Books of the Year

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Beyond the Crash: Overcoming the First Crisis of Globalisation by Simon Brown
Simon & Schuster £20
Brown's book, to be published on December 8, is characteristically less personal and more seeking than the works of Blair and Bush (see below). Brown's book looks at the events of the past five years as they have unfolded, asking how the world will change and take its next steps into a new era of globalisation. He argues that the crisis of 1997-8 was, arguably, the realisation of the turn of the century, and the greatest single event in the world, greater even than the events of 11 September.

The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama by David輦rick
Hachette £20
Barack Obama, the President of the New Yorker, has come up with a highly readable and well-researched account of Obama's unlikely rise from Hawaii to Harvard to the Illinois state legislature and, finally, the White House. It is particularly good on Chicago politics and Obama's controversial relationship with Pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Neo-Corporations: The Biography of a Movement by Justin Linfield
Harper £25.95
One of the most interesting of all the books on the new corporate movement - tracing its origins to debates in New York in the 1990s - is by the musician and author.

Gideon Rachman
"FT columns" and the author of "Zero Sum World" (Abacus Books)

Science & Environment

How Bad Are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything by Mark Halden and Mark Halden
Penguin £6.99
The carbon footprint of everything we buy is a fascinating and disturbing read. The authors show how much carbon dioxide is emitted by (almost) everything we buy, including its production, transport, and disposal. They cover everything from bananas to bicycles, and show how even the smallest changes can make a big difference.

Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain by Antonio Damasio
Hamish Hamilton £25
One of the world's most creative brain researchers tackles one of the biggest questions in science: how does the brain make consciousness arise? Although the answer reveals "we don't really know", the book gives a plausible account of the way the brain makes sense of our own perception.

The Earisy Solution: Are We Alone in the Universe? by Paul Davies
Allen Lane £20
The rest of this book is a series of challenges on other worlds, and the 50th anniversary of SETI, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. As an astrophysicist professor at Arizona State University, the author presents us with a fascinating and thought-provoking look at the possibility of extraterrestrial intelligence.

Geffr Dyer
"FT columns" and author of "The Runners" (ラー)

Sport

Africa United: How Football Explains Africa by Steve Rosefield
Corrington £25.99
Steve Rosefield's book, "Africa United: How Football Explains Africa", provides a fascinating insight into the role of football in shaping African society and politics. It explores how football has been used as a tool for political and social change, and how it has helped to bring about positive change in some of the world's poorest countries.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
Flamingo £25.95
One of the most compelling biographies of our time, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" tells the story of how the HeLa cell line, established from the immortal cells of Henrietta Lacks, has become one of the most influential and influential legacies in the history of modern medicine.

Clive Coles
"FT columns" and author of "The Runners" (ラー)

Art

Pleasure by Pleasure: His First Museum Exhibition by Tuba Benazir
Prato £25
One of the most significant exhibitions of the year, "Pleasure by Pleasure: His First Museum Exhibition" is a fascinating exploration of the relationship between art and pleasure. The exhibition features a wide range of works, from traditional paintings to modern sculptures, and demonstrates the many different ways in which art can be used to bring pleasure to the viewer.

Henri Matisse: Room by a View by Shirley Nance Dunn
Turner £25
One of the most influential artists of the 20th century, Henri Matisse, is celebrated in this new exhibition of his work. The exhibition includes a number of his most famous paintings, as well as some of his lesser-known works, and provides an opportunity to explore the breadth of his artistic achievements.

Shongfou Cheung, Strand by Malcolm Daniel
Yale £25
"Shongfou Cheung, Strand" is an intimate look at the life and work of the Chinese artist Shongfou Cheung. The book features a collection of photographs and other works of art created by Cheung, as well as interviews with the artist and other important figures in the art world. The book is a fascinating exploration of the life and work of one of the most important and influential artists of the 20th century.