

### **Marblehead League Book Discussion Group 10/31/18**

1. "The Forgotten: How the People of One Pennsylvania County Elected Donald Trump and Changed America" by Ben Bradlee, Jr. The author spent several months interviewing residents of two Pennsylvania towns, and their feelings that led to their votes in 2016. This book is a fascinating picture of voters and their perceived circumstances, a good read.
2. "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America" by Ari Berman  
This book explores that history of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the continuing struggle for voting rights begun by the civil-rights revolution.
3. "When Globalization Fails: The Rise and Fall of Pax Americana" by James Macdonald. The highly recommended book examines globalization, and begins with trade in the 1800's and its evolution into global commerce. It exposes some of the misconceptions about globalization, and its role in popular discontent.
4. "Can Democracy Survive Global Capitalism?" by Robert Kuttner, related to previous book; discusses the role of deregulated capitalism in downward mobility.
5. "Six Great Ideas" Mortimer Adler. Discusses the central six ideas important to humankind: truth, goodness, beauty, liberty, equality and justice. The first 3 are the values by which we judge.
6. "The Death of Truth: Notes on Falsehood in the Age of Trump" by Michiko Kakutani  
Discusses the longer trends leading to the current state of untruth, historical parallels, and what to do about it.
7. "Post-Truth" by Lee McIntyre, MIT Press. Shared as related to book above. "McIntyre argues that we can fight post-truth, and that the first step in fighting post-truth is to understand it."- from Amazon website
8. "Broken Ballots: Will Your Vote Count?" by Douglas W. Jones and Barbara Simons. The book analyzes the history of how Americans vote leading to the technology we use today. Its accuracy, reliability and security are examined in detail.
9. "Fear" by Bob Woodward- A definitive book about the inner workings of the Trump White House based on interviews with insiders who left.
10. "Gun Guys: A Road Trip" by Dan Baun. A fascinating and entertaining story about a man who decides to immerse himself in gun culture to understand it. Great addition to our gun study group.

11. "House of Trump, House of Putin: The Untold Story of Donald Trump and the Russian Mafia" by Craig Unger. Discusses in depth the Russian Mafia's relationship to the KGB and Russian government. The connection between Trump and the mafia through real estate transactions during the 1980s is explored.
12. "Escape from Freedom" by Eric Fromm. Fromm presented his insights in man's propensity to choose authoritarianism during times of insecurity, from his first-hand experience with fascism and Nazism during the 1930s.
13. "Why I Write" by George Orwell. Orwell struggles with his hope for England while German bombs are dropping, his mind focused by the impending destruction. Detailed examination of the state of England in the 30s.
14. "The Jungle Grows Back: America and Our Imperiled World" by Robert Kagan. The author says our view of inevitable continuing upward progression is not accurate. The last 70 years of improvement in the world- few wars, increased prosperity across the globe, etc.- is due to the benign power exerted by the US after WWII, both diplomatically and militarily. As we withdraw from our role in the world, we risk re-emergence of "spheres of influence" by countries around the world and the inevitable struggles that lead to a return to the jungle. Author presents the case to continue American influence.