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## **Gibraltar: the greatest siege in British history, Roy and Lesley Adkins (book review)**

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larger corporate culture to include selflessness and compassion is an important one in our current climate. Recommended.—**John Rodzvilla, Emerson Coll., Boston**

**Peretti, Jacques. *The Deals That Made the World: Reckless Ambition, Backroom Negotiations, and the Hidden Truths of Business*. Morrow. Mar. 2018. 304p. notes. index. ISBN 9780062698292. \$27.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062698315. BUS**

The title of this book is somewhat misleading: the work is actually a series of discrete journalistic articles on certain developments in industries (e.g., food, drugs) and business issues (e.g., robots, globalization). Drawing on literature and also interviews he himself has conducted, British journalist Peretti presents essays that include a variety of points of view. Not all of the ten chapters are about a specific negotiated deal, and even those that are go well beyond the deal itself, using it as a starting point for a wider discussion. These discussions include historical background which usefully provides context for considering the developments that are discussed. Some of the behavior Peretti describes is dishonest and manipulative, some is creatively beneficial. On the whole, these are solid journalistic pieces. The epilog ends in an unexpectedly upbeat mood that seems a bit out of sync with the complexities depicted in the previous essays. **VERDICT** This collection of informative essays will appeal to lay readers who are interested in, but have limited knowledge of, developments in the business world.—**Shmuel Ben-Gad, Gelman Lib., George Washington Univ., Washington, DC**

## EDUCATION

★**Weiss, John Henry. *Moving Forward in Mid-Career: A Guide to Rebuilding Your Career After Being Fired or Laid Off*. Skyhorse. Jan. 2018. 276p. index. ISBN 9781510722019. pap. \$17.99; ebk. ISBN 9781510722026. CAREERS**

The trauma of losing a job is devastating; psychologists have ranked it near the equivalent of losing a loved one. Weiss (*Operation Job Search; Welcome to the Real World*), president of executive recruiting firm Weiss & Associates, outlines the process of recovery, reassessment, and reentry into the job market. Regrouping after being let go from a position, reassessing your skill sets in mid-career, and determining a blueprint for your job search while protecting your finances and paying the bills are all part of Weiss's step-by-step outline. With compassion and practical guidance, Weiss pays particular attention to the barriers and stumbling blocks of midcareer workers, including defining new goals, addressing the loss of a job in a cover letter or résumé, finding and talking to

hiring managers, interviewing rules, overcoming objections to your job candidacy, and negotiating a job offer. **VERDICT** This well-written and well-resourced guidebook, with concluding chapter takeaways and short “to-do” lists at every stage of the process plus additional resources included in appendixes, is a must for anyone who has been laid off.—**Jane Scott, Clark Lib., Univ. of Portland, OR**

## HISTORY

**Adkins, Roy & Lesley Adkins. *Gibraltar: The Greatest Siege in British History*. Viking. Mar. 2018. 480p. illus. maps. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780735221628. \$30; ebk. ISBN 9780735221635. HIST**

While the War of Independence raged in America, an equally fierce conflict occurred on a tiny British territory south of the Iberian Peninsula: Gibraltar. Seizing the chance to regain lost territory in Europe and disrupt Britain's control of the Mediterranean Sea, allied French and Spanish forces blockaded Gibraltar's sea routes and gathered an army for an attack on the island's British garrison. Cut off from easy sources of relief, the garrison's residents endured starvation, scurvy, and outbreaks of disease during a siege that lasted from June 1779 to February 1783. Coauthors Roy and Lesley Adkins (*Jane Austen's England*) have centered their focus on the British side, drawing heavily on primary sources and providing a meticulous look at the military and civilian experiences of what became known as the Great Siege of Gibraltar—the longest siege ever endured by British forces. **VERDICT** Voluminous details sometimes slow down the pace of the narrative, but readers interested in this oft-overlooked facet of the American Revolutionary War will likely appreciate the thoroughness.—**Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans**

**Hollingsworth, Mary. *The Family Medici: The Hidden History of the Medici Dynasty*. Pegasus. Mar. 2018. 528p. illus. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9781681776484. \$29.95; ebk. ISBN 9781681777108. HIST**

This is a revisionist view of the celebrated Medici family written by scholar Hollingsworth (*The Cardinal's Hat*), known for her publications on the Italian Renaissance. Hereditary dukes of Florence, Italy, the Medici family produced three popes as well as a queen of France, and remain a pervasive presence in the Italian city. This highly readable narrative traces the history of the family over the course of 500 years, from their origins in the early 1200s to the death of the last Medici in 1737. The author's goal is to demythologize the family as benevolent, patriarchal leaders who used deceit, oppression, and manipulation

to enrich themselves; often failing to distinguish their own private interests from those of the state. The author enriches her text with illustrations of art and architecture from the period. Hollingsworth disputes the claim that Florence was the cradle of the Renaissance, another Medici “myth” that overshadowed the contributions made by other cities, churches, and religious institutions. **VERDICT** Although general readers may find themselves overwhelmed by the complexities of Renaissance politics, features such as maps and genealogical charts add to the book's value. For informed readers interested in the Renaissance and Italian history, culture, and travel.—**Marie M. Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., NJ**

**Huang, Yunte. *Inseparable: The Original Siamese Twins and Their Rendezvous with American History*. Liveright: Norton. Apr. 2018. 416p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780871404473. \$28.95; ebk. ISBN 9781631493850. HIST**

Chang and Eng Bunker became part of American culture in 1824 when they were brought over from Siam, now Thailand, to become sideshow spectacles. While the conjoined brothers have been the subject of numerous books, including Darrin Strauss's fictional take on their life, *Chang and Eng*, Huang (English, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; *Charlie Chan*) reexamines the twins' lives in both a historical and cultural context. The author looks past their celebrity to explore how two immigrants were able to free themselves from their manager to become slave-owning plantation proprietors in North Carolina in the years before the Civil War. The narrative follows the Bunkers on their trip across Jacksonian America, viewing events and issues that helped shape the country. While the focus often shifts to these larger cultural events, Huang has placed the rise of the sideshow and “otherness” as a central aspect of the American identity. **VERDICT** Huang's elegantly written biography uses the life story of Chang and Eng Bunker as a critique of a young America. Highly recommended to readers of cultural history.—**John Rodzvilla, Emerson Coll., Boston**

**Mathisen, Erik. *The Loyal Republic: Traitors, Slaves, and the Remaking of Citizenship in Civil War America*. Univ. of North Carolina. Mar. 2018. 240p. illus. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9781469636320. \$34.95; ebk. ISBN 9781469636337. HIST**

The American Civil War altered both citizens' relationship with the government and what it meant to be loyal. Prior to the war, most Americans believed their primary allegiance belonged to their home state; their relationship to the federal government was

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