

FAILURE ~*Further Reading*



“Man Proposes, God Disposes” by Edwin Henry Landseer, inspired by the disappearance of the Franklin Expedition

Failure (overviews & introductions)

Print:

Banvard's Folly: Thirteen Tales of People Who Didn't Change the World by Paul Collins
Complete & Utter Failure: A Celebration of Also-Rans, Runners Up, Never-Weres, & Total Flops by Neil Steinberg
The Book of Heroic Failures: The Official Handbook of the Not Terribly Good Club of Great Britain by Stephen Pile
Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared Diamond
Brilliant Blunders: From Darwin to Einstein - Colossal Mistakes by Great Scientists that Changed our Understanding of Life and the Universe by Mario Livio

Schadenfreude: Delighting in the Failure of Others

Print:

Schadenfreude, Baby!: A Delicious Look at the Misfortune of Others (and the Pleasure it Brings Us) by Laura Lee
The Joy of Pain: Schadenfreude and the Dark Side of Human Nature by Richard H. Smith
The Hunger Games and Philosophy: A Critique of Pure Treason edited by George A. Dunn and Nicolas Michaud
Everyone Loves a Good Train Wreck: Why We Can't Look Away by Eric G. Wilson
The Science of Evil: On Empathy and the Origins of Cruelty by Simon Baron-Cohen
Sweet Revenge: The Wicked Delights of Getting Even by Regina Barreca
Personality and Sense of Humor by Avner Ziv
The Darwin Awards: Countdown to Extinction by Wendy Northcutt

Engineering Disaster: The Best and Worst Ideas in Industrial Design

Print:

St. Francis Dam Disaster by John Nichols
Man Made Disaster: The Story of St. Francis Dam by Charles F. Outland

Catastrophe to Triumph: Bridges of the Tacoma Narrows by Richard S. Hobbs
Dark Tide: The Great Boston Molasses Flood of 1919 by Stephen Puleo
It Looked Good on Paper: Bizarre Inventions, Design Disasters, and Engineering Follies by Bill Fawcett
Lessons amid the Rubble: An Introduction to Post-Disaster Engineering and Ethics by Sarah K. A. Pfatteicher
Western Times and Water Wars: State, Culture, and Rebellion in California by John H. Walton

Military Blunders from Bomb Dropping Bats to Steam Cannons of Doom

Print:

A Strange Engine of War: The "Winans" Steam Gun and Maryland in the Civil War by John W. Lamb
Bat Bomb: World War II's Other Secret Weapon by Jack Couffer
Fortress France: The Maginot Line and French Defenses in World War II by J E Kaufmann, H W Kaufmann, and Tomasz Idzikowski
Hannibal and Me: What History's Greatest Military Strategist Can Teach Us About Success and Failure by Andreas Kluth

Fail, Fail Again, Fail Better: The Hidden Power of Failure

Print:

Great Failures of the Extremely Successful: Mistakes, Adversity, Failure and Other Steppingstones to Success by Steve Young
The Up Side of Down: Why Failing Well Is the Key to Success by Megan McArdle

Infernal Devices: Inventors Killed by Their Own Inventions

Print:

Deadly Glow: The Radium Dial Worker Tragedy by Ross Mullner
Radioactive: Marie and Pierre Curie; A Tale of Love and Fallout by Lauren Redniss
Unsinkable: The Full Story of the HMS Titanic by Daniel Allan Butler

Died Trying: Dead Explorers & Expeditions Gone Horribly Wrong

Print:

Blue Latitudes: Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before by Tony Horowitz
Farther Than Any Man: The Rise and Fall of Captain James Cook by Martin Dugard
Scott's Last Expedition - The Personal Journals of Captain R. F. Scott, C.V.O., R.N., on His Journey to the South Pole by Robert Falcon Scott
Race To The End: Amundsen, Scott, and the Attainment of the South Pole by Ross D. E. MacPhee
Scott's Last Expedition by Steve Parker, Natural History Museum London
The Fateful Journey: The Expedition of Alexine Tinne and Theodor von Heuglin in Sudan (1863-1864) by Robert Joost Willink

This Reading List is online in clickable and downloadable form, including online suggestions at www.oddsalon.com/further-reading-failure



For each salon, we invite our speakers to share the resources and interesting reading they came across in researching their talk, so that we can all dig more deeply. These reading lists, along with selected excerpts, illustrations and summaries of each month's talks are compiled in our monthly Odd Salon Journal. This reading list was compiled by Odd Salon with Todd Barrett, Kelly Jensen, and Ryan Galiotto. Thank you!