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Explorers of the Nile: the triumph and tragedy of a great Victorian adventure, Tim Jeal (book review)

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a trip overseas and by students of business who anticipate travel in their futures.—Lucy T. Heckman, St. John's Univ. Lib., Jamaica, NY

Torrenzano, Richard & Mark Davis. Digital Assassination: Protecting Your Reputation, Brand, or Business Against Online Attacks. St. Martin's. Nov. 2011. c.304p. index. ISBN 9780312617912. \$25.99. BUS

Torrenzano (chief executive, Torrenzano Group) and Davis (former White House speechwriter) discuss how various Internet tools are being used by digital maligners to harm reputations and perform character assassinations. The authors explain how anyone can tap into social media or access other inexpensive tools to mount an electronic onslaught, severely altering the digital reputation of a person or a company. They argue that the dark side of human behavior, not technology, is the driving factor behind this phenomenon and outline seven forms the attacks can take. They also provide strategies, tactics, and keystrokes to help blunt and reverse malicious attacks. **VERDICT** Expanding on Andy Beal and Judy Strauss's *Radically Transparent* and nicely supplementing Michael Fertik and David Thompson's *Wild West 2.0*, the ample anecdotes in this book illustrate how the web's anonymity and interconnectedness can be subverted for destructive purposes. Essential reading for business people and anyone interested in information technology. Highly recommended.—Dale Farris, Groves, TX

EDUCATION

Rosen, Andrew S. Change.edu: Rebooting for the New Talent Economy. Kaplan. Oct. 2011. c.260p. index. ISBN 9781607144410. \$23. ED

Rosen, chairman and CEO of Kaplan, Inc., has written a smart, easy-to-read overview of the weaknesses of colleges and universities and the benefits of the fast-growing private-sector colleges, one of which, Kaplan University, he heads. He argues that too many public and private universities focus on campus amenities and institutional prestige rather than what their students learn and that community colleges provide access but have an unsustainable financial model. Private-sector universities prosper only because they give students new skills, so they pay close attention to what their students learn and how they can learn better. Rosen presents data and analyses that challenge the usual criticisms of private-sector universities—that they don't educate and they charge too much, misuse government funds, and recruit too aggressively. While this book will not quiet all critics, it effectively identifies weaknesses in both the nonprofit and the public sectors and should

stimulate college presidents to reconsider some of their priorities. **VERDICT** A well-written and thought-provoking critique of contemporary higher education of interest to all readers concerned about the future strength of American society.—Elizabeth R. Hayford, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL

HISTORY

★Groom, Winston. Kearny's March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846–1847. Knopf. Nov. 2011. c.320p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780307270962. \$27.95. HIST

The versatile author of *Forrest Gump* as well as several military histories such as *Vicksburg, 1863*, Groom brings to life the events of 1846–47 that transformed northern Mexico into the American Southwest during the Mexican War. He highlights General Stephen Kearny's Army of the West and the taking of New Mexico and California, Captain John Charles Fremont's expedition to California and his administrative battle with Kearny, the Mormon Battalion attached to Kearny's army, Colonel Alexander Doniphan's capture of Chihuahua, and the civilian emigration horror of the Reed-Donner overland wagon train disaster. Groom's narrative of national political scheming and the constant threat of British involvement in the Mexican War creates an intriguing international drama. **VERDICT** Groom is at his best using personal details culled from original sources to spice his capable narrative of the smaller battles, such as the Taos Pueblo uprising in New Mexico and the Battle of San Pasqual near San Diego, where rebellious Californios who were lancers nearly defeated Kearny's Army of the West. Highly recommended for both public and academic libraries.—Nathan E. Bender, Albany Cty. P.L., Laramie, WY

Israel, Jonathan I. Democratic Enlightenment: Philosophy, Revolution, and Human Rights, 1750–1790. Oxford Univ. Nov. 2011. c.1152p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780199548200. \$45. HIST

With this third volume, Israel (history, Inst. for Advanced Study; *Radical Enlightenment; Enlightenment Contested*) completes his groundbreaking work on the Enlightenment. Though his prose is at times almost opaque and the book is so thick that it will probably be read in parts rather than as a whole, it's a magisterial study of the immediate and middle-range intellectual underpinnings of the French and subsequent democratic revolutions. A renowned controversialist, Israel takes on conventional views of the origins of the French Revolution, arguing that only the radical

Enlightenment of Diderot, d'Holbach, and Helvetius provided a language capable of fueling such change in a society mired in tradition: Despite its defects in style, this trilogy is by far the most comprehensive and best study of the late 18th-century attitudinal changes that shaped modern thought and action. No serious work equals it in span (it covers Europe, Asia, and the Americas) or depth (Germany's Enlightenment, the Aufklärung, merits as much space as the philosophes or Hume). **VERDICT** It's unfortunate that so good a scholar is not a better writer; nonetheless, this is an essential book for all who are studying the Enlightenment.—David Keymer, Modesto, CA

Jeal, Tim. Explorers of the Nile: The Triumph and Tragedy of a Great Victorian Adventure. Yale Univ. Nov. 2011. c.544p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780300149357. \$32.50. HIST

Having authored biographies of individual explorers, e.g., *Stanley: The Impossible Life of Africa's Greatest Explorer*, Jeal now presents an overall account of the Victorian-era struggle to locate the true source of the Nile through the expeditions of Richard Burton, John Hanning Speke and James Augustus Grant, Samuel and Florence Baker, David Livingstone, and Henry Morton Stanley. These explorers faced disease, harsh terrain, and hostile tribes—and, in some cases, bitter rivalries and fierce public criticism. Jeal gives particular attention to the conflict between compatriots-turned-enemies Burton and Speke, and his subjectivity is evident as he attempts to exonerate Speke of several allegations that ruined his reputation. He also briefly examines the "Scramble for Africa" and the horrific effects of aggressive colonization on the continent and its peoples. **VERDICT** Jeal's sympathies, particularly toward Speke and Stanley, can overwhelm the text, but for the most part this is a thorough and gripping account of the trials these explorers faced both in Africa and at home. Recommended for readers who enjoy books on African exploration, e.g. Alan Moorehead's classics *The White Nile* and *The Blue Nile*, or those seeking a fresh viewpoint on some of the Victorian era's most famous adventurers.—Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

Millard, Candice. Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President. Doubleday. 2011. c.352p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780385526265. \$28.95. HIST

Millard (*The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*) presents a dual biography of the 20th U.S. President and his

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