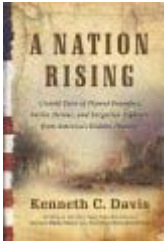


History and Current Events

Next Reads - July 2010

Previously Purchased History and Current Events



A Nation Rising: Untold Tales of Flawed Founders, Fallen Heroes, and Forgotten Fighters from America's Hidden History - by Kenneth C. Davis

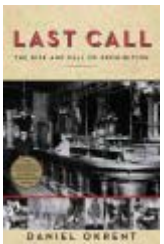
Those of you who like hearing little-known stories from American history might enjoy these essays, which focus on events in the U.S. from 1800 to 1850, and which continue author Kenneth Davis' exploration of America's "hidden history." While these topics might be known to professional historians, those of us with other day jobs can look forward to learning about an 1841 revolt aboard a slave ship, the 1844 Bible Riots in Philadelphia, and the Seminole War in Florida. Davis also compares these dark times in American history to events in recent history; if you enjoyed his bestselling *America's Hidden History*, this is the

logical next step.



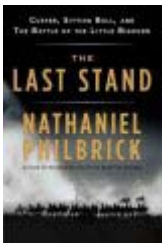
War - by Sebastian Junger

In 2007, an infantry platoon in the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade deployed to Afghanistan's Korengal valley; bestselling author and war correspondent Sebastian Junger was embedded with them for much of that time. Junger lived, slept, and fought with these soldiers, joining in on patrols and experiencing both the chaotic firefights and the periods of excruciating boredom that war often consists of. The result is this often-harrowing on-the-ground account of what it's like to be a soldier in combat. (It's also worth noting that Junger also helped make an award-winning documentary called *Restrepo*, named after a nickname for the firebase he lived in, which itself was named after a fallen medic.)



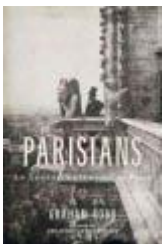
Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition, 1920-1933 - by Daniel Okrent

Taxes, women's suffrage, anti-German sentiment: these seemingly unconnected things all influenced the arrival of the Volstead Act, which in 1920 made the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol anywhere in the U.S. illegal. This informative and entertaining book--chock full of fascinating details--explains exactly how Prohibition happened, what life under Prohibition was like, and what the consequences were of shutting down the U.S.'s fifth largest industry. *Kirkus Reviews* calls it "intoxicating" (you knew someone was going to), and the author and his book figure prominently in Ken Burns' 2011 documentary on the subject. Don't miss it if you're interested in this era in American history.



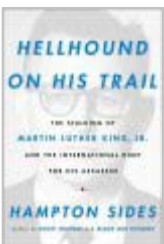
The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn - by Nathaniel Philbrick

Those familiar with American frontier history know that despite the lack of solid historical data on the Battle of the Little Bighorn, there's no shortage of authors creating plausible scenarios. Now, here comes historian Nathaniel Philbrick, who attempts to analyze the characters and contributions of Native American leaders Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse and Union cavalry officer Lt. Col. George Custer and his subordinates. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, the award-winning Philbrick succeeds, producing a "fascinating integration of known fact and defensible speculation that should rivet his audience" (*Booklist*).



Parisians: An Adventure History of Paris - by Graham Robb

Presenting little-known aspects of Parisian history--as well as its geographical secrets--through a series of vignettes that feature historical figures like Marie Antoinette (unable to flee the city because she lacked a reliable map) or criminal-turned-P.I. Eugène François Vidocq, this "valentine to the City of Light" (*The New York Times*) will definitely appeal to those who wish to spend more time there themselves. Though historian Graham Robb takes certain novelistic liberties (historical individuals share narrative duties), his findings are based on solid research. Curious about Paris' catacombs or Napoleon's first impressions of Paris? You'll find information about both--and so much more--in *Parisians*.



Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin - by Hampton Sides

In this spellbinding book, bestselling author Hampton Sides explores the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. with all the "immediacy, intimacy, and the pacing of a thriller" (*Booklist*). As April 4th, 1968 approaches, Sides alternates perspectives between King and his eventual killer--escaped criminal James Earl Ray, who traveled under the name Eric Galt as he stalked and plotted to kill the civil rights leader. Sides goes on to follow the FBI investigation and the manhunt that ended in Ray's capture, addressing theories that Ray did not act alone and that FBI leader J. Edgar Hoover was behind the assassination. If

you'd like to read more about King and his legacy, try Michael Eric Dyson's *April 4, 1968*.