



CHAPTER BOOK SELECTIONS

Books Now Available

Acts of God: The Unnatural History of Natural Disaster in America by Ted Steinberg

This book focuses on natural disasters throughout history based on the idea that they were not natural. Steinberg proposes business leaders along with government officials have created a grater loss of life and property for the poor, minorities and elderly. Steinberg's book is a mind opening read that questions if natural disasters are really natural.

Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water by Marc Reisner

This book is an excellent history of water development in the Western U.S. where Reisner tells the story of the relentless quest for water. Cadillac Desert is an eye-opening read that encompasses the history of rivers being diverted and dammed, political corruption, billion-dollar battles over water rights, ecologic and economic disaster. Reisner also documents the rivalry between the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in the competition to transform the West.

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond

This book examines the causes of the failure of some of the great civilizations of the past and it explained what can be learned from their fates. Diamond also looked at other societies who found solutions and persisted. Concepts in this book can be applied today to help determine how modern man can avoid ecological suicide.

The Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1950's by Donald Worster

This book focuses on technology being introduced and used in agriculture and makes the fundamental argument that capitalism was the root of the Dust Bowl in the Plains in the 1930s. Worster's book indicated to the reader that the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl were intertwined.

Good Growing: Why Organic Farming Works by Leslie A. Duram

This book explains why organic production and consumption have seen rapid growth in recent years and why this growth is important. A close-up look at the reasons for organic farming and the methods that make it work are given by Duram along with in-depth interviews with working organic farmers from across the country, which help make the book more realistic.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson

This book alerted a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of the use of pesticides, which caused ground-breaking changes in the laws for air, land and water. Carson defended her beliefs and the truths in this book to the chemical industry in the year following the publication of Silent Spring.

Books Available Soon For Reading and Discussion Or By Request

- *The End of Nature* by Bill McKibben
- *The Future of Life* by Edward O. Wilson
- *Guns, Germs and Steel* by Jared Diamond
- *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas L. Friedman