HERE is a brief selection of favorite, new, and hard-to-find books, including recommendations from our Harvard study leaders. This list is not trip-specific and, instead, is intended as a general collection of readings for some of our most visited destinations. Hopefully this provides a helpful jumping-off-point for your travel preparations!

**CUBA**

*Alejo Carpentier*

*Music in Cuba*
2003, PAPER, 302 PAGES
This extensive study of Cuban musical history, originally published in 1946, draws on primary documents to encompass European-style elite Cuban music as well as the popular rural Spanish folk and urban Afro-Cuban music.

*Carlos Frias*

*Take Me With You, A Memoir*
2009, PAPER, 291 PAGES
Journalist Carlos Frias, the American-born son of Cuban exiles, travels to Cuba in 2006 as power is being transferred from Fidel to Raul Castro. He shares his experiences in contemporary Cuban society while reflecting on the lives his parents lived in the country.

*Fiona McAuslan*

*The Rough Guide to Havana*
2010, PAPER, 248 PAGES
A comprehensive guide to Havana in the hip, literate and very informative Rough Guide style. It's divided cleanly between practical information and illuminating background on culture and history.

*Julia Sweig*

*Cuba, What Everyone Needs to Know*
2013, PAPER, 336 PAGES
Director for Latin America Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, Julia Sweig traces the geography, history and identity of Cuba in this admirably succinct portrait of the island nation and its role in world affairs.

*Daniel P. Erikson*

*The Cuba Wars, Fidel Castro, the United States, and the Next Revolution*
2008, PAPER, 368 PAGES
Worth Looking For

**CENTRAL AMERICA**

*Clive Cussler*

*The Mayan Secrets*
2013, HARD COVER, 375 PAGES
Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo are in Mexico when they come upon a remarkable discovery – the skeleton of a man clutching an ancient sealed pot, and within the pot, a Mayan book, larger than anyone has ever seen. The book contains astonishing information about the Mayans, about their cities, and about mankind itself. An adventure set in Mexico from the master of the genre.

*John Lloyd Stephens*

*Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan: Volume Two*
1969, PAPER, 474 PAGES
Stephen's classic account of archaeological discovery, originally published in 1843. This second volume covers Stephens and Catherwood's further adventures, including the Yucatan and Palenque.

*Michael Coe*

*Breaking the Maya Code*
2012, PAPER, 304 PAGES
Mayan hieroglyphs were a linguistic puzzle until the 1952 breakthrough translation of a Mayan bark-paper text, as Coe explains in this classic tale, revised and updated for this third edition.
**Southeast Asia**

Michael A. Aung-Thwin

*A History of Myanmar Since Ancient Times, Traditions and Transformations*

2013, PAPER, 333 PAGES

Aung-Thwin takes us from the sacred stupas of the Bagan plains to the grand colonial-era British mansions in this tale of Burma’s storied 3,000-year history and rich culture.

George C. Herring

*America's Longest War, The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975*

2001, PAPER, 384 PAGES

This holistic history of the Vietnam War focuses on American involvement while remaining objectively non-partisan about the war and its outcomes. Herring is Alumni Professor of history at the University of Kentucky and former professor at West Point.

Jean-François Hubert

*The Art of Champa*

2006, HARD COVER, 231 PAGES

The accompanying catalog to the landmark 2005 exhibition of stunning Cham sculpture at the Musée Guimet in Paris.

George Orwell

*Burmesse Days*

1989, PAPER, 287 PAGES

Orwell, a veteran of the colonial police force in Rangoon, writes with irony and insight in this sharp novel of politics, folly and the British.

Michael W. Charney

*A History of Modern Burma*

2009, PAPER, 241 PAGES

Bookended with the annexation of Upper Burma by the British in 1886 and the devastating cyclone that ravaged the country in 2008, this brief history explores Burma’s political division and monastic opposition to state control.

Neil Sheehan

*A Bright Shining Lie, John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam*

2009, HARD COVER, 861 PAGES

Worth Looking For

**France**

Denis Diderot

*Rameau's Nephew and D'Alembert's Dream*

1976, PAPER, 240 PAGES

Diderot considers society, music, literature, politics, morality and philosophy in the Age of Enlightenment in these imagined – and hilarious – conversations.

Alexis de Tocqueville

*The Ancient Regime and the French Revolution*

2008, PAPER, 373 PAGES

Gerald Bevan’s translation of de Tocqueville’s influential look at the origins of modern France.

Robert Darnton

*The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History*

2009, PAPER, 298 PAGES

Professor of history and librarian at Harvard, Darnton looks at the city dwellers, towns, and countryside of 18th-century France in this classic look at the relation between culture and society in the Age of Enlightenment.

**South America**

Jeffrey Quilter

*Treasures of the Incas: Nazca, Moche and the Pre-Colombian Civilisations of the Andes*

2011, PAPER, 224 PAGES

Fairly simple introduction to Peruvian archaeology, from first arrivals to Incas, with good chapters on the Moche, Lambayeque, and Chimu cultures.

Richard L. Burger (Editor), Lucy C. Salazar (Editor)

*Machu Picchu, Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas*

2008, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Burger and Salazar vividly evoke the art, architecture, culture and society of Machu Picchu in this illustrated, up-to-date survey. With Hiram Bingham’s original report, archival and modern photographs and excellent chapters on recent archaeology at the site.
Adriana von Hagen, Craig Morris
The Incas
2012, PAPER, 256 PAGES
Morris and von Hagen trace the rise and rule of the Inca with authority in this region-by-region survey, reconstructing the finely built palaces and temples of Cusco and life at lavish royal estates like Chinchero and Machu Picchu. With 150 mostly black-and-white photographs and illustrations, including extensive site plans.

GERMANY

Kurt Vonnegut
Slaughterhouse-Five: or The Children's Crusade
1991, PAPER, 215 PAGES
Kurt Vonnegut's popular novel, set during the bombing of Dresden, in the United States and on the distant planet of Tralfamadore. Ranges from satiric absurdity to an extremely powerful account of the destruction of Dresden.

Erich Maria Remarque
All Quiet on the Western Front
1996, PAPER, 295 PAGES
Written by a soldier in the Kaiser's army, this novel has been hailed as the greatest novel of World War I, and was later made into a memorable film.

Anthea Bell (Translator), W. G. Sebald
Austerlitz
2012, PAPER, 298 PAGES
Sebald's haunting book, evocative of WWII Europe, travels from the magnificent railway station in Antwerp to London, Paris and the streets in Prague where the narrator Austerlitz was born and fled during the Nazi devastation. Tenth anniversary edition.

Heinrich Von Kleist
Michael Kohlhaas
2005, PAPER, 133 PAGES
This stirring tale follows our honorable protagonist, Michael Kohlhaas, as he takes the law into his own hands and finds the body politic against him. Based on actual events, the story is considered a masterwork of German literature.

Theodor Fontane
Wanderungen durch die Mark Brandenburg (Walks Through Brandenburg)
2001, PAPER, 396 PAGES
Worth Looking For

AFRICA

Nadine Gordimer
None to Accompany Me
1995, PAPER, 324 PAGES
With keen attention to character and racial politics, Nobel Prize-winner Gordimer traces the experiences of two families during turbulent, post-Apartheid South Africa.

Nadine Gordimer
The Conservationist
1983, PAPER, 272 PAGES
Gordimer's subtle Booker Prize-winning novel portrays a wealthy South African industrialist who struggles to preserve his way of life, his power and his possessions in the face of massive injustice.

Martin Meredith
Diamonds, Gold, and War, The British, the Boers and the Making of South Africa
2008, PAPER, 592 PAGES
This history makes palpable the cost of greed to Africa's native peoples and explains the rise of virulent Afrikaner nationalism.

J.M. Coetzee
Disgrace
2000, PAPER, 224 PAGES
Set in Cape Town and on a remote farm in the Eastern Cape, Coetzee's searing novel explores the devastating realities of racial politics in post-apartheid South Africa.

Mark Mathabane
Kaffir Boy, The True Story a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa
1998, PAPER, 368 PAGES
The affecting memoir of a young South African athlete under Apartheid. Mathabane escaped the fate of many the shores of Kotzebue Sound to his work on the landmark Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to his time in the Alaska senate.

Bob Reiss
The Eskimo and the Oil Man
2012, HARD COVER, 305 PAGES
This book documents the struggle between cheap gas and pristine wilderness that is tearing apart many American communities through the story of an Eskimo mayor and a Shell executive in Alaska.

Stephen Haycox
Alaska, An American Colony
2006, PAPER, 372 PAGES
This engaging, scholarly history, divided between Russian exploration and the American period, offers a cultural, political and environmental overview of Alaska, also exploring the colonization and exploitation of its indigenous people and the power of myth in shaping our national perceptions of the region.

William L. Hensley
Fifty Miles from Tomorrow, A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People
2010, PAPER, 256 PAGES
Hensley writes across the arc of his remarkable life from growing up as a young man north of the Arctic Circle on
poor, black youth of the time through a tennis scholarship to an American university.

_Thomas Pakenham_

**The Scramble for Africa**
1992, PAPER, 738 PAGES
Absorbing and meticulously researched, this in-depth history of the Victorian land grab in 19th century Africa includes excellent portraits of the egomaniacal personalities who overran the continent.

**NEW ZEALAND**

_James Belich_

**Paradise Reforged: A History of the New Zealanders From the 1880s to the Year 2000**
2002, HARD COVER, 609 PAGES
The continuation of Belich's *Making People* (NZL07), a lively, provocative history of New Zealand and its people, Maori and European. Organized chronologically, he addresses both economic and social history, looking at ties with Britain, reliance on sheep, the environment and other topics.

_Janet Frame_

**Between My Father and the King, New and Uncollected Stories**
2013, HARD COVER, 256 PAGES
These 28 stories, none previously published in a collection, and more than half published for the first time, span New Zealander Frame's career.

_David Hackett Fischer_

**Fairness and Freedom, A History of Two Open Societies, New Zealand and the United States**
2012, HARD COVER, 629 PAGES
Pulitzer Prize-winner Fischer compares the politics of America and New Zealand, posing the question: is it possible to be both fair and free? Despite its focus on politics and fairness, the book is thoroughly enjoyable and, in its own way, a travelogue.

_Fergus Barrowman (ed.)_

**The Picador Book of Contemporary New Zealand Fiction**
1996, PAPER, 511 PAGES
Worth Looking For

_Geoff Park_

**Nga Uruora (The Groves of Life)**
1995, PAPER, 376 PAGES
Worth Looking For

**TURKEY**

_Thomas Asbridge_

**The Crusades**
2011, PAPER, 767 PAGES
Asbridge focuses on the Third Crusade and notable figures like Richard the Lionheart and Saladin in this epic history of the brutal struggle for the Holy Land in the Middle Ages.

_Trevor Bryce_

**The Kingdom of the Hittites**
2006, PAPER, 576 PAGES
A scholarly, comprehensive history of the ancient Hittite kingdom, drawing from translations of original texts and recent archaeological discoveries.

_C.B.F. Walker_

**Cuneiform (Reading the Past)**
1987, PAPER, 64 PAGES
Worth Looking For

**WORLD WAR I**

_George Walter (Editor)_

**The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry**
2007, PAPER, 383 PAGES
Arranged thematically, this rich selection ranges from the celebrated verse of Rupert Brooke, Siegfried Sassoon, and Wilfred Owen to poetry by women writing from the home front and song lyrics.

_Robert Graves_

**Good-Bye to All That, An Autobiography**
1998, PAPER, 352 PAGES
Grave's bittersweet, influential and magnificently written memoir, two-thirds devoted to his experience in World War I. A reissue of the original 1929 version.

**SCANDINAVIA**

_Peter Hoeg_

**Smilla's Sense of Snow**
2012, PAPER, 448 PAGES
Set in Denmark and Greenland and aboard a secret ship, this page-turner, out in a 20th anniversary edition, includes an excellent portrait of modern day Copenhagen. Beneath its eerie surface, the novel wrestles with racism and the tangled relations between Denmark and Greenland.

_Terry G. Lacy_

**Ring of Seasons, Iceland, Its Culture and History**
1998, PAPER, 332 PAGES
A longtime resident of Reykjavik, Lacy weaves tales of family life, anecdote, lore and history into this illuminating personal portrait of Iceland.

_Stephen Brink_

**The Viking World**
2011, PAPER, 717 PAGES
This collection of scholarly articles offers the most comprehensive work of scholarship on the Viking world ever attempted. Written for an undergraduate audience, but also of interest to the educated public.
Arnaldur Indridason
Silence of the Grave
2007, PAPER, 288 PAGES
Reykjavik police inspector Erlendur Sveinsson uncovers an old skeleton and unsavory secrets in Indridason's excellent second crime novel translated into English. Winner of the 2005 Gold Dagger award.

Jane Smiley (Editor), Robert Kellog (Introduction)
The Sagas of Icelanders
2001, PAPER, 848 PAGES
Nine sagas and six tales composed between the years 1000 and 1500, including an account of Leif Eriksson's voyage to North America, all newly translated. With an introduction by Jane Smiley.

John Haywood
Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings
1995, PAPER, 144 PAGES
The history of the Vikings told through a series of innovative maps and excellent photographs. This book traces the routes of the ninth-century Viking merchants and explorers throughout Europe and onto the New World.

ANTARCTICA

Edward Larson
An Empire of Ice
2012, PAPER, 326 PAGES
Pulitzer Prize-winner Ed Larson restores the status of Scott and Shackleton and the grand expeditions of the heroic age as genuine scientific enterprises, drawing on both archival material and his own travels to the historic huts, South Pole and other iconic places of Antarctic exploration.

Graham Collier & Patricia Graham Collier
Antarctic Odyssey
1999, HARD COVER, 194 PAGES
Worth Looking For

Walter Dean Myers
Antarctica
2004, HARD COVER, 144 PAGES
Worth Looking For

CHINA, TIBET & INDIA

John Osburg
Anxious Wealth, Money and Morality Among China's New Rich
2013, PAPER, 248 PAGES
An anthropologist with an interest in networking and deal-making, Osburg immersed himself in the social hangouts of China’s rich – karaoke clubs, saunas and massage parlors that cater specifically to the wealthy and powerful.

Tsering Woeser
Voices from Tibet, Selected Essays and Reportage
2014, HARD COVER, 136 PAGES
These translations of essays by two leading advocates operating within China today for the human rights of the Tibetan people provide a vivid picture of the lives and struggles of contemporary Tibetans.

Laurence Bergreen
Marco Polo, From Venice to Xanadu
2008, PAPER, 432 PAGES
Bergreen brings to life ancient traders, despots, conquerors and, especially, the fabled lands of the Silk Road in this vivid tale, weaving his own adventures from Venice to Mongolia and on to China with those of the 13th-century Venetian merchant.

Ezra F. Vogel
Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China
2011, HARD COVER, 876 PAGES
Henry Ford II professor of the social sciences emeritus at Harvard, Vogel disentangles in this monumental new biography the contradictions, life and legacy of China’s boldest strategist.

Melvyn C. Goldstein
The Snow Lion and the Dragon, China, Tibet and the Dalai Lama
1997, PAPER, 130 PAGES
A brief history of the relationship of China and Tibet in the 20th century. Goldstein, a professor of history and expert on the region, includes a call for the United States to take an active role in mediating a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

GREECE

Richard Clogg
A Concise History of Greece
2013, PAPER, 336 PAGES
An engaging and scholarly short history of Greece from the late 1700s to the present day.

Edith Hamilton
Mythology
1998, PAPER, 497 PAGES
The classic introduction to Greek and Roman mythology. From the Olympians to the Trojan War, Hamilton presents the myths and adventure stories of the ancient world. With 50 line drawings.

Demetrios J. Constantelos
Understanding the Greek Orthodox Church
1998, PAPER, 291 PAGES
An accessible presentation of the history and practices of the Greek Orthodox Church by the religion historian and scholar. Includes a study of Greek Orthodox practice in the U.K.
E. R. Dodds
The Greeks and the Irrational
2004, PAPER, 327 PAGES, $30.95
Originally published in 1951 as a part of the Sather Classical Lectures series, E.R. Dodds’ landmark history challenges the common assumption that the ancient Greeks were immune from irrational thinking. (Item GRE536)

Mark Mazower
Inside Hitler’s Greece, The Experience of Occupation, 1941-44
2001, PAPER, 462 PAGES, $24.00
Mazower’s gripping and richly illustrated account of wartime Greece explores the impact of the Nazi occupation upon the lives and values of ordinary people—resistance fighters and black marketeers, German conscripts and Gestapo officers, Jews and starving villagers. (Item GRE379)

Eric Voegelin
Order and History, The World of the Polis
2000, HARD COVER, 488 PAGES, $65.00
Influential philosopher Voegelin (1901-1985) traces the evolution of the Greek city-state to its roots in Pre-Homeric symbolism and myth. A work of political science, mythology and history of most interest to students and scholars, this is the second volume of his magisterial work. (Item GRE537)

Mary Lefkowitz
Greek Gods, Human Lives: What We Can Learn from Myths
2005, PAPER, 304 PAGES, $32.00
Lefkowitz draws on the Iliad, Odyssey and other classic texts in this intriguing analysis of ancient gods and beliefs. (Item GRE239)

Mary Pope Osborne
Favorite Greek Myths
Twelve classic Greek myths, including the stories of King Midas, Echo and Narcissus, and Cupid and Psyche, accessibly retold by Mary Osborne Pope, the prolific children’s book author. Written for readers ages 11-13. (Item GRE535)

Robert Graves
Greek Gods and Heroes
1965, PAPER, 224 PAGES, $5.99
Graves recounts the glorious days when gods and goddesses who dwelt on Mount Olympus ruled over the mortal world below and fabled heroes performed mighty deeds of valor in this classic collection for young explorers and their families. (Item GRE361)

Bernard Evslin
Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths
1984, PAPER, 224 PAGES, $6.99
Artfully arranged in four sections, highlighting the Gods, Nature Myths, Demigods and Fables, these fantastic retellings capture the magic, mystery and timeless wisdom of the original tales for grades six to eight. A classic, with teacher’s guide. (Item GRE527)

Rick Riordan
Percy Jackson & the Olympians: Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse
2008, PAPER, 1032 PAGES, $19.99
Relive the adventures of Percy, son of Poseidon, and friends in this boxed set of the first three books in the blockbuster series for ages 10 and up. (Item GRE407)

Raymond Williams
Border Country
2006, PAPER, 450 PAGES, $14.95
When railway signalman Harry Price suddenly suffers a stroke, his son Matthew, a lecturer in London, makes a return to his home village. Matthew and Harry struggle with their memories of personal and social change. A novel with an evocative sense of place, set in rural South Wales. (Item GRB118)

John Lister-Kaye
Song of the Rolling Earth, A Highland Odyssey
2005, PAPER, 352 PAGES, $16.95
A celebration of the land, wildlife and human history of highland Scotland by the founder of the Aigas Field Centre. (Item SCT193)

Rab Houston
Scotland, A Very Short Introduction
2009, PAPER, 176 PAGES, $11.95
Covering everything from the Jacobites to the modern economy, this brisk account ranges over 1,000 years of society, culture, politics and religion. (Item SCT194)

Ewen A. Cameron
Impaled Upon a Thistle, Scotland Since 1880
2010, PAPER, 433 PAGES, $40.00
Ewen Cameron explores the political debate between unionism, liberalism, socialism and nationalism, and the changing political relationship between Scotland and the United Kingdom. (Item SCT196)

John Bollard (trans.)
The Mabinogi
2006, HARD COVER, 160 PAGES
Worth Looking For

Hugh Cheape
Bagpipes, A National Collection of a National Instrument
2008, PAPER, 160 PAGES
Worth Looking For

Jan Morris
The Matter of Wales, Epic Views of a Small Country
1985, HARD COVER, 442 PAGES
Worth Looking For
**ITALY**

**Peter Murray**

**The Art of the Renaissance**  
1992, PAPER, 286 PAGES  
A classic, illustrated survey of the world of the Renaissance and its art. With chapters on Florence and its artists, the Netherlands, early illustrated books and many individual artists.

**Ernest Hemingway**

**A Farewell to Arms**  
1995, PAPER, 332 PAGES  
Set in snowy Switzerland and the rainy Italian Lake Country during World War I, this semi-autobiographical novel chronicles the romance between a British nurse and an American ambulance driver.

**Elizabeth Adler**

**The House in Amalfi**  
2006, PAPER, 384 PAGES  
Master of suspense and romance, Adler deftly intertwines lush descriptions of place with fast-paced intrigue in her 16th novel.

**Harry Hoynard**

**Italy, A Short History**  
2001, PAPER, 294 PAGES  
Worth Looking For

**RUSSIA**

**Valerie A. Kivelson**

**Picturing Russia, Explorations in Visual Culture**  
2010, PAPER, 284 PAGES  
Richly illustrated with over one hundred images culled from all over Russia, this wide-sweeping book explores the various ways Russians have represented themselves visually across the centuries – from architectural monuments to popular prints.

**Eyewitness Guides**

**Eyewitness Guide Moscow**  
2013, PAPER, 263 PAGES  
This outstanding guide covers Moscow’s culture, history and attractions with maps, site plans and hundreds of color photographs.

**Eyewitness Guides**

**Eyewitness Guide St. Petersburg**  
2013, PAPER, 264 PAGES  
With excellent local maps and site plans, this outstanding visual guide introduces the culture, history and attractions of St. Petersburg.

**Steven G. Marks**

**How Russia Shaped the Modern World: From Art to Anti-Semitism, Ballet to Bolshevism**  
2004, PAPER, 408 PAGES  
This wide-ranging book focuses on Russian contributions to art, literature, politics and ideas of 19th- and 20th-century Europe and America.

**Caroline Brooke**

**Moscow, A Cultural History**  
2007, PAPER, 256 PAGES  
Caroline Brooke explores the birth and various stages and reinventions of Moscow, from a 12th-century fortress to invasion by Napoleon in 1812 to the rise and fall of communism. Part of the Cityscapes series.

**Orlando Figes**

**Natasha’s Dance, A Cultural History of Russia**  
2003, PAPER, 768 PAGES  
In this lively cultural history, Figes looks at both the great works by Russian masters and longstanding folk traditions. The title is drawn from a scene of Tolstoy’s War and Peace in which a European-educated countess performs a peasant dance.
Historian Geoffrey Hosking writes elegantly and vehemently on the history of Russia under the czars. Hosking argues that Imperial Russia pursued empire building at the expense of national identity.

Marshall T. Poe
The Russian Moment in World History
2006, PAPER, 116 PAGES
This insightful short history explores the complexity of the Russian moment, from its first confrontations with Europe in the 15th century to the Soviet collapse in 1991.

Solomon Volkov, Antonina Boni
St. Petersburg, A Cultural History
1995, PAPER, 598 PAGES
This wonderfully written summary of art, music, theater and literature, written by a Russian historian and musician, includes profiles of the city’s artists and writers over the last 300 years.

Gregory Nagy
The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours
2013, HARD COVER, 727 PAGES
Popular Harvard professor Gregory Nagy explores the Greek conception of what it means to be a hero in 24 insightful installments, illuminating the stalwart figures of classic literature – such as Achilles, Odysseus and Oedipus – by placing them in their historical and religious contexts. Based on his online course.

Scott Anderson
Lawrence in Arabia
2013, HARD COVER, 577 PAGES
Set against the tumult of WWI, the four spies and adventurers starring in this captivating account – the British T.E. Lawrence, German archaeologist Curt Prufer, the American oil agent William Yake and the Zionist agronomist and spy, Aaron Aaronsohn – played an outsized role in the making of the modern Middle East. A veteran war correspondent, Anderson brings a flair for storytelling, impressive research and on-the-ground knowledge of the region to this eye-opening tale of T.E. Lawrence and his role in the secret Great Game to control the Middle East.

Jill Lepore
Book of Ages, The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin
2013, HARD COVER, 464 PAGES
Lepore brings the reader into the life of Jane Franklin, Benjamin Franklin’s younger sister and one of his closest confidants. Using newly-discovered documents, objects and portraits, she provides a wholly different account of the founding of the United States. Finalist for the National Book Award.

Carolyn Abbate
A History of Opera
2012, HARD COVER, 603 PAGES
This captivating celebration of opera history follows its development from the 17th century through the modern era and includes discussions on famous composers like Handel, Mozart, Wagner, Puccini and Strauss.

Ann M. Blair
Too Much to Know, Managing Scholarly Information Before the Modern Age
2011, PAPER, 416 PAGES
Blair’s history of reference books, information management and the long struggle to master “information overload” produces a well-connected argument and raises questions for scholars of all stripes.

Steven Pinker
The Better Angels of Our Nature, Why Violence Has Declined
2012, PAPER, 802 PAGES
Believe it or not, today we may be living in the most peaceful moment in our species’ existence. Pinker shows that, despite the ceaseless news about war, crime and terrorism, violence has actually been in decline over long stretches of history.

Clayton M. Christensen
How Will You Measure Your Life?
2012, HARD COVER, 240 PAGES
Inspirational and wise, this self-help meditation is designed to help people at all stages of life put their integrity, happiness and relationships into perspective.

Caroline Elkins
Imperial Reckoning, The Untold Story of Britain’s Gulag in Kenya
2005, PAPER, 475 PAGES
An exhaustively researched presentation of the atrocities Britain committed in post-WWII Kenya, the prisons, work camps and campaigns of terror.

Noah Feldman
Cool War, The Future of Global Competition
2013, HARD COVER, 201 PAGES
A readable, scholarly look at the power struggle between the United States and China, the countries’ interconnected economies and future political challenges. Feldman, a professor of International Law at Harvard, looks at the contest between the two giants and their incentives to work for common good and avoid zero-sum confrontation.

Stephen Greenblatt
Marvelous Possessions, The Wonder of the New World
1992, PAPER, 202 PAGES
In this provocative reading of contemporary documents, Greenblatt reveals the experience of early explorers in the Americas.
Stephen Greenblatt

The Swerve, How the World Became Modern
2011, HARD COVER, 320 PAGES
Winner of the 2011 National Book Award for non-fiction. The always interesting Stephen Greenblatt (Will in the World) paints an engrossing portrait of Renaissance life and culture in this latest book, variously taking in remote monasteries, burgeoning cities, book-hunting and the re-discovery of ancient manuscripts. Even if you’ve never given a through to the startling Roman philosophical epic, On the Nature of Things by Lucretius, you’ll appreciate Greenblatt's insight and verve. He sees it as a key to understanding the times.

David Gergen

Eyewitness to Power, The Essence of Leadership Nixon to Clinton
2001, PAPER, 384 PAGES
With sympathy and respect, public servant David Gergen looks back on the administrations of Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton and the hidden dimensions of presidential power. Through his meditation, he offers seven vital elements that will make future American leaders effective.

Jeffry A. Frieden

Global Capitalism, Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century
2007, PAPER, 556 PAGES
This enlightening scholarly treatment of the beginnings of international trade and globalization follows the progress of economies opening to each other, collapsing at the beginning of WWI and rebuilding.

Hubert Dreyfus

All Things Shining, Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age
2011, PAPER, 254 PAGES
An inspirational work that traverses culture, history and sacred practice. Dreyfus reaches back through the ages to analyze how our conceptions of a good and excellent life have relied on encounters with the sacred – forces greater than ourselves – and how the concept has evolved.

David S. Landes

The Wealth and Poverty of Nations, Why Some Are So Rich and Some So Poor
1999, PAPER, 658 PAGES
Landes's acclaimed, best-selling tome of politics and economics is an audaciously ambitious work that studies international tensions and financial crises. Landes is professor emeritus at Harvard.

Daniel E. Lieberman

The Story of the Human Body
2013, HARD COVER, 480 PAGES
Lieberman, along with other leading scholars in the fields of anthropology and biology, illuminates the major adaptations of the body as it evolved – including bipedalism, larger brain size, the shift to a non-fruit-based diet and the advent of hunting and gathering.

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen

An Uncertain Glory, India and Its Contradictions
2013, HARD COVER, 434 PAGES
Two of India's leading economists argue that the country's main problems lie in the lack of attention paid to the essential needs of the people, especially of the poor, and often of women.