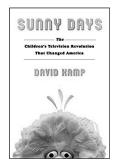
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New Books We Recommend This Week

SUNNY DAYS: The Children's Television Revolution That Changed

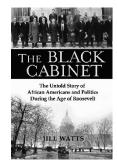
America, by David Kamp. (Simon & Schuster, \$27.50.) Tracing the origin of a



handful of shows ("Mister Rogers," "Sesame Street," "The Magic Garden"), Kamp provides a lively recounting of a particularly ripe period in television and cultural history, when our notion of how to communicate with young children was upended, forever. "Kamp fluidly proves that the Children's Television Workshop — whose shows ("Sesame Street," then "The Electric Company") set the standard for educational programming — was as much a part of the golden era of '70s TV as Norman Lear and Mary Tyler Moore," Melena Ryzik writes in her review.

THE BLACK CABINET: The Untold Story of African Americans and Politics During the Age of Roosevelt, by Jill Watts. (Grove, \$30.) A revealing chronicle of a group of African-American intellectuals, many of them little known, who worked in government during the New Deal, forming an unofficial advisory

council to lobby the President, to get the community's needs on the table and to bring about social justice. "Watts highlights the gains those efforts secured," Kevin Boyle writes in his review, "but she's at her best when she gives a frank accounting of the barriers the Black Cabinet encountered." The Black Cabinet was never officially recognized by FDR, and with the demise of the New Deal, it disappeared from history. This book is packed with information that every American should be privy to.



SURVIVING AUTOCRACY, by Masha Gessen. (Riverhead, \$26.) "Surviving Autocracy" stems from an essay Masha Gessen wrote in November 2016 that offered a set of numbered rules for "salvaging your sanity and self-respect"

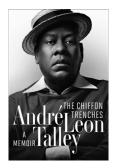


during a time of political upheaval. Gessen links together seemingly disparate elements of Trump's regime to offer a roadmap to his approach, policies, and ultimate aims. "Gessen's writing style is methodical and direct," our critic Jennifer Szalai writes. "To combat nonsense, Gessen counsels making sense, deliberately and with precision, including the reclamation of 'politics' and 'political' — words that have come to denote empty bombast and wily maneuvering when they should call to mind

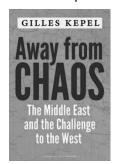
something more substantive."

THE CHIFFON TRENCHES: A Memoir, by André Leon Talley. (Ballantine, \$28.) A former Vogue editor sums up his decades-long career in the fashion

world, from his first apprenticeship to the front row at couture shows to his fraught relationship with Anna Wintour. "For all its name-dropping, backstabbing, outsize egos, vivid description and use of words like 'bespoke' and 'sang-froid,'" Rebecca Carroll writes in her review, the book is "less about the fashion elite than it is about a black boy from the rural South who got swallowed whole by the white gaze and was spit out as a too-large black man when he no longer fit the narrative."



AWAY FROM CHAOS: The Middle East and the Challenge to the West, by Gilles Kepel. Translated by Henry Randolph. (Columbia University, \$35.) Kepel,



a French expert on the Middle East, surveys the region's immense geopolitical complexity, the receding but still formidable danger of the region's Islamists and the relative decline in importance of the Arab-Israeli conflict amidst intensifying Sunni-Shiite rivalry in the region. It hopefully but guardedly theorizes that a new era may have begun in the Islamic world. Michael J. Totten writes in his review: "It's devoid of the crippling ideological blinders that sometimes disfigure books about a part of the world

so rife with ideology."

TROOP 6000: The Girl Scout Troop That Began in a Shelter and Inspired the World, by Nikita Stewart. (Ballantine, \$27.) A Times reporter explores what happened after her article about homeless Girl Scouts went viral, complete with celebrity shampoo donations and a star turn on "The View." Stewart steadfastly shows that behind the myth lies the continued debilitating chaos of homelessness. "She dutifully describes the Cinderella episodes the girls and parents of Troop 6000 enjoy, but she refuses to avert her eyes from their precarious lives," Samuel G. Freedman writes in his review. The scouts' leader "faces exasperating obstacles in forming a troop with the rules regulating life in homeless shelters."

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