

social sciences

BIOGRAPHY

Blanning, Tim. *Frederick the Great: King of Prussia.* Random. Mar. 2016. 688p. photos. maps. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781400068128. \$35; ebk. ISBN 9780812988734. **BIOG**

Frederick the Great ruled Prussia from 1740 until his death in 1786. In those four and a half decades, he transformed a disconnected territory of the Holy Roman Empire into an important European power. As historian Blanning (emeritus, history, Cambridge Univ.; *The Romantic Revolution*) writes, "Frederick purposefully set out to be different from his predecessors." After suffering an abusive childhood, Frederick took the throne at 28 and sought to create a name for himself through his participation in the Seven Years' War, all three Silesian Wars, and the War of the Bavarian Succession, as well as being involved in the arts

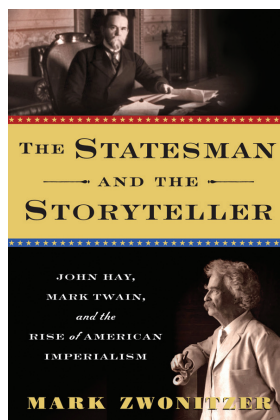
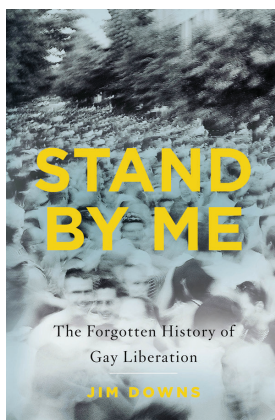
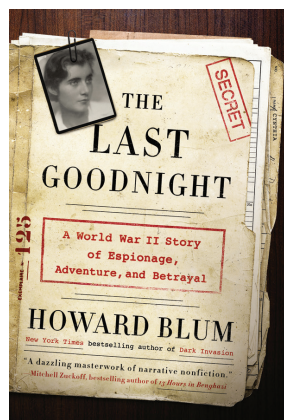
Betrayal. Harper. Apr. 2016. 528p. photos. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780062307675. \$28.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062307798. **BIOG**

Journalist Blum (*Dark Invasion*) delivers a provocative biography of glamorous debutante Betty Pack (1910–63), a Minnesota native who became an extraordinary Allied spy during World War II. At 19, Pack (née Thorpe) married a British diplomat many years her senior. Although the match proved unhappy, it afforded the adventurous Pack the opportunity to travel the world. It was during a posting in Madrid that she first became involved in spycraft. In the dangerous days leading up to the Spanish Civil War, Pack used her persuasive charms to ascertain the location of a politically imprisoned par amour and secure his release. Her resourceful behavior did not go unnoticed; Pack was recruited by Britain's MI6 to become a covert operative and was involved in missions

Extraordinary Lives. Harper.

Mar. 2016. 464p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780062409973. \$29.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062409997. **BIOG**

In his latest work, Garten (*The Politics of Fortune*) takes a unique approach to the thematic study of globalization as an economic, political, and social force. Rather than tracing the product of a garment or the development of a particular industry or nation, the author looks at the overarching themes of the theory of globalization and then uses biographies of principle figures to illustrate each stage. Whether it is Mayer Rothschild embodying the finance trade or Jean Monnet establishing the European Union and paving the way for the creation of a shared currency, each personality fits neatly into Garten's tenets of globalization, which are key factors drawn from his substantial knowledge of global interdependence. Engaging vignettes demonstrate a unique sociopolitical norm while making connections to the larger trends of globalization without losing their relevancy to the narrative as a whole. In sum, the stories serve to highlight the message that it isn't the innovation or the dream that's necessary for global achievement but rather confidence, pragmatism, and the ability to persist that leads to revolutionary and paradigm-shifting individuals. **VERDICT** This highly approachable book, clearly written and intriguing in concept, will be valuable in telling the story of globalization as the relationships between person and theme are well drawn and illuminating.—Elizabeth Zeitz, Otterbein Univ. Lib., Westerville, OH



A female agent in World War II; 1970s gay culture; author and statesman, friends to the end

via his writings, music, and patronage. His industriousness disrupted continental politics and heralded the rise of a new power. Blanning's comprehensive study is more analytical than chronological, and this investigation extends to all aspects of Frederick: his reign, character, and sexuality, making the book seem more like a history of the period, with Frederick having a starring role, than a sole biography. **VERDICT** Readers both casual and scholarly will enjoy this profile for the in-depth examination of its subject, his placement in the historical events of the time, and his future in German history. [See Prepub Alert, 9/28/15.]—Laura Hiatt, Fort Collins, CO

that included securing material that helped decipher the German Enigma machine. Blum successfully demonstrates how the intelligence gathered during Pack's clandestine career directly aided Allied victory. Using recently unclassified files, the author provides an exhilarating rendering of this courageous female agent, while Mary Lovell's *Cast No Shadow* imparts a more conventional review of Pack's life. **VERDICT** Skillfully researched and entertainingly written, Blum's narrative will appeal to both military buffs and those fascinated with the world of espionage. [See Prepub Alert, 10/19/15.]—Mary Jennings, Camano Island Lib., WA

Blum, Howard. *The Last Goodnight: A World War II Story of Espionage, Adventure, and*

Garten, Jeffrey E. *From Silk to Silicon: The Story of Globalization Through Ten*

Randall, David K. *The King and Queen of Malibu: The True Story of the Battle for Paradise.* Norton. Mar. 2016. 256p. photos. bibliog. ISBN 9780393240993. \$26.95; ebk. ISBN 9780393292930. **BIOG**

Journalist Randall (*Dreamland*) steps away from his usual brand of contemporary nonfiction to tackle a topic more historical in nature—that of the development of Malibu, CA. The son of a wealthy Massachusetts family, Frederick Rindge and his wife, May, moved to Los Angeles in 1887 to start their married life and soon carved out a place for themselves in the upper echelon of the not-quite-tamed Western city. They purchased Malibu Rancho as their private retreat and were steadfast in refusing to have the land used for railroads, highways, or real estate development. Even after Frederick's death,