

searched supporting information. Readers will learn a great deal about lineages of all major anticapitalist arguments and their permutations in a global world. They will be left looking for a solution as thorough as the description of the mind/money conflict itself, but here they may be disappointed with the brevity and generality of the proposed détente. Kahan, so lucid and entertaining when writing about the background and outworking of important ideas, does not deliver the thorough resolution called forth by his tension-filled plot. **VERDICT** Those interested in the moral and intellectual history of free-market thought—and often the surprisingly violent opposition to it—will find the book invaluable.—**Jekabs Bikis, Dallas Baptist Univ.**

Partow, Donna. Making Money from Home: How To Run a Successful Home-Based Business. Tyndale House. Apr. 2010. c.224p. ISBN 978-1-58997-608-5. pap. \$13.99. **bus** Former investment banker and current entrepreneur Partow gears her book toward women who are interested in starting a business at home, likely a growing demographic in the continuing recession. She pares down a lot of business advice to its essentials, working with readers to consider the pros and cons of this endeavor, write a business plan, examine ways of marketing the business (including global electronic flea markets), and look at legal and financial issues. Readers get instructions for writing a blog, pricing a product, and giving seminars in straightforward language. **VERDICT** Partow successfully offers one-stop shopping for anyone, female or male, considering a home-based business or wanting to improve an existing one.—**Deborah Bigelow, Leonia P.L., NJ**

Peters, Tom. The Little BIG Things: 163 Ways To Pursue Excellence. HarperStudio: HarperCollins. Mar. 2010. c.756p. ISBN 978-0-06-189408-4. \$24.99. **bus** In his latest book, business guru Peters (*In Search of Excellence*) combines observations he has gleaned from his travels, current news items, conversations, and followers of his blog in a compact guide that aims to help readers realize effective projects, customer contentment, employee engagement, and business profitability. No doubt, Peters is on target as he advises readers to appreciate the angry customer, work on their last impressions, make sure that the restroom is clean, and 160 other ways to guarantee success. Each suggestion contains a rationale, example, and method of implementation, all in two pages apiece. **VERDICT** Those who want to improve their business, whether a boss or an employee, will find great ideas in

this compelling and very browsable book.—**Deborah Bigelow, Leonia P.L., NJ**

☆**Walker, David M. Comeback America: Turning the Country Around and Restoring Fiscal Responsibility.** Random. 2010. c.240p. illus. ISBN 978-1-4000-6860-9. \$26. **ECON** America is broke! American households owe about \$483,000 apiece as part of the \$56 trillion total of our national debt and unfunded obligations. This is the frightening message of Walker, who is a former comptroller general of the United States and an outspoken critic of deficit spending. He explains that America has been borrowing to pay current expenses and putting off the funding of Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlement programs. He warns that the consequences of this policy will be to destroy our way of life, devalue the dollar, and make us indebted to foreign powers. He explains in depth how the United States could get back to financial security through benefit cuts, tax increases, improved government cost efficiency, and greater reliance of Americans on themselves. Walker comes across as nonpartisan and writes clearly for general readers with an almost folksy style. **VERDICT** The probable audience for this book will be fiscal conservatives, which would be a shame because it should be a wake-up call for everyone. It serves as a fine expansion of—and update to—the 2008 documentary *I.O.U.S.A.: One Nation. Under Stress. In Debt*, and its companion volume of the same title, in both of which Walker was a prominent participant.—**Lawrence Maxted, Gannon Univ. Lib., Erie, PA**

EDUCATION

Brodie, Laura. Love in a Time of Homeschooling: A Mother and Daughter's Uncommon Year. Harper: HarperCollins. Apr. 2010. c.272p. ISBN 978-0-06-170646-2. \$24.99. **ED** In this memoir, derived from an article that appeared in *Brain, Child* magazine, Brodie (*Breaking Out: VMI and the Coming of Women*) explores the year she spent homeschooling her daughter Julia. Writing for parents interested in short-term or supplemental homeschooling, Brodie lists benefits of this method, including increased family quality time and customized education on subjects sometimes overlooked by standardized tests. She also explains the day-to-day realities of short-term homeschooling—what she discovered, what worked, what didn't, and why. Such case studies are not available in other resources in the field; books on homeschooling are typically designed for long-term students and don't always include details of how homeschool-

ing impacts family relationships. Brodie references a few of these books, as well as other how-to resources in her bibliography. **VERDICT** Although this memoir fills a niche, Brodie's story reads better as a short article than a full-length book. Public libraries with communities of short-term homeschoolers may find it useful.—**Karen McCoy, Farmington P.L., NM**

HISTORY

Ekirch, A. Roger. Birthright: The True Story of the Kidnapping of Jemmy Annesley. Norton. Feb. 2010. c.288p. illus. maps. index. ISBN 978-0-292-06615-9. \$24.95. **HIST** James "Jemmy" Annesley, presumptive heir to multiple titles in England, Ireland and Wales, was kidnapped at the age of 12 in 1728 by his uncle and was sent as an indentured servant to America. He didn't return to Ireland until 13 years later, eventually obtaining justice against his treacherous uncle. Jemmy's enemies claimed that he was the illegitimate son of a house servant and therefore had no claim to his family's titles and fortune. In an age devoid of DNA testing, proving one's legitimacy would have been near impossible. This extraordinary tale of kidnapping and betrayal captured the hearts of many and reportedly was the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's popular novel *Kidnapped*. Surprisingly, few works have been written recounting this intriguing story. **VERDICT** Ekirch (history, Virginia Tech; *At Day's Close: Night in Times Past*) does a masterful job of detailing these events in this meticulously researched and highly readable narrative. Concisely written and well documented, this fascinating book will appeal to both serious readers and general history buffs.—**Carrie Benbow, Toronto P.L.**

Gwynne, S.C. Empire of the Summer Moon. Scribner. May 2010. c.384p. bibliog. index. ISBN 978-1-4165-9105-4. \$26. **HIST** This is a highly readable, but problematic, account of Cynthia Ann Parker, captured by the Comanche Indians at age nine, and her son Quanah Parker, who grew up to become the most famous of all Comanche chiefs. Gwynne (*The Outlaw Bank: A Wild Ride into the Secret Heart of the BCCI*) proves adept at using primary sources to illuminate the military history of the Comanche empire and the Texas frontier. He gives good attention to John Coffee Hays and the Texas Rangers, and to Gen. Ranald Slidell Mackenzie, whom Gwynne describes as the "Anti-Custer." Yet this work is marred by a surprising insensitivity, with frequent references to Indian women as "squaws," and sparse information on Comanche individuals without any white heritage. **VERDICT** Readers wanting more biographi-

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