

Welcome to this week's newsletter. This week we have books and this DVD releases for this month.

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Books

Medieval and Renaissance

Machiavelli

By Ross King

\$29.95

Publisher – Pavilion, 176 pages, ISBN 9780007261277, hardback

In this discerning new biography, Ross King rescues Machiavelli's legacy from caricature, detailing the vibrant political and social context that influenced his thought and underscoring the humanity of one of history's finest political thinkers. Ross King's Machiavelli visits fortune-tellers, produces wine on his Tuscan estate, travels Europe tirelessly on horseback as a diplomatic envoy, and is a passionate scholar of antiquity—but above all, a keen observer of human nature.

Mary Tudor: The First Queen

By Linda Porter

\$64.95

Publisher – Portrait, 400 pages, ISBN 9780749951443, hardback

This is a striking and sympathetic portrait of England's first Queen, Mary I - whose character has been vilified for over 400 years. Instead of the bloodthirsty bigot of Protestant mythology, Mary Tudor emerges from the pages of this deeply-researched biography as a cultured renaissance princess, a courageous survivor of the violent power struggles that characterised the reigns of her father, Henry VIII, and brother Edward VI. The author does not belittle Mary's burning of heretics, which earned her the sobriquet 'Bloody Mary', but she also had many endearing personal qualities and talents, not least the courage of leadership she showed in facing down Northumberland's rebellion.

17th-19th Century

The Barefoot Emperor: An Ethiopian Tragedy

By Philip Marsden

\$44.95

Publisher – HarperCollins, 320 pages, ISBN 9780007173457, hardback

In 1867, as his kingdom collapsed around him, King of Kings of Ethiopia, the Emperor Theodore retreated to his mountain-top stronghold in Magdala. Sixty miles to the north, a British expeditionary force under Sir Robert Napier – consisting of more than 10,000 fighting men, at least as many followers and 20,000 pack-animals, including a number of Indian elephants – had been ferried to the Red Sea Coast and built a railway line through the desert. Their object: to rescue the British consul and sixty Europeans, held prisoner by the increasingly erratic Theodore, who had taken to massacring his prisoners-of-war and pitching captives over the cliffs of Magdala.

Napoleonic

Dancing Into Battle: A Social History of the Battle of Waterloo

By Nick Foulkes

\$24.95

Publisher – Phoenix, 304 pages, ISBN 9780753822173, paperback

The summer of 1815 saw the final and desperate efforts of European powers to usurp Napoleon's reign over France. The pivotal moment was unfolding in an age where war was a social occasion; the military urgency was matched

only by the soldiers and their wives' frantic efforts to keep apace of the lavish balls which were being thrown. The intention to deny war with frivolity persevered until 15 June, when the tension broke and troops exchanged dance partners for weapons and prepared for battle. Nick Foulkes captures the sense of what it was like to be at the very hub of events when the fate of Europe seemed to hang in the balance.

American Civil War

Lines of Contention: Political Cartoons of the Civil War

By J.G. Lewin & P.J. Huff

\$39.95

Publisher – Collins, 224 pages, ISBN 9780061137884, paperback

The political turmoil of the Civil War Era has been analysed many times, but one area of this period's history is often overlooked: a large body of humorous, clever, and scathing editorial cartoons from publications such as *Harper's Weekly*, *Vanity Fair*, *Punch*, and *Leslie's Illustrated*. In *Lines of Contention*, the best of these cartoons has finally been collected into one place to illuminate the social, political, and cultural climate of Civil War-Era America.

World War I

The Great War

By Les Carlyon

\$39.95

Publisher – Picador, 880 pages, ISBN 9781405037990, paperback

In *The Great War* Carlyon has succeeded in bringing back to life the essential character of the men of the First AIF in France. The Australians who fought long ago at Mouquet Farm, Messines, Polygon Wood and Passchendaele have gone, but, thanks to Carlyon, they are still with us. To paraphrase Bean, *The Great War* will stand as a lasting monument to that body of great-hearted men.

The Faces of WWI: The Tragedy of the Great War in Words and Pictures

By Max Arthur

\$59.95

Publisher – Cassell Illustrated, 288 pages, ISBN 9781844035618, hardback

In *The Faces of World War I* Max Arthur has delved into the superb photographic archives of the Imperial War Museum and other important collections to unearth remarkable, never before seen images that, when married with his contemporary eyewitness accounts, truly bring a unique perspective to the First World War.

Dark Journey: Three Key NZ Battles of the Western Front

By Glyn Harper

\$64.95

Publisher – HarperCollins, 544 pages, ISBN 9781869505790, hardback

This significant volume will see the completion of over ten years' writing and research by esteemed military historian Glyn Harper. The book will include the revision and reissuing of his two earlier detailed histories of the New Zealand Division's major Western Front battles of World War One: *Massacre at Passchendaele* (2000) *Spring Offensive* (2003) combined with an unpublished account of the third major battle of the Somme, at Bapaume, during which several VCs were awarded to New Zealand troops.

World War II

Hitler's Beneficiaries: How the Nazis Bought the German People

By Gotz Aly

\$63.95

Publisher – Verso, 448 pages, ISBN 9781844672172, paperback

This is a stunning account of the economic workings of the Third Reich – and the reasons ordinary Germans supported the Nazi state. In this groundbreaking book, historian Gotz Aly addresses one of modern history's greatest conundrums: How did Hitler win the allegiance of ordinary Germans? The answer is as shocking as it is persuasive: by engaging in a campaign of theft on an almost unimaginable scale – and by channelling the proceeds into generous social programs – Hitler literally "bought" his people's consent.

The D-Day Experience: From the Invasion to the Liberation of Paris

By Richard Holmes

\$44.95

Publisher – Simon & Schuster, 80 pages, ISBN 9780731813254, hardback

A unique look at the whole D-Day campaign, *The D-Day Experience* boxed slipcase contains facsimile items of rare memorabilia from the Imperial War Museum and other collections, including situation maps, diaries, letters, secret memos, reports and logbooks, and an 80-page book written by one of Britain's most respected military historians.

Ike: An American Hero

By Michael Korda

\$49.95

Publisher – HarperCollins, 800 pages, ISBN9780060756659, hardback

A big, ambitious, and enthralling new biography of Dwight D. Eisenhower, full of fascinating details and anecdotes, which places particular emphasis on his brilliant generalship and leadership in World War Two, and provides, with the advantage of hindsight, a far more acute analysis of his character and personality than any that has previously been available, reaching the conclusion that he was perhaps America's greatest general and one of America's best presidents, a man who won the war and thereafter kept the peace.

The Manhattan Project: The Birth of the Atomic Bomb by Its Creators, Eyewitnesses and Historians

Edited by Cynthia C. Kelly

\$32.95

Publisher – Black Dog & Leventhal, 400 pages, ISBN 9781579127473, hardback

The Manhattan Project (1942-1946) resulted in the development and detonation of the first nuclear weapons - and irrevocably changed the course of world events. Born out of a small research programme that began in 1939, the project would eventually employ more than 130,000 people and cost a total of nearly \$2 billion - and it was operated under a shroud of deep secrecy. This authoritative book provides a complete and vivid history of the project and its legacy, from the widest array of perspectives and primary sources: secret documents, essays, articles, excerpts from histories, biographies, plays, novels, letters and oral histories.

Post World War II**The Vietnam Experience 1957-1974**

\$59.95

Publisher – Five Mile Press, 64 pages, ISBN 9781741784541, hardback & CD

The first major war to be graphically and extensively photographed and filmed. The Vietnam War exposed the true horror of war to a watching world, and shocked an entire nation with its needless sacrifice. Using these amazing images and unique facsimiles of actual documents, *The Vietnam Experience* chronologically brings to life the lead up to the conflict, the major battles and campaigns, and the aftermath. The included audio CD features dramatic first-hand accounts from Vietnam veterans.

Vietnam: The Australian War

By Paul Ham

\$54.95

Publisher – HarperCollins, 700 pages, ISBN 9780732282370, hardback

In *Vietnam*, Paul Ham (author of the bestselling *Kokoda*) narrates in compelling detail the full story of Australia's involvement in our longest military campaign, in which 50,000 Australians participated. This extraordinary, sweeping account, draws on hundreds of unpublished sources and interviews with soldiers, politicians, medical practitioners, aid providers, entertainers and the Vietnamese people to reconstruct the epic history of a campaign that disfigured a country and divided the world, nations, families and friends.

Volunteer: My Secret Life in the Mossad

By Michael Ross

\$39.95

Publisher – Vision, 288 pages, ISBN 9781905745197, paperback

In 1982, Michael Ross joined the legions of North American twenty-somethings backpacking in Europe. When his money ran out, he wound up working on a kibbutz in Israel, where he fell in love with the land and its multi-layered history. He immersed himself in Israeli culture, converted to Judaism, married a Sabra, and adopted Israel's struggle for survival as his own. He joined the Israel Defence Force and was then recruited for the Mossad's most elite and storied covert- operations unit, Caesaria. For seven-and-a-half years, Ross worked as a top-level undercover agent, operating in many political hotbed areas in the world.

Guns for Hire: The Inside Story of Freelance Soldiering

By Tony Geraghty

\$59.95

Publisher – Portrait, 352 pages, ISBN 9780749951450, hardback

The vast expansion of commercial and politicised warfare - in the wake of the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq - is examined in this enthralling, highly controversial book. The freelance soldier, whether fighting for money or an adopted cause, has always been a fascinating but little understood phenomenon. Never more so than now. For some, the mercenary is heroic; for those who do not know the euphoria of surviving a battle, he is a bloodthirsty killer. Tony Geraghty's book reveals the truth about their lives.

Terrorism

Triple Cross: How Bin Laden's Master Spy Penetrated the CIA, the Green Berets, and the FBI

By Peter Lance

\$29.95

Publisher – Harper, 656 pages, ISBN 9780061189418, paperback

In the years leading to the 9/11 attacks, no single agent of al Qaeda was more successful in compromising the U.S. intelligence community than Ali Mohamed. A former Egyptian army captain, Mohamed succeeded in infiltrating the CIA in Europe, the Green Berets at Fort Bragg, and the FBI in California—even as he helped to orchestrate the al Qaeda campaign of terror that culminated in 9/11.

Political

Jack Kennedy: The Making of a President

By Barbara Leaming

\$26.95

Publisher – Orion, 416 pages, ISBN 9780752881706, paperback

This groundbreaking biography of the most charismatic of all 20th-century American presidents reveals the profound, lifelong impact on John F. Kennedy of British history, literature and values. Drawing on extensive new and astonishingly intimate primary materials and original interviews, Leaming has uncovered the dramatic line that runs through Kennedy's complicated life, the trajectory of the friendships and forces that led to the White House and shaped his actions there. Here is the childhood reading of a sickly boy; Jack's rapturous engagement at the age of fifteen with the writings of Winston Churchill; and his transforming experiences as a member of the Second Sons' Club of young aristocrats in pre-war London, where his father was the American ambassador and where his sister introduced him to a group of friends who would have a deep and lasting influence on Jack.

General Histories

Voices of War: Australians Tell Their Stories

By Michael Caulfield

\$34.95

Publisher – Hachette, ? pages, ISBN 9780733622373, paperback

Drawn from engagements ranging from World War I through to operations in East Timor and Iraq, the stories are taken from the Australians at War Film Archive, a collection of the memories of over two thousand Australians who have served, both on the front line and at home. Some are unbelievably, unbearably tragic, even after sixty or seventy years, others are the golden memories of happy, albeit unusual, times. And, more often than not, they are stories which have never been shared with others, even family members.

The Army: The Definitive History in the Twentieth Century

By Max Hastings

\$59.95

Publisher – Cassell Illustrated, 288 pages, ISBN 9781844036028, hardback

Cassell and the Imperial War Museum have united to produce definitive illustrated histories of the British forces over the past century of modern warfare. Packed with personal testimonies, memorabilia, and tributes to the key figures of each services history, they will be fully endorsed by the Imperial War Museum, and fronted by noted historian Sir Max Hastings.

Medal Yearbook 2008

By Medal News

\$74.95

Publisher – Renniks, 600 pages, ISBN 9781870192811, paperback

This completely new 2008 edition provides details of all British decorations plus Commonwealth countries. It also contains a detailed section in full colour on medal ribbons together with a listing of unofficial British medals.

Heroes: Winners of the Victoria Cross

By Nigel Cawthorne

\$22.95

Publisher – John Blake, 288 pages, ISBN 9781844544707, paperback

The VC has been awarded only thirteen times since the end of the Second World War in 1945. Three of these awards were made to recipients who had paid the ultimate sacrifice while demonstrating gallantry beyond the call of duty. Forged in battle, from the shell-scarred hills of Korea, to the windswept marshland of East Falkland and today's counter-insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, each one of these VCs has a uniquely inspiring tale to tell. This is their incredible story.

DVDs

Victory at Sea

Rated E, 684 mins, 1952, 4-disc set

\$19.95

All 26 episodes of this World War II documentary, narrated by Leonard Graves, are brought together in this 4 disc set. They have been available before, but not for a while. Produced with the full cooperation of the US Navy, this multi-award winning show contains a wealth of archival footage.

Becket

Rated PG, 150 mins, 1964

\$19.95

Peter O'Toole delivers an electrifying performance as the mischievous Henry II, who surprise England by naming his fellow rogue and trusted valet Thomas Becket (Richard Burton) as Chancellor. But when Henry next appoints him Archbishop of Canterbury, Becket shocks the world by openly defying the King with his newfound faith and compassion. Will a desperate ruler now destroy a beloved friend to save his splintering kingdom?

Seven Swords

Rated MA, 153 mins, 2005

\$39.95

In the early 1600's, the Manchurians took over the sovereignty of China and established the Ching Dynasty. With many pro-nationalist revolts occurring, the newly set-up government immediately imposed a ban on the study and practice of the Martial Arts; forbidding them altogether in an attempt to gain effective control and order. Fire-wind (Sun Hong-Lei), a military official from the previous dynasty, sees this as an opportunity to make a fortune for himself by helping to implement the new law. Greedy, cruel, and immoral, Fire-wind ravages and ranges across North-western China with his next goal to attack the final frontier; an intransigent and hold-out town known as the Martial Village.

Andromeda Season 3

Rated M, 913 mins, 6 disc set

\$59.95

This remastered (and much cheaper) box set contains all 22 episodes of season 3 of Gene Roddenberry's follow-up to Star Trek, and all new extras that weren't included in the original box set.

Flesh for Frankenstein / Blood for Dracula

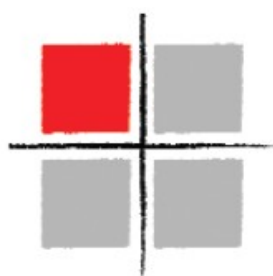
Rated R, 198 mins, 1973 / 1974

\$19.95

Two classic horror films given the Warhol treatment and now brought together in a double disc set. Both films are produced by Andy Warhol and directed by Paul Morrissey and star Udo Kier as Dr Frankenstein and the Count. Both of these films were extremely controversial at the time of their cinematic release for the levels of violence and eroticism.

Well, that's it for this newsletter, good reading and look forward to another small newsletter next week.

Tony



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