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Featured Bookshelf: 2016 American History

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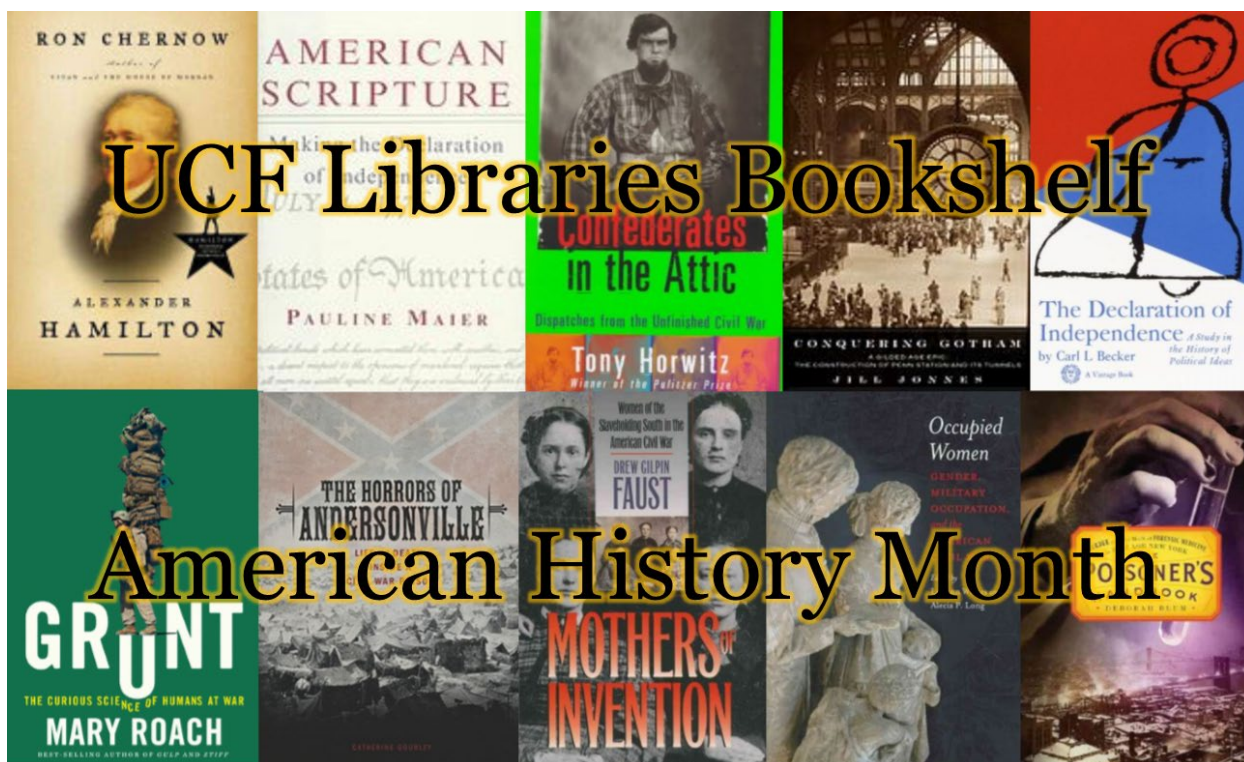
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As part of the celebration of the birth of our nation, UCF Libraries faculty and staff want to share some of their favorite books on American History.

Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF022141176>

In the first full-length biography of Alexander Hamilton in decades, National Book Award winner Ron Chernow tells the riveting story of a man who overcame all odds to shape, inspire, and scandalize the newborn America. Few figures in American history have been more hotly debated or more grossly misunderstood than Alexander Hamilton. Chernow's biography gives Hamilton his due and sets the record straight, deftly illustrating that the political and economic greatness of today's America is the result of Hamilton's countless sacrifices to champion ideas that were often wildly disputed during his time

Recommended by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement: "Biography of founding father, Alexander Hamilton, that was used as the basis of the hit musical, Hamilton. If you're in love with the score like I am, give the biography a shot. We also have the music and lyrics. [http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF034185778] You'll have to place a hold on that. I currently have it checked out."

American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence by Pauline Maier

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF023454103>

Historian Maier shows us the Declaration as both the defining statement of our national identity and the moral standard by which we live as a nation. It is truly "American Scripture," and Maier tells us how it came to be.

Recommended by Richard Harrison, Subject Librarian

Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War by Tony Horwitz

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF023520184>

Written with Horwitz's signature blend of humor, history, and hard-nosed journalism, Confederates in the Attic brings alive old battlefields and new ones - classrooms, courts, country bars - where the past and the present collide, often in explosive ways

Recommended by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement

Conquering Gotham: A Gilded Age Epic: The Construction of Penn Station and Its Tunnels by Jill Jonnes

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/71266589>

Traces the epic story of the struggle to build Penn Station, describing how the nation's most powerful railroad tackled Tammany Hall corruption and the forces of nature to create a tunnel system linking Manhattan, New Jersey, and Long Island.

Recommended by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement

Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War by Mary Roach

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/921868897>

The author of Stiff and Bonk explores the irresistibly strange of keeping human beings intact, awake, sane, uninfected, and uninfested in the bizarre and extreme circumstances of war.

Recommended by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement:

"Only Mary Roach could take a serious and frequently heartbreaking subject such as war and make it entertaining as well an informative."

The Declaration of Independence: A Study in the History of Political Ideas by Carl Becker

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF023065046>

An examination of the political ideas behind the Declaration of Independence. Becker examines the theory of natural rights, the view the colonists had of their place in the British Empire, and the literary qualities of the Declaration.

Recommended by Richard Harrison, Subject Librarian

The Horrors of Andersonville: Life and Death Inside a Civil War Prison by Catherine Gourley

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/267052845>

This fact-based book documents Andersonville, a Civil War prison camp in Georgia, where thousands of Union prisoners died in the last fourteen months of the war.

Recommended by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement

Mothers of invention: women of the slaveholding South in the American Civil by Drew Gilpin Faust

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF021286056>

Faust draws on the eloquent diaries, letters, essays, memoirs, fiction, and poetry of more than 500 of the Confederacy's elite women to show that with the disintegration of slavery and the disappearance of prewar prosperity, every part of these women's lives became vexed and

uncertain. But it was not just females who worried about the changing nature of gender relations in the wartime South; Confederate political discourse and popular culture - plays, novels, songs, and paintings - also negotiated the changed meanings of womanhood.

Recommended by Karli Mair, Teaching & Engagement

Occupied women: gender, military occupation, and the American Civil War edited by LeeAnn Whites and Alecia P. Long

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF020531809>

Near the end of the Civil War, nearly half of the adult male population of the North and a staggering 90 percent of eligible white males in the South had joined the military. With their husbands, sons, and fathers away, legions of women took on additional duties formerly handled by males, and many also faced the ordeal of having their homes occupied by enemy troops. With occupation, the home front and the battlefield merged to create an unanticipated second front where civilians, mainly women, resisted what they perceived as unjust domination. In this work, twelve distinguished historians consider how women's reactions to occupation affected both the strategies of military leaders and ultimately even the outcome of the Civil War.

Recommended by Karli Mair, Teaching & Engagement

The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York by Deborah Blum

<http://ucf.catalog.fcla.edu/permalink.jsp?29CF021579775>

The untold story of how poison rocked Jazz Age New York City. A pair of forensic scientists began their trailblazing chemical detective work, fighting to end an era when untraceable poisons offered an easy path to the perfect crime. Chief medical examiner Charles Norris and toxicologist Alexander Gettler investigate a family mysteriously stricken bald, factory workers with crumbling bones, a diner serving poisoned pies, and many others.

Recommended by Megan Haught, Research & Information Services/Teaching & Engagement: "Fascinating stories of the birth of forensic science in New York during the Jazz Age and the creation of the first American Medical Examiner's Office. PBS also has a special based on the book."