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Americas Secret Aristocracy

Richard Conniff



Americas Secret Aristocracy:

America's Secret Aristocracy Stephen Birmingham, 2024-05-14 An entertaining and perceptive history of America's most exclusive families from the Brahmins of New England to the Grandees of California The Washington Post America has always been a constitutionally classless society yet an American aristocracy emerged anyway a private club whose members run in the same circles and observe the same unwritten rules Here renowned social historian Stephen Birmingham reveals the inner workings of this aristocracy He identifies which families in which cities have always mattered and how they've defined America America's Secret Aristocracy offers an inside look at the estates marriages and financial empires of America's most powerful families from the Randolphs of Virginia and the Roosevelts of New York to the Carillos and Ortigas of California With countless anecdotes about our nation's elite including interviews with their modern day descendants Birmingham presents colorful portraits that capture the true definition essence and customs of America's aristocracy

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Ornamenting the »Cold Roast« Dorothee Wagner von Hoff, 2014-03-15 This book presents the meticulous case studies of three individual houses from different eras which serve to depict the social political and cultural effects that domestic architecture and interior design had on the upper class the city of Boston and a national American identity It takes the reader on a journey to 18th and 19th century Boston and provides insight into the lives of these prominent men and women as seen through the perspective of their homes It is a novel examination of the cultural significance of domestic architecture and interior design and because of its story telling character and extensive attention to detail it is fascinating for curious readers and cultural historians alike

Privilege, Power, and Place Stephen Richard Higley, 1995 In the first analytical study of where the American upper class lives and vacations Stephen R Higley explores the ways in which upper class residential places are created and maintained Drawing on the Social Register as a main source of data Higley examines the intersection of class status and geography and demonstrates the ways in which physical proximity solidifies upper class consciousness

American History Revised Seymour Morris Jr., 2021-08-03 We tend to think of history as settled set in stone but American History Revised reveals a past that is filled with ironies surprises and misconceptions Living abroad for twelve years gave author Seymour Morris Jr the opportunity to view his country as an outsider and compelled him to examine American history from a fresh perspective As Morris colorfully illustrates through the 200 historical vignettes that make up this book much of our nation's past is quite different and far more remarkable than we thought We discover that In the 1950s Ford was approached by two Japanese companies begging for a joint venture Ford declined their offers calling them makers of tin cars The two companies were Toyota and Nissan Eleanor Roosevelt and most women's groups opposed the Equal Rights Amendment forbidding gender discrimination The two generals who ended the Civil War weren't Grant and Lee The 1 bestselling American book of all time was written in one day

The Dutch made a bad investment buying Manhattan for 24 Two young girls aimed someday to become First Lady and succeeded Three times a private financier saved the United States from bankruptcy Organized into ten thematic chapters American History Revised plumbs American history s numerous inconsistencies twists and turns to make it come alive again

Symbolic Management James Westphal, Sun Hyun Park, 2020-03-17 The theory of symbolic management reveals a pervasive pattern of symbolic decoupling a separation between appearances and reality at every level of the governance system At each level the processes of governance are less efficient or effective than they appear from interpersonal relations within organizations such as those between CEOs and directors top managers and lower level employees to relations between firm leaders and external stakeholders such as journalists and security analysts There is even a separation between appearances and reality at the level of the governance system itself In this book James Westphal and Sun Hyun Park develop symbolic management into a major theoretical perspective on governance Not only does symbolic management provide a compelling behavioral alternative to economic perspectives such as agency theory but it subsumes economic theory Agency theory is reconceived as a historically contingent institutional logic that became taken for granted among corporate stakeholders for a period of time and eventually replaced by a new logic of governance Through a body of extensive empirical research Westphal and Park demonstrate how the symbolic management activities of firm leaders have contributed to this historical shift in prevailing logics of governance and present a warning to regulators investors and the general public

Cheerful Money Tad Friend, 2009-09-02 From longtime New Yorker writer and author of In the Early Times Tad Friend s side splittingly funny *Cheerful Money* is both a gorgeously written family memoir and a sharp cultural study of the decline of the American WASP Mary Karr Tad Friend s family is nothing if not illustrious his father was president of College and at Smith his mother came in second in a poetry contest judged by W H Auden to Sylvia Plath For centuries Wasps like his ancestors dominated American life But then in the 60s their fortunes began to fall As a young man Tad noticed that his family tree for all its glories was full of alcoholics depressives and reckless eccentrics Yet his identity had already been shaped by the family s age old traditions and expectations Part memoir part family history and part cultural study of the long swoon of the American Wasp *Cheerful Money* is a captivating examination of a cultural crack up and a man trying to escape its wreckage

Gilded Suffragists Johanna Neuman, 2019-03-01 New York City s elite women who turned a feminist cause into a fashionable revolution In the early twentieth century over two hundred of New York s most glamorous socialites joined the suffrage movement Their names Astor Belmont Rockefeller Tiffany Vanderbilt Whitney and the like carried enormous public value These women were the media darlings of their day because of the extravagance of their costume balls and the opulence of the French couture clothes and they leveraged their social celebrity for political power turning women s right to vote into a fashionable cause Although they were dismissed by critics as bored socialites trying on suffrage as they might the latest couture designs from Paris these gilded suffragists were at the epicenter of the great reforms known collectively as the

Progressive Era From championing education for women to pursuing careers and advocating for the end of marriage these women were engaged with the swirl of change that swept through the streets of New York City Johanna Neuman restores these women to their rightful place in the story of women s suffrage Understanding the need for popular approval for any social change these socialites used their wealth power social connections and style to excite mainstream interest and to diffuse resistance to the cause In the end as Neuman says when change was in the air these women helped push women s suffrage over the finish line *The Natural History of the Rich* Richard Conniff,2012-07-23 A tantalizing droll study of the idiosyncratic existence of the very rich through the unexpected lens of the naturalist Journalist Richard Conniff probes the age old question Are the rich different from you and me and finds that they are indeed a completely different animal He observes with great humor this socially unique species revealing their strategies for ensuring dominance and submission their flourishes of display behavior the intricate dynamics of their pecking order as well as their unorthodox mating practices Through comparisons to other equally exotic animals Conniff uncovers surprising commonalities **Culture Clubs** Susan Felicity Minsos,2002

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