Dear Friends and Colleagues,

When I joined Basic in 2005, publishing was a different world than it is now. If people listened to audiobooks at all, they listened on cassettes. Kindle didn’t exist yet. We all had our own offices, not desks in open-plan workspaces. And we sold and publicized our books using printed seasonal catalogs.

I loved those catalogs, and I still have a huge stack of them from my years at Basic. They’re a wonderful way of chronicling the evolution of the house. Collectively, they offer a history of both the exhilarating successes and humiliating flops that make up any publishing career. And from 9/11 to the Mars rover to gay marriage to Donald Trump, they are also a great reminder of the preoccupations of the last two decades.

Even if the sales department no longer uses a printed catalog to sell books, nor the publicity department to promote them, I continue to value the catalogs much the same way I do the printed book (no audio books or ebooks for me, thank you very much).

Welcome, then, to our first annual Basic Books catalog, in which you will find a mixture of the backlist classics that are still some of our bestselling titles, books we published more recently, and a selection of titles upcoming in 2024.

What you will see, I hope, is that while many things in publishing have changed, Basic’s commitment to publishing excellence remains unwavering.

Yours,

Lara Heimert
Publisher, Basic Books
HISTORY
HISTORY

4 BASIC BOOKS
HISTORY

POLAND 1939
THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II
ROGER MOORKHOUZE

THE RAP OF NANKING
IRIS CHANG

ROME AND PERSIA
THE SEVEN HUNDRED YEAR RIVALRY
ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY

STALIN’S WAR
A NEW HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II
SEAN MCEERIN

STATE OF SILENCE
THE ESPIONAGE ACT AND THE RISE OF AMERICA’S SECRECY REGIME
SAM LEBOVIC

THE STRUGGLE FOR TAIWAN
A HISTORY OF AMERICA, CHINA, AND THE ISLAND CAUGHT BETWEEN
SULUSHAH WADHI KHAN

THE SWORD AND THE SHIELD
PENIEL E. JOSEPH

TO MAKE MEN FREE
A HISTORY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
HEATHER CYN RICHARDSON

THE WAY WE NEVER WERE
AMERICAN FAMILIES AND THE NOSTALGIA TRAP
STEFANIE COOKERZ

BASIC BOOKS 5
SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

THE ART OF STATISTICS
HOW TO LEARN FROM DATA
DAVID SPIEGELHALTER

BITCH
ON THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES
LUCY COOKE

THE BOOK OF WHY
THE NEW SCIENCE OF CAUSE AND EFFECT
JUDEA PEARL
AND DANA MACKENZIE

CATCHING FIRE
HOW COOKING MADE US HUMAN
RICHARD WRANGHAM

COYOTE AMERICA
DAN FLORES

GÖDEL, ENSCHE, BACH:
AN ETERNAL GOLDEN ROAD
DOUGLAS R. HOFSTADTER

THE IDEA OF THE BRAIN
MATTHEW COBB

THE JAZZ OF PHYSICS
STEPHON ALEXANDER

THE LIGHTNESS OF BEING
FRANK WILCZEK
POLITICS

ANARCHY, STATE, AND UTOPIA
Robert Nozick

THE DYING CITIZEN
Victor Davis Hanson

DYING OF WHITENESS
Jonathan M. Metzl

THE END OF POWER
Moises Naim

THE GRAND CHESSBOARD
Zbigniew Brzezinski

JUST AND UNJUST WARS
Michael Walzer

LETTERS TO A YOUNG CONTRARIAN
Christopher Hitchens

METARACISM
Tricia Rose
BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

10 BASIC BOOKS

FOR PROFIT
A HISTORY OF CORPORATIONS
WILLIAM MAGNUSON

THE (MIS)BEHAVIOR OF MARKETS
A Fractal View of Financial Turbulence
BENOIT MANDELBROT & RICHARD L. HUDDIN

THE MODEL THINKER
what you need to know to make data work for you
EXPANDED EDITION
SCOTT E. PAGE

THE MYSTERY OF CAPITAL
Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else
HERNANDO DE SOTO

THE RISE OF THE CREATIVE CLASS
MICHAEL FORD

RISE OF THE ROBOTS
TECHNOLOGY AND THE THREAT OF A JOBLESS FUTURE
MARTIN FORD

SLOUCHING TOWARDS UTOPIA
AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
J. BRADFORD HEDING

THE STORY FACTOR
INSPIRATION, INFLUENCE, & PERSUASION THROUGH THE ART OF STORYTELLING
ANNETTE SIMMONS

THE TYRANNY OF EXPERTS
ECONOMISTS, DICTATORS, AND THE FORGOTTEN RIGHTS OF THE POOR
WILLIAM BARTER
SEAL PRESS

KIT HEYAM
BEFORE WE WERE TRANS
A NEW HISTORY OF GENDER

SARA AHMED
THE FEMINIST KILLJOY HANDBOOK
THE RADICAL POTENTIAL OF GETTING IN THE WAY

WRITERS ON LOVING AND LEAVING NEW YORK
GOODBYE TO ALL THAT

HOTBED
Bobbiann Greene's Village and the Secret Club that Sparked Modern Feminism

JOANNA SCOTTS

THE MEMO
WHAT WOMEN OF COLOR NEED TO KNOW TO SECURE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

MINDA HARTS

So you want to talk about race

IJEOMA OLUO

TRANSGENDER HISTORY
THE NAMES OF GENDER'S HANGLING

SUSAN STRYKER

WE REFUSE
A FORCEFUL HISTORY OF BLACK RESISTANCE

JULIA SERANO

WHIPPING GIRL
A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity

JULIA SERANO

UPDATE WITH A NEW AFTERWORD
MEET THE EDITORS
LARA HEIMERT
SVP, PUBLISHER, THE BASIC BOOKS GROUP (Basic, Seal, PublicAffairs, & Bold Type)
LARA.HEIMERT@HBGUSA.COM

Lara Heimert joined Basic Books in 2005. Previously, she was publisher of the trade division at Yale University Press. She has published numerous prize-winning and New York Times–bestselling titles. Highlights include Edward Baptist’s The Half Has Never Been Told, Eugene Rogan’s The Fall of the Ottomans, Timothy Snyder’s Bloodlands, Victor Davis Hanson’s The Dying Citizen, and Neil Price’s Children of Ash and Elm. A graduate of Princeton University, Lara acquires primarily in the field of history.

BRIAN J. DISTELBERG
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Brian J. Distelberg joined Basic Books in 2015 and acquires primarily in history. Books he has edited and published include the New York Times bestsellers Slouching Towards Utopia, by Brad DeLong, and Myth America, edited by Kevin Kruse and Julian Zelizer; Jefferson Cowie’s Freedom’s Dominion, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; Eckart Frahm’s Assyria; and Martha Jones’s Vanguard. He also publishes a select number of books in politics, where highlights include Jonathan Metzl’s Dying of Whiteness and Jonathan Sacks’s Morality. Brian worked previously at Harvard University Press and holds a PhD in US history from Yale University.

THOMAS KELLEHER
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Thomas Kelleher joined Basic Books in 2009 and publishes predominantly in science and mathematics. Highlights include Lucy Cooke’s Bitch, William MacAskill’s New York Times–bestselling What We Owe the Future, Eugenia Cheng’s Is Math Real?, Adam Becker’s What Is Real?, Stephon Alexander’s The Jazz of Physics, and Judea Pearl’s The Book of Why. He is also responsible for the publishing program surrounding The Feynman Lectures on Physics.
Brandon Proia joined Basic Books in 2023 and acquires primarily in history. Before joining Basic, he was an executive editor of history at UNC Press, where he published books including Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor’s *Race for Profit*, Johanna Fernández’s *The Young Lords*, and Kelly Lytle Hernández’s *City of Inmates*.

Emily Taber joined Basic Books in 2022. She acquires in the social sciences, particularly in economics, business, sociology, public policy, politics, and law. Previously, she was the economics, finance, and business editor at the MIT Press, where she published books including *Winning the Right Game* by Ron Adner, *Fighting Corruption Is Dangerous* by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, *How Change Happens* by Cass Sunstein, and *Inclusion on Purpose* by Ruchika Tulshyan.

Michael Kaler joined Basic Books in 2020 and acquires primarily in history and politics. Books he has acquired or edited include Jared Farmer’s *Elderflora*, Matthew Dallek’s *Birchers*, and Hein de Haas’s *How Migration Really Works*. Before joining Basic, Michael worked at Liveright and *New York* magazine.
Since its founding in 1950, Basic Books has shaped public debate by publishing award-winning books in history, science, sociology, psychology, politics, and current affairs. Basic’s list of influential authors includes Akhil Amar, Isaac Asimov, Edward Baptist, H.W. Brands, Arthur Brooks, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Iris Chang, George Church, Niall Ferguson, Richard Feynman, Richard Florida, Sigmund Freud, Howard Gardner, Victor Davis Hanson, Jonathan Haidt, Judith Herman, Christopher Hitchens, Douglas Hofstadter, Leszek Kolakowski, Kevin Kruse, Claude Levi-Strauss, Alice Miller, Robert Nozick, Jean Piaget, Steven Pinker, Samantha Power, Diane Ravitch, Eugene Rogan, Timothy Snyder, Thomas Sowell, Nicholas Stargardt, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Michael Walzer, George Weigel, Bee Wilson, James Q. Wilson, Richard Wrangham, and Irvin Yalom.

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