

After the Ice

Life, Death and Geopolitics in the New Arctic

By Alun Anderson, *Smithsonian*, December 2009, \$26.99

Former *New Scientist* editor Alun Anderson tells the “high-stakes story of Arctic transformation” in *After the Ice*. As scientists study the effects of global warming in the region and how these are going to change the rest of the planet, politicians and businessmen investigate the prospects for oil exploration in the Arctic Ocean, said to be the last frontier for this diminishing resource.

The book also talks about the impact of these developments on local communities, such as the reindeer herders of Siberia and Scandinavia, and the seals, birds, whales, and other creatures that live in the Arctic.

Anderson was born in Wales. He studied biology at the University of Sussex and earned a doctoral degree at the University of Edinburgh. He was editor-in-chief and publishing director of *New Scientist* for 12 years.

“...offers a clear and chilling account of the science of the Arctic and a gripping glimpse of how the future may turn out there.”—*The Economist*

“...asserts that the days of the ‘iconic big beasts of the Arctic’ are numbered, but remains hopeful about the Arctic’s uncertain future.”—*Publishers Weekly* ■

The Aid Trap

Hard Truths about Ending Poverty

By R. Glenn Hubbard and William Duggan, *Columbia University Press*, September 2009, \$22.95

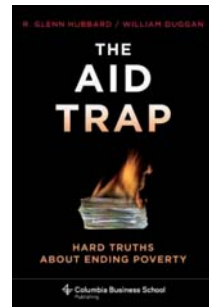
In *The Aid Trap*, Columbia Business School professors argue that the current system of aid has failed to eliminate poverty because local businesses have not been made the target of funding. For instance, instead of digging a community well for free, aid agencies should be investing in a local company that digs wells.

The authors espouse a large-scale pro-business program patterned after the Marshall Plan of 1948, which is credited for helping rebuild Western Europe after World War II.

R. Glenn Hubbard is dean of Columbia Business School and the Russell L. Carson Professor of Economics and Finance. William Duggan is senior lecturer in business at Columbia Business School, where he teaches strategy in graduate and executive courses. He has 20 years of experience in foreign aid.

“...offers a different and logical, if emotionally counter-intuitive, approach to foreign aid. That is, the ‘trap’ is in assuming charity is the answer for the world’s 3 billion people living in poverty—and the solution, according to the authors, lies in business...”—Sarah Lynch, *Forbes*

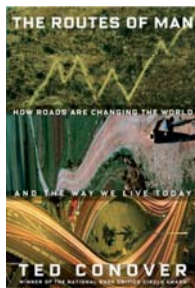
“...articulates a constructive set of ideas about how to reform foreign aid. It should interest those who are convinced by the conclusions of the critics of aid, but remain disappointed by the poverty of their prescriptions.”—*The Economist* ■



The Routes of Man

How Roads Are Changing the World and the Way We Live Today

By Ted Conover, *Knopf*, February 2010, \$26.95



American author Ted Conover examines the costs and benefits of building roads in *The Routes of Man*. Traveling from Ladakh to the West Bank, he explores how six key roads are transforming landscapes and communities. Conover is also the author of *Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

“The graceful and evocative descriptions of some spectacular parts of the world allow the big questions about roads and what they do to people to steal into the reader’s mind almost unnoticed.”—*The Economist*

“The six road situations he describes are undeniable quandaries, and we owe it to the people caught up in them, not to mention to our planet, to consider what policies, if any, should engineer the roads through everyone’s lives.”—William T. Vollmann, *The New York Times* ■

Too Big to Fail

The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System—and Themselves

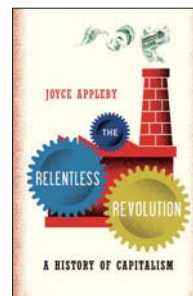
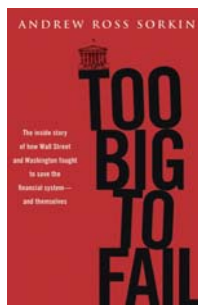
By Andrew Ross Sorkin, Viking, October 2009, \$32.95

Named one of *The Economist's* books of the year for 2009, *Too Big to Fail* takes readers behind the scenes, giving them a detailed account of the events that led to the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Andrew Ross Sorkin claims to have unprecedented access to the players involved in this real-life thriller. He is *The New York Times's* chief mergers and acquisitions reporter and a columnist. He is also the editor of DealBook (nytimes.com/dealbook), an online daily financial report he started in 2001, and an assistant editor of business and finance news.

"Too good to put down...It is the story of the actors in the most extraordinary financial spectacle in 80 years, and it is told brilliantly."—*The Economist*

"Weighing in at 600 pages (and immediately dubbed by cynics 'Too Big to Read' or just 'Too Big'), Ross Sorkin's densely detailed and astonishing narrative of the epic financial crisis of 2008...[takes] the reader inside the mind of (Lehman's Richard) Fuld and others as they struggled to deal with unimaginable events."—John Gapper, *The Financial Times* ■



The Relentless Revolution

A History of Capitalism

By Joyce Appleby, W. W. Norton & Company, January 2010, \$29.95

American historian Joyce Appleby delves into the centuries-long history of capitalism. According to the book description provided by the publisher, she discusses in *The Relentless Revolution* how capitalism has become a system that generates "wealth, power, and new ideas," reshaping "societies in a constant surge of change."

Appleby is a professor of history emerita at University of California in Los Angeles, and a past president of the American Historical Association and the Organization of American Historians.

"Appleby, a distinguished historian who has dedicated her career to studying the origins of capitalism in the Anglo-American world, here broadens her scope to take in the global history of capitalism in all its creative—and destructive—glory...In the book's final chapters, Appleby traces the many species of capitalism that have evolved in the postwar era, in places like the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Singapore... [and the Republic of] Korea. Many of these success stories reveal that government intervention, far from being inimical to capitalist enterprise, can help sustain it."—Stephen Mihm, *The New York Times* ■

Forces of Fortune

The Rise of the New Muslim Middle Class and What It Will Mean for Our World

By Vali Nasr, Free Press, September 2009, \$26

Vali Nasr, author of the bestseller *The Shia Revival*, comes up with another book that is bound to spark debate over developments in the Muslim world. In *Forces of Fortune*, he talks about the "Dubai effect," and how it is likely to be replicated in other parts of the region with the rise of a business-minded middle class.

"The great battle for the soul of Iran—and for the soul of the region as a whole—will be fought not over religion, but over business and capitalism," Nasr says.

Born in Iran, the author is a professor of international relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University, an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, and a senior fellow of The Dubai Initiative at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

"Nasr brilliantly narrates the tortured histories of the middle classes in Pakistan and Iran...The road to a new Middle East, where Turkey is the norm rather than the exception, will be a long and perilous one. Even so, *Forces of Fortune* is as hopeful as it is sobering, and Nasr makes a convincing case for optimism tempered with caution and patience."—Michael J. Totten, *The New York Times* ■

