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OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY
BOOKS, VIDEOS AND MUSIC ON PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY
#18 - NOVEMBER 23, 2004

ANIMALS IN BOOKS AND MUSIC

These two books, accompanied by CDs, tell the stories of well-known musical compositions. Rev. in NY Times Book Review (11-14-04).

Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf. Retold by Janet Schulman. Knopf, 2004. (all ages)

Carnival of the Animals. By John Lithgow. Simon and Schuster, 2004. Based on Camille Saint-Saens' 1886 music. (ages 5-10)

BLACK REPARATIONS (see: Civil Rights, Slavery)

Brooks, Roy. Atonement and Forgiveness: A New Model for Black Reparations. U of California P, 2004.

BUSH (see: Empire, Iraq, Michael Moore)

Rock Against Bush. Compilation CD produced by Punk Voter and Fat Wreck Chords. Rev. Z Magazine (Sept. 2004). The CD sold 250,000 copies in 3 months. Includes a DVD of Uncovered, a documentary film about the U. S. invasion of Iraq. Rock Against Bush 2 includes a DVD titled Unprecedented, on the 2000 Florida election scandal.

CAPITALISM (see: Corporations)

Amin, Samir. Obsolescent Capitalism: Contemporary Politics and Global Disorder. Zed Books, 2004.

CIVIL RIGHTS (see: Black Reparations, Slavery)

McWhorter, Diane. A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2004 (ages 12 and up). Rev. NY Times Book Review (11-14-04): "explains the civil rights movement to young readers."

COMBAT (see: Iraq)

Lipsky, David. "Appointment in Samarra," NY Times Book Review (11-14-04), reviews several combat books on the invasion of Iraq and related books. Iraq: Thunder Run: The Armored Strike to Capture Baghdad, Generation Kill: Devil Dogs, Iceman, Captain America, and the New Face of American War, The Fall of Baghdad. Special Forces: Masters of Chaos: The Secret History of the Special Forces.

CORPORATIONS (see: Media, Pharmaceutical)

Fort, Meredith, Mary Anne Mercer, and Oscar Gish, eds. *Sickness & Wealth: The Corporate Assault on Global Health*. South End P, 2004. www.southendpress.org
How privatization and reduced social services are devastating millions of people.

CRITICAL THINKING

Patten, Bernard. *Truth, Knowledge, or Just Plain Bull: How to Tell the Difference*. Prometheus Books, 2004. A Handbook of practical logic and clear thinking: chapter by chapter analysis of various forms of false reasoning.

EARTH DAY (see: Ecology)

ECOLOGY (see: Global Warming, Pesticides)

Earth Day Birthday, story by Pattie Schnetzler; illustrated by Chad Wallace.
(ages 4-10) Celebrate Earth Day year 'round! This sing-along, read-along book honors the animals, the environment, and a universal holiday all in one fresh approach. To the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," appreciate twelve endearing North American species in their natural habitats. Earth Day is a holiday worthy of celebration every day! \$9.

EMPIRE USA (see: Europe, Imperialism)

Amin, Samir. *The Liberal Virus: Permanent War and the Americanization of the World*. Monthly Review P, 2004.

Blum, William. *Freeing the World to Death: Essays on the American Empire*. Common Courage, 2005. Rev. Z Magazine (Nov. 2004, 57-8). Essays written between 1995 and the present. "...the latest addition of ...Blum's growing canon of books [Rogue State, Killing Hope] exposing the brutal realities of U. S. government actions."

Chandra, Pratyush, Anuradha Ghosh, and Ravi Kumar, eds. *The Politics of Imperialism and Counterstrategies*. Delhi: Aakar Books, 2004

ETHICS

Kurtz, Paul. *Affirmations: Joyful and Creative Exuberance*. Prometheus, 2004. Rev. The Humanist (Nov. Dec. 2004). A "positive recitation of a multifaceted Humanism."

Shermer, Michael. *The Science of Good and Evil: Why People Cheat, Gossip, Care, Share, and Follow the Golden Rule*. Times Books, 2004. Rev. *The Humanist* (Nov.-Dec.2004). On the origin and evolution of morality, from biological needs and survival to family, extended family, communities (some 35,000 years ago), and so on in expanding circles of ethical sentiments.

EUROPE

Reid, T. R. *The United States of Europe: The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy*. Penguin USA, 2004. Rise of the EU after WWII and the powerhouse developing today.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Miles, Barry. Zappa. Grove P, 2004. Rev. *N. Y. Times Book Review* (11-14-04): "Zappa was a militant advocate of free speech."

Stone, Geoffrey. *Perilous Times: Free Speech in Wartime, From the Sedition Act of 1798 to the War on Terrorism*. Norton, 2004. Reviewed by Christopher Hitchens in *The New York Times*
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/07/books/review/07HITCHENS.html?ex=1100937269&ei=1&en=de583c27aa9fa271>

Rev. *Columbia Journalism Rev.* (Nov./Dec. 2004), positive rev. "...the U. S. has a long and unfortunate history of overreacting to the perceived dangers of wartime," and free speech and civil liberties have been among the chief casualties."

FRIENDSHIP WITH CHILDREN

Hest, Sarah. Mr. George Baker. Candlewick P, 2004. About a little girl brought up by her parents' housekeeper, dedicated "to all the people across the world who have saved the lives of children by paying attention when others did not."

Stewart, Sarah. *The Friend*. Farrar, Staus & Giroux, 2004. The friendship between a little white boy and an old black man.

Both books reviewed in *NYTimes Book Review* (11-14-04).

GLOBAL WARMING

Gelbspan, Ross. *Boiling Point: How Politicians, Big Oil and Coal, Journalists, and Activists Have Fueled the Climate Crisis—and What We Can Do to Avert Disaster*. Basic Books, 2004. According to the review in *The Humanist* (Nov.-Dec. 2004, pp. 39ff.), this is a crucial book regarding the extreme dangers ahead, exceeding nuclear dangers, resulting from the global warming caused by humans and especially by our business and political leaders. He advocates support of the World Energy Modernization Plan (1998). Gelbspan is the author also of *The Heat Is On* (1997).

GUATEMALA

Our Culture Is Our Resistance: Repression, Refuge, & Healing in Guatemala. www.jonathanmoller.org Photos, poetry, essays, proceeds to Guatemala. Spanish ed. available.

HOPE

Paul Rogat Loeb is the author of *The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear* (Basic Books, August 2004 www.theimpossible.org) and of *Soul of a Citizen*.

IMPERIALISM (see: Combat, Iraq)

Gilbert, David. *No Surrender: Writings from an Anti-Imperialist Political Prisoner*. Montreal: Abraham Guillen P/Arm the Spirit, 2004. Rev. *Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research, & Education*, 17.3: "I recommend this book wholeheartedly, as a valuable and living addition to the library of anyone concerned with resisting genocide, ending the empire, and winning human liberation and a sustainable future."

IMPERIALISM AND GLOBALIZATION

Roy, Arundhati. *The Checkbook and the Cruise Missile: Conversations with Arundhati Roy*. Interviews by David Barsamian; Foreword by Naomi Klein. South End P, 2004. Indicts globalization from above and calls for stronger and shrewder protests.

INEQUALITY (see: Rich and Poor)

IRAQ (see: Combat, Michael Moore)

Abrams, Irwin, Wang Gungwu, eds. *The Iraq War and Its Consequences: Thoughts of Nobel Peace Laureates and Eminent Scholars*. World Scientific, 2003. The 34 essays provide "a profound exploration of this war."

Feldman, Noah. *What We Owe Iraq: War and the Ethics of Nation Building*. Princeton UP, 2004. Rev. *NYT Book Review* (11-14-04): Feldman writes from "his deep belief in the compatibility of Islam and democracy."

Gish, Peggy. *Iraq: A Journey of Hope & Peace*. Herald P, 2004. Recounts the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams in trying to head off the Iraq war. www.heraldpress.com

Research Unit for Political Economy. *Behind the Invasion of Iraq*. *Monthly Review P*, 2004.

Zinsmeister, Karl. *Dawn Over Baghdad: How the U. S. Military Is Using bullets and Ballots to Remake Iraq*. Encounter, 2004. Rev. *N Y Times Book Review*

(11-14-04). "...carries an endorsement from Karl Rove."

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Quaker Working Party on Israel and Palestine. *When the Rain Returns: Toward Justice and Reconciliation in Palestine and Israel*. AFSC, 2004. Rev. Quaker Action (Fall 2004). Account of a trip to P&I and of the ensuing struggle to describe what they learned. Study Guide avail. www.afsc.org/resources

MCCARTHY AND HOLLYWOOD BLACKLIST

Frank, Elizabeth. *Cheat and Charmer*. Random House, 2004. Rev. NY Times Book Review (11-14-04). A novel about the 1950s McCarthy-era blacklist of film writers, directors, and actors.

MEDIA (see: Corporation)

Gilmore, Dan *We the Media: Grassroots Journalism by the People, for the People*. O'Reilly Media, 2004. Hopefully foresees a more grassroots and democratic journalism and communication network to include all citizen journalists.

Mnookin, Seth. *Hard News: The Scandals at "The New York Times" and the Future of American Media*. Random House, 2004. Rev. Columbia Journalism Rev. (Nov./Dec. 2004): a generally negative assessment.

Moyers, Bill. *Moyers on America*. Rev. UU World (Nov.-Dec. 2004): the book describes the pressures that have been debasing the media and democracy, particularly commercial television

MEDIA MONOPOLY

Bagdikian, Ben. *The New Media Monopoly*. Beacon P, 2004. Rev. UU World (Nov.-Dec. 2004). This "Completely Revised and Updated Edition with Seven New Chapters" describes how media are now concentrated into 5 corporations (from the 50 of 20 years ago).

McChesney, Robert. *The Problem of the Media: U. S. Communication Politics in the Twenty-First Century*. Monthly Review P, 2004. Calls for a frontal assault on the government-private ownership cartel.

Wittebols, Jim. *The Soap Opera Paradigm: Television Programming and Corporate Priorities*.

Rowman and Littlefield, 2004. See Appendix for comment.

MICHAEL MOORE'S FAHRENHEIT 9/11

Rev. Z Magazine (Sept. 2004): "devastating critique of Bush and the war in Iraq...exposure of the blatant lies and obfuscations promoted by the Bush gang"; "the heart of the film and its most telling moments are made up of verified statements from well-known newspapers from the New York Times to the Wall Street Journal, videotapes of statements of real people, photos of real events, etc....Moore hired the main fact-checker for the the New Yorker to review every statement and videotape in the picture." Reviewer discusses also the right-wing attacks on the film.

PALESTINE (see: Israel)

PATRIOTISM (see Critical Thinking, Empire, Imperialism)

Parenti, Michael. *Superpatriotism*. City Lights Books, 2004. Rev. Z Magazine (Nov. 2004). "...a crowning achievement in demystification" about those who would have us "follow national leaders unquestioningly."

PESTICIDES

Dypiango, Steve, director and editor. (video documentary) *Pesticides: From the Fields to Your Table*. Farmworkers Health & Safety Institute, fhsinj@aol.com

PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATIONS

Angell, Marcia. *The Truth About the Drug Companies: How they Deceive Us and What to Do About It*. Random House, 2004.

Avorn, Jerry. *Powerful Medicines: The Benefits, Risks, and Costs of Prescription Drugs*. Knopf, 2004.

Both books reviewed in N. Y. Times Book Review (11-14-04): "Congress has given drug makers new ways to make money instead of making better drugs."

POLITICAL PRISONERS (see: Imperialism)

RICH AND POOR

Dollars & Sense and United for a Fair Economy, eds. *The Wealth Inequality Reader*. Essays explore causes, consequences, and strategies for change.

SLAVERY (FOR YOUNG PEOPLE) (see: Civil Rights)

Hamilton, Virginia. *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book*. Knopf, 2004. (ages 4 and up). Rev. NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW (11-14-04): "Slaves sprout wings and fly to freedom."

Nelson, Marilyn. *Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem*. Front Street, 2004. (ages 12 and up). Rev. NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW (11-14-04): Story of a black slave named Fortune whose bones were used for medical training "gives slavery a human face."

SLAVES AND MASTERS

Bell, Madison. *The Stone That the Builder Refused*. Pantheon, 2004. Rev. NY TIMES BOOK REVIEW (11-14-04). The 18th Century Haitian "slave revolt, race war, and colonial war," part of a trilogy. Toussaint L'Ouverture" is "Bell's hero."

Burnard, Trevor. *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World*. North Carolina UP, 2004

Isaac, Rhys. *Landon Carter's Uneasy Kingdom: Revolution and Rebellion on a Virginia Plantation*. Oxford UP, 2004.

Both books rev. *The Nation* (Nov. 29, 2004). "...planters became twisted personifications of...tyranny."

SOLDIERS USA

Anderson, Rick. *Home Front: The Government's War on Soldiers*. Clarity P, 2004. www.claritypress.com Effects of government's weapons, medicines, and bureaucracies of mass destruction on US soldiers.

USA

Moyers, Bill. *Moyers on America: A Journalist and His Times*. New P, 2004. Rev. *UU World* (Nov.-Dec. 2004). The function of journalists is to serve the public first and profit second.

APPENDIX

MEDIA MONOPOLY

"The Soap Opera Paradigm shows precisely how media conglomeration has changed the forms and content of television's stories, whether fact or fiction. By grafting the assumptions and concerns of serial melodramas on to everything from the nightly news to episodic series in prime time, media conglomerates protect their bottom lines and build brand loyalty while championing a mindset that is overly simplified, highly emotional, and antidemocratic. Wittebols deftly integrates qualitative and quantitative methods with political economy and cultural studies to produce an insightful and engaging account of the serious problems created by deregulation, transindustrial conglomeration, and the melodramatization of television."â€"Eileen R. Meehan, Louisiana State University