

fourth century. Newton despised the Roman Catholic Church and felt it was the greatest political threat of his time; in particular, liturgical practices such as prayers to the Virgin Mary, the veneration of saints, and monasticism. Instead, Newton preferred a simpler version of Christianity, choosing to rely upon the devoted study of Scripture and the rational examination of the cosmos as the best way to gain knowledge of the divine. **VERDICT** Overall, Iiffe's challenging and scholarly work addresses an important and long overlooked aspect of Newton. Best suited for an academic or theological library.—**Dave Pugl, El Area P.L., Lake Zurich, IL**

Moghul, Haroon. *How To Be a Muslim: An American Story*. Beacon. Jun. 2017. 256p. ISBN 9780807020746. \$17; ebk. ISBN 9780807020753. REL

In this intellectual yet quirky memoir, Moghul (*Order of Light*) recounts his childhood and ongoing struggles with his faith while also candidly discussing health problems such as anxiety, depression, and a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Entangled throughout is the continuing push and pull of his religious and cultural upbringing as a Muslim—and what it means to his identity. Though Moghul offers no simple answers of coming to terms with a more personal relationship with Allah, he explores his own relationships failings and struggles with a brutal honesty and a genuine desire to reconcile himself with the religious identity presented to him. Moghul's writing is a force to be reckoned with: intelligent, witty, and possessing the ability to reduce highly complex issues to simple concepts. While he sometimes wades deeply into weighty subjects, the memoir is infused with an entertaining stream of consciousness, making for a unique and enlightening read. **VERDICT** This personal account will appeal to fans of memoirs as well as those interested in learning more about the historical, geopolitical, and cultural roots of Islam.—**Stacy Shaw, Orange, CA**

Wright, Robert. *Why Buddhism is True: The Science and Philosophy of Meditation and Enlightenment*. S. & S. Aug. 2017. 304p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781439195451. \$27; ebk. ISBN 9781439195475. REL

Given the book's title, you may be surprised to learn that Wright (*The Evolution of God*) is not a Buddhist. Rather, he is a journalist and author of several best-selling books about science and religion, as well as a practitioner of mindfulness meditation. Here, he shares his journey with mindfulness and links the outcomes of his practice with evolutionary psychology. Wright argues that natural

selection conditions humans to experience suffering, one of the foundational tenets of Buddhism. Strong emotions, such as fear, anxiety, and anger, helped our ancestors to survive, and so these survival mechanisms are still genetically part of us and the way we are wired. Reactions based on these emotions cause us to suffer, but meditation can help to control these reactions as one begins to see that these emotions are devoid of any inherent essence. Wright's treatment of key Buddhist concepts, such as nonself or emptiness, may initially seem glib. However, as he develops his argument, it becomes clear that Wright is trying to help readers to deconstruct and then reconstruct these fundamental concepts. **VERDICT** An important read for anyone interested in practicing meditation but not necessarily interested in becoming an expert in Buddhist philosophy.—**Amanda Folk, Ohio State Univ. Libs.**

SPORTS & RECREATION

Conn, David. *The Fall of the House of FIFA: The Multimillion-Dollar Corruption at the Heart of Global Soccer*. Nation. Jun. 2017. 336p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781568585963. pap. \$27; ebk. ISBN 9781568585970. SPORTS FIFA's (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) World Cup Tournament is a global quadrennial celebration of soccer. Behind the cheers and flag waving, scandal festered within FIFA in recent years, including cash in brown envelopes, secret bank accounts, and tax evasion. In a story that took more than a decade to expose, lifelong fan and journalist Conn (*The Beautiful Game*) left no stone unturned in his efforts to follow the money, skillfully re-creating a time line of the corruption that threatened the very integrity of the game. Conn's meticulous research and smooth writing style bring this unseemly chapter in FIFA history to a close, with realistic hope for the future of the most popular sport on earth. **VERDICT** Serious sports historians and soccer fans will find this to be the conclusive account of the recent international FIFA scandal. As we look ahead to the 2018 World Cup, this is also a timely reminder that money and power are always a threat to high ideals in sports.—**Janet Davis, Darien P.L., CT**

Kimberley, Hannah. *A Woman's Place Is at the Top: A Biography of Annie Smith Peck, Queen of the Climbers*. St. Martin's. Aug. 2017. 368p. notes. index. ISBN 9781250084002. \$26.99; ebk. ISBN 9781250105813. SPORTS

Annie Smith Peck (1850–1935) is the most accomplished woman most readers have never heard of. With this debut, Kimberley does an excellent job of situating Peck in her time and place, late 19th- and early