

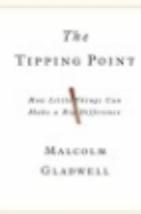


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### **Play matters**

Miguel Sicart

In "Play Matters", Sicart shares with us a fascinating toy chest full of concepts, ideas, and observations on the most elusive subject in game studies.

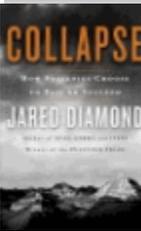


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### **The tipping point: how little things can make a big difference**

Malcolm Gladwell

Explains why major changes in society often happen suddenly and unexpectedly and describes the personality types who are natural originators of new ideas and trends.



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### **Collapse: how societies choose to fail or succeed**

Jared Diamond

Presents a comprehensive historical narrative that describes how and why ancient civilizations such as the Anasazi, Maya, and the Polynesian culture on Easter Island failed and fell into ruin and examines how lessons learned from the past can help in preserving the future.



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### **The better angels of our nature: a history of violence and humanity**

Steven Pinker

By comparing the twentieth century to past centuries, including Biblical times, the author argues that society has become less violent than in the past.



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### **The botany of desire**

Michael Pollan

Traces the history of four domesticated species, the apple, the tulip, marijuana, and the potato, from the plant's point of view and discusses how they have been cultivated to fill human needs and desires.



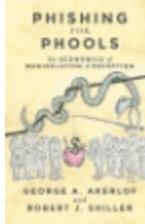
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### **Superfreakonomics: global cooling, patriotic prostitutes, and why suicide bombers should buy life insurance**

Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

The authors explore the economics of real-world issues often viewed as insignificant, such as the odds of someone with both a Muslim first and last name being a terrorist, if eating kangaroo can save the planet, and if it is safer to drive or walk drunk.

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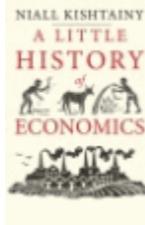


### **Phishing for phools: the economics of manipulation and deception**

George A. Akerlof and Robert J. Shiller

In Phishing for Phools, Nobel Prize-winning economists George Akerlof and Robert Shiller deliver a fundamental challenge to this insight, arguing that markets harm as well as help us.

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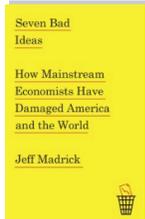


### **A little history of everything**

Niall Kishtainy

What causes poverty? Are economic crises inevitable under capitalism? Is government intervention in an economy a helpful approach or a disastrous idea? The answers to such basic economic questions matter to everyone, yet the unfamiliar jargon and math of economics can seem daunting. This clear, accessible, and even humorous book is ideal for young readers new to economics and for all readers who seek a better understanding of the full sweep of economic history and ideas.

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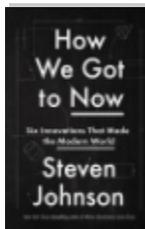


### **Seven bad ideas: how mainstream economists have damaged America and the World**

Jeff Madrick

... Jeff Madrick ... mounts a comprehensive case against prevailing mainstream economic thinking, illustrating how it has damaged markets, infrastructure, and individual livelihoods, causing hundreds of billions of dollars of wasted investment; financial crisis after financial crisis; poor public education and public transportation; gross inequality of income and wealth, and stagnating wages; uncontrolled military spending; and a failed healthcare system that delivers far less than it costs, using the Great Recession as his foremost case study .

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### **How we got to now: six innovations that made the modern world**

Steven Johnson

In this illustrated volume, Steven Johnson explores the history of innovation over centuries, tracing facets of modern life (refrigeration, clocks, and eyeglass lenses, to name a few) from their creation by hobbyists, amateurs, and entrepreneurs to their unintended historical consequences. Filled with stories of accidental genius and brilliant mistakes--from the French publisher who invented the phonograph before Edison but forgot to include playback, to the Hollywood movie star who helped invent the technology behind Wi-Fi and Bluetooth--"How We Got to Now" investigates the secret history behind the everyday objects of contemporary life.

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### **What the best college students do**

Ken Bain

A guide to get the most out of school for college students.

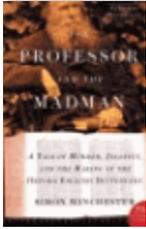
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**Ninety percent of everything: inside shipping, the invisible industry that puts clothes on your back, gas in your car, and food on your plate**

Rose George

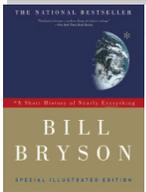
Offers an inside look at the workings and dangers of the freight shipping industry, presenting an eye-opening glimpse into an overlooked world filled with suspect practices, dubious operators, and pirates.



**The professor and the madman: a tale of murder, insanity, and the making of the Oxford English dictionary**

Simon Winchester

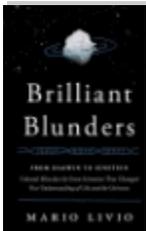
Explains how the "Oxford English Dictionary" was created and discusses the relationship between the editor and one of his most influential contributors, a psychotic murderer in one of England's cruelest asylums.



**A short history of nearly everything**

Bill Bryson

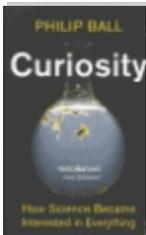
Draws from the history of human knowledge about the universe to tell the universe and humanity's story, presenting a scientific chronicle of life on Earth stretching from the Big Bang to the rise of "Homo sapiens," and discusses extinction.



**Brilliant blunders: from Darwin to Einstein--colossal mistakes by great scientists that changed our understanding of life and the universe**

Mario Livio

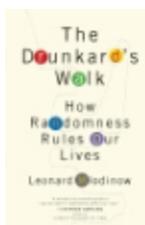
Drawing on the lives of five great scientists--Charles Darwin, William Thomson (Lord Kelvin), Linus Pauling, Fred Hoyle and Albert Einstein--scientist/author Mario Livio shows how even the greatest scientists made major mistakes and how science built on these errors to achieve breakthroughs, especially into the evolution of life and the universe.



**Curiosity: how science became interested in everything**

Philip Ball

Discusses the history of science and how human curiosity has influenced the field.



### **The Drunkard's walk: how randomness rules our lives**

Leonard Mlodinow

Reveals the impact chance has on a person's day-to-day life, explaining how wine ratings, school grades, political polls, health, and other factors of daily life are based more on chance than reliable information and examining how psychological factors have led people to underestimate the power of chance.

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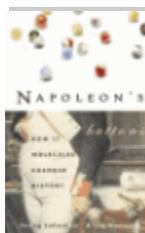


### **Black hole blues: and other songs from outer space**

Janna Levin

Recounts the five decade story of the scientists who sought to prove Einstein's theory of the existence of gravitational waves as they endeavor to successfully intercept them in time for the centenary of his radical idea.

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### **Napoleon's buttons: 17 molecules that changed the world**

Penny Le Couteur, Jay Burreson

Examines the roles that the molecular properties of such items as the birth control pill, caffeine, and the buttons on the uniforms of Napoleon's army have played in the course of history.

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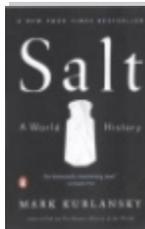


### **The disappearing spoon: and other true tales of madness, love, and the history of the world from the periodic table of the elements**

Sam Kean

Examines the stories behind the creation of the periodic table, focusing on the history of gold, carbon, silicon, and neon.

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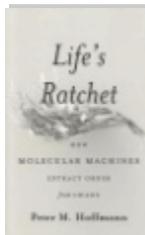


### **Salt, a world history**

Mark Kurlansky

Chronicles the history of salt, discussing how it has shaped civilizations from the earliest beginnings of world history and how it has been used in different cultures.

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### **Life's ratchet: how molecular machines extract order from chaos**

Peter M. Hoffmann

Physicist Peter M. Hoffmann describes how modern nanotechnology can explain how atoms can give rise to life itself.

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**The hidden life of trees**  
Peter Wohlleben

A forester's fascinating stories, supported by the latest scientific research, reveal the extraordinary world of forests and illustrate how trees communicate and care for each other.

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**Beyond words: what animals think and feel**

Carl Safina

Drawing on decades of field observations of elephants, wolves, and killer whales, this book offers a view of animal behavior that challenges the boundaries between human and animal psychology.

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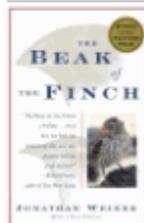


**The thing with feathers: the surprising lives of birds and what they reveal about being human**

Noah Strycker

Looks at the lives of birds and their connection with humanity.

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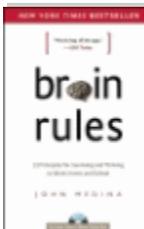


**The beak of the finch: a story of evolution in our time**

Jonathan Weiner

Recounts the story of two evolutionary biologists and their research on finches in the Galapagos archipelago.

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**Brain rules: 12 principles for surviving and thriving at work, home, and school**

John Medina

Discusses how the brain works and how to treat it well, including getting enough exercise and sleep, how to learn effectively, and how the brain evolved, presenting twelve principles for optimum brain performance at work, home, and school.

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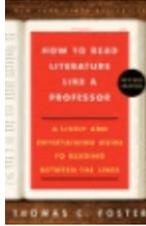


**Green, the history of color**

Michel Pastoureau

In this beautiful and richly illustrated book, the acclaimed author of Blue and Black presents a fascinating and revealing history of the color green in European societies from prehistoric times to today.

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### **How to read literature like a professor: a lively and entertaining guide to reading between the lines**

Thomas C. Foster

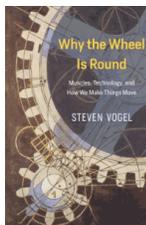
Presents a discussion on how to understand symbolism in literature, discussing the appearance of journeys, eating, drowning, rain, violence, sex, illness, geography, Christ figures, and other signifiers, and how to see patterns the way literature professors do.



### **Making make-believe real : politics as theater in Shakespeare's time**

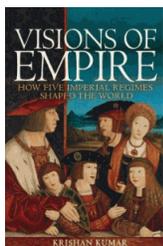
Garry Wills

In this fascinating study of political stagecraft in the Elizabethan era, Garry Wills explores a period of vast cultural and political change during which the power of make-believe to make power real was not just a theory but an essential truth.



### **Why the wheel is round** Steven Vogel

Steven Vogel combines his engineering expertise with his remarkable curiosity about how things work to explore how wheels and other mechanisms were, until very recently, powered by the push and pull of the muscles and skeletal systems of humans and other animals. "Why the Wheel Is Round" explores all manner of treadwheels, hand-spikes, gears, and more, as well as how these technologies diversified into such things as hand-held drills and hurdy-gurdies.



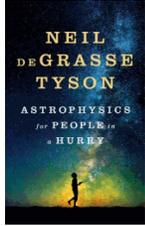
### **Visions of empire** Krishan Kumar

The empires of the past were far-flung experiments in multinationalism and multiculturalism, and have much to teach us about navigating our own increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Until now, most recent scholarship on empires has focused on their subject peoples. Visions of Empire looks at their rulers, shedding critical new light on who they were, how they justified their empires, how they viewed themselves, and the styles of rule they adopted toward their subjects. Krishan Kumar provides panoramic and multifaceted portraits of five major European empires - Ottoman, Habsburg, Russian/Soviet, British, and French - showing how each, like ancient Rome, saw itself as the carrier of universal civilization to the rest of the world.



### **Resurrection science** M. R. O'Connor

In a world dominated by people and rapid climate change, species large and small are increasingly vulnerable to extinction. In 'Resurrection Science,' journalist M. R. O'Connor explores the extreme measures scientists are taking to try and save them.



## **Astrophysics for people in a hurry**

Neil deGrasse Tyson

What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than... astrophysicist and... author Neil deGrasse Tyson. But today, few of us have time to contemplate the cosmos. So Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day.