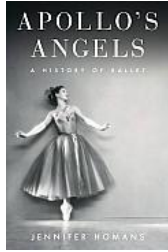
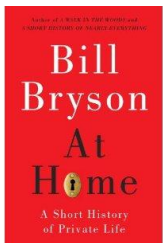


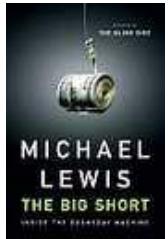
Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



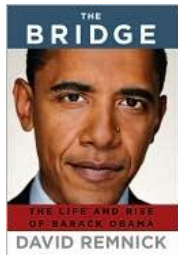
Apollo's Angels: A History of Ballet by Jennifer Homans (Random 643p.) In an important and groundbreaking work of dance history, Homans restores ballet to its rightful place among the performing arts. (2 votes)



At Home: A Short History of Private Life by Bill Bryson. (Doubleday 497p.) Bryson takes readers on a tour of his house, a rural English parsonage, and finds it crammed with 10,000 years of fascinating historical bric-a-brac. Each room becomes a starting point for a free-ranging discussion of rarely noticed but foundational aspects of social life. (from *Publishers Weekly*) (2 votes; 497p.)



The Big Short by Michael Lewis (Norton 266p.) Lewis has written the briskest and brightest analysis of the crash of 2008. Other books might provide a more exhaustive account of what went wrong, but Lewis's character-driven narrative reveals the how and why with peerless clarity and panache. When will they ever learn? (5 votes)



The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama. by David Remnick. (Simon & Schuster 704p.) Remnick deserves credit for telling Obama's story more completely than others, for lending a reporter's zeal to the task, for not ducking the discussion of race and for peeling back several layers of the onion that is Barack Obama." (from the *Washington Post*) (3 votes)

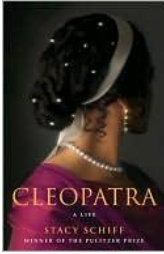


Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History by Yunte Huang. "Huang's deft and witty recounting of how Hollywood transformed a real-life detective from Hawaii into one of the most recognizable—and problematic—racial icons in movie history tells us much that we need to know about America's engagement with race and identity in the 20th century. Race was clearly more than black and white, a thing to keep in mind as we move through our increasingly multicultural century." --Annette Gordon-Reed, author of *The Heminges of Monticello* (2 votes; 354p)

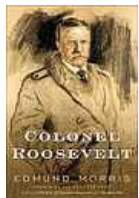


Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years by Diarmaid McCulloch (Viking 1161p.) Historian McCulloch's ambitious book covers the historic length and geographical and theological breadth of the multiple-millennia-old Christian waterfront in an elegantly written way. (2 votes)

Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



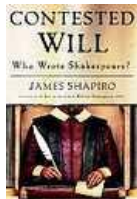
Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff. (Little, Brown. 384p.) In a masterly return to the classical sources, Stacy Schiff here boldly separates fact from fiction to rescue the magnetic queen whose death ushered in a new world order. Rich in detail, epic in scope, Schiff's is a luminous, deeply original reconstruction of a dazzling life. (3 votes)



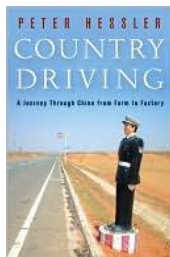
Colonel Roosevelt by Edmund Morris (Random House 784p.) Morris's concluding volume in his accomplished biography narrates Roosevelt's postpresidential life with the same insight and style he displayed in his Pulitzer-winning first volume. (4 votes)



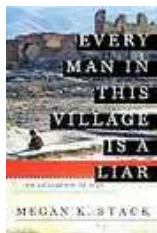
Composed: A Memoir by Rosanne Cash (Viking 245p.) This work is a rare treat, since Cash, first-born of country music legend Johnny Cash, is not only a hereditary celebrity musician, having made scores of albums and #1 singles, but a terrific writer. (2 votes)



Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare? By James Shapiro (Simon & Schuster 339p.) Shapiro looks at why people believe Shakespeare was not Shakespeare, while delivering up sly portraits of self-delusion and how not to read great literature. (2 votes)

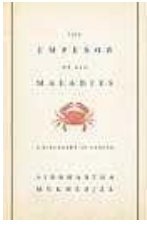


Country Driving: A Journey Through China from Farm to Factory by Peter Hessler. In the summer of 2001, Peter Hessler, the longtime Beijing correspondent for *The New Yorker*, acquired his Chinese driver's license. For the next seven years, he traveled the country, tracking how the automobile and improved roads were transforming China. Hessler writes movingly of the average people farmers, migrant workers, entrepreneurs who have reshaped the nation during one of the most critical periods in its modern history. (2 votes; 438p)



Every Man in This Village Is a Liar: An Education in War by Megan K Stack. (Doubleday 257p.) A shattering account of war and disillusionment from a young woman reporter on the front lines of the war on terror (in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraw, LebanonIsrael,. (2 votes)

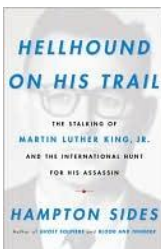
Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer by Siddhartha Mukherjee (Scribner 592p.) Mukherjee's sweeping account of the long war on cancer pits an army of dedicated doctors and scientists, impassioned activists and courageous patients against a wily enemy whose secrets are at last being uncovered. (4 votes)



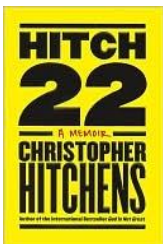
The Grace of Silence: A Memoir by Michele Norris (Pantheon 185p.) In this eloquent and affecting memoir on race, Norris, cohost of NPR's All Things Considered, examines her childhood growing up in Minneapolis, as well as her family's Alabama roots and secrets. (2 votes)



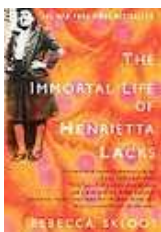
Hellhound on His Trail: The Stalking of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the International Hunt for His Assassin by Hampton Sides. Sides follows James Earl Ray and Martin Luther King, Jr. as they crisscross the country, one stalking the other, until the drifter catches up with his prey. Against the backdrop of the resulting riots and the pathos of King's funeral, Sides gives us a riveting narrative of the assassin's flight and the 65-day search that led investigators to Canada, Portugal, & England. This nonfiction thriller illuminates one of the darkest hours in American life. (from the publisher) (2 votes; 459p.)



Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia by Michael Korda (Harper 762p.) This biography of British soldier and adventurer T.E. Lawrence celebrates a life spent subverting authority in the most glamorous-and bizarre-ways. (2 votes)

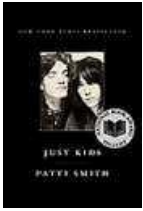


Hitch-22: A Memoir by Christopher Hitchens. (Twelve 448p.) Christopher Hitchens has been a citizen of both the US and the UK. He has been both a socialist opposed to the war in Vietnam and a supporter of the U.S. war in Iraq. He has been both a foreign correspondent in some of the world's most dangerous places and a legendary bon vivant with an unquenchable thirst for alcohol and literature. He is a fervent atheist, raised as a Christian, by a mother whose Jewish heritage was not revealed to him until her suicide. This is the story of his life, lived large. (5 votes)

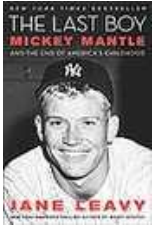


The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot (Crown 384p.) Medical history is grippingly told through the life of one African-American woman and her family, which begins at the "colored" ward at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950s. Skloot, who hit the road in her beatup old car to relentlessly follow this story, explores issues of race, poverty, the ethics of medical research and its sometimes tragic, unintended consequences. (9 votes)

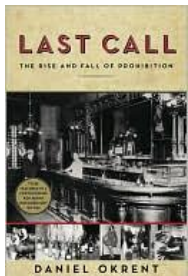
Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



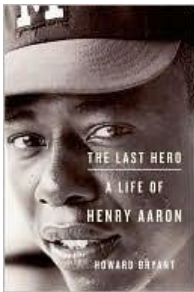
Just Kids Patti Smith (Ecco 278p.) Smith's beautifully crafted love letter to her friend Robert Mapplethorpe functions as a memento mori of a relationship fueled by a passion for art and writing. Her elegant eulogy lays bare the chaos and the creativity so embedded in that earlier time and in Mapplethorpe's life and work. Winner of the National Book Award for Nonfiction 2010. (5 votes)



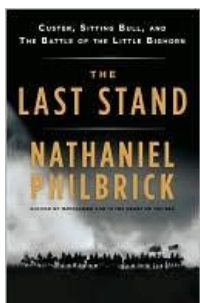
The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood by Jane Leavy. (Harper 456p.) With storytelling bravado and fresh research, Leavy weaves around her own story the milestone dates in the Mick's career. In Leavy's hands, the life of Mantle no longer defies logic: it seems inevitable. (2 votes)



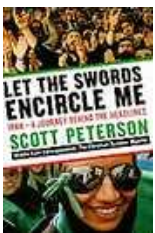
Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition by Daniel Okrent. (Scribner 468p.) From its start, America has been awash in drink. The sailing vessel that brought John Winthrop to the shores of the New World in 1630 carried more beer than water. By the 1820s, liquor flowed so plentifully it was cheaper than tea. That Americans would ever agree to relinquish their booze was as improbable as it was astonishing. Yet we did, and *Last Call* is Daniel Okrent's dazzling explanation of why we did it, what life under Prohibition was like, and how such an unprecedented degree of government interference in the private lives of Americans changed the country forever. (2 votes)



The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron by Howard Bryant. (Pantheon 600p.) Chronicles Aaron's childhood in segregated Alabama, his brief stardom in the Negro Leagues, his complicated relationship with celebrity, and his historic rivalry with Willie Mays—all culminating in the defining event of his life: his shattering of Babe Ruth's all-time home-run record. Bryant also examines Aaron's more complex second act: his quest to become an important voice beyond the ballfield, his rediscovery by a public disillusioned with today's tainted heroes, and his disappointment that his career home-run record was finally broken by Barry Bonds during the steroid era. (2 votes)



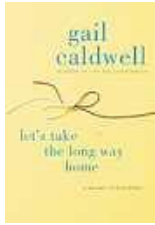
The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn by Nathaniel Philbrick. The Battle of the Little Bighorn was the last stand for the Sioux and Cheyenne Indian nations. Increasingly outraged by government policies, the Plains tribes allied themselves and held their ground in southern Montana. Within a few years of Little Bighorn, however, all the major tribal leaders would be confined to Indian reservations. Philbrick beautifully evokes the history and geography of the Great Plains. *The Last Stand* is a mesmerizing account of the archetypal story of the American West, one that continues to haunt our collective imagination. (2 votes; 466p.)



Let the Swords Encircle Me: Iran-A Journey Behind the Headlines Scott Peterson (Simon & Schuster 732p.)

A veteran reporter on the region brings us the best account we have of Iran-its rich history, artistic legacies, profound internal contradictions-in a copious, balanced, and readable narrative. (2 votes)

Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



Let's Take the Long Way Home: A Memoir of Friendship by Gail Caldwell (Random House 190p.) In this quiet, fierce work, Caldwell creates a memorable offering of love to her best friend, the writer Caroline Knapp, who died in 2002. Caldwell is unflinching in depicting her friend's last days, and writes of this desolating time with moving grace. (3 votes)



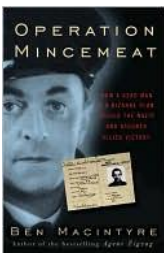
Life by Keith Richards. (Little Brown 576p.) With his trademark disarming honesty, Keith Richards, guitarist for the Rolling Stones, brings us the story of a life we have all longed to know more of, unfettered, fearless, and true. (3 votes)



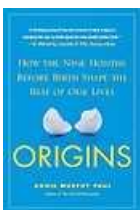
Mentor by Tom Grimes. (Tin House 242p.) A chance encounter by two writers, one young, one older, develops into a wonderful friendship neither expected. Frank Conroy, the author of the classic memoir *Stop-Time*, meets Tom Grimes, an aspiring writer and an applicant to the Iowa Writers' Workshop, which Conroy directs. First as teacher and student – and gradually as friends—their lives become entwined, and through both successes and disappointments, their bond deepens. Exquisitely written, *Mentor* is an honest and heartbreaking exploration of the writing life and the role of a very important teacher. (2 votes)



Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea. (Spiegel and Grau 336p.) Barbara Demick follows the lives of six North Koreans over fifteen years—a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il-sung, the unchallenged rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il, and the devastation of a far-ranging famine that killed one-fifth of the population. National Book Award finalist. (2 votes)

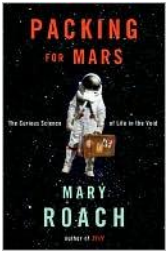


Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory by Ben Macintyre. (Crown 416p.) "This retelling of a well-known part of World War II espionage history will appeal to military history buffs, especially those new to this particular episode, and to readers of adventure fiction, who will find it hard to put down."—*Library Journal* (3 votes)



Origins: How the Nine Months Before Birth Shape the Rest of Our Lives Annie Murphy Paul (Free Press 306p.) Science writer Paul segues between ponderings about her own second pregnancy and the developing literature on fetal origins in this fascinating study of the prenatal period. Paul's thought-provoking text reveals that this pivotal period may be even more significant and far-reaching than imagined. (2 votes)

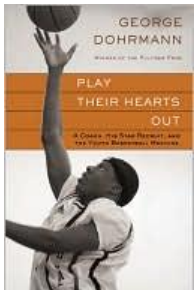
Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



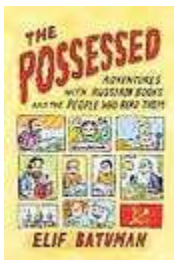
Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Mary Roach. (Norton 334p.) The best-selling author of *Stiff* and *Bonk* explores the irresistibly strange universe of space travel and life without gravity. (3 votes)



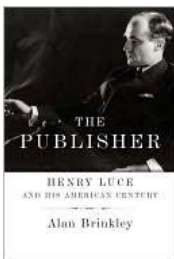
Pearl Buck in China: Journey to The Good Earth by Hilary Spurling. (Simon & Schuster 320p.) Born in 1892 to beleaguered American missionaries, Buck was shaped by the miseries of Chinese rural life. She boldly channeled her profound knowledge of China into novels of mass appeal meant to incinerate Western prejudices. Lauded and condemned in America and banned in China, Buck, a pivotal player in U.S.-Chinese relations and a dauntless champion for universal human rights, lived a life of staggering traumas and triumphs. (from *Booklist*) (3 votes)



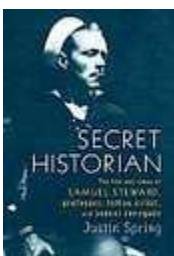
Play Their Hearts Out: A Coach, His Star Recruit, and the Youth Basketball Machine by George Dohrmann. (422p.) Dohrmann spent 8 years chronicling a select group of California youths who chased their dreams of becoming professional basketball players. Dohrmann began the book in 2000, when many of the players were only 10 years old, and followed them to their high school graduation. He shows the brutal nature of "grassroots" basketball, and the sad deterioration of many of the relationships. A cautionary tale to any basketball player who thinks the path to the NBA is a slam dunk. (2 votes)



The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them by Elif Batuman (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux 304p.) Batuman displays a fresh, quirky, voice in this account of her love affair with Russian literature and her travels through the former Soviet Union. (4 votes)

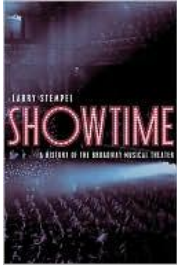


The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century by Alan Brinkley. (Knopf, 531p.) As founder of *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune* magazines, Henry Luce helped create a national mass culture, one that promoted what he saw as the unity of the American people and their shared middle-class values. With *The Publisher: Henry Luce and His American Century*, Columbia history professor and National Book Award winner Alan Brinkley has written a revealing and riveting biography of a complex man. (2 votes)



Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade by Justin Spring. (Farrar Straus Giroux 496p.) Drawn from the secret, never-before-seen diaries, journals, and sexual records of the novelist, poet, and university professor Samuel M. Steward, *The Secret Historian* is a sensational reconstruction of one of the more extraordinary hidden lives of the twentieth century. National Book Award finalist. (3 votes)

Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



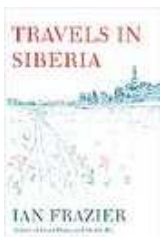
Showtime: A History of the Broadway Musical Theater by Larry Stempel. (Norton 826p.) "Showtime is a sumptuous banquet of a book. This richly researched history allows us to be present at the birth of the musical theater and to be enthralled witnesses as it develops and metamorphoses into the wealth of forms we now enjoy. A century and a half of entertainment is a vast amount of ground to cover, but Stempel is the ideal tour guide. This is a book to treasure."—Sheldon Harnick (2 votes)



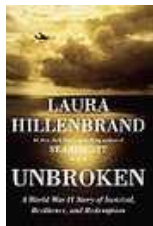
The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches from the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam by Eliza Griswold (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux) 317p. Griswold's on-the-ground reporting ranges from Africa to Asia as she offers poetic and closely observed portraits of people who coexist in varied ways in the geographic area of the world where Christianity and Islam make headlines when they collide. (2 votes)



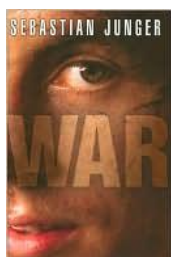
The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival by John Vaillant (Knopf 352p.) When a Siberian tiger begins attacking hunters with a savagery that seems personal, Vaillant launches a thrilling investigation into the conflict between man and nature, and life in post-perestroika Russia. (3 votes)



Travels in Siberia by Ian Frazier (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux 544p.) Drawn to what he calls "the incomplete grandiosity of Russia," Frazier combines the personal travelogue with in-depth history and gives readers a firsthand account of a place that calls up, for many, the terrifying unknown. (5 votes)

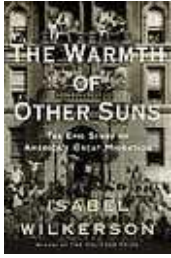


Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand (Random 496p.) Readers of this soul-stirring narrative will never forget Louis Zamperini, who after a career as a runner served in WWII only to be captured and held prisoner by the Japanese; a more horrific internment would be difficult to imagine. Zamperini's physical and spiritual sufferings both during and after WWII and his coming out the other side become the story of a true American hero from that greatest generation. (3 votes)



War by Sebastian Junger. (Twelve 304p.) Junger spent 14 months embedded with a platoon of the 173rd Airborne brigade in Afghanistan's Korengal Valley, one of the bloodiest corners of the conflict. He mixes visceral combat scenes—raptly aware of his own fear and exhaustion—with quieter reportage and insightful discussions of the physiology, social psychology, and even genetics of soldiering. The result is an unforgettable portrait of men under fire. (from Publishers Weekly) (3 votes)

Possible Titles for Tuesday Night Book Group for 2011



The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson (Random 640p.) Wilkerson's sprawling study of the flight of six million blacks from the humiliation of Jim Crow to uncertain destinies in the American North and West is expansive in scope, pointillist in focus, and a triumph of scholarship and empathy. Anchoring her narrative in the suspenseful stories of three who made the journey, Wilkerson humanizes the migration that reshaped American demographics, art, and politics. (8 votes)

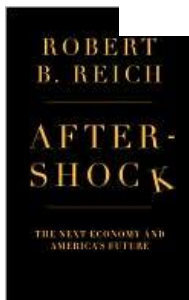


Washington: A Life by Ron Chernow (Penguin Press 928p.) Chernow is back with another epic examination of another influential American founder. Thanks to a recent "explosion of research," Chernow produces the most complete and complex portrait of George Washington on record. (3 votes)

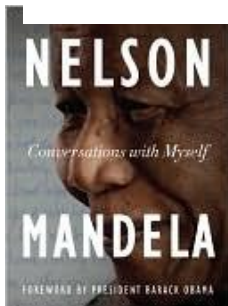
The following books were recommended by group members:



Germania : In Wayward Pursuit of the Germans and Their History by Simon Winder. (Farrar Straus Giroux, 466p.) A very funny book on serious topics—how we are misled by history, how we twist history, and how sometimes it is best to know no history at all. It is a book full of curiosities: odd food, castles, mad princes, fairy tales, and horse-mating videos. It is about the limits of language, the meaning of culture, and the pleasure of townscape.



Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future by Robert B. Reich. (Knopf 192p.) When the nation's economy foundered in 2008, blame was directed almost universally at Wall Street. But Robert B. Reich suggests a different reason for the meltdown, and for a perilous road ahead. He argues that the real problem is structural: it lies in the increasing concentration of income and wealth at the top, and in a middle class that has had to go deeply into debt to maintain a decent standard of living.



Conversations with Myself by Nelson Mandela. (Farrar Straus Giroux 480p.) The statesman and former political prisoner bares his mind and soul in this inspiring collection of writings and interviews. Culled from Mandela's letters, notebooks, taped conversations, prison diaries, calendars, and an unfinished autobiography, the material includes reminiscences of the antiapartheid movement, lessons in revolutionary theory gleaned from his guerrilla training, vignettes of prison life, seething protests to authorities, tender missives to loved ones, canny political strategizing and quiet philosophical reflections.