

perspective that has ever since characterized modernity. Readers see how Kepler, Galileo, and Newton probe nature with new mathematical and empirical methodologies; Descartes and Spinoza unfold bold conceptual systems premised on the autonomy of human reason; Hugo Grotius ushers in an unprecedented system of international law; and Hobbes and Locke lay down political doctrines displacing belief in the divine right of kings. Of particular interest to many will be a revolt against Aristotelean dogma that incubates both solid science and wild magic. Lucid and concise, the narrative transports readers to the pivotal historical episodes when the cultural world we now inhabit begins to emerge, emancipating the individual and secularizing and democratizing society. Some readers will discern deep and unresolved problems in the developments Grayling hails as progress. But this chronicle marvelously illuminates the forces that launched the entire planet on that new trajectory four centuries ago. —*Bryce Christensen*

Dead Presidents: An American Adventure into the Strange Deaths and Surprising Afterlives of our Nation's Leaders.
By Brady Carlson.

Feb. 2016. 304p. illus. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393243932). 973.

When it comes to final wishes, even presidents don't always get their way. Take George Washington, who wanted a private funeral held at Mount Vernon, but cities across the country also held mock funerals of their own. The first president was not alone in having his wishes ignored, as NPR reporter Carlson notes in this thoroughly enjoyable account of presidential gravesites and memorials. From unusual deaths to unique monuments to lingering questions about causes of death (Did William Henry Harrison really die of a cold?), our nation's presidents made some of their most peculiar contributions to history after their terms on earth expired. With both the reverence of a pilgrim and the impudence of a comedian, Carlson tours the presidents' homes and graves, demonstrating in the process how the manner in which we remember these men reveals as much about us as it does about them—for however much they accomplished in life, the presidents are also remarkable for the legacy they pass on after passing away. —*Bridget Thoreson*

From Silk to Silicon: The Story of Globalization through Ten Extraordinary Lives.

By Jeffrey E. Garten.

Mar. 2016. 464p. illus. Harper, \$29.99 (9780062409973). 909.

Biography is author Garten's platform for this history of economic globalization. Garten argues that Genghis Khan, a pillager, to be sure, left a positive legacy of trade connections, the Silk Road, between Asia and Europe. Portugal's Henry the Navigator, who helped initiate the African slave trade,

also boosted the Age of Discovery that linked not just a continent but the entire inhabited planet. In addition to sketching an earthshaking accomplishment to balance a character's darker side, Garten dwells on leadership traits common to his gallery. All were prepared to capitalize on history's flow; they did so by believing in a single idea, mastering its details, and, applying it on a large scale once they had power. Robert Clive's conquests accelerated the British Empire toward global status. Mayer Rothschild practically invented international banking. Cyrus Field sponsored the first transoceanic telegraph. John D. Rockefeller built, rapaciously, the prototypical international corporation. Garten's twentieth-century figures, excepting Intel's Andrew Grove, are political people who made important impacts on international economics: Jean Monnet, Margaret Thatcher, and Deng Xiaoping. Lives being more interesting than ledgers, Garten's subjects will engage readers with globalization's force and controversies. —*Gilbert Taylor*

★ The Lovers: Afghanistan's Romeo and Juliet, the True Story of How They Defied Their Families and Escaped an Honor Killing.

By Rod Nordland.

Jan. 2016. 336p. Ecco, \$26.99 (9780062378828); e-book (9780062378842). 958.104.

Nordland, an international correspondent for the *New York Times*, chronicles the perilous plight of two star-crossed lovers in Afghanistan. Growing up on neighboring farms in the Bamiyan Valley, Zakia and Ali fell in love as teens. Ali asked Zakia's father, Zaman, for Zakia's hand in marriage, but because they were from different tribes, Zaman refused. This set the



lovers on a course that would force them to flee their families in order to marry. Ali's family eventually came around, and Ali's father, Anwar, became the couple's greatest ally. But Zakia's family remained staunchly opposed to the union, going so far as to give up their livelihood to pursue the couple throughout Afghanistan. After writing stories about the couple, Nordland found himself in the difficult position of having to choose between helping them and maintaining his journalistic neutrality. But with Zakia's very life in danger—he cites numerous examples of young women who have eloped and been returned to their families, only to never be seen again—the author finds himself going to great lengths to help the pair. Nordland offers a stark, eye-opening look at the deplorable state of women's rights in Afghanistan through the travels of a brave, determined young couple. —*Kristine Huntley*

YAM: *Teens will be drawn to this important, accessible read by the lengths to which the young lovers went in order to be together. KH.*

ONLINE ALERT! You'll find Ilene Cooper's review of Jon Meacham's *Destiny*

B *and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush* on *Booklist Online*. This in-demand political biography was our Review of the Day on November 13.

Masters of Empire: Great Lakes Indians and the Making of America.

By Michael A. McDonnell.

Dec. 2015. 416p. Farrar/Hill & Wang, \$28 (9780809029532). 977.4.

McDonnell, an Australian history professor who specializes in American history, here focuses on a lesser-known Great Lakes tribe, the Anishinaabeg, who, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, were settled at Michilimackinac, on the straits between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. McDonnell's thesis is that this tribe, and its Odawa band in particular, played a major role in the fur trade, intertribal politics, and wars between the French and English—a role overlooked in previous histories of the region. By the 1730s, the Odawa commanded a "sprawling domain," accomplished, he says, not only because of their strategic position on the trade routes but also because they were able to keep peace between themselves and neighboring tribes by means of widely spread kinship ties. In addition, they realized the importance of playing the French and English against one another in the Anglo-Indian Wars—a strategy that enabled them to hold on to their territory, however briefly, after the Treaty of 1783. Meticulously researched, McDonnell's scholarly yet compelling history will be a valuable addition to American history and Native American collections. —*Deborah Donovan*

Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency.

By David Greenberg.

Jan. 2016. 640p. illus. Norton, \$35 (9780393067064). 973.09.

Suspicious of political spin, the intentional effort to shape the public's impression of candidates and policies? Worries about what was formerly euphemized as "publicity," "public relations," and "communications" are nothing new, as this fascinating history of presidential spin reveals. Starting with William McKinley, Greenberg parallels the techniques devised by spin doctors with intellectuals' critiques of their methods. Pivoting on a key question—Does spin work?—Greenberg describes the variable fortunes of presidents since McKinley to produce favorable news. Theodore Roosevelt set an example of how a president could influence public opinion, while Wilson illustrated spin's limits when he failed to build popular support for the League of Nations. As he recounts each president's adoption of an innovation, such as Coolidge and radio, FDR and pollsters, Eisenhower and television, Greenberg wryly notes that critics' fears of a public manipulated and