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**Hand to mouth: living in bootstrap America**

From Kirkus Reviews: “A challenged mom on welfare gets personal. Having once lived in a weekly motel, Tirado responded to an Internet thread about what some perceive as poor people’s questionable choices. Her raw, defeatist perspective went viral and fuels much of this book’s emotional reflections on "trying to get back to the starting line" after years subsisting at the poverty level...Tirado's raw reportage offers solidarity for those on the front lines of hardship yet issues a cautionary forewarning to the critical: "Poverty is a potential outcome for all of us." Outspoken and vindictive, Tirado embodies the cyclical vortex of today's struggle to survive.”

**The half has never been told: slavery and the making of American capitalism**

From Publishers Weekly: “Cornell University historian Baptist (Creating an Old South) delivers an unapologetic, damning, and grisly account of slavery’s foundational place in the emergence of America as a global superpower, balancing the macro lens of statistics and national trends with intimate slave narratives...Baptist’s chronicle exposes the taint of blood in virtually all of the wealth that Americans have inherited from their forebears, making it a rewarding read for anyone interested in U.S.A.'s dark history.”

**The short and tragic life of Robert Peace**

From The New York Times Book Review: “Nowadays there is reporting aplenty on the theme of two Americas. The originality of Jeff Hobbs's work lies in finding a man who lived simultaneously in both countries, who thrived and failed at the same time, who escaped his past and didn’t...That one man can contain such contradictions makes for an astonishing, tragic story. In Hobbs's hands, though, it becomes something more: an interrogation of our national creed of self-invention...As a page turner alone, the story wins. It doesn’t need further selling...What is worth adding is that the book will be highly provocative, even irritating, to those who answer the problems of the American underclass with prefab ideological theories and solutions.”
Islamic Fundamentalism

From Booknews: “Davidson (history, West Chester U.) presents a brief history of the Muslim people, describes the first successful modern Islamic fundamentalist organization (the Society of the Muslim Brothers), examines Iran and Saudi Arabia as examples of functioning Islamic states, and concludes with an analysis of Western attitudes and perceptions of Islamic fundamentalism. The book includes a brief chronology and appends biographies of important personalities and primary documents in the movement.”

Political order and political decay: from the Industrial Revolution to the globalization of democracy

From Publishers Weekly: “The distinction between strong and accountable government is seen as a driver of history in this second volume of the author’s magisterial study of politics and the state. Following up The Origins of Political Order, Stanford scholar Fukuyama surveys political developments of the past 250 years, from the French Revolution to the Arab Spring, focusing on the often clashing imperatives of democratic accountability, rule of law, and effective governmental administration...His superb synthesis of political science and history will be useful to experts as well as students and laypeople.”

The world through soccer: the cultural impact of a global sport

From Barnes and Noble: “ Employing a unique lens to view a variety of topics, The World through Soccer reveals the sport’s profound cultural impact. Combining philosophical, popular, and academic insights about our world, this book is aimed at both soccer fans and academics, offering readers a new perspective into a sport that affects millions.”

The innovators: how a group of hackers, geniuses, and geeks created the Digital Revolution

From Publishers Weekly: “The history of the computer as told through this fascinating book is not the story of great leaps forward but rather one of halting
progress. Journalist and Aspen Institute CEO Isaacson (Steve Jobs) presents an episodic survey of advances in computing and the people who made them, from 19th-century digital prophet Ada Lovelace to Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin...Isaacson’s absorbing study shows that technological progress is a team sport, and that there’s no I in computer.”

Revolutionary Russia 1891-1991

From Publishers Weekly: “Figes (A People’s Tragedy) covers familiar terrain in his new account of Russia and its revolution with a sharp and confident analysis. He presents a centurylong revolution stretching from 1891 to 1991, and divides it into three phases: the rise of the Bolsheviks, Stalin’s rule, and the repercussions of Khruschev’s denouncement of Stalin...Figes strips away the propaganda and nostalgia to emphasize the Revolution’s destructive powers, a perspective that is all the more relevant as Vladimir Putin seeks to capitalize on many Russians’ hunger for the so-called glory days of the Soviet Union.”

Tennessee Williams: mad pilgrimage of the flesh

From Publishers Weekly: “Writing with sympathy and insight, former New Yorker drama critic Lahr (Prick Up Your Ears) invests the Tennessee Williams of this brilliant new biography with the same vitality and honesty that the playwright used to bring his characters to life...Lahr’s feel for Williams’s literary creations—he describes The Glass Menagerie’s Amanda Wingfield as an “embattled bundle of Southern decorum and Puritan denial”—and for Williams himself show a perspicacity wanting in previous biographies. Though Lahr acknowledges the successes of previous Williams scholars, his achievement is not likely to be surpassed.”

Yoga: the art of transformation

From Choice: “Far more than an exhibition catalogue, this work by Diamond (Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian) et al. is an indispensable resource for the study of Yoga, Indian religions more generally, and Indian art. It is likewise a trove for the study of embodied religion. The curated images visually demonstrate the development and changing construct of Yoga in works dating from 1900 BCE to the present, including sculpture, painting, and photography.”
Christine Kocourek
Library Services Assistant-Advanced
University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc
705 Viebahn St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
920-683-4715
http://manitowoc.uwc.edu/library/

"If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.” –Dolly Parton