information in a clear fashion, which allows the reader to move toward great choices in times when there seem to be none. While the authors make no guarantee that following their steps will work every time, they offer a solid starting point from which anyone can benefit. VERDICT With clear steps, appropriate illustrations, and relevant real-life examples throughout, this book is recommended for anyone seeking to improve their personal or professional decision-making process. —Mark Hanson, Maranatha Baptist Univ. Lib., Watertown, WI

Simon, Morgan. Real Impact: The New Economics of Social Change. Nation, Oct. 2017. 256p. notes. index. ISBN 9781568589800. $26; ebk. ISBN 9781568589817. econ Impact investment is “selecting for-profit investments in light of…awareness of the social and environmental outcomes of such investments,” writes Simon (coleader, Can- didge Group), who sees great potential for impact to foster positive, systemic economic change. This book is in part a warning to impact investors to avoid what the author regards as the failures and limitations of philanthropy, microfinance, and fair trade. Her critiques of these three methods are thought provoking, as is her argument that the nub of poverty is the lack of economic autonomy. The more distinctive, second part of the volume discusses practical ways to implement impact investment using three principles: “engage communities in design, governance, and ownership”; “add more value than you extract”; and “fairly balance risk and return between investors, entrepreneurs, and communities,” followed by real-life examples of such implementation. One need not share Simon’s progressive political sensibility to appreciate the potential to foster positive, systemic economic change. This book is in handy. Using the notorious fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) as a case study, the author focuses each chapter on a different facet of the fraternity story. This can make for sobering reading, as Hechinger traces the racist and anti-Semitic legacy of many of today’s traditionally white fraternities to the rape culture that pervades these institutions to such an extent that on many campuses, SAE stands for “sexual assault expected.” Hechinger travels across the country to interview individuals at places such as the University of Alabama, where the SAE’s century-old chapter has yet to “pledge” a black student. Although there are mountains of evidence linking fraternities to an outsized share of sexual assault charges and hazing-related injuries and deaths, college administrators have been ineffective at reinining in “problem chapters.” As Hechinger demonstrates, this has a lot to do with fraternities’ fund-rais- ing clout and lobbying power (including the political action committee FratPAC).

VERDICT An exemplary work of investigative reporting. Recommended for all academic libraries. —Seth Kershner, Northwestern Connecticut Community Coll. Lib., Winsted

Koretz, Daniel. The Testing Charade: Pretending To Make Schools Better. Univ. of Chicago, Sept. 2017. 288p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9780226408712. $25. ed For decades, the focus of the American education system has been on high-stakes tests with policies attached that have forced schools to take drastic measures to keep scores up. Koretz (Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education, Harvard Gradu- ate Sch. of Education; Measuring Up) breaks down the simplistic thinking of testing culture to shed light on the ways in which educational reform has gone horribly wrong. Illustrating how exams create an atmosphere ripe for cheating, how the concentration on test prep has supplanted a focus on real learning, and how teachers are unfairly judged by test results, Koretz uses real-world examples as well as analogies from other industries to convey his arguments. This zeroing in on the grand failures of the testing culture highlights the most egregious abuses yet skims over some of the complexities of the issues. However, his points are sound, and his arguments convincingly presented. The two final chapters present solid prin- ciples for change that are then translated into actions for a new testing paradigm.

VERDICT For readers who want to delve into testing-based accountability systems, why they have failed, and how educa- tors can generate change. —Rachel Wadham, Brigham Young Univ. Libs., Provo, UT

Simon, Morgan. Real Impact: The New Economics of Social Change. Nation, Oct. 2017. 256p. notes. index. ISBN 9781568589800. $26; ebk. ISBN 9781568589817. econ Impact investment is “selecting for-profit investments in light of…awareness of the social and environmental outcomes of such investments,” writes Simon (coleader, Can- didge Group), who sees great potential for impact to foster positive, systemic economic change. This book is in part a warning to impact investors to avoid what the author regards as the failures and limitations of philanthropy, microfinance, and fair trade. Her critiques of these three methods are thought provoking, as is her argument that the nub of poverty is the lack of economic autonomy. The more distinctive, second part of the volume discusses practical ways to implement impact investment using three principles: “engage communities in design, governance, and ownership”; “add more value than you extract”; and “fairly balance risk and return between investors, entrepreneurs, and communities,” followed by real-life examples of such implementation. One need not share Simon’s progressive political sensibility to appreci- ate the potential to foster positive, systemic economic change. This book is in handy. Using the notorious fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) as a case study, the author focuses each chapter on a different facet of the fraternity story. This can make for sobering reading, as Hechinger traces the racist and anti-Semitic legacy of many of today’s traditionally white fraternities to the rape culture that pervades these institutions to such an extent that on many campuses, SAE stands for “sexual assault expected.” Hechinger travels across the country to interview individuals at places such as the University of Alabama, where the SAE’s century-old chapter has yet to “pledge” a black student. Although there are mountains of evidence linking fraternities to an outsized share of sexual assault charges and hazing-related injuries and deaths, college administrators have been ineffective at reinining in “problem chapters.” As Hechinger demonstrates, this has a lot to do with fraternities’ fund-rais- ing clout and lobbying power (including the political action committee FratPAC).

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Koretz, Daniel. The Testing Charade: Pretending To Make Schools Better. Univ. of Chicago, Sept. 2017. 288p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9780226408712. $25. ed For decades, the focus of the American education system has been on high-stakes tests with policies attached that have forced schools to take drastic measures to keep scores up. Koretz (Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Education, Harvard Gradu- ate Sch. of Education; Measuring Up) breaks down the simplistic thinking of testing culture to shed light on the ways in which educational reform has gone horribly wrong. Illustrating how exams create an atmosphere ripe for cheating, how the concentration on test prep has supplanted a focus on real learning, and how teachers are unfairly judged by test results, Koretz uses real-world examples as well as analogies from other industries to convey his arguments. This zeroing in on the grand failures of the testing culture highlights the most egregious abuses yet skims over some of the complexities of the issues. However, his points are sound, and his arguments convincingly presented. The two final chapters present solid prin- ciples for change that are then translated into actions for a new testing paradigm.

VERDICT For readers who want to delve into testing-based accountability systems, why they have failed, and how educa- tors can generate change. —Rachel Wadham, Brigham Young Univ. Libs., Provo, UT

HISTORY

Ayers, Edward L. The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America. Norton, Oct. 2017. 640p. illus. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9780393292633. $35; ebk. ISBN 9780393292640. HIST Ayers’s superb new Civil War history, which began with In the Presence of More Enemies (2003), is set in Virginia’s Great Valley and traces the stories of Augusta, VA, and Franklin, PA, counties from abolitionist John Brown’s raid in 1859 to the eve of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. The work begins with Confederate troops invading Pennsylvania and two years of conflict, followed by the social and political chaos of Reconstruction and the passage of the 15th Amendment in 1870. Ayers notes that many Americans on both sides of the war did not anticipate the un-conditional surrender of the South, the end of institutional slavery, and the recon-struction of the country based on funda-mental human rights for all. Paradoxically, Ayers concludes that without secession, the mobilization of huge countervailing armies and the threat from initial military successes by the Rebels, there would likely have been no early postwar attempt at emancipation for African Americans. The author finds that “Americans made each others’ history, often in ways they did not foresee or intend.” VERDICT An original contribution of unimpeachable scholarship. Highly recommended for Civil War and regional historians, military theorists, and all readers. —John Carver Edwards, formerly with Univ. of Georgia Libs.

de Hamel, Christopher. Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts: Twelve Journeys into the Medieval World. Penguin Pr., Oct. 2017. 640p. illus. notes. biblog. index. ISBN 9780143154216. $45; ebk. ISBN 9780969163386. HIST Librarian de Hamel (Corpus Christi Coll., Cambridge Univ.; A History of Illuminated Manuscripts), a leading authority on me-dieval manuscripts, has produced a veri- table feast for the mind, in this work that fleshes out the lives of 12 manuscripts. The works are organized in chronological or-der, beginning with the St. Augustine Gos- pels (sixth century) and concluding with the Spinola Hours (16th century). Content includes gospels (The Book of Kells), astro-logical works (The Leiden Aratea), music (Carmina Burana), and Canterbury Tales (The Hengwrt Chaucer). High culture flows from every page, as de Hamel inter- weaves the histories of these medieval artifacts with the lives of the people that interacted with them. The author also

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