Discover the history of everyday objects, or events from the past that have shaped the present. These nonfiction selections are fascinating glimpses into worlds unknown to us.

Blood and Guts: a history of surgery by Richard Hollingham

Stiff: the curious lives of human cadavers by Mary Roach

Gin: the much-lamented death of Madam Geneva by Patrick Dillon

Majestie: the king behind the King James Bible by David Teems

The Dirt on Clean: an unsanitized history by Katherine Ashenburg

Bicycle: the history by David V. Herlihy

Flushed: how the plumber saved civilization by W. Hodding Carter

Salt: a world history by Mark Kurlansky

Cod: a biography of the fish that changed the world by Mark Kurlansky

Hotel: an American history by A.K. Sandoval-Strausz

A Perfect Red: empire, espionage, and the quest for the color of desire by Amy Butler Greenfield

The Devil in the White City: murder, magic, and madness at the fair that changed America by Erik Larson

The Great Pretenders: the true stories behind famous historical mysteries by Jan Bondeson

Unmentionables: a brief history of underwear by Elaine Benson and John Esten

The Company town: the industrial Edens and satanic mills that shaped the American economy by Hardy Green

The Black History of the White House by Clarence Lusane

The Mercury 13: the untold story of thirteen American women and the dream of space flight by Martha Ackmann

Hell Hath No Fury: true profiles of women at war from antiquity to Iraq by Rosalind Miles and Robin Cross

The Victorian Internet: the remarkable story of the telegraph and the nineteenth century’s on-line pioneers by Tom Standage

The Endurance: Shackleton’s legendary Antarctic expedition by Caroline Alexander

Nothing Like it in the World: the men who built the transcontinental railroad, 1863-1869 by Stephen E. Ambrose

Medical Apartheid: the dark history of medical experimentation on Black Americans from colonial times to the present by Harriet A. Washington

Stealing Lincoln's body by Thomas J. Craughwell

My Thoughts Be Bloody: the bitter rivalry between Edwin and John Wilkes Booth that led to an American tragedy by Nora Titone

The Worst Hard Time: the untold story of those who survived the great American dust bowl by Timothy Egan

The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the fire that saved America by Timothy Egan

Measure of the Earth: the enlightenment expedition that reshaped our world by Larrie D. Ferreiro

We Two: Victoria and Albert Rulers, partners, rivals by Gillian Gill

Harry Truman and Civil Rights: moral courage and political risks by Michael R. Gardner

Grant and Twain: the story of a friendship that changed America by Mark Perry

This Republic of Suffering: death and the American Civil War by Drew Gilpin Faust

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman

Apple Pie: an American story by John T. Edge
Four Against the Arctic: shipwrecked for six years at the top of the world by David Roberts
The Man Who Ate His Boots: the tragic history of the search for the Northwest Passage by Anthony Brandt
Scurvy: how a surgeon, a mariner, and a gentleman solved the greatest medical mystery of the age of sail by Stephen R. Bown
The American Plague: the untold story of yellow fever, the epidemic that shaped our history by Molly Caldwell Crosby
The Cruelest Miles: the heroic story of dogs and men in a race against an epidemic by Gay Salisbury and Laney Salisbury
Cranioklepty: grave robbing and the search for genius by Colin Dickey
Ivory's Ghosts: the white gold of history and the fate of elephants by John Frederick Walker
Barnum Brown: the man who discovered Tyrannosaurus rex by Lowell Dingus and Mark A. Norell
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Dark Side of the Moon: Wernher von Braun, the Third Reich, and the space race by Wayne Biddle
The Punch: one night, two lives, and the fight that changed basketball forever by John Feinstein
Lost in Shangri-la: a true story of survival, adventure, and the most incredible rescue mission of World War II by Mitchell Zuckoff
Eiffel's Tower: and the World's Fair where Buffalo Bill beguiled Paris, the artists quarreled, and Thomas Edison became a count by Jill Jonnes
Krakatoa: the day the world exploded, August 27, 1883 by Simon Winchester
The Indifferent Stars Above: the harrowing saga of a Donner Party bride by Daniel James Brown
The Toothpick: technology and culture by Henry Petroski
The Riddle of the Compass: the invention that changed the world by Amir D. Aczel
Chop Suey: a cultural history of Chinese food in the United States by Andrew Coe
Swindled: the dark history of food fraud, from poisoned candy to counterfeit coffee by Bee Wilson
Chocolate Wars: the 150-year rivalry between the world's greatest chocolate makers by Deborah Cadbury
Singer and the sewing machine: a capitalist romance by Ruth Brandon
Rising From the Rails: Pullman porters and the making of the Black middle class by Larry Tye
Big Cotton: how a humble fiber created fortunes, wrecked civilizations, and put America on the map by Stephen Yafa
Coffee: a dark history by Antony Wild
The Big Oyster: history on the half shell by Mark Kurlansky
One Good turn: a natural history of the screwdriver and the screw by Witold Rybczynski
The Fever Trail: in search of the cure for malaria by Mark Honigsbaum
Rats: observations on the history and habitat of the city's most unwanted inhabitants by Robert Sullivan
Zipper: an exploration in novelty by Robert Friedel
Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling by Ross King
Library: an unquiet history by Matthew Battles
Waste and Want: a social history of trash by Susan Strasser
Biting the Dust: the joys of housework by Margaret Horsfield
Inventing Beauty: a history of the innovations that have made us beautiful by Teresa Riordan