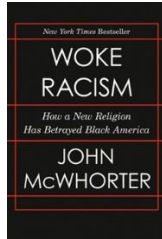


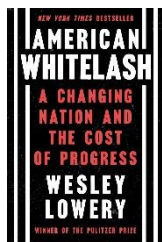
Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America by John McWhorter; 2021; 224 pg

Has the anti-racism of Ibram X Kendi and Robin DiAngelo gone too far? Black liberal John McWhorter thinks so, arguing that certain strains of anti-racism and its adherents have effectively created a religion, and a zealous one, that stifles nuance and debate. An illiberal neoracism, disguised as antiracism, is hurting Black communities and weakening the American social fabric. He offers a roadmap to justice that actually will help, not hurt, Black America.



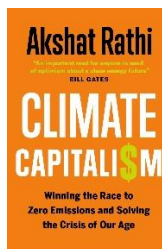
American Whelash; A Changing Nation and the Cost of Progress by Wesley Lowery; 2023; 272 pg

Interweaving deep historical analysis with gripping firsthand reporting on both victims and perpetrators of violence, Lowery uncovers how a vicious cycle of white power against racial progress is carrying us into ever more perilous territory, how the federal government has failed to intervene, and how we still might find a route of escape.



Climate Capitalism: Winning the Race to Zero Emissions and Solving the Crisis of Our Age by Akshat Rathi; 2024; 272 pg

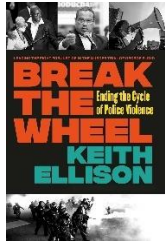
Through stories that bring people, policy and technology together, Akshat Rathi reveals how the green economy is not only possible, but profitable. This inspiring blend of business, science, and history provides the framework for ensuring that future generations can live in prosperity and that the wheels of progress don't falter.



Break the Wheel: Ending the Cycle of Police Violence by Keith Ellison; 2023; 304 pg

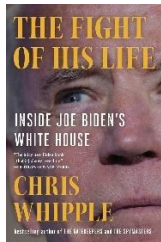
A powerful and intimate trial diary written by MN Attorney General Keith Ellison about George Floyd's family's lawsuit in the wake of the blatant and public murder by police of their son. The situation begs the question: how can such racial police brutality be irradiated permanently? AG Ellison follows the

court prosecution of the perpetrator of this murder with answers for achieving lasting racial reckoning and social justice.



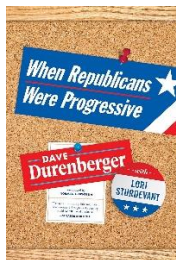
The Fight of His Life: Inside Joe Biden's Whitehouse by Chris Whipple; 2023; 412 pg

This author takes you inside the White House to view Biden's many effective staff appointments leading to the numerous successful negotiations to acquire new laws pulling everyday people out of potential poverty. Biden enacted the many bipartisan bills including the infrastructure bill, a bill focused on gun safety, a bill combating climate change, a bill that raises corporate taxes and reduces the cost of prescription drugs, a bill promoting semiconductor production, a bill ensuring marriage equality, and a bill guaranteeing proper care and benefits for our Veterans and their beneficiaries.



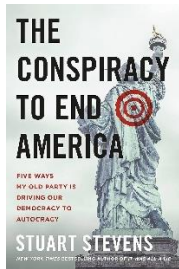
When Republicans Were Progressive by Dave Durenberger and Lori Sturdevant; 2018; 296 pg

From Harold Stassen in 1938 to the 1990s, the Republican party in MN was a progressive, dynamic political movement of bipartisan ideas and ideals that spawned modern Minnesota's success story. Senator Dave Durenberger grew up in and helped build that party. In this powerful work of history and witness, with eloquence and insight, Durenberger argues that the principles and practices of progressive Republicanism are a fitting remedy for what ails American democracy today.



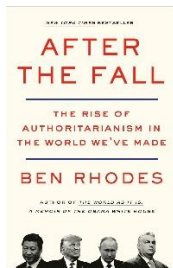
The Conspiracy to End America: Five Ways My Old Party Is Driving Our Democracy to Autocracy by Stuart Stevens; 2023; 240 pg

Former chief Republican strategist, Lincoln Project adviser, and bestselling author of *It Was All a Lie*, Stuart Stevens offers an ominous warning that the GOP is dragging our country toward autocracy—and if we don't wake up to the crisis in our system, 2024 may well be our last free and fair election.



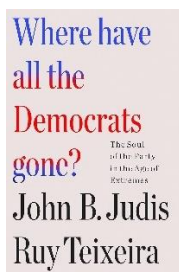
After the Fall: The Rise of Authoritarianism in the World We've Made by Ben Rhodes; 2022; 384 pg

Rhodes traveled to dozens of countries to understand why democracy is imperiled. He writes personally and powerfully about finding hope in the belief that looking squarely at where America has gone wrong can make clear how essential it is to fight for what America is supposed to be, for our own country and the entire world. (updated edition)



Where Have All the Democrats Gone: The Soul of the Party in the Age of Extremes by John B Judis and Ruy Teixeira; 2023; 336 pg

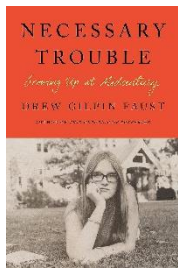
A much-needed wake-up call for the Democrats, which reveals how the party has lost sight of its core principles and endangered its political future. The authors reveal the tectonic changes shaping the country's current political landscape that both pundits and political scientists have missed.



Necessary Trouble Growing Up at Midcentury by Drew Gilpin Faust; 2023; 320 pg

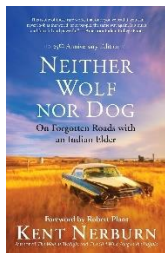
From a retired Harvard president and professor of history comes an account of the rapid changes of the post-WWII years that culminates with the upheavals of 1968. Drew Gilpin grew up in conservative, segregated Virginia, expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender, accepting both female subordination and racial hierarchy. These proved intolerable and galvanizing, and she found resistance was necessary for her survival. During the 1960s, through her love

of learning and her active engagement in the civil rights, student, and antiwar movements, Drew forged a path of her own—one that would eventually lead her to become a historian of the very conflicts that were instrumental in shaping the world in which she grew up and that we grapple with today.



Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder, 25th anniversary edition, by Kent Nerburn; 2019; 360 pg

A white man and an Indian are locked into their own understanding yet struggle to find a common voice. The Indian leads the white man down forgotten roads with memories of the Ghost Dance and Sitting Bull, introducing a host of characters along the way and pushing us past the myths and stereotypes.



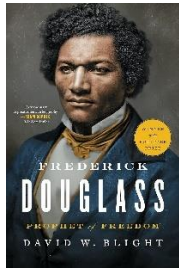
Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement by Lori Sturdevant; 2014; 268 pg

The first woman on the Minnesota Supreme Court, changed the way her fellow judges saw the cases they decided. A champion of both women's rights and civil rights, Wahl brought new attention to the problems that faced women impoverished by divorce, abused by their partners, and others who coped with poverty and discrimination. Sturdevant also brings in other Minnesota women who paved the way for women's rights in the state.



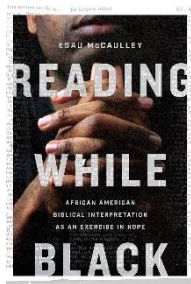
Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight; 2020; 812 pg

An extraordinary biography of one of the most important American voices of the nineteenth century. Blight includes new information from a private collection, as well as recently discovered issues of Douglass's newspapers. This is the definitive biography of Frederick Douglass.



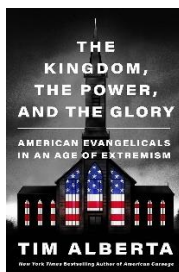
Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope by Esau McCaulley; 2020; 208 pg

New Testament scholar McCaulley argues that reading Scripture from the perspective of Black church tradition is invaluable for connecting with a rich faith history and addressing the urgent issues of our times. He demonstrates this model with studies on how Scripture speaks to topics often overlooked by white interpreters, such as ethnicity, political protest, policing, and slavery.



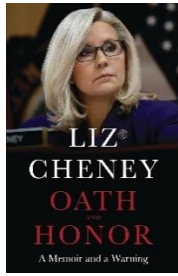
The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism by Tim Alberta; 2023; 512 pg

Journalist Tim Alberta is a practicing Christian and the son of an evangelical pastor. He paints an expansive and profoundly troubling portrait of the American evangelical movement. Through the eyes of televangelists and small-town preachers, celebrity revivalists and everyday churchgoers, Alberta tells the story of a faith cheapened by ephemeral fear, a promise corrupted by partisan subterfuge, and a reputation stained by perpetual scandal.



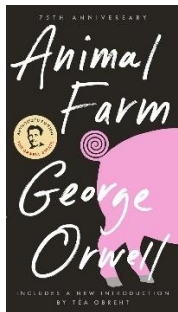
Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning by Liz Cheney; 2023; 384 pg

Cheney is one of the few Republican officials to take a stand against the January 6, 2021 attack. After witnessing the attack first-hand, she helped lead the Congressional Select Committee investigation into how it happened. Now she tells the story of this perilous moment in our history, those who helped Trump spread the stolen election lie, those whose actions preserved our constitutional framework, and the risks we still face.



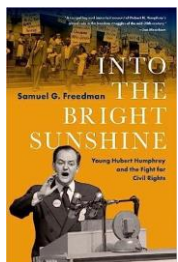
Animal Farm by George Orwell (75th anniversary edition, new introduction by Tea Obreht); 140 pg

A timeless and timely allegorical novel—a scathing satire on a downtrodden society’s blind march towards totalitarianism. “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” Originally, Stalinist Russia was seen as its target. Today it is devastatingly clear that wherever and whenever freedom is attacked, under whatever banner, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of George Orwell’s masterpiece have a meaning and message still ferociously fresh.



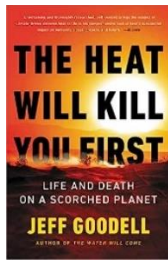
Into the Bright Sunshine: Young Hubert Humphrey and the Fight for Civil Rights by Samuel Freedman; 2023; 504 pg

Marking the 75th anniversary of the 1948 Democratic convention ("get out of the shadow of state's rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights"), Freedman traces HHH’s journey from a remote, all-white hamlet in South Dakota to the mayoralty of Minneapolis as he tackles its notorious racism and anti-Semitism to his role as a national champion of multiracial democracy. His allies in that struggle include a Black newspaper publisher, a Jewish attorney, and a professor who had fled Nazi Germany. And his adversaries are the white supremacists, Christian Nationalists, and America Firsters of mid-century America - one of whom tries to assassinate him. Freedman, a journalism professor at Columbia University, writes that he aimed for a political biography rather than a personal one, to place Humphrey "in the context of Minneapolis's disgraceful history of racism and anti-Semitism."



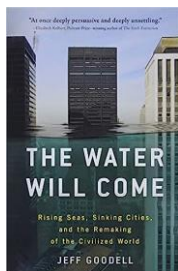
The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet by Jeff Goodell; 2023; 400 pg

An explosive new understanding of heat and the impact that rising temperatures will have on our lives and on our planet. "Entertaining and thoroughly researched," (Al Gore), it will completely change the way you see the world, and despite its urgent themes, is injected with "eternal optimism" (Michael Mann) on how to combat one of the most important issues of our time.



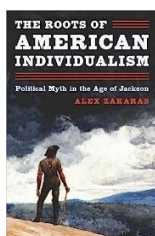
The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World by Jeff Goodell; 2018; 352 pg

Atlantis wasn't a myth, but a harbinger of a new age of great flooding. Rapidly rising sea levels and higher tides are pushing more water directly into the places we live, from our most vibrant, historic cities to our last remaining traditional coastal villages. With each crack in the great ice sheets of the Arctic and Antarctica, and each tick upwards of Earth's thermometer, we are moving closer to the brink of broad disaster. Goodell employs fact, science, and first-person, on-the-ground journalism to show vivid scenes from what already is becoming a water world.



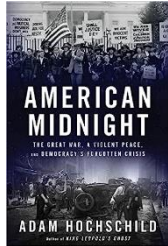
The Roots of American Individualism: Political Myth in the Age of Jackson by Alex Zakaras; 432 pg

Zakaras plunges readers into the spirited and rancorous political debates of Andrew Jackson's America, drawing on the stump speeches, newspaper editorials, magazine articles, and sermons that captivated mass audiences and shaped partisan identities. He shows how these debates popularized three powerful myths that celebrated the young nation as an exceptional land of liberty: the myth of the independent proprietor, the myth of the rights-bearer, and the myth of the self-made man. He shows how generations of politicians, pundits, and provocateurs invoked these myths for competing political purposes, such as determining who would enjoy equal rights and freedoms and who would not. They conjured heavily idealized, apolitical visions of social harmony and boundless opportunity, typically centered on the free market, that have distorted American political thought to this day.



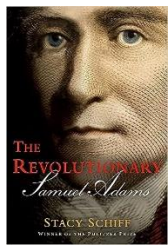
American Midnight: the Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis by Ada Hochschild; 2022; 432 pg

A reassessment of the overlooked but startlingly resonant period between World War I and the Roaring Twenties, when the foundations of American democracy were threatened by war, pandemic, and violence fueled by battles over race, immigration, and the rights of labor.



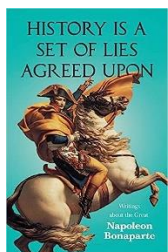
The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams by Stacy Schiff; 2022; 432 pg

Pulitzer Prize winner Stacy Schiff introduces us to the little known founding father who nevertheless was the force behind the American Revolution. Shrewd and elegant (and cousin to John Adams), Adams helped mastermind the Boston Tea Party, creating the cause that created a country. Schiff illuminates his transformation from aimless son of a wealthy family to a radical tireless campaigner with high-minded ideals and bare-knuckle tactics. Thomas Jefferson claimed he was the leader of the Revolution.



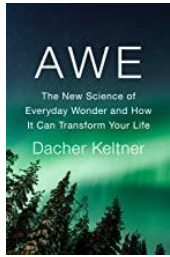
History Is a Set of Lies Agreed Upon: Writings About the Great Napoleon Bonaparte by various authors; 2021; 222 pg

A collection of biographical sketches of the French military and political leader Napoléon Bonaparte (1769–1821). Bonaparte was a French political and military leader during the Revolutionary Wars who ruled as Emperor of France from 1804 until 1814, and again in 1815. Winning the vast amount of battles against a series of coalitions in the Napoleonic Wars, he established a large empire covering continental Europe that lasted until its collapse in 1815. Napoléon is regarded as being among the greatest military commanders in history and is still a celebrated yet controversial political figure.



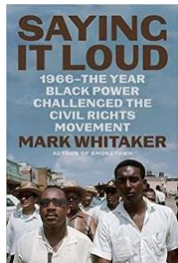
Awe: the New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life by Dacher Keltner; 2023; 336 pg

From a foremost expert on the science of emotions and consultant to Pixar's *Inside Out*, a groundbreaking and essential exploration into the history, science, and greater understanding of awe



Saying It Loud: 1966—the Year Black Power Challenged the Civil Rights Movement by Mark Whitaker; 2023; 400 pg

How the Black Power phenomenon began to challenge the traditional civil rights movement in the turbulent year of 1966. Deeply researched and widely reported, *Saying It Loud* offers brilliant portraits of the major characters in the yearlong drama and provides new details and insights from key players and journalists who covered the story. It also makes a compelling case for why the lessons from 1966 still resonate in the era of Black Lives Matter and the fierce contemporary battles over voting rights, identity politics, and the teaching of Black history.



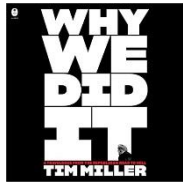
The Great Experiment: Why Diverse Democracies Fall Apart and How They Can Endure by Yascha Mounk; 2022; 368 pg

A convincing, humane, and hopeful guide to the present and future by one of our foremost democratic thinkers. Never in history has a democracy succeeded in being both diverse and equal, treating members of many different ethnic or religious groups fairly. And yet achieving that goal is now central to the democratic project in countries around the world. It is, Yascha Mounk argues, the greatest experiment of our time.



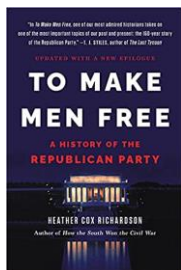
Why We Did It: a Travelogue from the Republican Road to Hell by Tim Miller; 2022; 288 pg

A former spokesman for Jeb Bush writes a bracingly honest reflection; a vital, darkly satirical warning that all the narcissistic justifications that got us to this place still thrive within the Republican party. As one of the strategists behind the famous 2012 RNC "autopsy," Miller conducts his own forensic study on the pungent carcass of the party he used to love, cutting into all the hubris, ambition, idiocy, desperation, and self-deception for everyone to see.



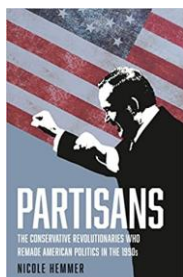
To Make Men Free by Heather Cox Richardson; 2021; 560 pg

The Republican Party was formed on the eve of the Civil War, with the goal of economic opportunity for all Americans. Yet it quickly became mired in an identity crisis: the party of democratic ideals or the party of moneyed interests? Acclaimed historian Heather Cox Richardson traces the shifting ideology through the modern era. Updated with a new epilogue including the Trump era, the book is now a sweeping history of a once-great party that is now in disarray.



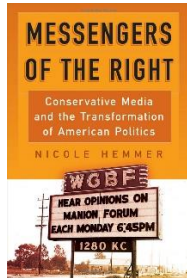
Partisans: the Conservative Revolutionaries Who Remade American Politics in the 1990s by Nicole Hemmer; 2022; 368 pg

Ronald Reagan has long been lionized for building a conservative coalition sustained by an optimistic vision of American exceptionalism, small government, and free markets. But historian Nicole Hemmer reveals that the Reagan coalition was short-lived and fell apart as soon as its charismatic leader left office. In the 1990s—a decade yet to be recognized as the breeding ground for today's polarizing politics—changing demographics and the emergence of a new political-entertainment media fueled the rise of combative far-right politicians and pundits. These partisans, from Pat Buchanan and Newt Gingrich to Rush Limbaugh and Laura Ingraham, forged a new American right that emphasized anti-globalism, appeals to white resentment, and skepticism about democracy itself.



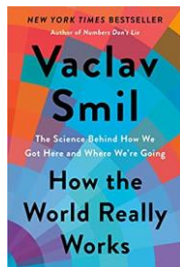
Messengers of the Right: Conservative Media and the Transformation of American Politics by Nicole Hemmer; 2016; 336 pages

Beginning in the late 1940s, activists working in media emerged as leaders of the American conservative movement. They started an array of enterprises and built the movement. Hemmer explains how conservative media became the institutional and organizational nexus of the conservative movement, transforming audiences into activists and activists into a reliable voting base. Hemmer also explores how the idea of liberal media bias emerged, why conservatives have been more successful at media activism than liberals, and how the right remade both the Republican Party and American news media.



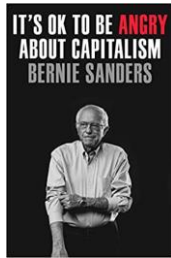
How the World Really Works: the Science Behind How We Got Here and Where We're Going by Vaclav Smil; 2022; 336 pg

An ambitious and thought-provoking book that offers a much-needed reality check—because before we can tackle problems effectively, we must understand the facts. Smil answers the most profound question of our age: are we irrevocably doomed or is a brighter utopia ahead? Compelling, data-rich and revisionist, this wonderfully broad, interdisciplinary guide finds faults with both extremes. Looking at the world through this quantitative lens reveals hidden truths that change the way we see our past, present and uncertain future.



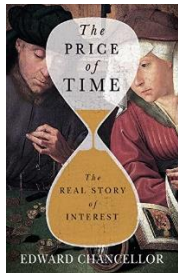
It's OK to Be Angry About Capitalism by Bernie Sanders; 2023; 320 pg

Reflecting on our turbulent times, Senator Bernie Sanders takes on the billionaire class and speaks blunt truths about our country's failure to address the destructive nature of a system that is fueled by uncontrolled greed and rigidly committed to prioritizing corporate profits over the needs of ordinary Americans. Sanders argues that unfettered capitalism is to blame for an unprecedented level of income and wealth inequality, is undermining our democracy, and is destroying our planet. He presents a vision that extends beyond the promises of past campaigns to reveal what would be possible if the political revolution took place, if we would finally recognize that economic rights are human rights, and if we would work to create a society that provides a decent standard of living for all. This isn't some utopian fantasy; this is democracy as we should know it.



The Price of Time: the Real Story of Interest by Edward Chancellor; 2022; 401 pg

In this enriching volume, Chancellor explores the history of interest and its essential function in determining how capital is allocated and priced.



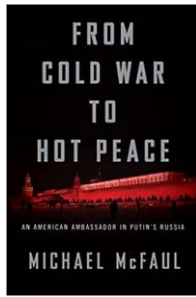
Lessons From the Edge by Marie Yovanovitch; 2022; 416 pg

As ambassador, Marie Yovanovitch tirelessly advocated for the Ukrainian people while advancing U.S. interests and staying true to herself. When she made the courageous decision to participate in the impeachment inquiry—over the objections of the Trump administration—she earned the nation’s respect, and her dignified response to the president’s attacks won our hearts. She has reclaimed her own narrative in this powerful memoir: the dramatic saga of one woman’s role at the vanguard of American foreign policy during a time of upheaval, for herself and for our country.



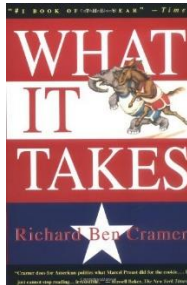
From Cold War to Hot Peace: an American Ambassador in Putin’s Russia by Michael McFaul; 2018; 528 pg

As President Barack Obama’s adviser on Russian affairs, Michael McFaul helped craft the United States’ policy known as “reset” that fostered new and unprecedented collaboration between the two countries. And then, as US ambassador to Russia from 2012 to 2014, he had a front-row seat when this fleeting, hopeful moment crumbled with Vladimir Putin’s return to the presidency. This riveting inside account combines history and memoir to tell the full story of US-Russia relations from the fall of the Soviet Union to the new rise of the hostile, paranoid Russian president. From the first days of McFaul’s ambassadorship, the Kremlin actively sought to discredit and undermine him--dispatching protesters to his front gates, slandering him on state media, and tightly surveilling him, his staff, and his family.



What It Takes: the Way to the White House by Richard Ben Cramer; 1992/1993; 1072 pg

Gigantic work of political reporting and a huge accomplishment. It's a comfort to read Cramer's close examination of the 1988 primaries and remember that campaigns are always nutty. The overriding thesis of the book is smart: a deep look at 6 very different figures (Bush/Dole; Dukakis/Biden/Gephardt/Hart) that examines the moments that made them want to be president, paired with a walk-through of the challenges to those identities during their runs.



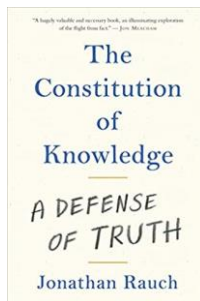
The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together by Heather McGhee; 2022; 464 pg

Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis of 2008 to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a root problem: racism in our politics and policymaking, the common denominator of our most vexing public problems. Racism has costs for people of color and for white people. But in unlikely places of worship and work, McGhee finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: the benefits we gain when people come together across race to do what we cannot do on our own. *The Sum of Us* is not only a brilliant analysis of how we arrived here but also a heartfelt message, delivered with startling empathy, from a black woman to a multiracial America, giving us a new vision of a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game.



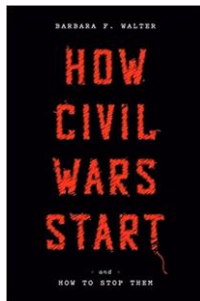
The Constitution of Knowledge: a Defense of Truth by Jonathan Rauch; 2021; 280 pg

The ability to talk in good faith about a shared reality is a foundational element of civics that we didn't know we had until we suddenly and surprisingly lost it. Jonathan Rauch explains how we got it in the first place and how we are now letting it slip away. His telling of the story is well-grounded in history and philosophy as well as in the very latest dispatches from the meme wars. Readers will come away not just concerned about the mess we're in, but also with new ideas as to how we might dig ourselves out of it.



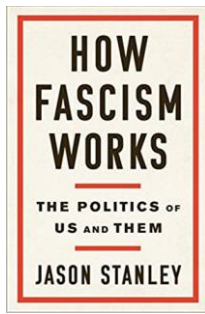
How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them by Barbara F Walter; 2022; 320 pg

A leading political scientist examines the dramatic rise in violent extremism around the globe and sounds the alarm on the increasing likelihood of a second civil war in the United States. Walters provides a clear message about the current dangers we face, similar to the warnings about global warming that were expressed decades ago. Perhaps surprisingly, both autocracies and healthy democracies are largely immune from civil war; it's the countries in the middle ground that are most vulnerable. And this is where more and more countries, including the United States, are finding themselves today.



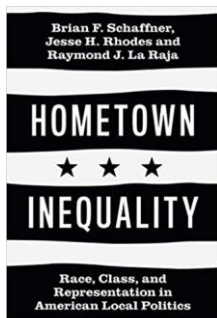
How Fascism Works: the Politics of Us and Them by Jason Stanley; 2018; 240 pg

Philosopher Jason Stanley reveals how the liberties of the people wither when voters embrace politicians who promote the divisive politics of us versus them while denigrating cooperation, compromise, and respect for others. *How Fascism Works* builds on Stanley's insightful *How Propaganda Works* to explain in concise and easily understood terms how people get tricked into reversing the expanding rights that made America great. One of the defining books of the decade, it places Trump in transnational and transhistorical perspective, showing patterns that others miss. The greater danger isn't hyperbole, it's normalization.



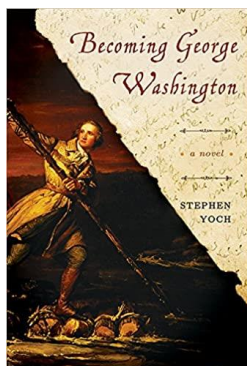
Hometown Inequality: Race, Class, and Representation in American Local Politics by Brian Schaffner, Jesse Rhodes; 2020; 276 pg

Local governments play a central role in American democracy, providing essential services such as policing, water, and sanitation. Moreover, Americans express great confidence in their municipal governments. But is this confidence warranted? Using big data and a representative sample of American communities, this book provides the first systematic examination of racial and class inequalities in local politics. We find that non-whites and less-affluent residents are consistent losers in local democracy. Residents of color and those with lower incomes receive less representation from local elected officials than do whites and the affluent. Additionally, they are much less likely than privileged community members to have their preferences reflected in local government policy. Contrary to the popular assumption that governments that are “closest” govern best, we find that inequalities in representation are most severe in suburbs and small towns. Typical reforms do not seem to improve the situation, and we recommend new approaches.



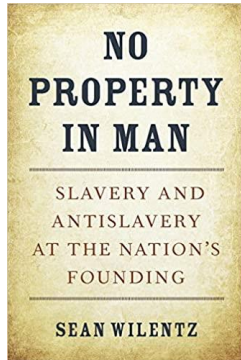
Becoming George Washington by Stephen Yoch; 2015; 400 pg

A well-researched, insightful book of historical fiction dealing with the formative early years of George Washington. Yoch’s treatment of this little-known period in the life of our first President makes for a good read as he builds a narrative built on what actual documentation exists.



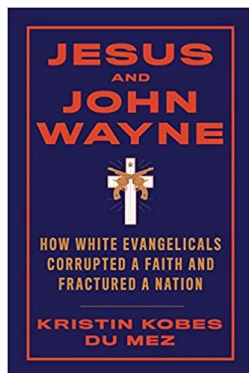
No Property in Man: Slavery and Antislavery at the Nation's Founding by Sean Wilentz; 2018; 368 pg

Demonstrating that the Constitution both protected slavery and left open the possibility of an antislavery politics, Wilentz's careful and insightful analysis helps us understand how Americans who hated slavery, such as Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, could come to see the Constitution as an ally in their struggle. In this revealing and passionately argued book, Wilentz insists that because the framers did not sanction slavery as a matter of principle, the antislavery legacy of the Constitution has been 'slighted' and 'misconstrued' for over 200 years.



Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation by Kristen Kobes du Mez; 2020; 368 pg

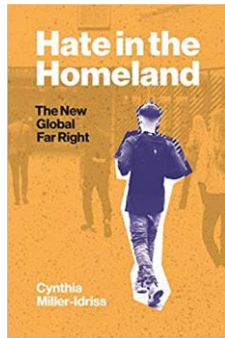
A deeply perceptive book by the Christian critic of this crisis moment. Du Mez demonstrates how a certain warrior fantasy saturated white evangelicalism and decided American elections. Along the way, we discover how our political life became defined by the conjunction of religion and popular culture.



Hate in the Homeland: the New Global Far Right by Cynthia Miller-Idriss; 272 pg; 2010 (Princeton University Press)

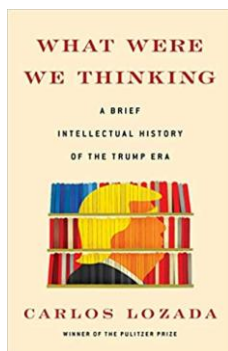
Instead of focusing on the how and why of far-right radicalization, Cynthia Miller-Idriss seeks answers in the physical and virtual spaces where hate is cultivated. She shows how far-right groups are swelling their ranks and developing their cultural, intellectual, and financial capacities in a variety of mainstream settings (college campuses, mixed martial arts gyms, clothing stores, online gaming chat rooms, and YouTube cooking channels). She demonstrates how young people on the margins of our communities

are targeted in these settings, and how the path to radicalization is a nuanced process of moving in and out of far-right scenes throughout adolescence and adulthood.



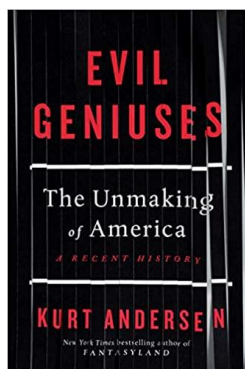
What Were We Thinking: a Brief Intellectual History of the Trump Era by Carlos Lozada; 2020; 255 pg

This book is not just an editorial guide to the Trump era, but a lucid analysis of the time in which we live. Its usefulness, therefore, transcends the limits of American democracy.



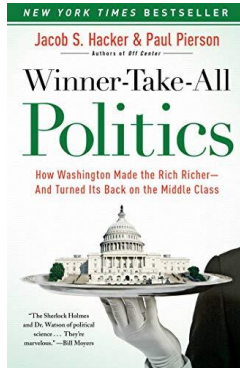
Evil Geniuses: The Unmaking of America: A Recent History by Kurt Andersen; 2020; 464 pg

When did America give up on fairness? Andersen tells the epic history of how America decided that big business gets whatever it wants, only the rich get richer, and nothing should ever change—and charts a way back to the future. Andersen’s crackling energy, deep insight, and ability to connect disparate dots makes this book both intellectually formidable and vastly entertaining. Andersen’s vision reckons with our current high-stakes inflection point and shows the way out of this man-made disaster.



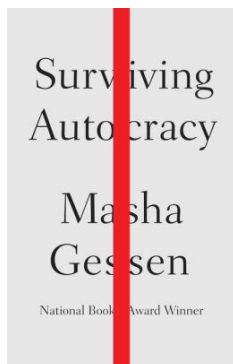
Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class by Jacob S Hacker and Paul Pierson; 2010; 372 pg

Renowned political scientists Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson demonstrate convincingly that the usual suspects—foreign trade and financial globalization, technological changes in the workplace, increased education at the top—are largely innocent of the charges against them. Instead, they indict an unlikely suspect and take us on an entertaining tour of the mountain of evidence against the culprit. The guilty party is American politics. Runaway inequality and the present economic crisis reflect what government has done to aid the rich and what it has not done to safeguard the interests of the middle class. The winner-take-all economy is primarily a result of winner-take-all politics.



Surviving Autocracy by Masha Gessen; 2020; 288 pg

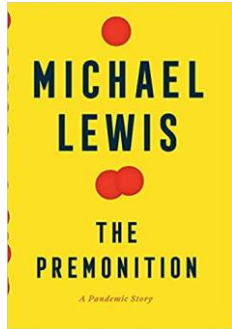
As seen on MSNBC Morning Joe and heard on NPR All Things Considered, the bestselling, National Book Award-winning journalist offers an essential guide to understanding, resisting, and recovering from the ravages of our tumultuous times. In the run-up to the 2016 election, Masha Gessen stood out from other journalists for the ability to convey the ominous significance of Donald Trump's speech and behavior, unprecedented in a national candidate. Thanks to the special perspective that is the legacy of a Soviet childhood and two decades covering the resurgence of totalitarianism in Russia, Gessen has a sixth sense for signs of autocracy—and the unique cross-cultural fluency to delineate its emergence to Americans. This incisive book provides an indispensable overview of the calamitous trajectory of the past few years. Gessen not only highlights the corrosion of the media, the judiciary, and the cultural norms we hoped would save us but also tells us the story of how a short few years have changed us, from a people who saw ourselves as a nation of immigrants to a populace haggling over a border wall, heirs to a degraded sense of truth, meaning, and possibility. *Surviving Autocracy* is an inventory of ravages but also a beacon to recovery—or to enduring, and resisting, an ongoing assault.



The Premonition: A Pandemic Story by Michael Lewis; 2021; 320 pg

A fascinating account of the contagious disease and pandemic strategies utilized against COVID-19 and the resultant shortcomings of politics (apathy, ignorance, incompetence, unwilling to learn lessons from 1918). The people nicknamed the Wolverines really are heroes and the entire story is woven like a top

notch thriller. It puts an OMG factor into this historical time in our lives; grateful for the brilliant minds and courage behind the science and also the randomness involved in great discoveries.



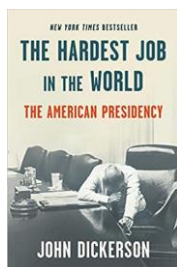
The Complacent Class: the Self-Defeating Quest for the American Dream by Tyler Cowen; 2017; 256 pg

Endlessly inventive and uniquely wide-ranging, Cowen has produced a novel account of what ails us: undue complacency. No one but Cowen would ask 'Why Americans stopped rioting and instead legalized marijuana.' He admires risk-taking, and he likes restlessness, and he thinks the United States needs lots more of both. Don't be complacent: Read this book!



The Hardest Job in the World: the American Presidency by John Dickerson; 2020; 451 pg

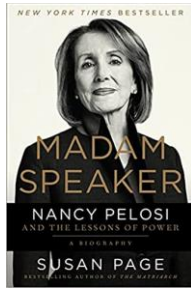
Journalist and *60 Minutes* correspondent John Dickerson writes about presidents in history and contemporary times to show how a complex job has been done; and why we need to reevaluate how we view the presidency, how we choose our presidents, and what we expect from them once they are in office.



Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power by Susan Page; 2021; 448 pg

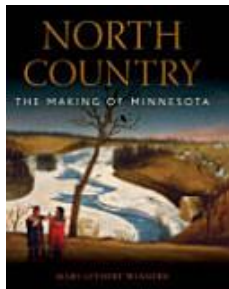
Award-winning Washington Bureau chief of USA Today, Susan Page writes about politics and the White House, covering seven White House administrations and eleven presidential elections. In exploring the

remarkable life of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Susan has painted a compelling portrait of determination, resilience, and patriotism that is the essence of American democracy. This readable, engaging biography takes us from Pelosi's Baltimore upbringing through her current term as speaker in the Biden administration; a valuable overview of a singular American politician.



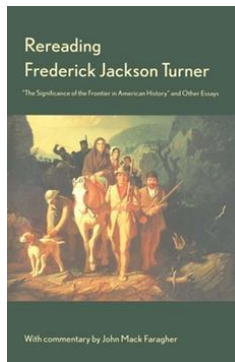
North Country: The Making of Minnesota by Mary Lessard Wingerd; U of MN Press, 2010; 449 pg

A cornerstone text in the chronicle of Minnesota's history, Wingerd's narrative is the unflinching account of how the land the Dakota named Mini Sota Makoce became the State of Minnesota and of the people who have called it, at one time or another, home. Wingerd unlocks the complex origins of the state that have often been ignored in favor of legend and a far more benign narrative of immigration, settlement, and cultural exchange and shows how western expansion of American capitalism and violation of treaties by the U.S. government during the 1850s wore sharply at this tremulous bond, ultimately leading to what Wingerd calls Minnesota's Civil War.



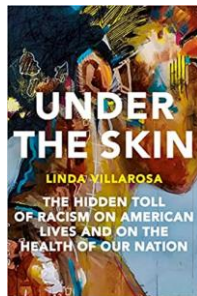
Rereading Frederick Jackson Turner : "The Significance of the Frontier in American History" and Other Essays by Frederick Jackson Turner, with commentaries by John Mark Faragher; 1999; 260 pg (b 11/14/1861, Portage, WI; d 3/14/1932, San Marino, CA)

Turner was an American historian best known for the "frontier thesis." The single most influential interpretation of the American past, it proposed that the distinctiveness of the United States was attributable to its long history of "westering." Despite the fame of this monocausal interpretation, Turner insisted on a multicausal model of history, recognizing the interaction of politics, economics, culture, and geography. Turner's penetrating analyses of American history and culture were powerfully influential and changed the direction of much American historical writing. The best assembly of Turner's essays now available. Faragher's introductory and concluding commentaries add considerably to the import of the book.



Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation by Linda Villarosa; 2022;

From an award-winning writer at the New York Times Magazine and a contributor to the 1619 Project comes a landmark book that tells the full story of racial health disparities in America, revealing the toll racism takes on individuals and the health of our nation.



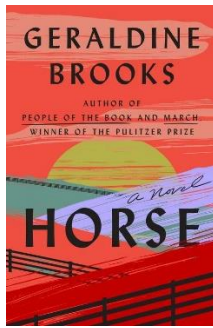
Black Cloud Rising, a Novel by David Wright Falade; 2022; 304 pg

A compelling and important historical novel that takes us back to an extraordinary moment when enslaved men and women were shedding their bonds and embracing freedom. The African Brigade, a unit of former slaves, now Union soldiers, led by General Edward Augustus Wild, set out to fight their former owners in the Tidewater area of Virginia. Wild's mission is to prove that his troops can be trusted as soldiers in combat.

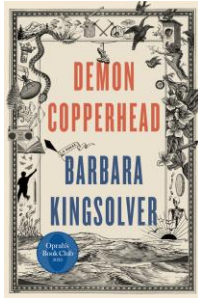


Horse, a Novel by Geraldine Brooks; 2022; 416 pg

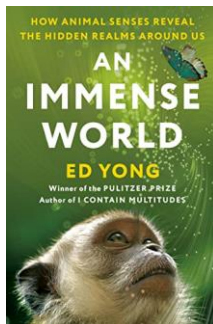
A fascinating story of horse training and racing and race in the pre-Civil War south. This is the story of the most important racehorse you never heard of, but so much more. Brooks thoroughly researches her subjects and presents a compelling narrative.



Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver; 2022; 560 pg

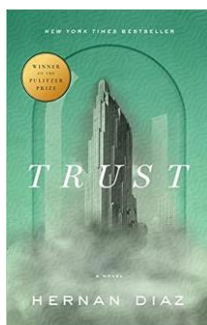


An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong; 2022; 481 pg



Trust by Hernan Diaz; 2022; 416 pg

A riveting story of class, capitalism, and greed among New York City's elite in the roaring '20s and Great Depression.



Checkout 19 by Claire-Louise Bennett; 2022; 288 pg

By the author of *Pond*, this second book contains all the linguistic artistry and dark wit of the first but is even more exhilarating--experimental, autofictional, surrealist, a sheer pleasure. You'll come away dazed, delighted, reminded of just how much fun reading can be, eager to share it with people in your lives. It's a love letter to books, and an argument for them, too.

