

I have been focused on a number of recent titles that analyze current events so I am a bit behind on my reviews of science-oriented books. Here is what I've read the last few months.

***Al Franken, Giant of the Senate* by Al Franken, Hachette Book Group, Inc. New York, 2017, 416 pp, ISBN-13: 978-1455540419.**

Al Franken has not been funny since he became a politician—at least on purpose—until now. Here Senator Franken describes growing up in the Minneapolis suburb of St. Louis Park, becoming a comedian and making it on *Saturday Night Live*, becoming a United States Senator and finally a description of his time on the Hill. Interspersed in the narrative are the trials and tribulations we all face as human beings.

***This Fight Is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class* by Elizabeth Warren, Henry Holt and Co., New York, 2017, 352 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1250120618.**

Senator Warren describes her life growing up in Oklahoma with her mother as breadwinner, getting into college, dropping out to have a family, then going back to school and ultimately becoming a lawyer. She had been teaching law for nearly 35 years when she was elected Senator in 2012. Senator Warren's book focuses on the issue she has tried to address as a United States Senator: trying to provide the lower classes with the tools to advance in society as she was able to do.

***The Colder War: How the Global Energy Trade Slipped from America's Grasp* by Marin Katusa, John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, 2015, 272 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1118799949.**

This book was recommended to me by a colleague. It describes in detail Putin's rise to power and the slow but gradual takeover of the world energy markets—oil, gas and uranium—by the Russian Federation. This book predates the 2016 election but one can see the need to maintain momentum in dominating world markets; e.g., thinking sanctions would be reduced by selecting a pro-Putin candidate and interfering in the 2016 election.

***Devil's Bargain, Steve Bannon, Donald Trump and the Storming of the Presidency*, by Joshua Green, Penguin Press, New York, 2017, 288 pp, ISBN-13: 978-0735225022.**

This is a short biography of Steve Bannon. It follows him from his early years in Catholic schools to his time in the US Navy and his work at Goldman-Sachs. Then it details his career in television and movie making, his tenure at Breitbart News and ending with his appointment as Chief Strategist. The author also provides a history of the relationship between Bannon and President Trump, and explains how Bannon was instrumental in restricting the campaign to help Trump with the 2016 election.

***What Happened* by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2017, 512 pp, ISBN-13: 978-1501175565.**

You will either agree wholeheartedly with Secretary Clinton's analysis of why she lost the 2016 election or you will vehemently disagree. There is a lot of discussion about family and friends that could have been left out to focus more on the facts of the 2016 election. A volume two of this book will probably come out once the Muller investigation is complete and Clinton's arguments about Russian meddling in the election are verified.

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