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Napoleon’s Egypt: Invading the Middle East
Juan Cole

This fascinating history paints a multi-faceted portrait of the daily travails of the soldiers in Napoleon’s army, including how they imagined Egypt, how their expectations differed from what they found, and how they grappled with military challenges in a foreign land. Examining the young Napoleon’s reasons for leading the expedition against Egypt in 1798, Cole delves into the psychology of the military titan and his entourage. Cole ultimately reveals how Napoleon’s invasion, the first modern attempt to invade the Arab world, invented and crystallized the rhetoric of liberal imperialism. Orig. $22.99 paperback, sale priced at $8.98.

Dr. Mutter’s Marvels: A True Tale of Intrigue and Innovation at the Dawn of Modern Medicine
Cristin O’Keefe Aptowicz

Mütter was an audacious medical innovator, the “Barnum of the surgery room,” who pioneered the use of ether as anesthesia, the sterilization of surgical tools, and a compassion-based vision for helping the severely deformed, which clashed spectacularly with the sentiments of his time. Brilliant and outspoken, Mütter was flamboyant in every aspect of his life, wearing pink silk suits to perform surgery, attaching an umlaut to his last name for added flair, and amassing an immense collection of medical oddities that would later become Philadelphia’s renowned Mütter Museum. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.
In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that had fallen into obscurity. Here is the incredible story of how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist and historian from the legendary city of Timbuktu, later became one of the world's greatest and most brazen smugglers. Joshua Hammer tells the story of Haidara's heroic and ultimately successful effort to outwit Al Qaeda and preserve Mali's—and the world's—literary patrimony, a victory of art and literature over extremism. Orig. $26.00 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

In this luminous portrait of Paris, historian Alistair Horne gives us the history, culture, disasters, and triumphs of one of the world's truly great cities. He charts the city's highs and lows: from the rise of Philippe Auguste through the reigns of Henry IV and Louis XIV (who abandoned Paris for Versailles); Napoleon’s rise and fall; Baron Haussmann’s rebuilding of Paris (at the cost of much of the medieval city); the Belle Époque and the Great War that brought it to an end; the Nazi Occupation, the Liberation, and the postwar period dominated by de Gaulle. With a keen eye for the telling anecdote and pivotal moment, he portrays an array of vivid incidents to show us how Paris endures through each age, is altered but always emerges more brilliant and beautiful than ever. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

As a young man, Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery in Baltimore and, fortunate to have been taught to read by his slave owner mistress, would go on to become one of the major literary figures of his time. His very existence gave the lie to slave owners: with dignity and great intelligence he bore witness to the brutality of slavery. Initially mentored by William Lloyd Garrison, he spoke widely, using his own story to condemn slavery. By the Civil War, hes had become the most famed and widely travelled orator in the nation and never forsook either the Republican party or the cause of black civil and political rights. This new work has drawn from previously unseen private collections, as well as recently discovered issues of Douglass’s newspapers, to tell the full story of Douglass’s unique and inspiring life. Orig. $22 paperback, sale priced at $8.98.

Born in 1861 in New Mexico’s Acoma Pueblo, Edward Proctor Hunt lived a tribal life almost unchanged for centuries. After attending government schools he broke with his people’s ancient codes to become a shopkeeper and controversial broker between Indian and white worlds. As a Wild West Show Indian he travelled in Europe with his family and saw his sons become silversmiths, painters, and consultants on Indian Lore. Nabokov narrates the fascinating story of Hunt’s life within a multicultural and historical context. Chronicling Pueblo Indian life and Anglo/Indian relations over 150 years, he explores how this entrepreneurial family capitalized on the nation’s passion for Indian culture, negotiating the move from tradition to modernity. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

In the 1980s, a young adventurer and collector for a government library, Abdel Kader Haidara, journeyed across the Sahara Desert and along the Niger River tracking down and salvaging tens of thousands of ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts that had fallen into obscurity. Here is the incredible story of how Haidara, a mild-mannered archivist and historian from the legendary city of Timbuktu, later became one of the world’s greatest and most brazen smugglers. Joshua Hammer tells the story of Haidara’s heroic and ultimately successful effort to outwit Al Qaeda and preserve Mali’s—and the world’s—literary patrimony, a victory of art and literature over extremism. Orig. $26.00 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
This is a history of four spirited sisters and their glamorous mother, Elizabeth Stuart, granddaughter of Mary, Queen of Scots. Upon her father’s ascension to the throne of England, Elizabeth Stuart was suddenly thrust from the poverty of unruly Scotland into the fairytale existence of a princess. When she was married to a German count far below her rank, it was with the understanding that her father would help her husband achieve the kingship of Bohemia. The terrible betrayal of this commitment would ruin “the Winter Queen,” as Elizabeth would forever be known, imperil the lives of those she loved, and launch a war that would last for 30 years. Orig. $18.99 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.
For Dr. Guy Leschziner’s patients, there is no rest for the weary in mind and body. Insomnia, narcolepsy, night terrors, sleep apnea, and sleepwalking are just a sampling of conditions afflicting sufferers who cannot sleep, and their experiences in trying to get to sleep are the stuff of nightmares. Dr. Leschziner illustrates the neuroscience behind our sleeping minds, revealing the many biological and psychological factors necessary in getting the rest that will not only maintain our physical and mental health but also improve our cognitive abilities and overall happiness. Orig. $28.99 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

A squared plus b squared equals c squared: it sounds simple, yet this familiar expression is a gateway into the riotous garden of mathematics. The Pythagorean theorem has even more applications than proofs: Ancient Egyptians used it for surveying property lines, and today astronomers call on it to measure the distance between stars. Its generalizations are stunning: the theorem works even with shapes on the sides that aren’t squares, and not just in two dimensions, but any number you like, up to infinity. And perhaps its most intriguing feature of all, this tidy expression opened the door to the world of irrational numbers, an untidy discovery that deeply troubled Pythagoras’s disciples. Orig. $25 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

In 1900, a young Pablo Picasso journeyed from Barcelona to Paris and endured poverty and neglect for several years before emerging as the leader of a bohemian band of painters, sculptors, and poets. Decades later Picasso would look back on these years as the happiest of his long life. During this early period, Picasso produced the masterpiece known as Les Demoiselles d’Avignon. Inspired by Cézanne and the inventions of African and tribal sculpture, Picasso created a work that captured the disorienting experience of modernity itself. The painting proved so shocking that even his friends assumed he’d gone mad, but over the months and years its signal importance became undeniable, ultimately laying the foundation for the most innovative century in the history of art. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.

The influence of ancient Greece and Rome can be seen in every aspect of contemporary Western lives, from calendars to democracy to the very languages we speak. Yet the Greeks and Romans did not emerge fully formed; their culture grew from an active engagement with a deeper past, drawing on ancient myths and figures to shape vibrant civilizations. In this impeccably researched and immensely readable history we see the ancient world unfold before us, with its grand cast of characters stretching from the great Greeks of myth to the world-shaping Caesars, and gain insight into an epoch that is both incredibly foreign and surprisingly familiar. Orig. $21 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.
Looking at Mindfulness: Twenty-Five Paintings to Change the Way You Live

Psychiatrist and meditation practitioner Christophe André guides you through the art of mindfulness by surveying classic and esoteric paintings, from Rembrandt to Hopper to Magritte, offering a lucid commentary on the inner workings of each, and describing the dynamic on the canvas as well as the connection between what we see and what we feel. Moving beyond the art on the page, André teaches us what it means to consider our surroundings, our daily interactions and obligations, and their effect on our inner well-being and mental clarity. The paintings are a visual and tangible first step to understanding mindfulness and the benefits of living in the moment. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.

Under the Knife: A History of Surgery in 28 Remarkable Operations

Surgeon Arnold Van de Laar uses his own experience and expertise to tell the witty history of the past, present, and future of surgery. From the story of the desperate man from seventeenth-century Amsterdam who grimly cut a stone out of his own bladder to Bob Marley’s deadly toe, this history offers fascinating and unforgettable insights into medicine and history via the operating theatre. How does the human body respond to being attacked by a knife, a bacterium, a cancer cell, or a bullet? And, as medical advances continuously push the boundaries of what medicine can cure, what are the limits of surgery? Orig. $26.99 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

Venice: A New History

La Serenissima. Its breathtaking architecture, art, and opera ensure that Venice remains a perennially popular destination for tourists and armchair travelers alike. Yet most of the available books about this magical city are either facile travel guides or fusty academic tomes. Renowned historian Thomas F. Madden draws on new research to explore the city’s many astonishing achievements and to set 1,500 years of Venetian history and the endless Venetian-led Crusades in the context of the ever-shifting Eurasian world. Filled with compelling insights and famous figures, this is a monumental work that’s as opulent and entertaining as the great city itself. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.

Summer of Blood: England’s First Revolution

From the author of The Plantagenets, this is a vivid, blood-soaked account of one of the most famous rebellions in history, the first mass uprising by the people of England against their feudal masters. In 1381, ravaged by poverty and oppressed by taxes, England’s villagers rose up and demanded that their voices be heard. A ragtag army, led by the mysterious Wat Tyler and the visionary preacher John Ball, was pitted against the 14-year-old Richard II and the most powerful lords and knights in his realm, who risked their property and their lives in a desperate battle to save the English crown. Dan Jones brings this incendiary moment vividly to life and captures the idealism and brutality of that fateful summer. Orig. $17 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.
Afghanistan: A Short History of Its People and Politics

After a succession of early dynasties and the emergence of an Afghan empire during the 18th century, the 19th and early 20th century saw a fierce power struggle between Russia and Britain for supremacy in Afghanistan that was ended by a precarious independence movement in 1919. After a period of Soviet domination ended in the 1980’s, a civil war tore apart the nation’s last remnants of religious, ethnic, and political unity. It was into this climate that the Taliban was born. Martin Ewans carefully weighs the lessons of history to provide a frank look at Afghanistan’s prospects and the international resonances of the nation’s immense task of total political and economic reconstruction. Orig. $15.99 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South

This is a people’s history of the modern South, told through its food. Beginning with the pivotal role cooks and waiters played in the civil rights movement, noted authority John T. Edge of the Southern Foodways Alliance narrates the South’s fitful journey from a hive of racism to a hotbed of American immigration. He shows why working-class Southern food has become a vital driver of contemporary American cuisine and tells how Southern food has become a shared culinary language for the nation. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Devices and Desires: Bess of Hardwick and the Building of Elizabethan England

Bess of Hardwick rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most respected and feared Countesses in Elizabethan England—an entrepreneur who built a family fortune, created glorious houses, and was deeply involved in matters of the court, including the custody of Mary Queen of Scots. Hubbard draws on more than 230 of Bess’s letters, including correspondence with the Queen and her councilors, fond (and furious) missives between her husbands and children, and notes sharing titillating court gossip, creating a rich, compelling portrait of a true feminist icon centuries ahead of her time. Orig. $29.99 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

Pagan Light: Dreams of Freedom and Beauty in Capri

Isolated and arresting beautiful, the island of Capri has been a refuge for renegade artists and writers fleeing the strictures of conventional society from the time of Augustus, who bought the island in 29 BC after defeating Antony and Cleopatra, to the early twentieth century, when the poet and novelist Jacques d’Adelsward-Fersen was in exile there after being charged with corrupting minors, to the 1960s, when Truman Capote spent time on the island. We also meet the Marquis de Sade, Goethe, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Compton Mackenzie, Rilke, Lenin, and Gorky, among other astonishingly vivid characters—queer, criminal, sick, marginalized, and simply crazy—who had nowhere else to go. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

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The Human Instinct: How We Evolved to Have Reason, Consciousness, and Free Will

A radical, optimistic exploration of how humans evolved to develop reason, consciousness, and free will. Lately, the most passionate advocates of the theory of evolution tell us that our most intimate actions, thoughts, and values are mere byproducts of thousands of generations of mindless adaptation. Brown University biologist Kenneth R. Miller rejects the idea that our biological heritage means that human thought, action, and imagination are pre-determined, describing instead the trajectory that ultimately gave us reason, consciousness and free will. Orig. $26 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Food Fights & Culture Wars: A Secret History of Taste

Through war and plague, revolution and migration, people have always had to eat. In this eclectic book of food history, antiquarian cookbook expert Tom Nealon makes the case that the course of civilization has secretly been defined by two forces: hunger and taste. In the course of this sumptuous feast of a book, he takes on such overlooked themes as carp and the Crusades, brown sauce and Byron, and chilies and cannibalism, the French Revolution and table settings, lemonade and the Black Plague. Beautifully illustrated with material from the British Library, this book explores the mysteries at the intersection of food and society. Orig. $19.95 paperback, sale priced at $8.98.

Rome: A History in Seven Sackings

Novelist and historian Matthew Kneale, a longtime resident of Rome, tells the story of the Eternal City—from the early Roman Republic through the Renaissance and the Reformation to Mussolini and the German occupation in World War II—through pivotal moments that defined its history. He paints portraits of the city before seven assaults, describing what it looked like, felt like, smelled like and how Romans, both rich and poor, lived their everyday lives. With drama and humor, he brings to life the city of Augustus, of Michelangelo and Bernini, of Garibaldi and Mussolini, and of popes both saintly and very worldly. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

The Rape of Europa: The Intriguing History of Titian’s Masterpiece

By telling the history of this painting from its origin to the present day, Charles FitzRoy charts the life of a work of art. The painting itself is an extremely erotic description of the famous classical myth based on the account in Ovid’s Metamorphoses. It was commissioned as a wedding present for Charles I and his French queen, was later copied by Rubens and influenced Velázquez. It eventually made its way to Duke of Orleans, brother of Louis XV, the greatest art collector of his day. At this stage the story becomes one of skullduggery, and how rich Americans managed to purchase works of art from British collections and how Bernard Berenson made a huge fortune out of authenticating paintings for rich patrons, always purely for profit. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.
It was the Greeks who first asked and discussed in a rational way two fundamental questions that never cease to concern thinking human beings: what is the nature of the universe, and what can I make of my brief time in it? Their answers, developed between the 8th century BC and the 4th century AD, are still relevant to the modern reader and traveler. The author associates each philosopher and his ideas with a particular tourist destination, and a gazetteer describes the sites and notes the people and ideas connected with them. Orig. $17 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

An engaging “biography” of the ancient Hindu manuscript that became The Kamasutra, one of the world’s best-known yet least-understood texts, its title instantly familiar but its contents widely misconstrued as a how-to guide of acrobatic sexual techniques. The book began its life in 3rd-century India as something quite different: a vision of a life of urbane sophistication, with advice on matters from friendship to household decoration. Celebrated, then neglected, The Kamasutra was very nearly lost until an outrageous adventurer brought it to the West and unleashed it on Victorian society as a slap at its prudishness. Orig. $27.50 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

This compelling biography of Arthur Weigall, the British Egyptologist and Chief Inspector of Antiquities, chronicles his involvement with the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb under Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon. Weigall came into conflict with Carter and Carnarvon over newspaper reporting of the famous find. His remarks to the press during that time led to the infamous story of the “Curse of the Pharaohs.” This biography brings to life the atmosphere, intrigue, and intense competition in Egypt during the first quarter of the 20th century. Orig. $19 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

In this landmark volume, one of the world’s most renowned Egyptologists tells the epic story of this great civilization, from its birth as the first nation-state to its absorption into the Roman Empire. Toby Wilkinson takes us inside a tribal society with a pre-monetary economy and decadent, divine kings who ruled with all-too-recognizable human emotions. Here are the legendary leaders: Akhenaten, the “heretic king,” who with his wife Nefertiti brought about a revolution with a bold new religion; Tutankhamun, whose dazzling tomb would remain hidden for three millennia; and 11 pharaohs called Ramesses, the last of whom presided over the militarism, lawlessness, and corruption that caused a vast dynastic decline. This is a riveting and revelatory work. Orig. $24 paperback, sale priced at $9.98.
For 300 years, from just before 800 AD until well into the 11th century, the Vikings affected almost every region accessible to their ships and left traces that are still part of life today. Far from being just ‘wild, barbaric, axe-wielding pirates’, the Vikings created complex social institutions, oversaw the coming of Christianity to Scandinavia and made a major impact on European history through trade, travel, and far-flung consolidation. This encyclopedic study brings together the latest research on Viking art, burial customs, class divisions, jewelry, kingship, poetry, and family life. The result is a rich and compelling picture of an extraordinary civilization. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Each region of India is a land in its own right, with diverse languages, customs, and cultural traditions. Yet shared social systems, firmly grounded in Hindu religious beliefs, provide the cohesive force that unites over a billion people of different backgrounds. This dictionary provides an unrivaled insight to all aspects of Hindu life with illustrated entries that elucidate the history of Hinduism, its mythology, art, architecture, religion, laws, and folklore. Maps and entries on the major cities and places of pilgrimage in India, as well as a concise chronology and a list of principal dynasties, provide a clear overview of the geography, history, languages, and vibrant religious and cultural traditions of Hinduism. Originally $19.95 paperback, sale priced at $9.98.

Sixteen years after René Descartes’ death in Stockholm in 1650, a pious French ambassador exhumed the remains of the controversial philosopher to transport them back to Paris. Thus began a 350-year saga that saw Descartes’ bones traverse a continent, passing between kings, philosophers, poets, and painters. But as Russell Shorto shows in this deeply engaging book, Descartes’ bones also played a role in some of the most momentous episodes in history, which are also part of the philosopher’s metaphorical remains: the birth of science, the rise of democracy, and the earliest debates between reason and faith. This is a flesh-and-blood story about the battle between religion and rationalism that rages to this day. Orig. $16.95 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

This extravagantly illustrated small edition examines a wide range of significant objects, beginning in around 4000 BCE from all spheres of Ancient Egyptian life. The compelling and informative text discusses some of the best-known masterpieces of Egyptian art and contextualizes them in relation to lesser-known works, providing a captivating overview of 5,000 years of civilization on the banks of the Nile. But it is also a fascinating history of collecting and methods of interpretation. How have the fashions of certain periods and collectors affected the ways in which Ancient Egypt is represented in museums and presented to the public, and what can these objects tell us about the people who made and commissioned them? Orig. $17.95 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.
Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble

Pompeii, the Valley of the Kings, the Parthenon—the names of these legendary archaeological sites conjure up romance and mystery. Archaeological research tantalizes us with possibilities. (Are modern humans really part Neandertal?) This absorbing and entertaining look at the lives of contemporary archaeologists digs and drinks alongside them, chasing them through the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and even Machu Picchu, and excavates their lives, sharing stories about slaves and Ice Age hunters, ordinary soldiers of the American Revolution, Chinese warrior women, sunken fleets, mummies. Orig. $25.99 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Genghis Khan and the Quest for God: How the World’s Greatest Conqueror Gave Us Religious Freedom

Celebrated anthropologist Jack Weatherford has spent eighteen years exploring areas of Mongolia closed until the fall of the Soviet Union and researching The Secret History of the Mongols, an astonishing document written in code that was only recently discovered. Here, he shows that Genghis Khan conquered by arms and bravery, but he ruled by commerce and religion. He created the world’s greatest trading network and drastically lowered taxes for merchants, but he knew that if his empire was going to last, he would need something stronger and more binding than trade. He needed religion. And so, unlike the Christian, Taoist and Muslim conquerors who came before him, he gave his subjects freedom of religion. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Last Wild Men of Borneo: A True Story of Death and Treasure

Two modern adventurers sought a treasure possessed by the legendary “Wild Men of Borneo.” One found riches. The other vanished forever into an endless jungle. Lured by these mysteries, New York Times-bestselling author Carl Hoffman journeyed to find the truth, discovering that nothing is as it seems in the world’s last Eden, where the lines between sinner and saint blur into one. Orig. $17.99 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Bookworm: A Memoir of Childhood Reading

Imported from England! When Lucy Mangan was little, stories were everything. They opened up different worlds and cast new light on this one. She was whisked away to Narnia, Kirrin Island, and Wonderland. She ventured down rabbit holes and wobbled burrows into midnight gardens and chocolate factories. In Bookworm, Lucy brings the favorite characters of a British childhood back to life and disinters a few forgotten treasures, poignantly, wittily using them to tell her own story, that of a born and unrepentant bookworm. Orig. $17.95, paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

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Hypnerotomachia Poliphili: The Strife of Love in a Dream

One of the most famous books in the world, the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili, read by every Renaissance intellectual and referred to in studies of art and culture ever since, was first published in English in this edition. It is a strange, pagan, pedantic, erotic, allegorical, mythological romance, relating in highly stylized Italian the quest of Poliphilo for his beloved Polia. The author (a friar of dubious reputation) was obsessed by architecture, landscape, and costume—and sexually obsessed—and its 174 woodcuts are a primary source for Renaissance ideas on both buildings and gardens. Translator Joscelyn Godwin succeeds in reproducing all its wayward charm and arcane learning in language accessible to the modern reader. Orig. $19.95 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.

By 1979, we knew nearly everything we understand today about climate change, including how to stop it. Over the next decade, a handful of scientists, politicians, and strategists risked their careers in a desperate, escalating campaign to convince the world to act before it was too late. This groundbreaking history reveals the birth of climate denialism and the genesis of the fossil fuel industry’s coordinated effort to thwart climate policy through misinformation propaganda and political influence. Like John Hersey’s Hiroshima and Jonathan Schell’s The Fate of the Earth, Losing Earth is the rarest of achievements: a riveting work of dramatic history that articulates a moral framework for understanding how we got here, and how we must go forward. Orig. $16 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Sometimes history is cruel: tyrants ride high, old notions of justice vanish, and people feel they have nowhere to turn for relief. This is the story of what happened to the Chinese world in the 13th century when Mongol conquerors mangled China and left the Chinese social order in tatters. This work from a pioneering and preeminent translator of Zen, presents Zen lessons from four teachers in four successive generations whose public lives spanned a turbulent period in Chinese history, reflecting the state of the art of Zen teaching in their time. Orig. $16.95 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Carolyn Purnell persuasively shows that, while our bodies may not change dramatically, the way we think about the senses and put them to use has been rather different over the ages. The Sensational Past focuses on the ways in which small, peculiar, and seemingly unimportant facts open up new ways of thinking about the past. You will explore the sensory worlds of the Enlightenment, learning how people in the past used their senses, understood their bodies, and experienced the rapidly shifting world around them. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Losing Earth: A Recent History

The Sensational Past: How the Enlightenment Changed the Way We Use Our Senses

Zen Under the Gun: Four Zen Masters from Turbulent Times

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Find out how to get thousands to idolize you as the strongest, meanest fighter in the Roman Empire. Win fame and fortune in one of Rome’s most glamorous locations, in the presence of the emperor himself. Who wouldn’t kill for a job like that? This book includes the latest research with modern reconstructions, regarding: why you should become a gladiator; how to join the most gloriously lethal profession on earth; who will try to kill you, and with what; which arena of the empire is the right one for you; when and how often you will fight; and what happens before, during, and after a duel. Orig. $24.95 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Erin Thompson, America’s only professor of art crime, explores the dark history of looting, smuggling, and forgery, showing how the collecting of antiquities has been a way of creating identity, but informed by a desire to annex the past while also providing an illicit thrill. Thompson’s accounts of history’s infamous collectors—from the Roman Emperor Tiberius, who stole a life-sized nude Greek statue for his bedroom, to Queen Christina of Sweden, who habitually pilfered small antiquities from her fellow aristocrats, to Sir William Hamilton, who forced his mistress to enact poses from his collection of Greek vases—are as mesmerizing as they are revealing. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

The thirteen contributors to this volume, all eminent specialists, approach Islamic history through the peoples who make up the faith. The central area and period of Islamic greatness—the Middle East and North Africa from the advent of Islam in the seventh century to the aftermath of the Mongol conquests in the thirteenth—produced a culture of extraordinary depth, variety and richness. Art, social life, trade, mysticism, literature, music, science and warfare all developed uniquely Islamic forms; all are fully considered and lavishly illustrated. Orig. $29.95 paperback, sale priced at $12.98.

Despite its reputation for religious intolerance, the Middle East has long sheltered many distinctive and strange faiths: one regards the Greek prophets as incarnations of God, another reveres Lucifer in the form of a peacock, and yet another believes that their followers are reincarnated beings who have existed in various forms for thousands of years. These religions represent the last vestiges of the magnificent civilizations in ancient history. Former diplomat Gerard Russell ventures to the distant, nearly impassable regions where these mysterious religions still cling to survival. He lives alongside the Mandaeans and Ezidis of Iraq, the Zoroastrians of Iran, the Copts of Egypt, and others. He learns their histories, participates in their rituals, and comes to understand the threats to their communities. Orig. $17.99 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.
**Ten Prayers That Changed the World:** Extraordinary Stories of Faith That Shaped the Course of History

From time immemorial, prayer has provided comfort in our darkest hours, stirred us to action beyond what we thought possible, and shown us the way through seemingly insurmountable challenges. In this engaging tour of world history, author and historian Jean-Pierre Isbouts takes us on an inspiring tour of 10 prayers that played a pivotal role in world events, from the divine inspiration of Joan of Arc to Martin Luther’s powerful hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God”; from Abraham’s poignant plea to save his son to George Washington’s prayerful words to the newly formed American states; from Constantine the Great’s prayer before battle to Gandhi’s deeply moving “prayer of peace.” Orig. $24 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

**Harem: The World Behind the Veil**

Drawing on a host of firsthand accounts and memoirs, as well as her own family history, the author explores life in the world’s harems, from the Middle Ages to the early twentieth century, focusing on the fabled Seraglio of Topkapi Palace as a paradigm for them all. This book shows how the Eastern institution of the harem invaded the European imagination—in the form of decoration, costume, and art—and how Western ideas, in turn, finally eroded a system that had seemed eternal. This revised and updated anniversary edition of Harem includes a new introduction by the author, revisiting her subject in light of recent events in Turkey and the world. Orig. $29.95 paperback, sale priced at $9.98.

**Comics: A Global History, 1968 to the Present**

This is a richly illustrated narrative (260 expertly chosen examples of comic art) of extraordinary scope. Examples from all over the world include everything from Crumb and Kirby to RAW; from Metal Hurlant to Marjane Satrapi to nouvelle manga; from both the American mainstream and underground to the evolving and influential British scene. The authors are the first to write a broadly comprehensive history of this most accessible, democratic, and occasionally subversive modern popular art form, displaying an intimate familiarity with schools and styles, writers, artists, and companies across countries and generations. In showing us both post-apocalyptic dreamscapes and portraits of the everyday. Orig. $39.95 paperback, sale priced at $14.98.

**Sharp: The Women Who Made an Art of Having an Opinion**

Dorothy Parker, Rebecca West, Hannah Arendt, Mary McCarthy, Susan Sontag, Pauline Kael, Joan Didion, Nora Ephron, Renata Adler, and Janet Malcolm—their lives intertwine in this sparkling book, arguing as fervently with each other as they did with the sexist attitudes of men. These women are united by what Dean terms “sharpness,” the ability to cut to the quick with the precision of thought and wit, a claim of power through writing rather than position. This is a vibrant and rich depiction of the intellectual beau monde of 20th-century New York, mixing biography, literary criticism, and cultural history, a testament to how anyone not in a position of power can claim the mantle of writer and, perhaps, help change the world. Orig. $26 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.
**Built by Hand: Vernacular Buildings**

This study is a celebration of what is so uniquely diverse and yet similar in the buildings of different cultures around the world. Beginning with the most basic ways that human beings have sought shelter—beneath the trees and stars, under the protection of a rock cliff or cave—this book traces the transformation of materials such as earth, stone, wood or bamboo into shelters that are both stationary and moveable. Co-authors Bill and Athena Steen have focused on educating others about simple and sustainable living, and regularly teach workshops on straw bale building and artistry with clay and lime. Orig. $50 hardcover, **sale priced at $24.98.**

**Rendez-vous with Art**

The former director of the Metropolitan Museum de Montebello and art critic Gayford talked in art galleries or churches or their own homes, and this book is structured around their journeys. De Montebello shares the sense of excitement recorded by Goethe in his autobiography—"akin to the emotion experienced on entering a House of God"—but also reflects on why these secular temples might nevertheless be the "worst possible places to look at art." Both of them convey the delights and significance of some of the most intense creations of human beings throughout our long history. Color illustrations throughout. Orig. $35 hardcover, **sale priced at $9.98.**

**Sea Power: The History and Geopolitics of the World’s Oceans**

From the time of the Greeks and the Persians clashing in the Mediterranean, sea power has determined world power. To an extent that is often underappreciated, it still does. Admiral Stavridis takes us with him on a tour of the world’s oceans from the admiral’s chair, showing us how the geography of the oceans has shaped the destiny of nations, and how naval power has in a real sense made the world we live in today. We gain fresh insight into great naval engagements, from the battles of Salamis and Lepanto through to Trafalgar, the Battle of the Atlantic, and submarine conflicts of the Cold War. It is also a keen-eyed reckoning with the likely sites of our next major naval conflicts, particularly the Arctic Ocean, Eastern Mediterranean, and the South China Sea. Orig. $28 hardcover, **sale priced at $9.98.**

**The Golden Thread: The Story of Writing**

From the simple representative shapes used to record in ancient Mesopotamia, to the sophisticated typographical resources available to 21st-century graphic designers, the story of writing is the story of human civilization itself. Calligraphy expert Ewan Clayton traces the history of an invention, which—ever since our ancestors made the transition from a nomadic to an agrarian way of life in the 8th century BC—has been the method of codification and dissemination of ideas in every field of human endeavor. He explores the social and cultural impact of, among other stages, the invention of the alphabet; the replacement of papyrus scrolls with the codex in the late Roman period; the perfecting of printing using moveable type; the industrialization of printing during the Industrial Revolution; and of the digital switchover at the century’s close. Orig. $17.95 paperback, **sale priced at $7.98.**
Harvard literature professor Puchner reveals how stories have created the world of today. We meet Murasaki, a lady from 11th-century Japan who wrote the first novel, The Tale of Genji, and follow Miguel de Cervantes as he battles pirates, both seafaring and literary. We watch Goethe discover world literature in Sicily and follow the influence of The Communist Manifesto. He covers Troy, Pergamum, and China, speaks with Nobel laureates Derek Walcott in the Caribbean and Orhan Pamuk in Istanbul, and sings of the oral epic Sunjata in West Africa, while also discussing writing technologies, the printing press, and the import and functions of the book itself. Orig. $32 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

Travel through time to witness some of the most extraordinary events in world history with this unusual and entertaining guide that includes fascinating cultural details from each period, including what and where to eat, what to wear, how to act like a local, and most importantly, how to stay alive. Filled with engaging details, this handbook gives you unprecedented access to a wide range of milestones, including celebrations & exhibitions; cultural & sporting spectacles; epic journeys and voyages; and extreme events. Illustrated with color and black-and-white paintings and photographs, as well as detailed maps and illustrations. Orig. $16 paperback, sale priced at $4.98.

At the turn of the twentieth century, as British rule of India tightened, and bounties were placed on tigers’ heads, a tigress was shot in the mouth by a poacher in Nepal. Injured but alive, it began stalking humans and became the single deadliest animal in recorded history, moving like a phantom through the lush foothills of the Himalayas. As the death toll reached an astonishing 436 lives, a young local hunter was dispatched to stop the now legendary man-eater before it struck again. Orig. $26.99 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Time Among the Maya: Travels in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico

The Maya created one of the world's most brilliant civilizations, and despite collapse in the ninth century, Spanish invasion in the sixteenth, and civil war in the twentieth, eight million people in Guatemala, Belize, and southern Mexico speak Mayan languages and maintain their resilient culture to this day. Traveling through Central America's jungles and mountains, the author explores the ancient roots of the Maya, their recent troubles, and prospects for survival. Embracing history, anthropology, politics, and literature, this is a riveting journey through past magnificence and the study of an enduring civilization. Orig. $16 softcover, sale priced at $6.98.

The Devil's Cloth: A History of Stripes

This brief but lively history chronicles this misunderstood pattern across world cultures. Anti-stripe sentiment raged throughout the Middle Ages, becoming the de rigueur fashion for prostitutes, hangmen, lepers, court jesters, and disloyal Round Table knights. Later, Jews, heretics, adulterous wives, madmen, convicts, and servants were marked by stripes. Briefly rescued from ignominy by the Renaissance, the stripe enjoyed a resurgence in 1775, where its status as a symbol of freedom paved the way for a European comeback. The author moves from the biblical figures of Cain, Delilah, and Judas to the bathing suits, pinstripe suits, and pajamas of today. Whether its subject is horizontal or vertical, stylish or subversive, this book will appeal to readers of every stripe. Paperback, originally $12, sale priced at $4.98.

Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist

Marcus Rediker chronicles the transatlantic life and times of a Quaker dwarf who demanded the total, unconditional emancipation of all enslaved Africans around the world. Mocked and scorned by his contemporaries, Lay was unflinching in his opposition to slavery, often performing colorful guerrilla theater to shame slave masters, insisting that human bondage violated the fundamental principles of Christianity. He worked as a shepherd, glove maker, sailor, and bookseller and penned a fiery book against bondage, which Benjamin Franklin published in 1738. Always in motion and confrontational, Lay maintained a steadfast opposition to slavery, embodying democracy and equality. Hardcover, originally $26.95, sale priced at $7.98.

She Has Her Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversion, and Potential of Heredity

Charles Darwin played a part in turning heredity into a scientific question, and yet he failed to answer it. Heredity continues within our own bodies, as a single cell gives rise to trillions of cells that make them up. We say we inherit genes, but we inherit things that matter as much or more to our lives, from microbes to technologies to make life more comfortable. We need a new definition of what heredity is and bestselling author Carl Zimmer delivers it, weaving historical and current scientific research, his own experience with his two daughters, and original reporting. Hardcover, originally $30, sale priced at $8.98.
Rushdie’s novel is enchanting, very funny, and terrifying. It is narrated by our descendants 1,001 years hence, looking back on “The War of the Worlds” that began with “the time of the strangenesses”: a baby is born with the unnerving ability to detect corruption in people; the ghosts of two long-dead philosophers begin arguing once more; and storms pummel New York so hard that a crack appears in the universe, letting in the destructive djinns of myth. Only one being, a djinn princess who has learned to love humankind, resolves to help us in a battle waged for 1,001 nights... that is, two years, eight months, and twenty-eight nights. Orig. $28 hardcover, **sale priced at $6.98.**

Stamps tell a story, and Chris West’s history tells the rich, layered, and breathtaking history of England through 36 of its fascinating, often beautiful, and sometimes eccentric postage stamps. West shows that stamps have always mirrored the events, attitudes, and styles of their time. Through them, one can glimpse the whole epic tale of an empire unfolding. From the famous Penny Black, printed soon after Queen Victoria’s coronation, to the “Victory!” stamp of 1946, anticipating the struggle of postwar reconstruction, stamps become a window into the larger sweep of history. Orig. $35 hardcover, **sale priced at $6.98.**

This National Book Award winner journeys through the lives of hard-hit Americans including: Dean Price, the son of tobacco farmers, who becomes an evangelist for a new economy in the rural South; Tammy Thomas, a factory worker in the Rust Belt trying to survive the collapse of her city; and Peter Thiel, a Silicon Valley billionaire who questions the Internet’s significance and arrives at a radical vision of the future. Packer interweaves these intimate stories with biographical sketches of the era’s leading public figures and collages made from newspaper headlines, advertising slogans, and song lyrics that capture the flow of events and their undercurrents. Orig. $27 hardcover, **sale priced at $7.98.**

In this book, archaeologist and bible scholar Robert Cargill Cline examines some of the most puzzling mysteries from the Hebrew Bible, and, in the process, narrates the history of ancient Israel. Combining rigorous research with an accessible style, lays out each mystery, evaluates all available evidence—from established fact to arguable assumption to far-fetched leap of faith—and proposes an explanation that reconciles Scripture, science, and history. Cline places Biblical stories in solid archaeological and historical context, debunks more than a few lunatic-fringe fantasies, and reserves judgment on ideas that cannot yet be confirmed or denied. Orig. $26 hardcover, **sale priced at $6.98.**
The Sultan and the Queen: The Untold Story of Elizabeth and Islam

This is the riveting and largely unknown story of the traders and adventurers who first went East to seek their fortunes, revealing how Elizabeth's fruitful alignment with the Islamic world, financed by England's first joint stock companies, paved the way for its transformation into a global commercial empire. When Elizabeth Tudor was crowned Queen, England was just a tiny and rebellious Protestant island on the fringes of Europe, broke and under siege. The young queen sought to build new alliances with the great powers of the Muslim world: she sent an emissary to the Shah of Iran, wooed the king of Morocco, and entered into an unprecedented alliance with the Ottoman Sultan Murad III. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

The Face of Water: A Translator on Beauty and Meaning in the Bible

Author Sarah Ruden brilliantly and elegantly explains and celebrates the Bible's writings. Singling out the most famous passages, such as the Genesis creation story, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Beatitudes, Ruden reexamines and retranslates from the Hebrew and Greek what has been obscured and misunderstood over time. Ruden, a Quaker, speaks plainly and sets out here to make Bible translations less a thing of paper, glue, and ink to more of a living and loving text. This is as much a book about poetry, music, drama, raw humor, and passion as it is about the idealism of the Bible. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

The Spirit of Tibetan Buddhism

In this Yale Sacred Literature Series title, a leading writer and researcher on Tibet offers an accessible and authoritative introduction to Tibetan Buddhism by examining its key texts, from its origins in the eighth century to teachings practiced across the world today. In addition to demonstrating its richness and historical importance, van Schaik's fresh translations and introductions to each text provide a comprehensive overview of Tibetan Buddhism's most popular teachings and concepts, including rebirth, compassion, mindfulness, tantric deities, and the graduated path, and discusses how each is put into practice. The book unfolds chronologically, conveying a sense of this thousand-year-old tradition's progress and evolution. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Paul: The Pagans’ Apostle

Paul heatedly maintained that he lived and worked in history’s closing hours. His letters propel his readers into two ancient worlds: one Jewish, one pagan. The first was incandescent with apocalyptic hopes, expecting God through his messiah to fulfill ancient promises of redemption to Israel. The second teemed with ancient actors, human and divine: angry superhuman forces, jealous demons, and hostile cosmic gods. Both worlds are Paul’s, and his convictions about the first shaped his actions in the second. Only by situating Paul within this charged social context of gods and humans, pagans and Jews, cities, synagogues, and competing Christ-following assemblies can we begin to understand his mission and message. Orig. $35 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.
When Gertrude Bell’s uncle was appointed Minister in Tehran in 1891, she declared that the great ambition of her life was to visit Persia. Several months later, she did. And so began a lifetime of travel and a lifelong enchantment with what she saw as the romance of the East, which evolved into a deep understanding of its cultures and people. This vivid and impressionistic series of sketches, her first foray into writing, is an evocative meditation that moves between Persia’s heroic past and its long decline; the public face of Tehran and the otherworldly ‘secret, mysterious life of the East’, the lives of its women, its lush, enclosed gardens; from the bustling cities to the lonely wastelands of Khorasan. Orig. $17 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

This wildly controversial book argues that Homer’s tales do not describe adventures in the Mediterranean, but adapt Celtic myths chronicling an Atlantic coastal war, off the Iberian Peninsula around 1200 BC, between the pro-goddess Celtic culture in what is now Portugal and the patriarchal culture of sea-faring “Atlanteans.” The invasion of the Atlantic sea peoples brought destruction to the entire region, stretching from Western Europe’s Atlantic border to Egypt, Syria, and Turkey. The goddess became demonized, as seen in myths such as Pandora’s Box, in which woman was seen as the source of evil, not the origin of life, and Homer’s tale of the Trojan war, triggered by the abduction of a woman. Orig. $18.95 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

A fun, interactive book that introduces works of art from museums around the world across different eras and styles, including an ancient Egyptian papyrus, a Byzantine mosaic, Renaissance frescoes, a medieval European tapestry, Arabic and Aztec manuscripts, Japanese woodblock prints, and impressionist, surrealist, and cubist paintings. Full-color reproductions of 23 famous works of art provide a colorful hunting ground for over 200 close-up details. Lift-the-flap keys at the end of the book provide intriguing facts about the works and the artists who created them. Young readers will learn how artistic expression has developed through the centuries and discover how looking at familiar images up close reveals new insights into the world of art. Orig. $29.95 hardcover, sale priced at $12.98.

Famed science writer David Quammen explains how recent discoveries in molecular biology can change our understanding of evolution and life’s history, with powerful implications for human health and even our own human nature. He chronicles these discoveries through the lives of the researchers who made them, including: Carl Woese, the most important little-known biologist of the twentieth century; Lynn Margulis, the notorious maverick whose wild ideas about “mosaic” creatures proved to be true; and Tsutomu Wantanabe, who discovered that the scourge of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a direct result of horizontal gene transfer, bringing the deep study of genome histories to bear on a global crisis in public health. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

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**Richard III: England’s Most Controversial King**

Richard III is one of English history’s best known and least understood monarchs. Immortalized by Shakespeare as a hunchbacked murderer, the discovery in 2012 of his skeleton in a Leicester parking lot re-ignited debate over the true character of England’s most controversial king. Born into an age of brutality, was he really a power-crazed monster who killed his nephews, or the victim of the first political smear campaign conducted by the Tudors? Author Chris Skidmore draws on new manuscript evidence to reassess Richard’s life and times, examining in intense detail Richard’s inner nature and his complex relations with those around him to unravel the mystery of the last English monarch to die on the battlefield.

Orig. $29.99 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

**The Mind Is a Collection: Case Studies in Eighteenth-Century Thought**

John Locke described the mind as a cabinet; Robert Hooke called it a repository; Joseph Addison imagined a drawer of medals. Each of these philosophers was an avid collector and curator of books, coins, and cultural artifacts. This work approaches seventeenth- and eighteenth-century metaphors of the mind from a material point of view. Each of the book’s six chapters is organized as a series of linked exhibits that speak to a single aspect of Enlightenment philosophies of mind, looking at ways that abstract theories referred to cognitive ecologies—systems crafted to enable certain kinds of thinking, such as libraries, workshops, notebooks, collections, and gardens.

Orig. $50 hardcover, sale priced at $14.98.

**Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World’s Fastest Clipper Ship**

Back when the United States was young, fortunes were made and lost importing luxury goods from China. It was a secretive, glamorous, often brutal business—one where teas and silks and porcelain were purchased with profits from the opium trade. But the journey by sea to New York from Canton could take six agonizing months, and the goods that arrived first to market fetched the highest price. This book tells the story of a handful of cutthroat competitors who raced to build the fastest, finest, most profitable clipper ships to carry their precious cargo to American shores, men whose business interests took them from the cloistered confines of China’s expatriate communities to the lavish sitting rooms of New York’s Hudson Valley estates.

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**After Tamerlane: The Global History of Empire Since 1405**

Tamerlane, the Ottomans, the Mughals, the Manchus, the British, the Japanese, the Nazis, and the Soviets: All built empires meant to last forever; all were to fail. But, as John Darwin shows in this magisterial book, their empire-building created the world we know today. From the death of Tamerlane in 1405, to America’s rise to world hyperpower, to the resurgence of China and India as global economic powers, this book is a grand historical narrative that offers a new perspective on the past, present, and future of empires.

Orig. $34.95 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

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