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Merchant kings: when companies ruled the world 1600-1900, Stephen R. Bown (book review)

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is a great introduction for students picking a major or career-changers weighing their options. Recommended for high school, undergrad, and public library collections.—**Robert Perret, Univ. of Idaho, Moscow**

Milanovic, Branko. *The Haves and the Have-Nots: A Brief and Idiosyncratic History of Inequality Around the Globe*. Basic Bks: Perseus. Jan. 2011. c.256p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780465019748. \$27.95. BUS

Milanovic, lead economist at the World Bank's research division, offers an innovative look at price and consumption differences. His objective "is to unveil the importance that differences in income and wealth, affluence, and poverty play in our ordinary lives as well as the importance that they have had historically." This book is divided into three parts: inequality among individuals within a single country, inequality in income among countries or nations, and global inequality or inequality among citizens of the world. Milanovic illustrates his discussion with anecdotes from fiction and fact, e.g., examining the wealth of *Pride and Prejudice's* Mr. Darcy, Anna Karenina's monetary advantage in marrying, and the wealth of individuals from different eras such as John D. Rockefeller and Bill Gates. He also considers how location shapes one's economic future, how income determines choice of life partner, and how the inequality gap between rich and poor is created around the globe. Bibliographic references, charts, and tables are included. **VERDICT** Students, practitioners, and anyone interested in economics and the issue of inequality would enjoy this.—**Lucy Heckman, St. John's Univ. Lib., Jamaica, NY**

Scholl, Adam T. *No Sneakers at the Office: A Practical Handbook for the Business World*. LandMarc. 2010. c.224p. illus. index. ISBN 9780984512904. pap. \$14.95. BUS

Scholl, whose varied resumé includes an MBA, JD, and stints as a programmer and film producer, offers a frighteningly basic guide to business etiquette and workplace dynamics, aimed at new graduates and other recent job market entrants. He discusses professionalism in dress, communication, and traveling; developing one's own career; and how best to work with human resources departments, manage time effectively, and successfully negotiate office politics. Each chapter is clearly organized, and there are some valuable tips here for those new to the workplace: of particular note are the chapters on meeting facilitation and on documenting and charting one's career path, goals, and growth. Scholl's tone is sometimes unnecessarily condescending (especially because he is still rather new to

the work world himself), but overall this is a quick and easy read that largely delivers what it promises. **VERDICT** It's disturbing to think that such an introductory etiquette and career guide is necessary, but if it is, this is a reasonably priced and no-nonsense title for readers to consider.—**Sarah Statz Cords, The Reader's Advisor Online**

EDUCATION

Saltmarsh, John & Edward Zlotkowski. *Higher Education and Democracy: Essays on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement*. Temple Univ. Feb. 2011. c.360p. illus. index. ISBN 9781439900376. \$59.50. ED

Saltmarsh (director, New England Resource Ctr. for Higher Education, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston) and Zlotkowski (English, Bentley Coll.) have assembled a collection of essays written over the past ten years about service learning and civic engagement in higher education. Service learning, or putting what one is learning in the classroom to work helping others, is an increasingly popular way for universities and colleges to give students a truly valuable opportunity. The book is divided into general sections that progress logically for implementing service learning: general need, antecedents, pedagogy, service learning in the first-year curriculum, considering disciplines, and engaged departments and campus. Concluding essays examine the development of service learning over the last ten years. Saltmarsh and Zlotkowski's concept is similar to that of William Ayers and others in *Teaching Toward Democracy* but more in-depth, philosophical, and theoretical. Also, Ayers focuses on a variety of teaching techniques in K-12 contexts, while Saltmarsh and Zlotkowski treat higher education. **VERDICT** With an extremely academic tone, this is a valuable resource for professors and administrators in higher education using or supporting service learning.—**Mark Bay, Univ. of the Cumberlands Lib., Williamsburg, KY**

HISTORY

Blatman, Daniel. *The Death Marches: The Final Phase of Nazi Genocide*. Belknap: Harvard Univ. Jan. 2011. c.570p. tr. from Hebrew by Chaya Galai. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780674050495. \$35. HIST

During the last months of World War II, hundreds of thousands of concentration and extermination camp inmates were forced to march from Eastern Europe to Germany in what Blatman (Jewish history, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem) argues was the last stage of Nazi genocidal activity. The author demonstrates that conflicting lines of authority, ambiguous orders, and administrative chaos shaped the decisions to evacuate prisoners from the camps as the Soviet army

advanced. Interestingly, there were few explicit orders to murder prisoners; when it happened, it was often done either by local Nazis or was done on local initiative. While professional killers ran the death camps and focused on Jews, the death marches marked the point where many non-Jews were killed by a cross section of German society including the *Volkssturm* (German national militia), soldiers, and civilians. **VERDICT** Blatman's assertion, not shared by all historians, that the death marches must be seen as the logical result of Nazi policies helps place the story of concentration camps more firmly into the history of the Holocaust. This is not for beginners, but it's an important read for specialists and students of modern genocide.—**Frederic Krome, Univ. of Cincinnati Clermont Coll.**

Bown, Stephen R. *Merchant Kings: When Companies Ruled the World, 1600-1900*. Thomas Dunne Bks: St. Martin's. Dec. 2010. c.320p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780312616113. pap. \$26.99. HIST

From the tangled histories of the giant trading companies of the past, Bown (*A Most Damnable Invention: Dynamite, Nitrates, and the Making of the Modern World*) presents six of the most important figures: Jan Coen (Dutch East India Company), Peter Stuyvesant (Dutch West India Company), Robert Clive (British East India Company), Alexander Baranov (Russian-American Company), George Simpson (Hudson's Bay Company), and Cecil Rhodes (British South Africa Company). The monopolistic status of these companies, driven to maximize profits, meant that each became the sole power in its territory and an unofficial extension of its country's government, taking on duties of colonization and legal and martial powers. The leaders of these companies gained enormous influence to pursue their own goals, whether driven by personal avarice, nationalistic pride, or a need for control. Bown provides accurate summations of each man's life and motivations, but his focus is on how the ambitions of these men combined with the force of commerce to alter history as much as any legitimate monarch did. **VERDICT** Bown's treatment of each individual is succinct, so those wanting an in-depth study should look elsewhere. General readers interested in embarking on this subject will find this an excellent starting point.—**Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, Lib.**

Budiansky, Stephen. *Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815*. Knopf. Jan. 2011. c.448p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780307270696. \$35. HIST

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