kingdom by Sandra Mackey. A description of life in Saudi Arabia by a journalist (female) who lived there between 1978 and 1982.

The Price of Loyalty: George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O'Neill by Ron Suskind. Explains how, in the Bush White House, policy decisions were arrived at not by careful weighing of an issue's complexity but by a cabal of ideologues operating outside the public eye.

American Dynasty: Aristocracy, Hypocrisy, and the Politics of Deceit in the House of Bush by Kevin Phillips. A conservative writer is appalled by how the concentration of money and power strikes at the heart of democracy.

A Short History of Asia : Stone Age to 2000 AD by Colin Mason. A well-written and comprehensive account of civilizations which advanced far ahead of Europe, and where they are now.

The 2030 Spike: Countdown to Global Catastrophe by Colin Mason. An Australian's

description of how 6 fundamental drivers are converging in a way that can tear our world apart, with suggestions of how we can collectively avoid catastrophe.

Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire by Chalmers Johnson. Thoughtful and scary description of the US' covert activity abroad and its unintended and frightful consequences.

High Noon: 20 Global Problems and 20 Years to Solve Them by J.F. Rischard. Innovative thinking about how humanity might solve its urgent global problems—if it had the collective will.

Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism by Sharon Beder. An Australian study of corporate propaganda designed to discredit the environmental movement.

Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate by George Lakoff. Suggestions by a leading linguist for progressives as an antidote to right wing spin.

Project Censored 2005: Media Democracy in Action – the Top 25 Censored Stories edited by Peter Phillips. 25 stories that didn't make it into the papers in 2003 and 2004.

Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terror by Anonymous. A scathing and compelling attack on the US' counter terrorism efforts by an insider.

Understanding Power, the Indispensable Chomsky. Edited by Peter Mitchell and John Schoeffel. In a series of wide-ranging discussions, Chomsky radically reinterprets the events of the past three decades.

Plan B--Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble by Lester Brown. An urgent call to action for all of us.

A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide by Samantha Power. A gripping piece of contemporary journalism.

The Reckoning--Iraq and the Legacy of Saddam Hussein by Sandra McKey. Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld should have read this book before they invaded Iraq.

The Balkans: Nationalism, War, and the Great Powers, 1804-1999 by Misha Glenny. A comprehensive but unfortunately not very well written history of a tortured region.

A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924 by Orlando Figes. Excellent and readable exposition about a major historical event.

War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning by Chris Hedges. A powerful book that should be read

by all.

A Concise History of the World by J.M. Roberts. A readable storehouse of facts portraying the ultimate big picture.

The Search for the Panchen Lama by Isabel Hilton. Fascinating book about Tibetan culture and relationship with China.

A History of Civilizations by Fernand Braudel. A lengthy, meaty and often indigestible survey of contemporary civilations.

The Fatal Shore by Robert Hughes. Fascinating history of the convict transportations to Australia

From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean by Eric Williams. Dense and informative, though not an easy read.

Stupid White Men by Michael Moore. Read it, even if painful and sometimes annoying.

Vietnam, a History by Stanley Karnow. Excellent history of Vietnam, including the US war.

Miracle in Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention, May-September, 1787 by Catherine Drinker Bowen. Well done and instructive.

The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War by Robert T. Kaplan. Thought provoking series of essays.

The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich by William Shirer. Outstanding history of the rise and fall of Hitler.

Eyewitness to Power by David Gergen. Interesting and easy read from a Republican point of view.

Power and Terror by Noam Chomsky. Excellent information and insight, sometimes hard to read.

The Tunnels of CuChi by Tom Mangold and John Pencyate. Well written and fascinating book about the Vietnam war, viewed from both sides.

Nuremberg, Infamy on Trial by Joseph E Persico. Very interesting description of the wrap-up to World War II.

The Best Democracy Money Can Buy by Greg Palast. Well worth reading if you can you get

past the author's anger and cynicism.

Alternatives to Economic Globalization: A Better World Is Possible. Report of the International Forum on Globalization. A Must read.

Closed Chambers -- the Rise, Fall and Future of the Modern Supreme Court by Edward Lazarus. Very interesting and sad commentary on the politicization and polarization of this once august body.

The Puzzle Palace -- Inside the National Security Agency by James Bamford. Essential reading, if sometimes tough going, current through 1983.

Profit Over People--Neoliberalism and Global Order by Noam Chomsky. Informative and insightful, sometimes hard to read.

Eco-Economy: Building an Economy for the Earth by Lester R. Brown A vision of an environmentally sustainable economy along with a roadmap on how to get from here to there.

When Corporations Rule the World by David C. Korten (2nd Edition) A searing indictment of an unjust international economic order.

The New Rulers of the World by John Pilger. A collection of recent essays on power, its secrets and illusions, that illuminates the nature of modern imperialism.

United Nations; The First Fifty Years by Stanley Meisler. The story of the UN, its promise and problems during its first half century.

Arab and Jew; Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land by David Shipler. A monumental work that delves into the origins of the prejudices that have been intensified by war, terrorism, and nationalism.

Crimes of War; What the Public Should Know edited by Roy Gutman and David Reiff. A timely A-Z guide that takes a fresh look at nine recent wars using the framework of international humanitarian law.