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- As many sample chapters as are available
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- The book's proposed word length
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JEAN-PIERRE FILIU

A Historian in Gaza

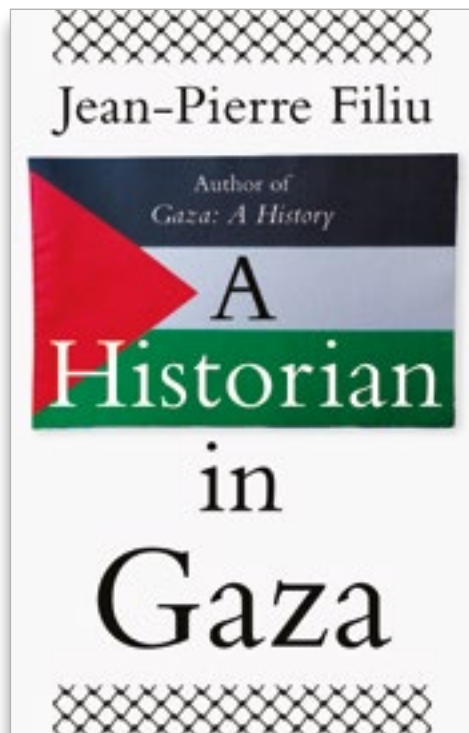
Translated by CYNTHIA SCHOCH &
TRISTA SELOUS

‘A searing new eyewitness account [and] a much-needed history lesson.’ — *Jacobin*

Jean-Pierre Filiu, acclaimed historian of Gaza, is intimately familiar with the land’s people and places; he speaks the local dialect. But nothing prepared him for what he encountered there in December 2024. This is his unforgettable, unbearably intimate account of one month in a place shattered by Israel’s all-out war.

When the historian returned to Gaza, he arrived under circumstances unimaginably different from his many past visits since 1980: only a limited number of convoys were allowed into the Strip, and he was one of the few humanitarians able to enter, this time by night. He remained inside for thirty-three days, and emerged determined to bear witness to the devastation—to the Gazans fighting simply to live, every single day.

Filiu’s haunting portrait of a land betrayed is a grim work of war reportage, documented with the acuity of a historian; and a lyrical narrative of human suffering, and human dignity.



November 2025
9781805265252
216mm x 138mm
208pp
£16.99 Hardback
Current Affairs / Politics
World English rights excluding Australia
& New Zealand

‘The Gaza I knew, and whose length and breadth I’ve travelled, has ceased to exist.’

By the same author:



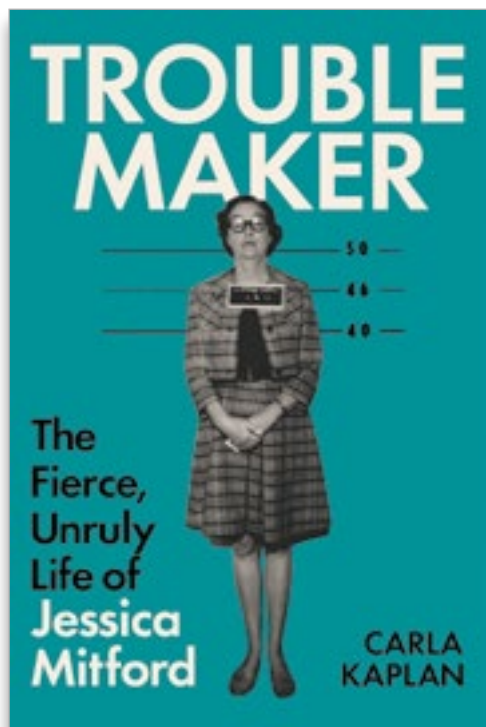
9781911723592
£14.99 pb
Available now



© Pierre Hybre

Jean-Pierre Filiu is Professor of Middle East Studies at Sciences Po, and former visiting professor at Columbia and Georgetown Universities. His books include *The Middle East: A Political History*; and *Guardian Book of the Year Gaza: A History* (also published by

Hurst), which won Middle East Monitor’s Palestine Book Award.



December 2025

9781805265375

234mm x 156mm

616pp, 32 colour illus

£27.50 Hardback

Biography / Politics / Women's Studies

UK & Commonwealth rights excluding Canada

From British country homes to republican Spain and civil rights America, the inspiring, wildly entertaining story of Jessica Mitford—investigative journalist, radical activist, renegade aristocrat.

CARLA KAPLAN

Troublemaker

The Fierce, Unruly Life of Jessica Mitford

'Brisk, engaging.' — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

Jessica 'Decca' Mitford was raised to marry well, not fight for others' rights. Yet she rejected her eccentric, blue-blooded roots, running away from England to become an antifascist and antiracist. Why is this rebellious heroine less famous than her glamorous sisters, who ranged from naughty to Nazi?

Troublemaker is the remarkable story of Decca's life in pursuit of justice, in the Spanish Civil War and the Communist Party USA; her intrepid social reporting, and her relentless antics. Carla Kaplan celebrates a fierce intellect and powerful ally who brought joy to the struggle, unearthing fascinating details through interviews with the Mitford family, and exploring Decca's thousands of witty letters. From Vietnam War dissident Dr Spock to Decca's close friend Maya Angelou, this Mitford sister's irreverent anti-authoritarianism deeply influenced American culture. Back home in Britain, her activism shamed those of her class—and her family—on the wrong side of history.

This passionate, often hilarious biography captures an extraordinary woman, and an extraordinary time in world history. Facing today's injustices, we need Decca's vibrant, committed example more than ever.



© Robin Hultgren

Carla Kaplan is an award-winning writer; the Davis Distinguished Professor of American Literature at Northeastern University; and a Guggenheim and 'Public Scholar' Fellow. She is the author of the *New York Times* Notable Books *Miss*

Anne in Harlem and *Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters*, among others.

CAITJAN GAINTY

Healthy Scepticism

Tales of Doubt, Dissent and Distrust in Medicine

In today's medical world, scepticism is marginalised: dissenting doctors and uncertain patients are seen as hardly more rational than anti-vaxx conspiracists or questionable wellness gurus. Yet legitimate doubts about medicine have been important throughout human history—and persist for a reason.

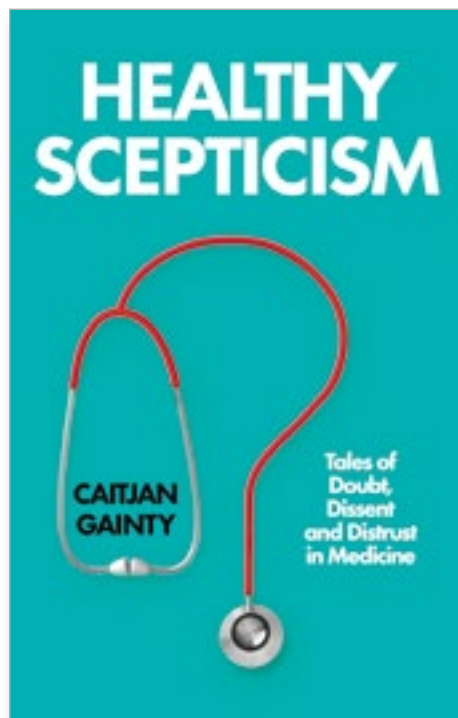
In this sharp, compassionate book, Caitjan Gainty clears away tribalism and binary thinking to explore the vast middle ground where we all really live. Many of us need medicine, and trust science—but still find ourselves wary of big pharma, unsure about new treatments, and let down by a healthcare culture that gaslights, prejudices and paralyzes as often as it helps or heals. Gainty tells the stories of medicine's critics, victims and outsiders, and unveils the illogical thinking that created both modern medicine and its many sceptics. From chronic sufferers to minority communities, she dissects healthcare's problems and asks how we can live well.

Entertaining, enlightening and occasionally enraging, *Healthy Scepticism* revisits our ancient tradition of distrusting doctors; probes our experiences in the twenty-first century; and calls for a new course of treatment. With a well-founded dose of doubt, we can see what medicine does well, where its limits lie, and what has gone wrong in today's broken system.



Caitjan Gainty is an award-winning writer; a historian of medicine at King's College London; and the author of *The Product of Medicine*. She has contributed to *The Times*, *The Guardian*, the BBC, *The Washington Post*, *The i Paper*, *Prospect* and *Slate*; and

ran the Wellcome Trust-funded project Healthy Scepticism.



June 2026

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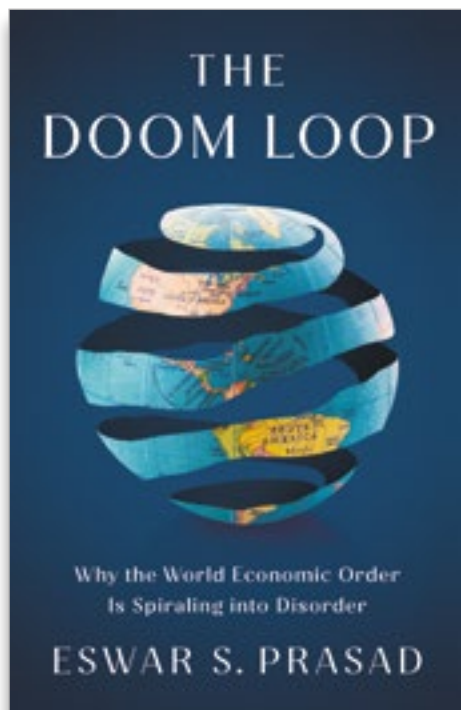
280pp

£20.00 Hardback

History / Health

UK & Commonwealth rights excluding Canada

A searing account of controversy, complexity and conspiracy in the medical world, diagnosing both healthy and unhealthy doubt.



February 2026

9781805265498

234mm x 156mm

368pp

£22.00 Hardback

Economics / Current Affairs / Politics

UK & Commonwealth rights excluding Canada

Globalisation and its institutions have failed to adapt to today's political-economic realities. What went wrong, and how can we reverse our descent into chaos?

ESWAR S. PRASAD

The Doom Loop

Why the World Economic Order Is Spiraling into Disorder

The United States, once the world's undisputed superpower, is losing its dominant position. Rising economies like China and India increasingly exert their influence, the West's share of global GDP consistently declines—and America's rules-based system risks becoming irrelevant. In business, competition brings efficiency, balance and innovation. But in the marketplace for global power, things look rather different.

Acclaimed economist Eswar S. Prasad argues that the very forces expected to stabilise the world order are fuelling disarray. Instead of promoting shared prosperity, globalisation has deepened inequality in many countries, stoked political backlash and prompted escalating trade wars. Economic institutions like the International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization, founded to foster cooperation, have failed to adapt to twenty-first-century realities. The ascent of 'middle powers' like South Africa, Brazil and Indonesia once suggested a stable multipolar future; but today, such economies are forced to pick sides in an intensifying US–China struggle for hegemony.

In clear-eyed, bracing prose, Prasad contends that we are caught in a destructive feedback loop between economics, domestic politics and geopolitics. As instability becomes the status quo, we need radical new solutions to reinvigorate the world economy, prioritise common aspirations—and reverse our downward spiral into disaster.



Eswar S. Prasad is Nandlal P. Tolani Senior Professor of Trade Policy and Professor of Economics at Cornell University, and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. His publications include *The Future of Money*, a Book of the Year in the *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs* and *The Week*.

JOHN KEANE

Demagogues and Despots

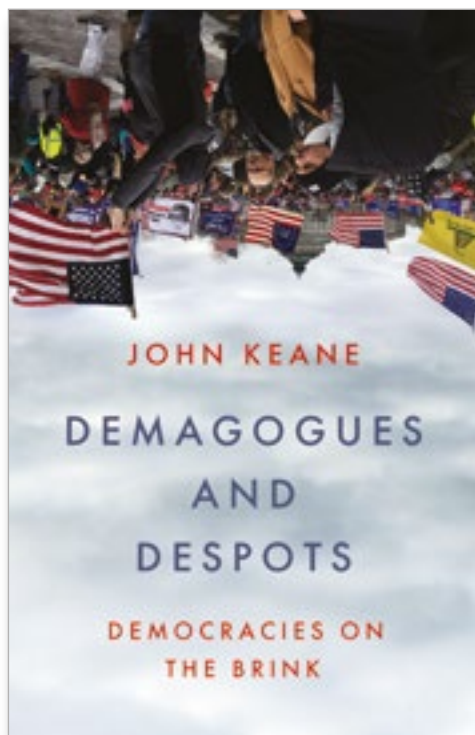
Democracies on the Brink

We live in troubled times, marked by a sinister trend gaining the upper hand everywhere: a new despotism for the twenty-first century.

John Keane's latest book rings out boldly with a powerful warning: the keyword for understanding the new threats to democracy is despotism. This peril arises not only from regimes as different as Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, but also from popularly elected demagogues opposed to power-sharing, from Orbán's Hungary and Sheinbaum's Mexico to Netanyahu's Israel and Trump's America.

Keane shows why this new despotism defies the laws of political gravity. More than fear or raw force, it pursues a strange, pseudo-democratic type of government, led by rulers skilled in winning public loyalty through election-rigging, legal trickery, weaponised lying and talk of enemies. What's more, alarmingly, these leaders hunt in packs.

But what's so good about democracy? In prose humming with energy, Keane shows that it's much more than popular self-government based on free and fair elections. Democracy is a collective insistence that unaccountable power is always dangerous—and it's the best way to stop demagogues and despots from ruining life on our planet.



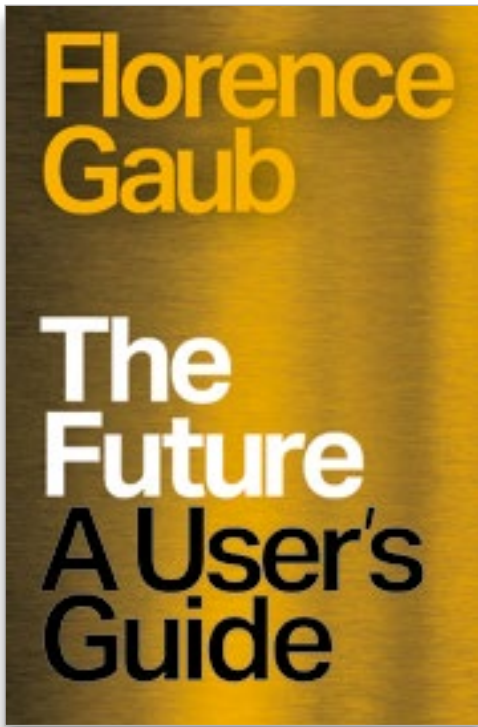
May 2026
9781805265221
190mm x 126mm
312pp
£15.99 Hardback
Politics / Current Affairs
World rights

Democracy and despotism live closer together than you'd expect—in this briskly astute book, a leading political thinker reveals why that should alarm us all.



John Keane, Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney, is renowned globally for his creative thinking about politics, history, media and democracy. His books include *The Shortest History of Democracy*; *The Life and Death of Democracy*; the

bestselling *Tom Paine: A Political Life*; and the acclaimed biography *Václav Havel*.



April 2026
 9781805265610
 190mm x 126mm
 248pp
 £18.99 Hardback
 Current Affairs
 World English rights

A guide for both everyday readers and policymakers on using creativity and knowledge to imagine the best, prepare for the worst and live with surprise.

FLORENCE GAUB

The Future A User's Guide

Widespread pessimism and fear of the future are everywhere. With times to come often seeming threatening and uncertain, this book offers new perspectives and fresh ways of thinking. Futurologist Florence Gaub shows that everyone can influence what lies ahead—in their personal or professional life, or in society. Her ideas are for those who refuse to be paralysed by fear, instead seeing the future as a space full of possibilities.

Gaub explores how humanity's visions of tomorrow have changed throughout history; she explains what the future is, how it works, what disruptions may arise and how to fix them. She draws on insights from neuroscience, psychology and philosophy to show how humans conceive and construct the future, as individuals and as a society.

This smart, snappy handbook of ideas is an antidote to passive fatalism, challenging our lack of faith in our ability to shape what is to come and how it will affect our lives. After all, we're the only beings who can imagine the future in such detail that we can actually create it. Gaub is a brilliant guide to rediscovering that gift.

© Debora Mittelstaedt



Florence Gaub PhD is a political scientist, military strategist and futurologist. The NATO Defense College's Director of Research, a World Economic Forum Global Future Council member, and Vice-President of the European Forum Alpbach, she holds degrees from

Humboldt University, Sciences Po, the Sorbonne and the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich.

CAROLINE KNOWLES

Uneasy Streets

How Chinese Money Is Remaking Urban Britain

From Thames Water to Heathrow Airport, Pizza Express to private schools, Chinese investors have pumped billions into UK property and business. Foreign capital ready to regenerate Britain's crumbling infrastructure is an enticing prospect. But how much is reality and how much a dream?

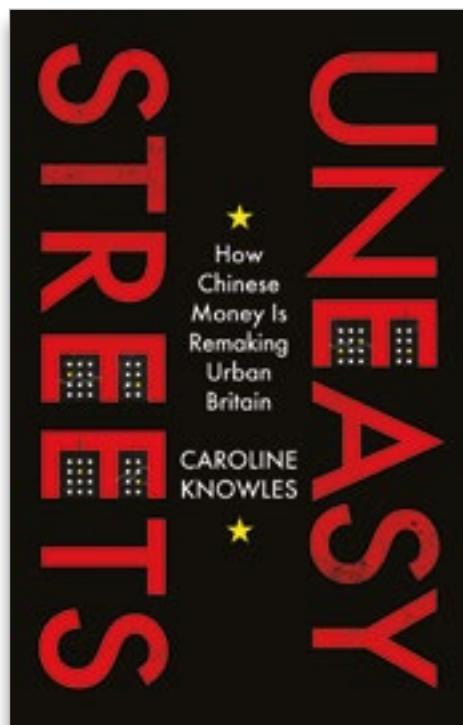
In *Uneasy Streets*, Caroline Knowles illuminates China's global influence from the bottom up. Focusing on London and Manchester, she explores Beijing's grand claims of urban renewal against the ramshackle physical evidence she finds at street level: a series of half-finished buildings and abandoned holes in the ground. This isn't just a British phenomenon; wherever they emerge, China's global cities are patchworks of incompleteness—the products of relentlessly profit-driven urbanism that disregards the people it claims to serve. All along the continent-spanning Belt and Road network lies a trail of broken promises: a phantom university, a non-existent smart city, ghost ports and neighbourhoods.

China's soft-power city-making falls far short of the dreams displayed in glossy brochures; all those smiling mayors, investors and local businesspeople. Combining urban observation with sharp commentary, interviewing property developers, Chinese migrants and other city-dwellers, Knowles paints an intimate, nuanced portrait. This is the financial, material and human fabric of Chinese Britain.



Caroline Knowles is an urban explorer and ethnographer who writes about the built and human infrastructures of city streets. She is best known for *Serious Money: Walking Plutocratic London* and *Flip-Flop: A Journey Through Globalisation's*

Backroads. Her writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The i Paper* and other publications.



June 2026

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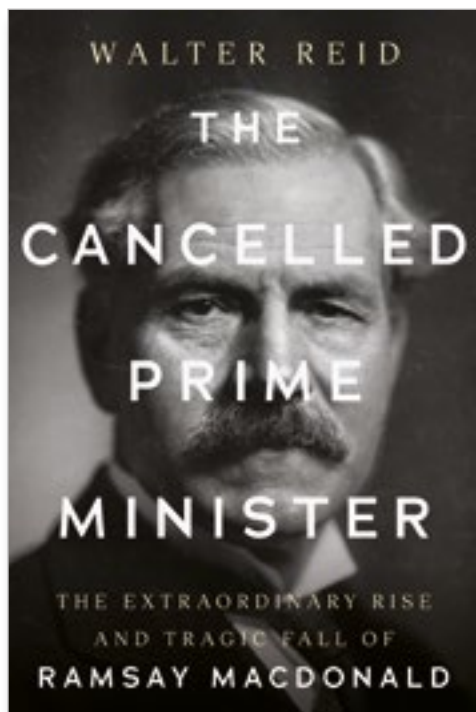
264pp

£22.00 Hardback

Current Affairs / Politics / Sociology

World English rights

Empty apartments, trainless railways, restless investors—a bottom-up look at China's erratic economic and social footprint in British cities.



February 2026
 9781805265306
 234mm x 156mm
 368pp, 24 b&w illus
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 Biography / Politics / History
 World rights

How the first working-class politician to reach Britain's highest office was brought down, and his legacy disparaged.

By the same author:

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 £25.00 hb
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WALTER REID

The Cancelled Prime Minister

The Extraordinary Rise and Tragic Fall of Ramsay MacDonald

Ramsay MacDonald was born and raised an illegitimate child in Moray county, north-east Scotland. When he left school at fourteen, he seemed bound to follow in his ploughman father's footsteps. Instead he would be UK Prime Minister—the first Labour Prime Minister, a friend of George V, and a star on the world stage. How did he get there from his Highland bothy? Why has he been erased from political memory? And how did this man of the left end up leading a Conservative-dominated National Government?

MacDonald's was an elusive, Celtic personality; it has been easier to criticise him than to understand him. *The Cancelled Prime Minister* demystifies this fascinating politician, dismissing the common charge of treacherous ambition and tracing MacDonald's personal odyssey—including half a life spent in undying grief for his wife Margaret, a remarkable feminist and social reformer lost young to blood poisoning.

History has been unkind to MacDonald, and most often written with politically hostile pens. Drawing extensively on his private diaries, this biography restores a towering figure to the record of his century, and reveals the full essence of a complex man—one not without faults, but able and honourable, with deep and widespread interests.



Walter Reid is an historian educated at the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh, a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and the author of acclaimed books on British politics and history, including *Fighting Retreat* (also published by Hurst). He raises sheep and cattle in Scotland and grows olives in France.

PAUL BRUMMELL

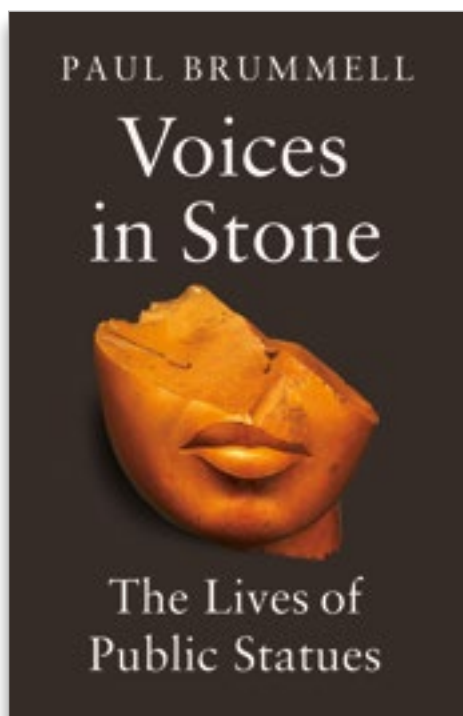
Voices in Stone

The Lives of Public Statues

Iconoclasm is in the air. Bitter debates rage on social media, in the press and on the streets over the proper fate of statues commemorating controversial figures, whether slave traders, imperialists or Confederate generals. It is an important question—but it cannot truly be answered if we look exclusively at this final, shameful chapter in a monument's life.

Paul Brummell argues that statues can only be understood by exploring their changing roles throughout an entire, often complex, lifetime. Why do sponsors and sculptors choose to create figurative representations of human subjects? Does the way individuals interact with icons change their significance? What is the impact of the passing of time, as durable images outlive the worldviews of their originators, becoming relics of past regimes? Why do some people believe that rubbing intimate bronze body parts can bring luck? Can statues move, talk—or even kill? And what should we really do with those statues we no longer want?

From a colossal golden Buddha in China to a centrally heated Swedish actress, Brummell tells the vibrant story of the world's most intriguing public monuments, from ancient times to the present.



March 2026

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234mm x 156mm

320pp, 32 b&cw illus

£25.00 Hardback

History

World rights

From sculptors to worshippers, patrons to vandals, an era-spanning, globe-trotting exploration of our complex relationship with statues.



Paul Brummell is the UK High Commissioner to Mauritius. Previously Ambassador to Latvia, Romania, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, he was also UK High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. His books

include *Diplomatic Gifts: A History in Fifty Presents* (also published by Hurst) and four travel guides.

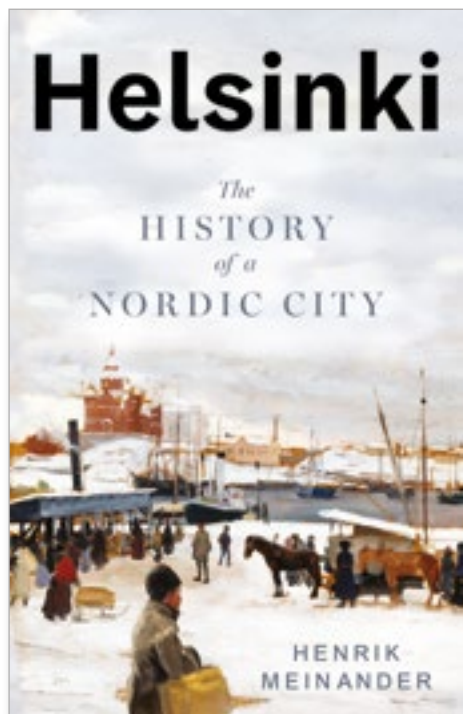
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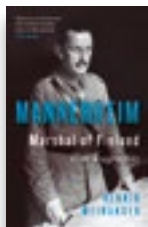
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October 2025
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 History / Europe
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The epic story of
 Helsinki—founded by
 Sweden, refashioned by
 Russia, forever shaped by
 the sea.

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Henrik Meinander is Professor of History at the University of Helsinki, formerly curator of Helsinki's Mannerheim Museum and head of the Finnish Institute in Stockholm. His many books on Finnish and Nordic history include the award-winning

Mannerheim, Marshal of Finland, and *A History of Finland* (both published by Hurst), which has been translated into seventeen languages.

HENRIK MEINANDER

Helsinki

The History of a Nordic City

Translated by **RICHARD ROBINSON**

Over 475 years, the Finnish capital has gone from a sleepy fishing village to a thriving Nordic metropolis, globally renowned for its architecture, design and quality of life. This intricate and expansive new history lays bare the perils—and occasional perks—of Helsinki's position on the Baltic Sea, sandwiched between East and West.

In flowing prose and fascinating anecdotes, Henrik Meinander explores all corners of Helsinki's past, from trade and the Olympics to the colour of everyday life. He narrates the city's survival through the rise and fall of two empires; its triumph as an independent capital in 1917; and how, since then, it has grown and flourished through language battles, Soviet air raids and Cold War compromises.

More than most European capitals, Helsinki has spent centuries at the mercy of geopolitical twists and turns far beyond its control. This book is a timely reminder of how quickly such forces can alter a city's destiny—yet, ultimately, can be overcome.

TIM SLESSOR

First Overland

London–Singapore by Land Rover

Foreword by SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

‘Delightful ... written with humour and beguiling gusto.’ — *The Times Literary Supplement*

‘The best travel book I have ever read.’
— *The Motor*

Why not? No-one had ever done it: one of the longest of all overland journeys, from the English Channel to Singapore. Several expeditions had tried. Some had reached the Persian deserts; a few, the Indian plains. But none had gone further: over the jungle-clad Assamese mountains, across northern Burma, to Thailand and Malaya. It was 1955. For the final 3,000 miles, it seemed, there were ‘too many rivers and too few roads’. But no-one really knew...

They were undergraduates with no money, no cars—no nothing, except cool audacity. They wheedled and cajoled, coaxing the BBC into supplying film for a possible series; ‘persuading’ Rover to lend them two factory-fresh off-road vehicles; sweet-talking a book publisher into offering an advance. By the time they set off, their eighty-plus sponsors ranged from whiskey distillers to collapsible bucket-makers. Seven months and 12,000 miles later, two weary, police-escorted Land Rovers rolled into Singapore to flash-bulbs and champagne. Now, fifty years on, their bestseller is republished, with a foreword by Sir David Attenborough. He had given them that film, after all.

Tim Slessor is a British filmmaker, presenter, traveller and author. He made documentaries for the BBC for nearly fifty years and won a prestigious Peabody Award for his journalism. He is also the author of *More Than Cowboys: Travels Through the History of the American West*.



March 2026

9781805265634

198mm x 129mm

304pp, 28 b&w illus

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Travel

World rights

Decades before *Race Across the World*, six friends made the epic journey from London to Singapore and back in two Land Rovers.



March 2026

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History

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& Portuguese language

An intimate portrait
of this fascinating
country, capturing its
contradictions and charms.

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BARRY HATTON

The Portuguese

A Modern History

NEW EDITION

'Hatton clearly loves Portugal ... engaging, often delightful.' — *Publishers Weekly*

'A must-read for first-timers ... [and] a constant delight for those already well-versed in a fascinating nation.' — *Ibersphere*

Though a founding member of NATO and the euro, Portugal is often overlooked, a small country on Europe's southwestern edge. In *The Portuguese*, veteran journalist Barry Hatton blends historical insight with personal anecdotes to explore this enigmatic nation.

During the 1400s and 1500s, Portuguese explorers led Europe into the Atlantic and helped connect Asia with Europe, creating a vast four-continent empire. This legacy still resonates today, particularly through the Portuguese language, spoken by over 220 million people worldwide. Hatton examines Portugal's vibrant yet turbulent past—from the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, which shook European thinking and began a long decline, through António Salazar's dictatorship, to its end in the 1974 Carnation Revolution, briefly thrusting Portugal into Cold War geopolitics. Hatton also explores the country's complex ties with neighbouring Spain, and its oldest ally, England.

With diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage, a love of food, an easy-going lifestyle and a rebellious streak, the Portuguese are uniquely compelling. Hatton's portrait is intimate and revealing, capturing the charms and contradictions of a fascinating country.

Barry Hatton is a British foreign correspondent in Lisbon, where he has lived for over three decades. He is the author of *Queen of the Sea: A History of Lisbon* (also published by Hurst).

THEODOR MERON

A Thousand Miracles

From Surviving the Holocaust to Judging Genocide

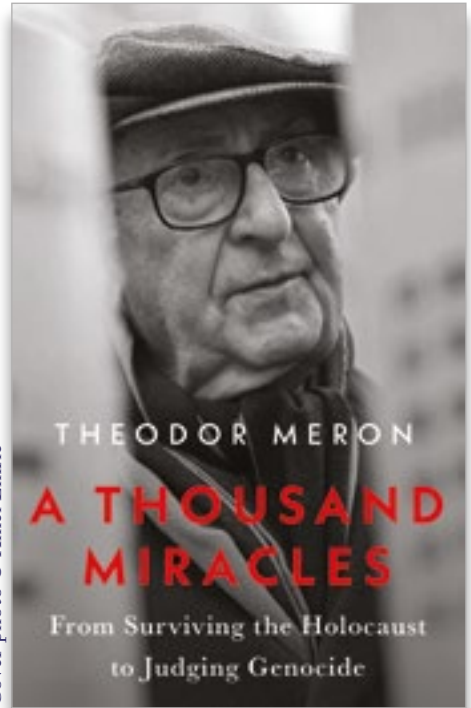
'A captivating blend of personal memoir and political history across time and place, by a jurist of the greatest integrity, courage and humanity. Read this to weep and to hope.' — Philippe Sands

When the Second World War began, Theodor Meron was a Jewish-born boy of just nine. He survived ghettos, camps and unimaginable atrocities, but lost most of his family, finding sanctuary in British Palestine after the Holocaust. Now, more than eight decades later, Judge Meron is a recognised world leader in both the scholarship and practice of international criminal justice—having served as the president of three UN tribunals, delivering landmark decisions on genocide and war crimes.

This extraordinary memoir revisits Meron's time as a legal adviser to governments, often swimming against the tide; as a restless diplomat, a boundary-pushing scholar and ultimately a ground-breaking international judge. Meron has given his life to the service of justice. He is famous for his 1967 opinion finding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank to be illegal under international law, an opinion he issued as a legal adviser to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. More recently, he has advised the International Criminal Court on potential crimes in the Russia–Ukraine war, and in Israel and Gaza since 2023.

The founding institutions of international justice today face unprecedented threats. Meron's life story could not be a better timed reminder of the importance of accountability.

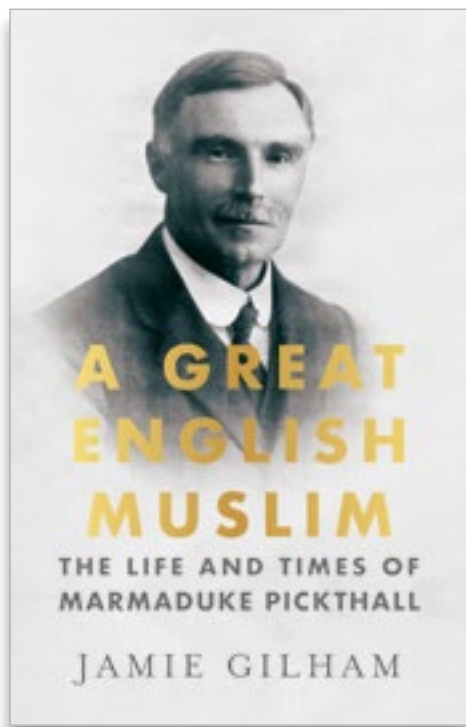
Judge **Theodor Meron** CMG was born in Poland. As a child, he survived the Holocaust, but lost his home, most of his family, and years of freedom. In 1945 he emigrated to Mandatory Palestine. He holds law degrees from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Harvard University and the University of Cambridge.



Cover photo © Amel Emric

January 2026
9781805265238
216mm x 138mm
256pp, 16 b&w illus
£25.00 Hardback
Politics
World rights

An astonishing memoir from the Holocaust survivor who oversaw the world's first genocide trials and has advised the ICC on crimes in Israel and Gaza.



September 2026

9781805265665

216mm x 138mm

528pp, 10 b&w illus

£30.00 Hardback

Biography / Islamic Studies / History

World rights

The definitive biography
of British Muslim
Marmaduke Pickthall:
famous for his English
translation of the Qur'an
and an ardent campaigner
for the Ottoman cause.

JAMIE GILHAM

A Great English Muslim

The Life and Times of Marmaduke Pickthall

Since his death in 1936, Marmaduke Pickthall's reputation has rested on his popular English translation of the Qur'an. Drawing on a wide range of original sources, including unpublished letters and newly discovered archives, Jamie Gilham unpacks Pickthall's eventful life and significant contributions as a British Muslim writer, scholar and campaigner.

A Great English Muslim traces Pickthall's extraordinary journey to Islam and considers its profound impact on his life and work. Pickthall negotiated his British and Muslim identities to defend and explain Islam in the West and, later, globally. Gilham explores how Pickthall's Anglo-Muslim worldview, and his complex attitudes about imperialism, race and ethnicity, fuelled his writing and campaigning—not least in his defence of the Ottoman Empire during the First World War; his denunciation of Western interference in the Middle East, including Palestine, after the Armistice; his alliance with Gandhi and support for Non-Cooperation and the Khilafat Movement in 1920s India; and his efforts to establish the Indian State of Hyderabad as the centre of Sunni Islam and seat of the Caliphate in the 1930s.

This is a fresh and comprehensive biography of an important Western convert to Islam, whose concerns, struggles and sacrifices resonate for Muslims and non-Muslims today.

Jamie Gilham is a historian of Western Islam, based in Taiwan and the UK. His books include *Muslim Women in Britain, 1850–1950* (co-edited with Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor) and *Loyal Enemies: British Converts to Islam, 1850–1950*, both published by Hurst; and *The British Muslim Convert Lord Headley, 1855–1935*.

GAUTAM PEMMARAJU

One Man Against an Empire

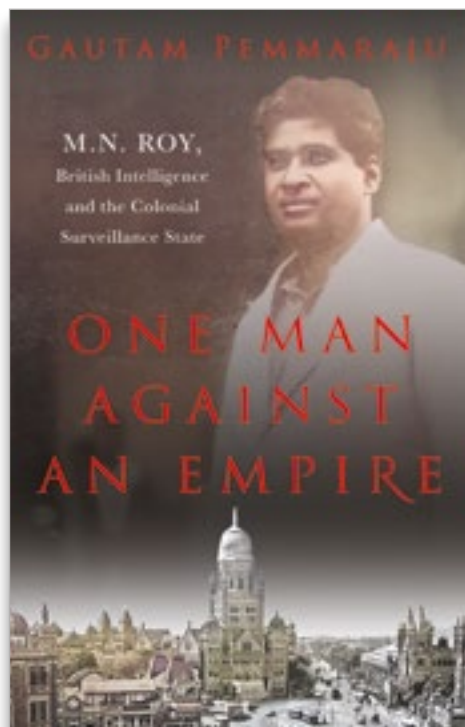
M.N. Roy, British Intelligence and the Colonial Surveillance State

Manabendra Nath Roy was the prime focus of British paranoia in the 1920s and '30s. For the colonial establishment and its intelligence services, there was no greater covert threat than this charismatic revolutionary and Communist activist. From the moment he left India in 1915, seeking arms to launch a full-scale revolution against the subcontinent's colonial overlords, he was doggedly tracked; his every move surveilled and reported. Everyone he met came under the scanner. His collaborators were harassed, coerced and bribed. His lovers were followed and harangued. There were even suggestions of early attempts to eliminate him.

Roy played a significant role in the Communist Party of Great Britain during its early years, and his influence in the imperial capital was seen as greatly inimical. Lenin and the Comintern, who bankrolled Roy handsomely in the 1920s, hoped he would galvanise the Indian proletariat and strike a mortal blow against the British Empire.

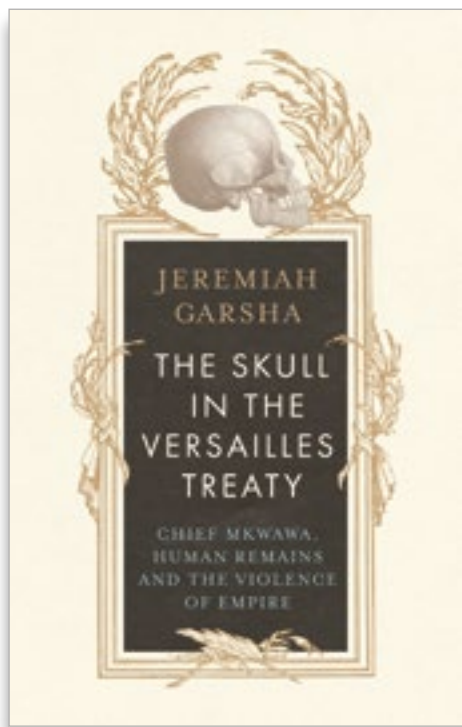
This compelling book narrates the untold story of M.N. Roy's persistent clandestine attempts to undermine British authority through a network of agents, and the massive security establishment that thwarted his efforts in response.

Gautam Pemmaraju is a Mumbai-based writer, researcher and filmmaker, and creative consultant. He is the co-author of an authorised biography of His Holiness the Dalai Lama (with Tenzin Geyche Tethong); and editor of *A Life In Shadow: The Secret Story of ACN Nambiar, A Forgotten Anti-Colonial Warrior* by Vappala Balachandran.



November 2026
9781805265672
216mm x 138mm
360pp, 16 b&cw illus
£24.99 Paperback
Biography / History
World rights excluding South Asia

The compelling story of
the hunt for one enigmatic
foe of the British,
birthing an entire colonial
surveillance network
and an Empire-wide
intelligence strategy.



August 2026
 9781805265689
 216mm x 138mm
 352pp, 16 b&w illus
 £24.99 Paperback
 History
 World rights

**How the looted skull of
 Tanzanian Chief Mkwawa
 became a tool to justify
 colonial power and silence
 anticolonial resistance.**

JEREMIAH GARSHA

The Skull in the Versailles Treaty

Chief Mkwawa, Human Remains and the Violence of Empire

In 1891, Tanzanian Chief Mkwawa began an epic war of resistance against German colonialism. After defeating in battle the largest European force in Africa, he became the single greatest threat to Imperial Germany. When his rebellion eventually collapsed in 1898, his severed head was taken as a bounty. But his story was far from over.

In this fascinating book, Jeremiah Garsha traces Mkwawa's life, death and afterlife through the strange history of his skull. Collected as a colonial administrator's personal trophy, it became a German museum specimen, disappearing into the vast collections of body parts taken from across the empire. After Germany lost World War One, Mkwawa's skull was claimed by the British, becoming the only named human remains in the 1919 Versailles Treaty. But it was never found.

During the decolonisation struggles of the 1950s, Britain resurrected Mkwawa's story, bringing an anonymous skull from Germany to Tanzania to bolster its own fading empire. Today, that skull remains on display in a Tanzanian museum, a totem of anticolonial resistance. Weaving a broad tapestry of colonial violence and indigenous resistance, 'scientific' racism and stolen culture, Garsha's history reveals how such 'exhibits' are intimately tied to legacies of empire.

Jeremiah Garsha is Assistant Professor of Modern Global History at University College Dublin, where he researches and teaches the entangled global histories of colonial violence. He is a leading expert on the colonial collection, display and return of human remains. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

ROBERT TEMPLER

The Shah's Party

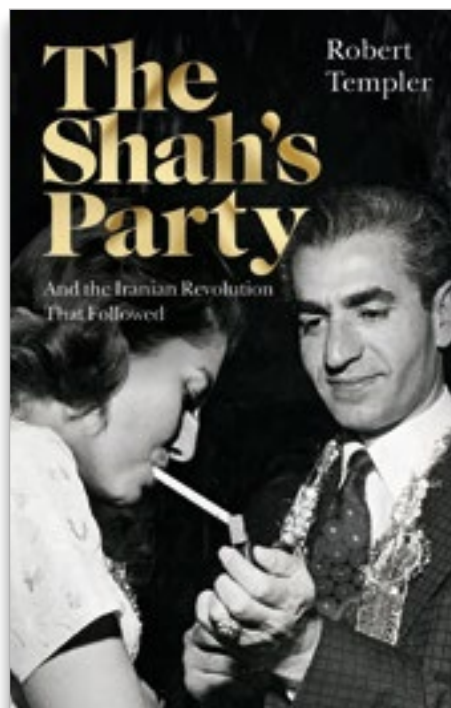
And the Iranian Revolution That Followed

The Shah's Party captures Iran's oil-rich boom years, before the Islamic Revolution. In 1971, eight years before the imperial dynasty fell, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and his glamorous wife, Farah Diba, hosted one of the largest ever gatherings of world leaders, celebrating the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian monarchy. But this stranger-than-fiction event, staged in a tented city by the ancient ruins of Persepolis, triggered a rise in leftist agitation and a turn towards Islam.

Ruhollah Khomeini, then an obscure mullah living in Parisian exile, began a relentless campaign against the imperial family. A skilled populist, Khomeini tapped into growing inequalities and resentments to push his theocratic vision, particularly among those who had left the countryside in search of work. The Shah's autocratic style played poorly in a world increasingly concerned with human rights. The Persepolis party became a symbol of Iran's regime—not only brutally repressive, but out of touch with ordinary people's struggles.

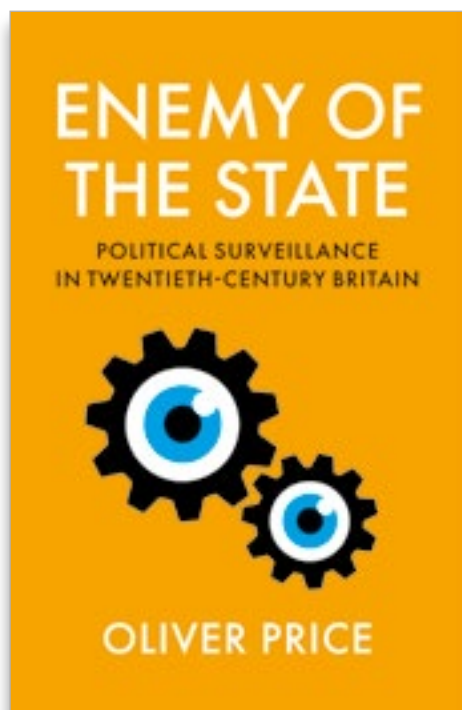
This is a tale of extravagance, hubris and tragedy; of a king desperate to drag his country into the modern world, yet trapped in nostalgic dreams of personal glory; and of how Iranian society's trickle of dissent built, within a decade, into a revolutionary torrent.

Robert Templer is a journalist, writer, lecturer, and former professor and director of policy research at Central European University. As director of the International Crisis Group's Asia programme (2001–12), he visited Iran on many occasions. His books include the acclaimed *Shadows and Wind: A View of Modern Vietnam*.



March 2026
 9781805265696
 216mm x 138mm
 392pp
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 History / Middle East Studies
 World rights

Colourfully narrates a bizarre three-day extravaganza thrown by Iran's phoney dynasty, which cost \$700 million and helped to precipitate the Shah's downfall.



February 2026
 9781805265290
 216mm x 138mm
 352pp
 £19.99 Paperback
 History
 World rights

Shows how state surveillance of left-wing individuals and groups was normalised in Cold War Britain, under the guise of upholding democracy.

OLIVER PRICE

Enemy of the State

Political Surveillance in Twentieth-Century Britain

For much of the twentieth century, relations between Britain and the Soviet Union were defined by mutual hostility and distrust. From the Bolshevik Revolution until the end of the Cold War, the British establishment was deeply concerned about Soviet-inspired subversion, and secretly monitored thousands of its own citizens due to their real or perceived links to communism, the Soviet Union or both.

Enemy of the State reveals how Britain's intelligence services carried out mass spying operations on the grounds of protecting democracy. Using phone taps, hidden microphones, mail interception and covert break-ins, they investigated trade unionists, scientists, politicians, actors, anti-nuclear and anti-apartheid protesters, and more. But the culture of secrecy permeating British institutions has meant that the extent of these activities is little known. Drawing on recently declassified files from the British government and MI5, Oliver Price argues that while communism gained little traction in domestic politics, fear of left-wing radicalism led to the widespread monitoring of individuals and political groups—many of whom posed no threat to the British state.

Britain was long considered a country in which 'political policing' was resisted. But Price shows how the tumultuous events of the last century reshaped official attitudes and normalised surveillance.

Oliver Price is a historian of modern Britain. He completed his PhD in 2024 and has had work featured in publications including *Contemporary British History*; *Modern British History* and *History Today*. This is his first book.

FYODOR TERTITSKIY

Pyongyang on the Brink

Sixteen Crises That Shaped North Korea

This nimble tour through North Korea's history revisits sixteen knife-edge moments when collapse, reform or war nearly shattered the Kim dynasty. Structured in four acts—from the peninsula's partition in 1945 to Kim Jong-un's 2020 health scare—each chapter reconstructs a crisis and asks, what if?

Regime change has come within reach far more often than we realise: defeat in the Korean War, leadership challenges in 1956, aborted coups, unrest during a currency crisis—even an armed clash with the US in the 1990s. Kim Il-sung's acclaimed biographer, Fyodor Tertitskiy, guides readers through these events, and explores why change failed to materialise on each occasion. His narrative blends the twists and turns of palace intrigue and battlefield drama with crystal-clear dissections of ideology, institutions and great-power competition.

Drawing on Korean, Russian, Chinese and Japanese sources, Tertitskiy offers nuance without special pleading. By tracing the decisions, miscalculations and foreign interventions that locked the peninsula into stalemate, *Pyongyang on the Brink* offers a swift, fresh look at deterrence, engagement and the future of millions living under the Kims' yoke. Is North Korea truly doomed to never-ending tyranny?

Fyodor Tertitskiy researches North Korean political, social and military history from South Korea, where he has been living for more than a decade. He has authored several books in English and Korean, including *Accidental Tyrant: The Life of Kim Il-sung* (also published by Hurst), and *The North Korean Army*.



March 2026
9781805266082
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192pp
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History / Politics
World rights excluding the Korean
& Russian languages

A briskly written primer on the North Korean decisions, foreign interventions and accidents of fate which have both threatened and, ultimately, preserved the country's dictatorship.



April 2026
 9781805265719
 216mm x 138mm
 280pp
 £25.00 Hardback
 Current Affairs / Environment
 World rights

A powerful critique of the Global North's resource-hungry 'green transition', calling for a fundamental overhaul of our profit-driven, exploitative world order.

PHILIPPE LE BILLON

The Great Green Grab

Climate Extractivism and the New Resource Imperialism

The spiralling climate crisis demands a rapid shift away from fossil fuels. But most current approaches to decarbonisation rely on a dramatic expansion of resource extraction—exacerbating environmental degradation and deepening global inequalities. This is the paradox of the so-called green transition.

Philippe Le Billon offers a critical examination of the material and political underpinnings of climate change mitigation. Drawing on insights from political ecology, critical geography and environmental justice, he interrogates the rise of 'climate extractivism': the opening up of new resource frontiers and the construction of infrastructure megaprojects in the name of sustainability. From artisanal cobalt mining in the DRC to rare-earth geopolitics, and from biofuel plantations to deep-sea and space mining, he reveals how green growth agendas frequently reproduce colonial structures, social injustice and patterns of dispossession.

Scrutinising proposed solutions such as geoengineering, carbon offsets, circular economy schemes and degrowth, Le Billon shows that many climate adaptation strategies remain tethered to considerations of economic growth and geopolitical competition. Rather than rejecting the urgency of climate transition, *The Great Green Grab* calls for a fairer, post-extractive future—one that wholly reshapes how we produce and consume energy, and fosters a more democratic, cooperative relationship with the earth.

Philippe Le Billon is Professor at the University of British Columbia. A political ecologist, he works on the linkages between environment, development and security. He is the author of *Wars of Plunder: Conflicts, Profits and the Politics of Resources* (also from Hurst); co-author of *Oil*; and co-editor of *Environmental Defenders*.

CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIDSON

Abu Dhabi's IHC

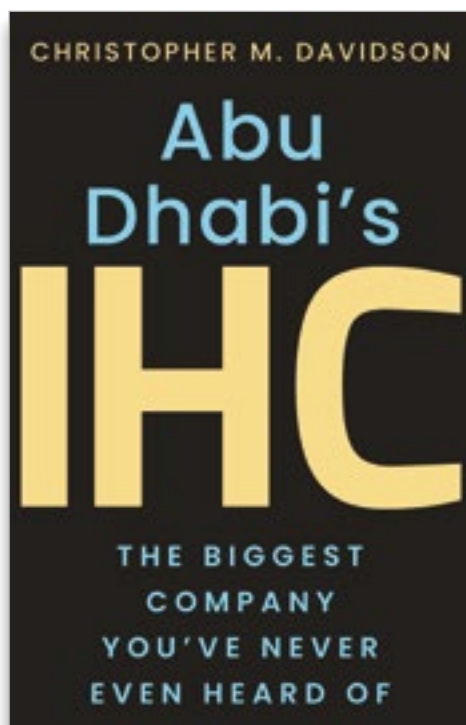
The Biggest Company You've Never Even Heard Of

Bigger than McDonald's? Yes. Toyota? Yes. Chevron? Almost. Coca-Cola? Soon. From humble beginnings as an Abu Dhabi fish farm operator to becoming one of the world's most powerful investment giants, the International Holding Company's meteoric rise reads like a modern business fairytale. This compelling book chronicles the breathtaking 42,000 per cent growth that catapulted the IHC from regional obscurity to global prominence under the visionary leadership of its enigmatic chairman, Sheikh Tahnun bin Zayed Al-Nahyan.

Abu Dhabi's IHC unveils the strategic masterstrokes, ambitious acquisitions and bold partnerships that built this diversified empire. From Indian corporate alliances and Chinese tech deals to pioneering sustainability initiatives and Microsoft partnerships, readers discover how the IHC became instrumental in Abu Dhabi's ambitious economic diversification agenda, successfully navigating complex geopolitical tensions and market volatility.

This remarkable narrative of modern Arab capitalism spotlights the intersection of royal influence, strategic vision and unprecedented growth ambitions. Through detailed analysis of leadership dynamics, financial performance and future strategic planning, Gulf politics expert Christopher M. Davidson reveals how this cornerstone of the UAE's metamorphosis is poised to dominate the world stage. His book is essential reading for business leaders, prospective investors—and anyone fascinated by the Middle East's new economics.

Christopher M. Davidson is an academic and consultant specialising in Arab Gulf states. He formerly taught at Zayed University, United Arab Emirates, and Durham University, and held visiting positions at Leiden and Kyoto Universities. His books with Hurst include the Saudi–Emirati comparative study *From Sheikhs to Sultanism*.



June 2026

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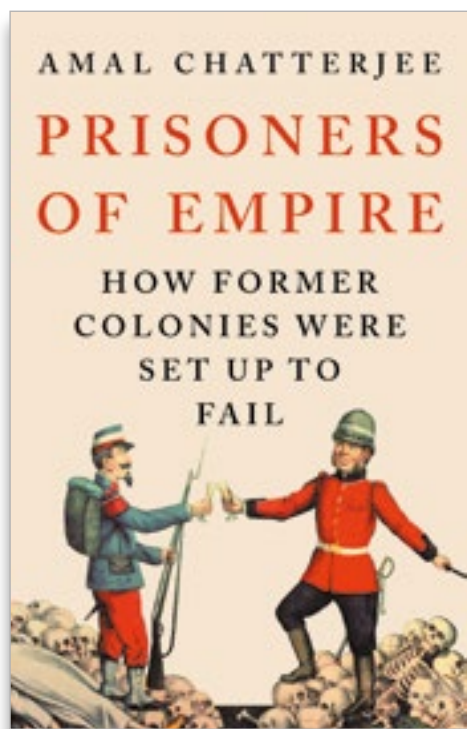
232pp

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Economics / Current Affairs / Middle East Studies

World rights

A revealing account of the power and ingenuity behind the new Gulf capitalism, through the story of its most successful company.



September 2026
 9781805265733
 216mm x 138mm
 348pp
 £19.99 Paperback
 History / Politics
 World rights

A compelling social and political balance-sheet of empire, revealing how former colonies worldwide are still shackled by the legacies of colonial oppression.

AMAL CHATTERJEE

Prisoners of Empire

How Former Colonies Were Set Up to Fail

Why do some former colonies fail, staggering from crisis to crisis, while others recover? Why did so many succumb to dictatorship, corruption, civil war and instability after independence?

Amal Chatterjee argues that these ‘failures’ are underpinned by persistent, robust colonial structures which preserve and reproduce the oppressive, exploitative systems of the past. From land ownership to mining, transport networks to education provision, morality to law, many post-colonial institutions function almost exactly as they did under foreign rule, with power still concentrated in the hands of elites, and inequalities baked in. Drawing on a wide range of contemporary and historical material, including memoirs, economic data and administrative documents, Chatterjee explains how empire not only made its colonies into places of extraction and exploitation, but keeps them there today. Offering a truly global account—from the British Empire to the Belgian, from Mexico to Mozambique, from the Sahel to Sri Lanka—he shows how extractive capitalism and colonialism are intertwined, and how human rights and development are hostage to the imperatives of profit-making.

The world built by empire can still be challenged and changed—but to design a new, equitable future for all, we must first understand the legacies of the past.

Amal Chatterjee is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Oxford. His work includes plays; a Crossword Book Award–nominated novel; and a historical study, *Representations of India*. His writing has also appeared in *Prospect*, the *Huffington Post*, *The Independent* and others.

AHANA DATTA FASEL

Full Stack Spies

Cyber Espionage in the Age of US–China Competition

Even the most elite hackers use common technologies to steal state secrets, which help intelligence agencies to catch them. Are these hackers simply reckless, or do their operations reveal something deeper about their nation-state patrons?

Over a globally interconnected Internet, nations must constantly toe the delicate line of maintaining stability—developing shared tech protocols that they themselves must also break, in order to spy. This is the paradox at the heart of cyber espionage: states need to cooperate if they are to compete. As the US and China vie for strategic advantage through a new form of statecraft in cyber space, an intensifying cat-and-mouse game makes cyber security more difficult, more expensive and more unpredictable for us all.

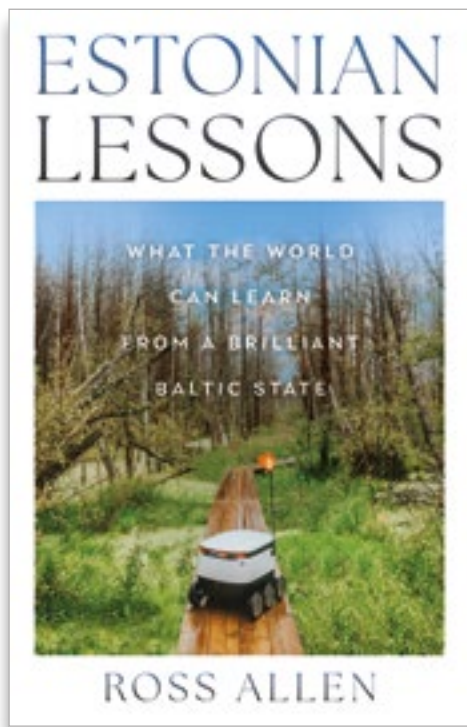
Full Stack Spies examines the dynamic, interdependent relationships that hackers, cyber defenders, tech giants and nation-states forge, leverage and exploit to amass cyber power against a wide range of targets in geopolitics, global trade and finance, the armed forces, and critical infrastructure. But this jostling for cyber dominance makes spying online harder—and, more crucially, undermines long-term trust in cyber space, destabilising the foundations of digital societies.

Ahana Datta Fasel is Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Security Science and Technology, Imperial College London. A trustee at Privacy International, she previously worked in the UK's Ministry of Justice, and advises governments and companies globally. She has written for the *Financial Times* and *Columbia Journalism Review*.



April 2026
9781805265740
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264pp
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Politics
World rights

Examines how the often-contradictory relationships between states, hackers and tech companies can undermine trust in cyber space, and complicate government spying operations.



May 2026

9781805265757

216mm x 138mm

256pp, 32 colour illus

£20.00 Hardback

Politics / International Relations

World rights

**An intimate portrait of
Estonia and all things
Estonian from the UK's
ambassador, as entertaining
as it is informative.**

ROSS ALLEN

Estonian Lessons

What the World Can Learn from a Brilliant Baltic State

Near the top of most international league tables comes a surprising name: Estonia. This small country has many brilliant achievements to its name which can and should inspire the rest of the world: top globally in both environmental performance and human rights; the biggest per capita supporter of Ukraine; second globally in digital government; home to more tech unicorns per capita than any other state; and boasting the best exam results in Europe. Estonia has the best tax system (seven years in a row!) and the world's most performed living classical composer. All underpinned by a deep commitment to freedom.

Ross Allen, UK Ambassador in Tallinn and a fluent Estonian-speaker, explores how this country has come to excel in so many fields, and what the rest of the world could learn from it. He offers insights from his diplomatic work, but also shares his embrace of local culture, from song festivals to smoke saunas. Having travelled across Estonia's towns, villages, islands and bogs, his understanding of and enthusiasm for this relatively obscure country shine through.

With elements of travel, history, geography and international politics, this highly enjoyable book will make you see Estonia and the Baltics in a new light.

Ross Allen is a career diplomat who has been UK Ambassador to Estonia since June 2021. He formerly held posts in New York, Washington DC and Jerusalem; in the UK Cabinet Office and Foreign Office; and in the banking sector. He holds a Theology degree from the University of Cambridge.

MAXIMILIAN HESS

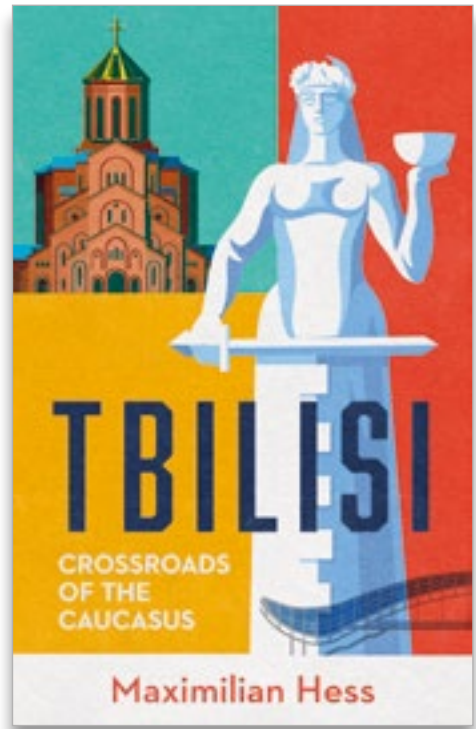
Tbilisi

Crossroads of the Caucasus

Located on Europe's periphery, at the edge of Asia, Tbilisi has always been a crossroads of culture, peoples and politics. From architecture to art, protest to religion, nationalism to language, this book offers a pen portrait of the modern Georgian capital—a city where old and new live side by side in restless harmony.

Tbilisi has played an outsize role in modern global politics. Beginning in 1989, Maximilian Hess shows how the city's experiences over the last four decades shed light on the historical, political and cultural forces shaping the world today. Momentous events in Tbilisi helped drive the collapse of the Soviet Union, and this was where the neoliberal era of the early 2000s found its firmest foothold. The city's post-Soviet years also foreshadowed the devastation that Russian interference and aggression have now brought to Ukraine, while the rise and subsequent dominance of a Georgian billionaire-turned-politician have clear echoes across the Atlantic.

Delving into Tbilisi's remarkably great influence on contemporary music and the arts, Hess showcases the intriguing capital's entrepôt nature, and its turbulent recent history. This is a place which blurs the lines between the real and the imagined; between past and present, East and West.



July 2026
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352pp
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History
World rights

A kaleidoscopic portrait
of Georgia's capital city
since 1989.

Maximilian Hess founded the political risk consultancy Enmetena Advisory, and has written for Al Jazeera, *The New Statesman*, the *Financial Times* and others. His first book, *Economic War: Ukraine and the Global Conflict Between Russia and the West* (also published by Hurst), won the Fletcher US–Russia Relations Book Prize.



July 2026

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Politics

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Edited by Dr Ben Noble



How did Putin co-opt
Russia's political and
economic elites, ensuring
no more than fitful
resistance to the regime's
war on Ukraine?

ALEXANDRA PROKOPENKO

From Sovereigns to Servants

How the War Against Ukraine Reshaped Russia's Elite

When Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the West slapped crushing sanctions on Russia. Many expected the country's elite—prominent liberals and global businessmen—to defend their assets and cosmopolitan lifestyles by forcing Putin to stop the war. Instead, liberal-minded officials rewired the economy for war; corporations obeyed new rules; and only a handful resigned or spoke out. Why?

Built on dozens of candid conversations with top Russian officials and businessmen since the mid-2010s, this book dissects their moral reasoning, and how their boundaries of ethical acceptability expanded over time, in line with the expectations of their superiors. Though the Russian upper class retained formal attributes of power, in reality it lost its agency, essentially becoming a mere instrument of governance.

Alexandra Prokopenko illuminates the war's pivotal moments: Western sanctions, mass mobilisation, the annexation of four Ukrainian regions, and Yevgeny Prigozhin's aborted mutiny in 2023. She traces meticulously how competing factions, from technocrats to hawks, rationalised each shock and recalibrated their loyalties. And she sets this process within an inside history of Putin's regime, analysing the transformation of mindset at individual and sociological levels. These people will continue influencing global politics; we must understand how they think and act.

Alexandra Prokopenko is a fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center in Berlin, and has written for the *Financial Times*. Before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she was an adviser at Russia's central bank (2019–22) and a Russian government press corps journalist, reporting from the Kremlin (2008–17).

NATIA SESKURIA

Georgia's Silent War

Russia's Hybrid Influence on Georgian Politics

Fourteen years before Putin launched a full-scale war against Ukraine, he waged a brief five-day war with Georgia. For Moscow, the 2008 war was an opportunity to punish its neighbour—for pursuing European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations—as well as to send a signal to Ukraine. Once the dust of war settled, international focus shifted away from Georgia. Yet, Putin's aims remained firm, and the conflict turned into a silent war, with Russian intervention persisting below the threshold of military escalation.

From independence to the present day, Natia Seskuria examines how conflict with Russia has shaped modern Georgian politics and foreign policy, and considers what 'war by other means' entails in Georgia's case. Drawing on sources in Georgian, Russian and English, as well as interviews with politicians and senior decision-makers both Georgian and Western, she explores the country's dilemma: pursuing its foreign policy ambitions while constrained by geographic proximity to Russia.

This comprehensive analysis of political developments in post-independence Georgia traces the evolution of Georgian statehood and the growing sophistication of Russia's coercive strategy. Seskuria's nuanced and probing account centres Georgian agency, and exposes the mechanisms of Russian interference and influence.

Natia Seskuria is Associate Fellow at London's Royal United Services Institute; Visiting Fellow at Harvard University; and the founder of a Tbilisi-based thinktank, the Regional Institute for Security Studies. She advises various governments on international security issues, regularly appears on the BBC and CNN, and writes for *Foreign Policy*.



September 2026
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From the Rose Revolution to Ukraine today, an in-depth analysis of Russia's strategy toward Georgia—and the story of a war that never truly ended.



October 2026
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 280pp
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 Edited by Dr Ben Noble



Almost a million Russians
 went into exile after the
 2022 invasion of Ukraine.
 This study reveals how
 dissident activism continues
 in the face of repression.

MARGARITA ZAVADSKAYA, ANDREI
 SEMENOV & REGINA SMYTH

Sudden Departures

Russian Exiles Between Putin and the West

This book captures the largest post-Soviet exodus in Russian history, triggered by the 2014 annexation of Crimea and the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Through hundreds of interviews, the authors trace the journeys of those who fled Russia—crossing the steppes of Kazakhstan, the mountains of Armenia and Georgia, and even the Atlantic—in search of safety, belonging and peace.

Rejected by their homeland and confronted by global suspicion, these wartime exiles face the challenge of defining what it means to be Russian in an era of war and authoritarian retrenchment. Many turn to action as a path forward: mutual aid, support for Ukraine, anti-war activism. For others, survival is the priority.

Set against the backdrop of a shifting global order—renewed Great Power politics, tightening borders and migrant fatigue—*Sudden Departures* gives voice to a diaspora in motion. These stories offer a rare ground-level lens on exile, resistance and the high personal costs of standing against Putin's regime.

Margarita Zavadskaya is a senior research fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. **Andrei Semenov** is Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Nazarbayev University. **Regina Smyth** is Professor of Political Science at Indiana University.

STEFANO BOTTONI

The Orbán Enigma

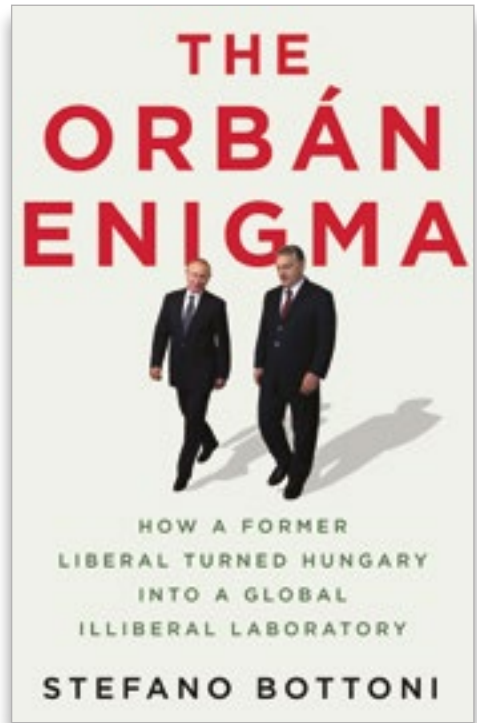
How a Former Liberal Turned Hungary into a Global Illiberal Laboratory

How did a simple boy from the Hungarian countryside end up leading political life in his country for decades? How, as Prime Minister of a small Central European state, did he become one of the most influential illiberal rulers in the world? How and why did Hungary turn into a neo-authoritarian laboratory? And what geopolitical game is Viktor Orbán playing between continental alliances and global powers?

This book is a political biography of Orbán, but also offers first-hand historical analysis of Hungary post-1989. What started as an imperfect, albeit fully-fledged, democracy has been replaced by a new constitutional system. Orbán's Hungary is a constantly radicalising electoral autocracy, with two intertwined role models: Putin's Russia and Trump's new America.

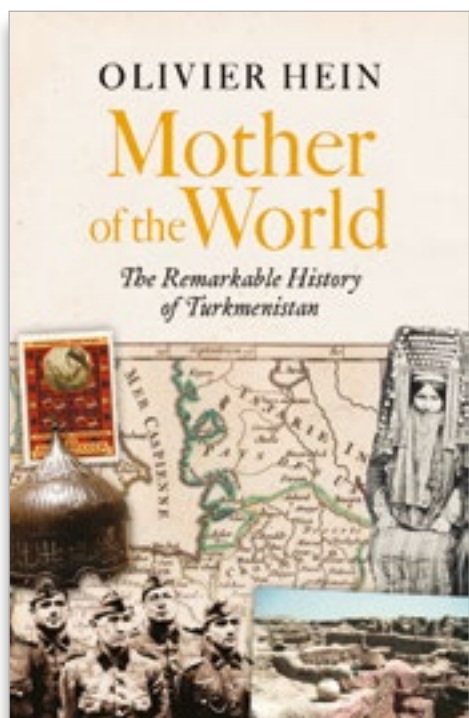
The Orbán Enigma explains how Hungarian democratic backsliding has become a hot-button issue for the Western political community; and charts how, over the course of fifteen years, the Orbán regime has ushered in illiberal rule while maintaining Hungary's global connections via the EU and NATO. Stefano Bottoni's timely study reminds us that democracy dies if it loses its spirit and civic commitment.

Stefano Bottoni is a senior fellow at the Institute of History, HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities, within the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; a former senior fellow at the Institut Montaigne; and author of *Long Awaited West: Eastern Europe since 1944*. He holds a PhD from the University of Bologna.



July 2026
9781805265801
216mm x 138mm
352pp
£25.00 Paperback
Politics
World English rights

Exposes the inner workings of Orbán's Hungary and assesses how his style of politics has affected states and electorates worldwide.



May 2026
 9781805265818
 216mm x 138mm
 336pp
 £30.00 Paperback
 History
 World rights

Reclaiming Turkmenistan from the margins of global attention, Hein offers a lively history of the ‘Mother of the World’ and its people.

OLIVIER HEIN

Mother of the World

The Remarkable History of Turkmenistan

These days, it’s rare for news items to come out of Turkmenistan. It can be easy for us to assume that the country was always isolated, quirky or even irrelevant. But its real history paints a wildly different picture.

Turkmenistan’s desert-dominated landscape has been an unheralded flashpoint at many key moments in history, whether as an integral but misunderstood part of the Soviet Empire, or as a major strategic prize in the brutal invasions of Genghis Khan. Sit exactly where East met West, yet often aloof from both, Turkmenistan was a key crossroads on the Silk Road, and once hosted the largest city on Earth, which doubled up as one of the world’s great seats of learning. It lays claim to conjuring up the world’s first monotheistic religion, and it may well have been one of the major players in that elusive turning point of history, the birth of civilisation—up there with Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Indus Valley.

No other nation can claim all of this, yet Turkmenistan’s past has long remained hidden from our understanding. This is the extraordinary story of a starkly beautiful land, its unique culture, and the wonderful people who now call it home.

Olivier Hein is a Mauritian-British author, whose books include *Star and Key: The Historical Adventure of Mauritius* and *Borneo: The History of an Enigma* (both published by Hurst). Formerly a UN, UK and OSCE diplomat posted to New York, Paris, Ashgabat and Pristina, he is now based in the Cotswolds.

MAGNUS MARSDEN

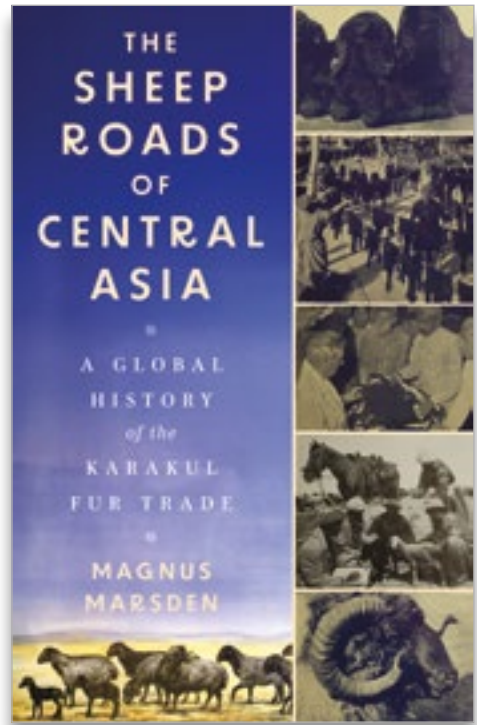
The Sheep Roads of Central Asia

A Global History of the Karakul Fur Trade

Indigenous to Central Asia, Karakul sheep can thrive in the region's arid environment. For centuries, men across Muslim Asia and Russia wore hats made from the sheep's fur, which often symbolised status and masculine power. In the late nineteenth century, the thirst for furs among fashionable women in Europe and America saw millions of Karakul lambskins change hands annually, in Leipzig, London and New York. In the early twentieth century, the Russian Revolution led shepherds and merchants to flee Central Asia for Afghanistan; over the following decades, the trade in Karakul lambskins—initially referred to in the West as 'Persian Lamb' or 'Astrakhan fur'—became a central element of Afghanistan's economy.

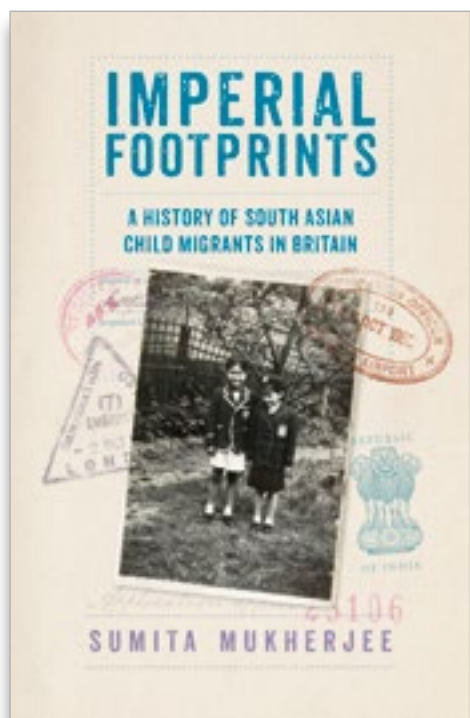
In this unique book, Magnus Marsden illuminates Karakul's role in the region's globalisation, drawing on rich archives, three decades of research in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, and interviews with fur traders and their families. He discovers that Jewish and Muslim Central Asian merchants played a pivotal role in the trade's international expansion, demonstrating remarkable resilience in an environment growing ever more hostile to the long-distance commercial networks which they formed.

Magnus Marsden is Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Asia Centre, University of Sussex. He has conducted decades of research in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia. His books include *Trading Worlds: Afghan Merchants Across Modern Frontiers*, and *Beyond Swat* (co-edited with Benjamin D. Hopkins)—both published by Hurst.



August 2026
9781805265825
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History
World rights

A history of the fur trade originating on the Karakul sheep-raising steppe, and of the merchants who took the pelts to markets worldwide.



February 2026
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 History
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From the Victorian era to Partition, Mukherjee uncovers the unique experiences of the very youngest South Asian migrants to Britain.

SUMITA MUKHERJEE

Imperial Footprints

A History of South Asian Child Migrants in Britain

Between 1857 and 1947, over 28 million Indians left the subcontinent to live, work and study elsewhere. Today, India has the largest diaspora in the world, with approximately 18 million Indians living overseas. Though often absent from historical narratives, migrant children were instrumental during the time of the British Empire in the development not only of Indian national and diasporic identities, but of British identity too. These children were marginalised by their political status, their race and their age; yet they were fundamental to historical change, from the 1830s through to independence in 1947.

Imperial Footprints vividly charts this history of emigration from British India to the imperial heartland, through the eyes of its youngest participants. From pupils sent to English boarding schools and runaway servants, to sailor children and refugees of war or Partition, Sumita Mukherjee reveals that these child migrants were crucial players in founding Indian communities abroad. Drawing on archival records and firsthand accounts, she offers a portrait of migration to Britain that pre-dated the larger waves of arrivals post-war.

Imperial Footprints challenges the assumptions of the historical voices we often foreground; reflects on post-colonial legacies; and offers a fascinating new perspective on migration and empire.

Sumita Mukherjee is Professor of Modern History at the University of Bristol. A fellow of the Royal Historical Society, she is an expert on the histories of South Asian migration and has written widely on this topic. Her books include *Indian Suffragettes: Female Identities and Transnational Networks*.

ROBERT BAXTER

Art, Ambition and Empire

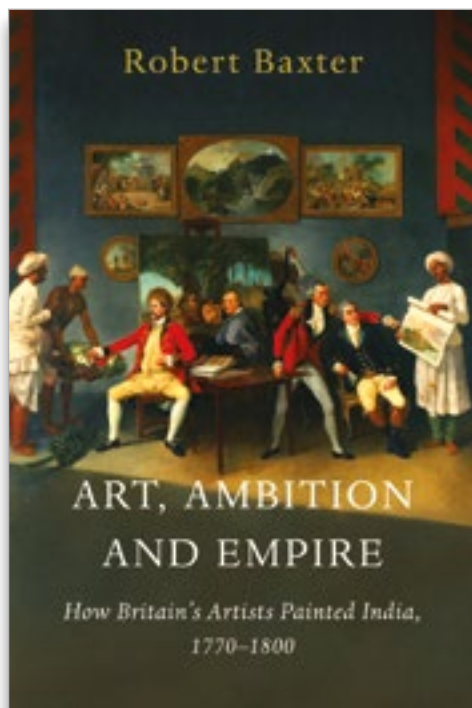
How Britain's Artists Painted India, 1770–1800

As the armies of the East India Company were busy transforming Britain into a territorial and ruling power, laying the foundations for the imperial Raj, an artistic 'Scramble for India' was taking place.

Art, Ambition and Empire tells the story of the remarkable but little-known artistic encounter between Britain and India in the closing decades of the eighteenth century. Between 1769 and the early 1800s, more than sixty British-based artists made the long voyage east. Among them were some of the finest painters of the Golden Age of British art: the portrait painters Tilly Kettle and Johan Zoffany, the landscape artist William Hodges, and the miniaturist Ozias Humphry. Between them, this quartet would produce an extraordinary record of Indian life and landscapes, of Company merchants and military men, and of the courtly world of princely India. The rewards were spectacular, but, as they soon discovered, there was also a personal and a professional price to be paid.

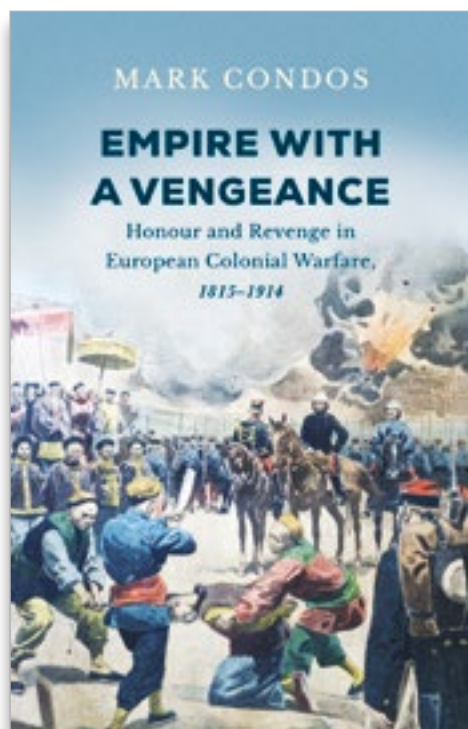
Why did these four artists go to India? How did they respond to the place and represent it in their work? And what role did they play in shaping perceptions of the subcontinent, during one of the most controversial periods of British imperial expansion?

Robert Baxter was born and educated in the United Kingdom, where he read history at the University of Exeter. He has lived and worked in Asia for almost forty years, mostly in Hong Kong. A frequent traveller in the region, he has wide-ranging interests in art, history and cross-cultural encounters.



April 2026
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History / Culture / Art
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Following the lives of
four artists, a beautifully
illustrated account
of Britain's artistic
interactions with India at
the dawn of the Raj.



April 2026
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An absorbing new history
 of European colonialism,
 showing how ideas of
 retribution and revenge
 were used to justify violent
 conquest and rule.

MARK CONDOS

Empire with a Vengeance

Honour and Revenge in
European Colonial Warfare,
1815–1914

Today, the use of military force to punish enemies is strictly prohibited under international law. It is also a widely accepted principle that acts of vengeance and reprisal have almost no legitimate place in warfare.

Throughout much of Western history, however, punishment and retaliation were not only important aspects of conflict, but were key justifications for waging war in the first place—particularly when it came to the defence of national honour. European empires were no exception to this rule. Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, two of the world’s most formidable powers, France and Britain, regularly framed wars of conquest and counterinsurgency using the language of justice and revenge. Whether to avenge alleged insults, punish perceived transgressions, or exact retribution for ‘crimes’ committed against the dignity and authority of Europeans, ‘honour’ was used as a legal, religious and moral rationale for violent expansion, consolidation and policing.

Based on extensive archival research in multiple languages, *Empire with a Vengeance* is the first comparative examination of honour and revenge in colonial policy. Showing the central importance of these seemingly archaic concepts, it offers crucial insight into the brutal dynamics of empire’s ‘civilising mission’.

Mark Condos is Senior Lecturer in Imperial and Global History at King’s College London, where he researches and teaches the history of the British and French Empires. He is the author of *The Insecurity State: Punjab and the Making of Colonial Power in British India*.

SAMUEL BASHFIELD

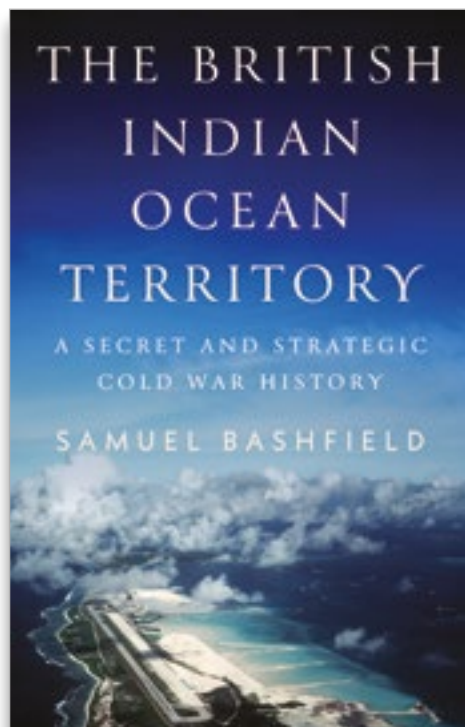
The British Indian Ocean Territory

A Secret and Strategic Cold War History

While Britain's empire decolonised after the Second World War, one more colony was created, in secret and against international law: the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). This founding, in 1965, dismembered sixty Indian Ocean islands within the then British colonies of Mauritius and Seychelles. The entire population of these islands was forcibly displaced to make way for Anglo-American military facilities.

Ostensibly, the new territory was first created to house a communications station on Diego Garcia. But BIOT's utility went far beyond this specific purpose: it facilitated the transfer of strategic power from the UK to the US in the new Cold War world. Samuel Bashfield's eye-opening account illuminates how British and American defence strategies each shaped BIOT's militarisation, with the territory used both by London—to slow its withdrawal 'East of Suez'—and by Washington, to entrench its own power in the Indian Ocean and the Middle East.

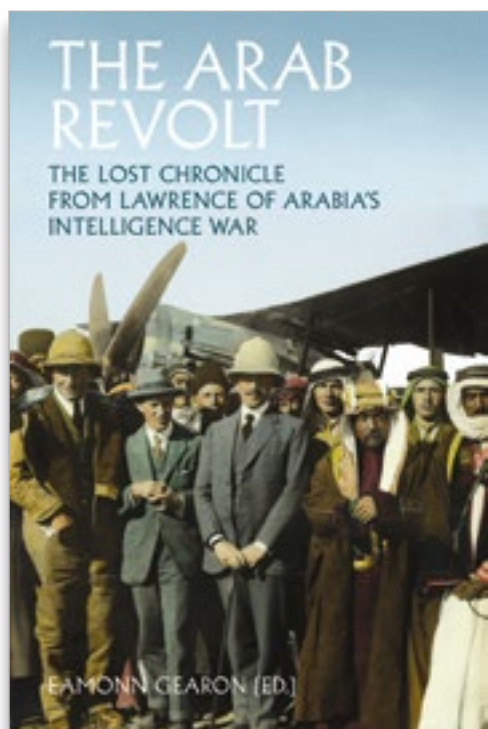
Diego Garcia did not become one of the West's critical overseas bases by chance. It was painstakingly honed as a linchpin of Western predominance. Drawing on declassified archives, Bashfield reveals how BIOT was selected, militarised, transacted and defended, from its illegal creation through to the end of the Cold War.



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History
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A vital investigation into the mysterious events behind the surreptitious, illegal creation of a British colony in 1965—just as the United Kingdom decolonised elsewhere.

Samuel Bashfield PhD is an Australian-based defence and national security scholar. He is currently a research fellow specialised in security and geopolitics at La Trobe University, Australia.



October 2026

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History / Middle East Studies

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The first English translation of this revolutionary 1916 text, an unlikely collaboration between Arab intellectuals and British wartime intelligence.

EAMONN GEARON (ed.)

The Arab Revolt

The Lost Chronicle from Lawrence of Arabia's Intelligence War

Foreword by EUGENE ROGAN

In December 1916, a modest Arabic-language book rolled off the presses in Cairo—one that could challenge everything we thought we knew about British intelligence and Arab nationalism. *Thawrat al-Arab*, the longest piece of British propaganda from the First World War, has been hiding in plain sight for over a century.

This first English translation reveals an extraordinary collaboration—between Arab intellectuals and British Military Intelligence—which revolutionised wartime information operations. Commissioned by the legendary Arab Bureau and written by Lebanese journalist As'ad Dagher, this early work of Arab nationalism masterfully weaves together history, political analysis and emotional appeals for independence from Ottoman rule. Although its publication advanced British strategic interests, *Thawrat al-Arab* was far more than simple propaganda: it allowed authentic Arab voices to speak to Arab audiences. Between its dedication to the 'martyrs' hanged by Ottoman authorities and its sweeping vision of Arab greatness, this remarkable text shaped the narrative of the Arab Revolt.

A compelling companion to Gearon's *The Arab Bureau*, which offers a fresh look at Lawrence of Arabia's intelligence unit in light of *Thawrat al-Arab*, this new book brings a crucial historical document to English-language readers for the first time.

Eamonn Gearon is a global historian, specialising in the Middle East and North Africa and the history of intelligence, whose books include *The Arab Bureau* (also published by Hurst). His doctoral research uncovered previously unknown Arabic documents which shed new light on British intelligence work in the region.

JOELLE M. ABI-RACHED &
SARAH EL-RICHANI (eds)

Lebanon

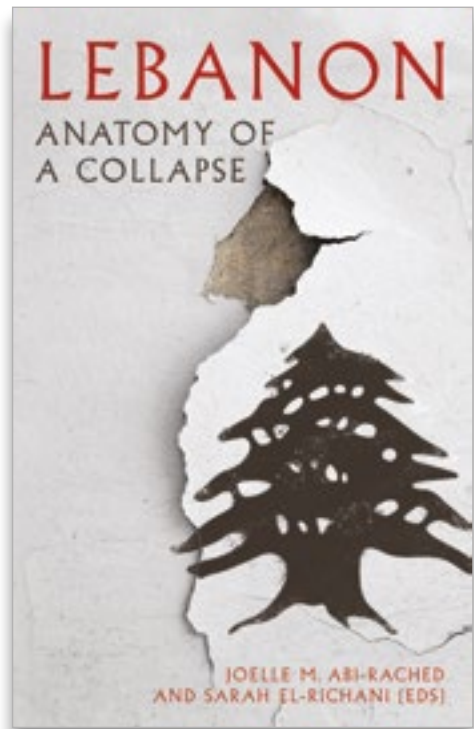
Anatomy of a Collapse

Lebanon is in freefall. Poverty is rising exponentially, healthcare is at breaking point, corruption is rampant, and educated professionals are leaving the country in droves. How did this happen?

Lebanon: Anatomy of a Collapse explores the unravelling of the Lebanese state. Bringing together industry experts and academics, this timely collection analyses the complex and interconnected crises that have driven Lebanon into the abyss, whether political or social, financial or legal. With a clear and compelling narrative, the contributors highlight the economic mismanagement, infrastructure devastation, and government, educational and media breakdowns that have left the country in ruins. From the financial collapse of 2019 to the 2020 Beirut port explosion, and from the latest Israel–Lebanon war to the disastrous repercussions of the Syrian refugee crisis, this volume reveals the compounding effects of systemic failures, historical fractures and political ineptitude. It also examines the struggles of Lebanese society to maintain a semblance of institutional life and functionality, despite widespread disruption and chronic uncertainty.

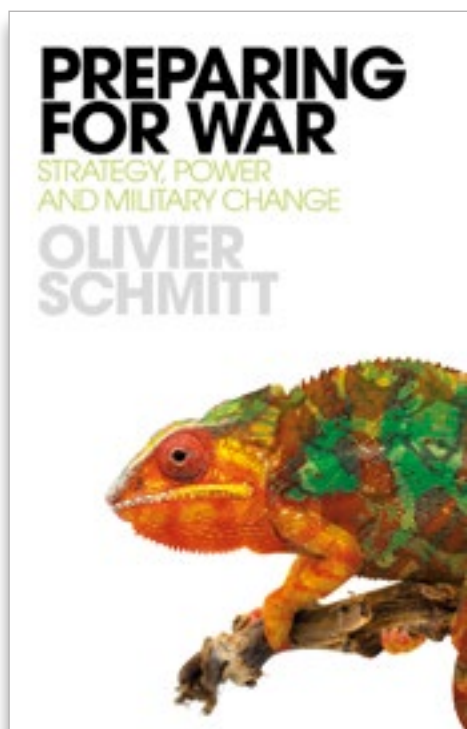
This is an urgent and nuanced perspective on Lebanon's tumultuous recent years, offering crucial insights for readers seeking to understand and learn from the calamitous implications of state failure. Can Lebanon recover from the traumas of its past?

Joelle M. Abi-Rached is Associate Professor of Medicine at the American University of Beirut, and author of *Aṣfūriyyeh: A History of Madness, Modernity, and War in the Middle East*. **Sarah El-Richani** is Visiting Fellow at Freie Universität Berlin's Institute for Media and Communication Studies, and author of *The Lebanese Media*.



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An original conceptual approach to the study of war, attempting to capture the entire phenomenon of military adaptation—whether strategic, institutional or in the field.

OLIVIER SCHMITT

Preparing for War

Strategy, Power and Military Change

The unravelling of the post–Cold War order has intensified geopolitical tensions, driving a global increase in defence spending. Most military organisations are engaged in a process of drastic transformation, trying to scale their activities, learn from contemporary battlefields, and improve readiness. Yet armed forces engaged in such reforms must solve a major dilemma: how to adapt to an uncertain future without losing their current identity, coherence or operational effectiveness.

In this incisive and timely study, Olivier Schmitt explores how modern militaries adapt, or fail to adapt, to evolving threats, technologies and political constraints. Drawing on global case-studies—from the trenches of Ukraine to the halls of the People’s Liberation Army leadership—he investigates how social expectations, political constraints and organisational cultures collide in the worldwide quest to reform the military.

Essential reading for defence professionals, policymakers and scholars of international security, *Preparing for War* equips readers with the tools to grasp not only the ‘how’ but the ‘why’ behind military transformation. In an era of rising defence budgets and shrinking certainties, this book delivers crucial insights into the future of war—and the institutions that must be ready for it.

Olivier Schmitt is Associate Professor and Head of Research at the Institute for Military Operations, Royal Danish Defence College, and Senior Non-Resident Associate Fellow at the NATO Defence College. His previous books include the co-edited volume *War Time: Temporality and the Decline of Western Military Power*.

ANDREW MAHER

Riding Tigers

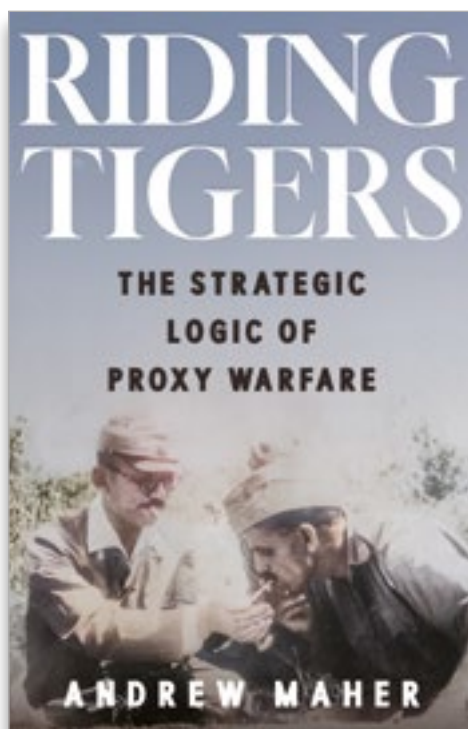
The Strategic Logic of Proxy Warfare

Today's global security environment is characterised by great power contests. As we know from previous histories of strategic competition between states, such heightened rivalry routinely manifests in violence perpetrated by proxy forces—a dynamic intended either to avoid war, or to assist in its prosecution.

This book explores the use of proxies in arenas of international strategic competition characterised by force. It looks at why, where and when proxy warfare is waged, examining how states seek to employ proxies, to cajole them to act on their behalf, and then to ensure their compliance. Today, states wishing to avoid war, yet still to pursue competition, often turn to proxy warfare as an attractive low-cost option. This policy response is informed by history, from Europe's Napoleonic-era competition and the Great Game during the age of empire, to interwar competition in East Asia and, later in the twentieth century, the global Cold War.

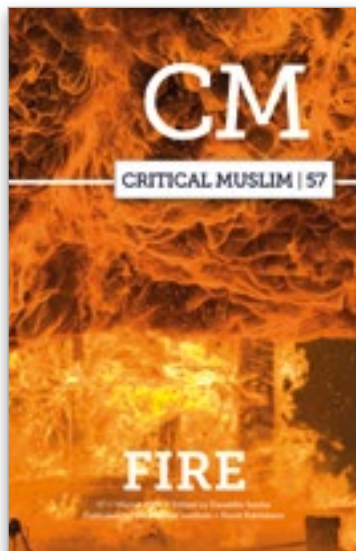
Proxy warfare is not the preserve of major powers, but a tool of statecraft available to all. Andrew Maher illuminates current trends, deriving a strategic logic to the proxy wars that will continue to influence today's geopolitical competitions—and tomorrow's.

Andrew Maher PhD is Senior Lecturer at UNSW Canberra, specialising in irregular warfare and special operations, particularly proxy warfare. A twenty-year veteran of the Australian Defence Force, who served extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan, he has taught at Arizona State, Joint Special Operations and NATO Special Operations Universities.



June 2026
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War Studies
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A novel examination of interstate competition, considering how and why states employ proxies to perpetrate violence on their behalf.



Winter 2026 • 9781805265870
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ZIAUDDIN SARDAR (ed.)

Critical Muslim 57: Fire

Humanity shares an intimate history with fire. It appears in arts and language pre-dating civilisation, often seen as its origin point. From Prometheus's theft and Hawaii's volcano goddess Pele to the smokeless flames that created djinns in pre-Islamic tales, where we see humanity, we see fire. It can be a source of creation and a source of destruction. Necessary, but uncontained—troublesome indeed. Revealer, for better or worse. Fire features in a variety of religious practices, often as a metaphor for divine intervention, especially in the Abrahamic religions. Today, however, fire seems to be the element of the age—from the scorching words and red-hot extreme opinions of our public debates, to the climate change-fuelled flames that now regularly engulf entire continents. We seem upon the precipice of ultimate irony: born by flame, to perish by flame. But must the tale of humanity and fire end in a terminal ash heap? This issue of *Critical Muslim* investigates.



Spring 2026 • 9781805265887
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ZIAUDDIN SARDAR (ed.)

Critical Muslim 58: West

Never has a cardinal direction taken on such an identity as 'the West'. And we're not just talking about the Wicked Witch of the West, harbinger of the direction the Western world was headed in! Where once the West allegedly led the family of nations, taking down the spectres of fascism, communism, tyranny and genocide, today it is a glutton, choking to death on the very evils it sought to defeat. As 'the West' leaves a vacuum, other ways of being are presented—especially from those championing the Global South, such as BRICS states. The West is no longer said to be the standard of governance, law, culture, economics, or thought. We have reached a breaking point, amid the continued absurdity of the US, the irrelevance of Europe, and Western acceptance of genocide and war run amok. This issue of *Critical Muslim* asks what's gone wrong with the West, what lies beyond the West and, most importantly, what happens next.

ELEANOR MEDHURST

Unsuitable

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‘Takes all the great work Medhurst has done to preserve this key component of queer history and wraps it up into one absolute must read.’ — *Pride*

‘Shines a much-needed spotlight ... celebrating the ever-evolving style of the lesbian community.’ — *Marie Claire*

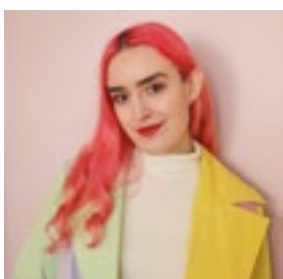
‘An essential addition to both fashion studies and queer history ... a strong opening volley [from Medhurst].’ — *PopMatters*

‘Likely to surprise and enlighten even readers with an extensive knowledge of the history of women-loving women.’ — *The Gay and Lesbian Review*

‘Absolutely fascinating.’ — Emma Donoghue

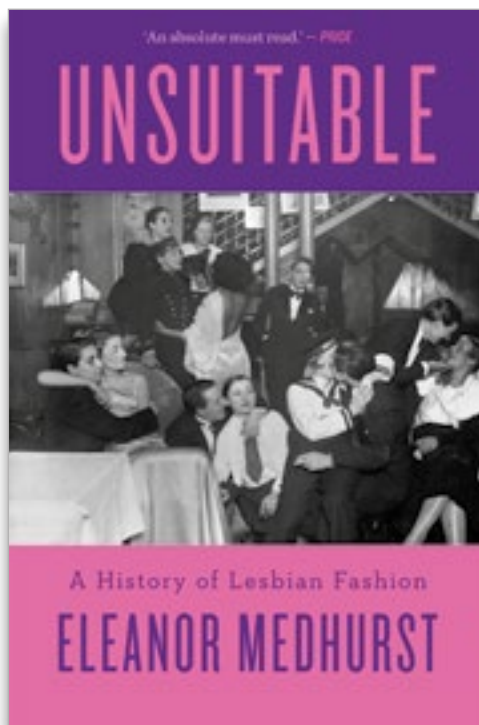
‘Wonderful, celebratory and joyously queer.’ — Tasha Suri

‘Charming, enlightening and inspiring.’ — Paul Baker



Eleanor Medhurst is a historian of queer fashion and culture, and author of the blog *Dressing Dykes*. She has worked on Brighton Museum’s exhibitions *Queer Looks* and *Queer the Pier*, and is pursuing a PhD in lesbian

craft history at the University of Brighton. This is her first book.



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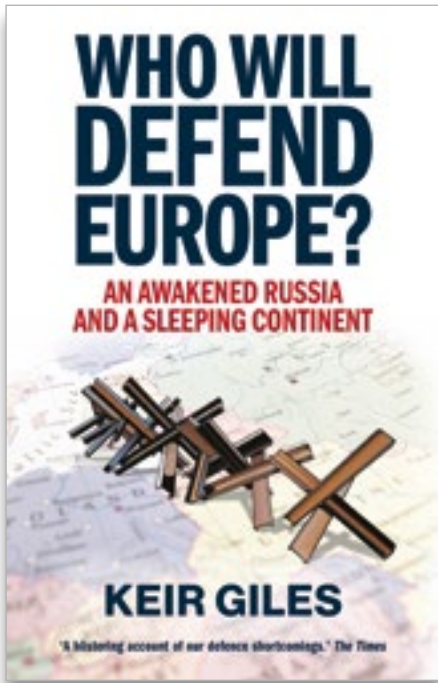
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‘Giles has been warning us for many years of Russia’s determination to ... rebuild an empire. Now he offers a stark warning for Europe and the world: the only alternative to planning for a war is planning to lose it.’ — Anne Applebaum

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Keir Giles has advised governments worldwide on the Russian threat. A senior fellow with Chatham House’s Russia programme, and Director of the Conflict Studies Research Centre, he is a regular commentator for the BBC and

international media. His prescient books include *What Deters Russia* and *Moscow Rules*.

NABILA RAMDANI

Fixing France

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‘A highly readable ... blazing indictment of modern France ... Ramdani’s criticism is heartfelt and justified.’ — *The Sunday Times*

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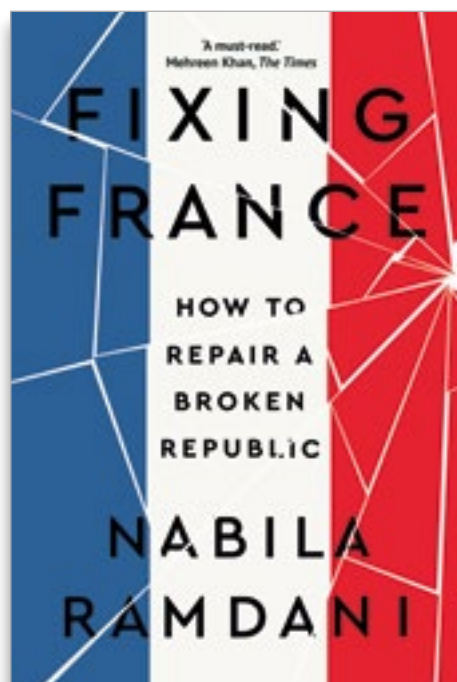
‘Timely and fresh ... Ramdani provides some smart answers in this thought-provoking book.’ — Clive Myrie

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Nabila Ramdani is an award-winning French-Algerian journalist and academic from Paris, mainly covering France and the Arab and Muslim World. Since starting her career in the BBC’s Paris Bureau, she has reported for Sky

News, Al Jazeera, CNN, *The Guardian*, the *Daily Mail* and *The Washington Post*, among others.



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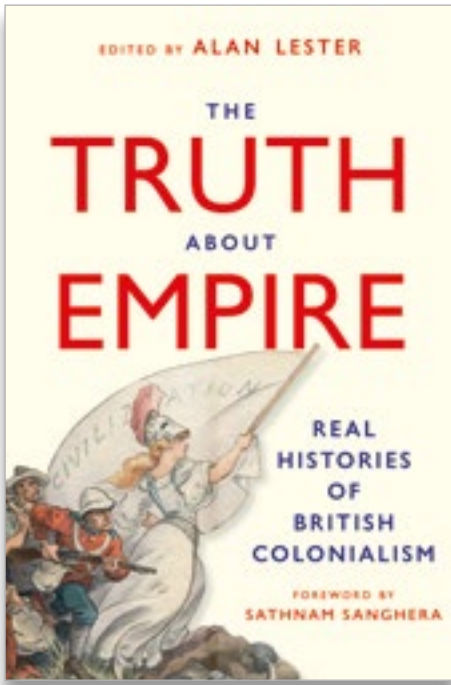
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Sharp, authoritative essays on the dark realities of Empire and the true historian's importance for democracy, amid history's appropriation by apologists, racists and culture warriors.

ALAN LESTER (ed.)

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Alan Lester is Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Sussex and Adjunct Professor of History at La Trobe University. He has written eleven books on British colonialism, most recently *Ruling the World: Freedom, Civilisation and Liberalism in the Nineteenth-Century British Empire*; and *Deny*

and *Disavow: The British Empire in the Culture War* (co-authored; 2nd edition).

JOHN KISZELY

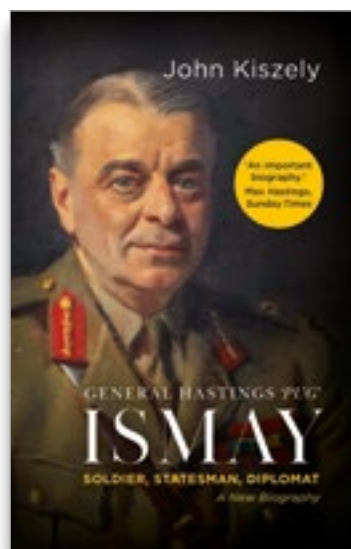
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John Kiszely served in the British Army for forty years, including as Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff and Director General of the UK Defence Academy. He has been a visiting professor at King's College London and visiting research fellow at the Changing Character of War Centre, University of Oxford.



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PIERRE HAZAN

Negotiating with the Devil

Inside the World of Armed Conflict Mediation

Translated by SUSAN MUTTI

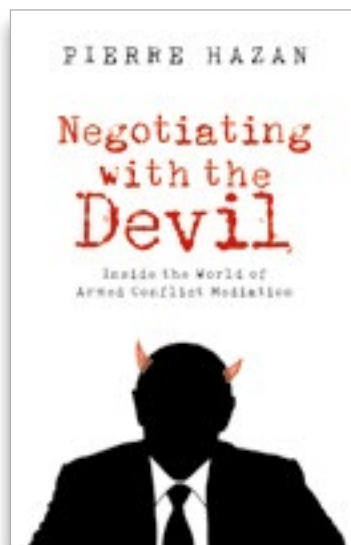
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Pierre Hazan is a senior advisor with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Formerly a Harvard Law School fellow, United States Institute of Peace fellow and *Libération* diplomatic correspondent, he has advised NGOs, governments and armed groups on justice, amnesty, reparation, truth commissions, forced disappearances, international humanitarian law and human rights.



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Bleddyn E. Bowen is Associate Professor in Astropolitics at Durham University. The internationally recognised author of *War in Space*, he has advised on space policy for institutions including the UK Parliament, the UK Ministry of Defence, the European Space Agency, the Japanese Ministry of Defense, and the Pentagon.



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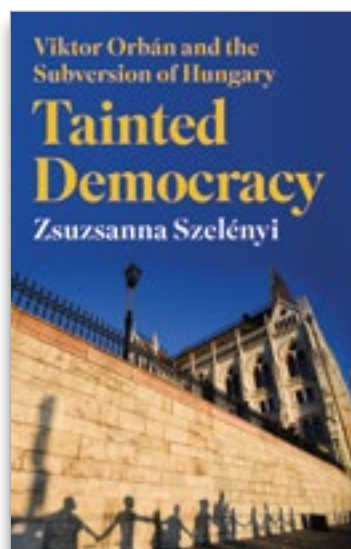
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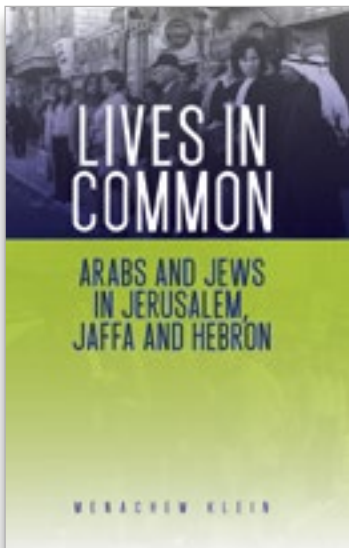
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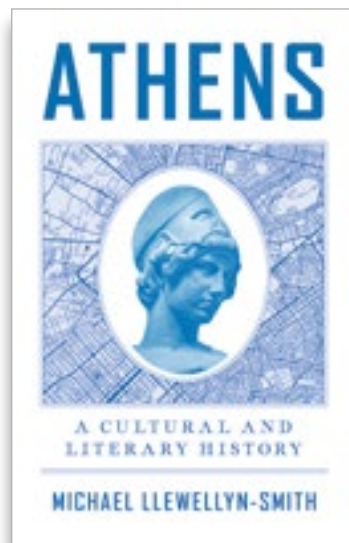
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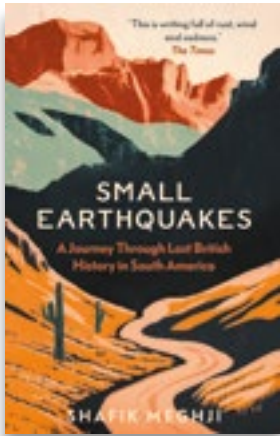
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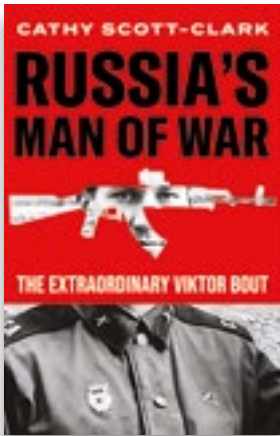
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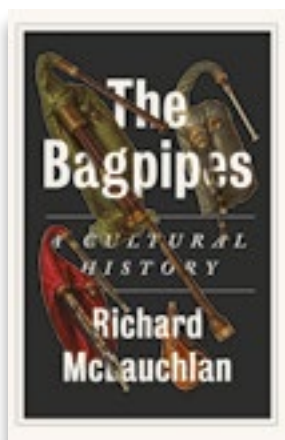
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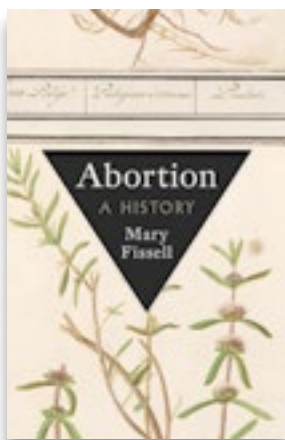
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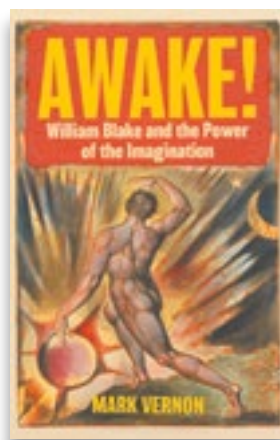
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