

# BASIC BOOKS



Spring  
2018



# BASIC BOOKS

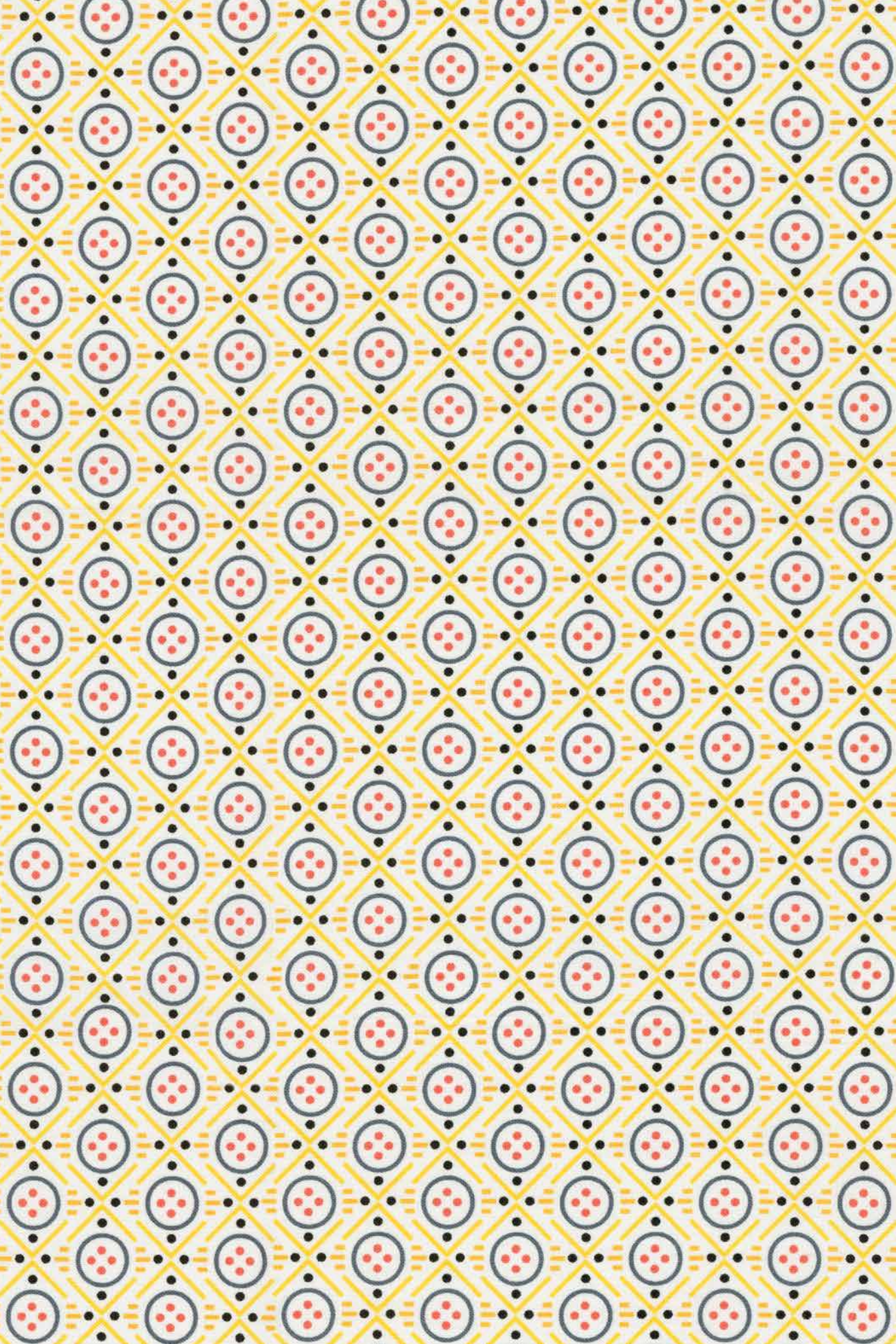
Renowned publisher of serious nonfiction by  
leading intellectuals, scholars, and journalists

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## NEW TITLES SPRING 2018 CONTENTS

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Cover design by Nicole Caputo



# LUCY COOKE

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ANIMALS

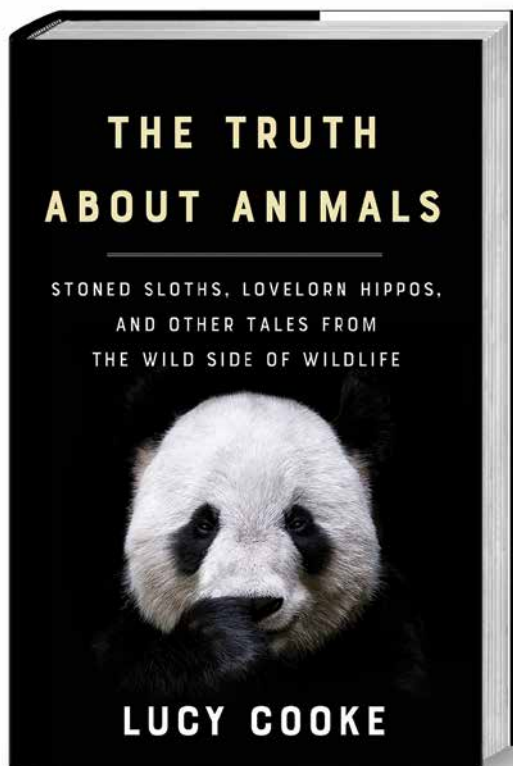
*Stoned Sloths, Lovelorn Hippos, and Other Tales from the Wild Side of Wildlife*

**H**umans have gone to the Moon and discovered the Higgs boson, but when it comes to understanding animals, we've still got a long way to go. Whether we're watching a viral video of romping baby pandas or a picture of penguins "holding hands," it's hard for us not to project our own values—innocence, fidelity, temperance, hard work—onto animals. So you've probably never considered if moose get drunk, penguins cheat on their mates, or worker ants lay about. They do—and that's just for starters. In *The Truth About Animals*, Lucy Cooke takes us on a worldwide journey to meet everyone from a Danish rat tickler to a Chinese panda porn peddler, all to lay bare the secret—and often hilarious—habits of the animal kingdom. Charming and at times downright weird, this modern bestiary is perfect for anyone who has ever suspected that virtue might be unnatural.



**LUCY COOKE** is an award-winning filmmaker who has written, produced, and directed several popular documentary series for the

BBC, PBS, Discovery, and National Geographic. Her first book, *A Little Book of Sloth*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. She holds an MA in zoology from the University of Oxford. She lives in London.



**An award-winning *National Geographic* zoologist exposes the wild side of wildlife**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL

Animals • \$28.00 / \$36.50 CAN

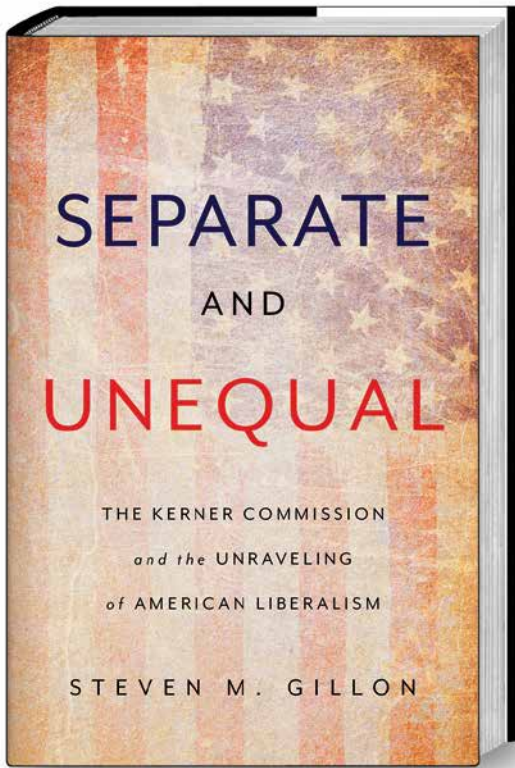
6 x 9-1/4 • 352 pages

978-0-465-09464-6

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09465-3

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © David Dunkerley



**The definitive history of the Kerner Commission, whose report on urban unrest reshaped American debates about race and inequality**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH**

History • \$32.00 / \$42.00 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 400 pages

Twelve black-and-white photos

978-0-465-09608-4

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09609-1

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Andrew Weir

## STEVEN M. GILLON

SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL

*The Kerner Commission and the  
Unraveling of American Liberalism*

In *Separate and Unequal*, historian Steven M. Gillon offers a revelatory new history of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders—popularly known as the Kerner Commission. Convened by President Lyndon Johnson after riots in Newark and Detroit left dozens dead and thousands injured, the commission issued a report in 1968 that attributed the unrest to “white racism” and called for aggressive new programs to end discrimination and poverty. “Our nation is moving toward two societies,” it warned, “one black, and one white—separate and unequal.”

Johnson refused to accept the Kerner Report, and as his political coalition unraveled, its proposals went nowhere. For the right, the report became a symbol of liberal excess, and for the left, one of opportunities lost. *Separate and Unequal* is essential for anyone seeking to understand the fraught politics of race in America.



**STEVEN M. GILLON**

is a resident historian for the History Channel and a professor of history at the University of Oklahoma. The author of several books on American history, he lives in Miami Beach, Florida.

# ALAN S. BLINDER

## ADVICE AND DISSENT

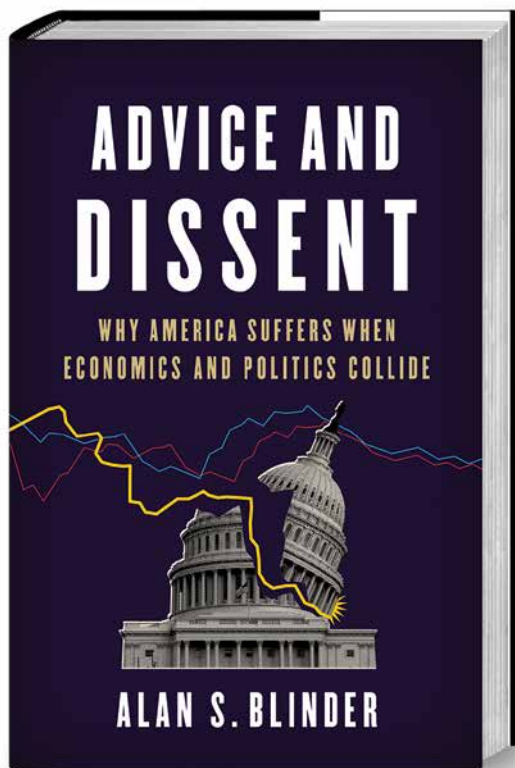
*Why America Suffers When Economics and Politics Collide*

**A**merican economic policy ranks as something between bad and disgraceful. As leading economist Alan S. Blinder argues, a crucial cultural divide separates economic and political civilizations. Economists and politicians often talk—and act—at cross purposes: Politicians typically seek economists’ “advice” only to support preconceived notions, not to learn what economists actually know or believe. Politicians naturally worry about keeping constituents happy and winning elections. Some are devoted to an ideology. Economists sometimes overlook the real human costs of what may seem to be the best policy—to a calculating machine. In *Advice and Dissent*, Blinder shows how both sides can shrink the yawning gap between good politics and good economics and encourage the hard-headed but softhearted policies our country so desperately needs.



### ALAN S. BLINDER

is the Gordon S. Rentschler Memorial Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University, a former member of Bill Clinton’s Council of Economic Advisors, and a former vice-chair of the Federal Reserve. The bestselling author of *After the Music Stopped*, he lives in Princeton, New Jersey.



**A bestselling economist tells us what politicians and economists must learn to fix America’s failing economic policies**

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#### NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH

Business / Economics • \$28.00 / \$36.50 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 320 pages

Seventeen charts throughout

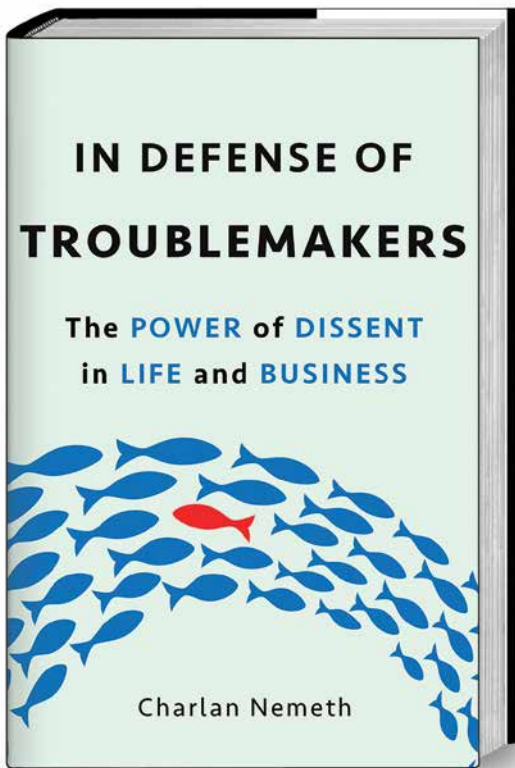
978-0-465-09417-2

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09418-9

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Princeton University,

Office of Communications, Denise Applewhite



**An eminent psychologist explains why dissent should be cherished, not feared**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH**

Psychology / Business • \$27.00 / \$35.00 CAN

5-1/2 x 8-1/4 • 272 pages

978-0-465-09629-9

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09630-5

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Karina Odegard, Karina

Louise Photography

# CHARLAN NEMETH

IN DEFENSE OF TROUBLEMAKERS

*The Power of Dissent in Life and Business*

**W**e've decided by consensus that consensus is good. In *In Defense of Troublemakers*, psychologist Charlan Nemeth argues that this principle is completely wrong: left unchallenged, the majority opinion is often biased, unoriginal, or false. It leads planes and markets to crash, causes juries to convict innocent people, and can quite literally make people think blue is green. In the name of comity, we embrace stupidity. We can make better decisions by embracing dissent. Dissent forces us to question the status quo, consider more information, and engage in creative decision-making. From *Twelve Angry Men* to Edward Snowden, lone objectors who make people question their assumptions bring groups far closer to truth—regardless of whether they are right or wrong. Essential reading for anyone who works in groups, *In Defense of Troublemakers* will radically change the way you think, listen, and make decisions.

**CHARLAN NEMETH** is a professor in



the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. She lives in San Francisco.

# RANDY ROBERTS AND JOHNNY SMITH

A SEASON IN THE SUN

*The Rise of Mickey Mantle*

**M**ickey Mantle was the ideal batter for the atomic age, capable of hitting harder than any other player in history. He was also the perfect idol for postwar America, a hero from the heartland.

In *A Season in the Sun*, Randy Roberts and Johnny Smith recount the defining moment of Mantle's legendary career: 1956, when he overcame a host of injuries and critics to become the most celebrated athlete of his time. Taking us from the action on the diamond to Mantle's off-the-field exploits, Roberts and Smith depict Mantle not as a wholesome role model or a bitter alcoholic, but a complex man whose faults were smoothed over by sportswriters. An incisive portrait of an American icon, *A Season in the Sun* is an essential work for baseball fans and anyone interested in the 1950s.



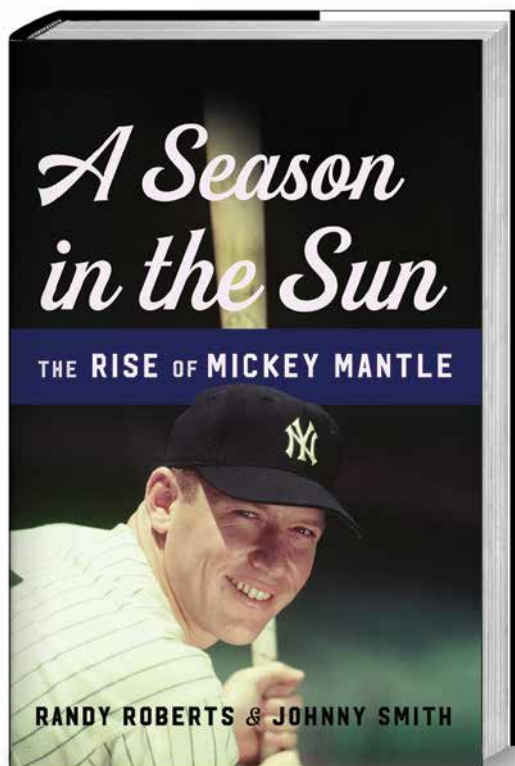
## RANDY ROBERTS

is a distinguished professor of history at Purdue University and lives in Lafayette, Indiana.



**JOHNNY SMITH** is an assistant professor of American history at Georgia Tech and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Both are the authors of *Blood Brothers*.



**The story of Mickey Mantle's magnificent 1956 season**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH**

Biography / History / Sports • \$28.00 / \$36.50 CAN  
6 x 9-1/4 • 304 pages

Fourteen black-and-white illustrations throughout  
**978-0-465-09442-4**

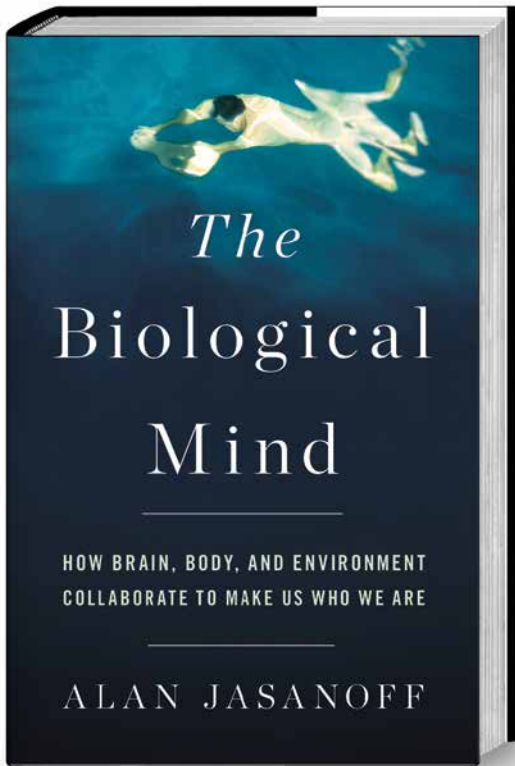
E-BOOK 978-0-465-09443-1

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Marjorie Traylor Roberts  
(Randy Roberts)

Author photo © Gary Meek (Johnny Smith)





**A pioneering neuroscientist argues  
that we are more than our brains**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH**

Science / Psychology • \$30.00 / \$39.00 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 304 pages

Fourteen black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-0-465-05268-4

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4431-1

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Luba Katz

## ALAN JASANOFF

### THE BIOLOGICAL MIND

*How Brain, Body, and Environment  
Collaborate to Make Us Who We Are*

**T**o many, the brain is the seat of personal identity and autonomy. But the way we talk about the brain is often rooted more in mystical conceptions of the soul than in scientific fact. This blinds us to the physical realities of mental function. We ignore bodily influences on our psychology, from chemicals in the blood to bacteria in the gut, and overlook the ways that the environment affects our behavior, via factors varying from subconscious sights and sounds to the weather. As a result, we alternately overestimate our capacity for free will or equate brains to inorganic machines like computers. But a brain is neither a soul nor an electrical network: it is a bodily organ, and it cannot be separated from its surroundings. Our selves aren't just inside our heads—they're spread throughout our bodies and beyond. Only once we come to terms with this can we grasp the true nature of our humanity.



### ALAN JASANOFF

is the award-winning director of the MIT Center for Neurobiological Engineering. He lives near Cambridge,

Massachusetts.

# CAROLINE ELTON

## ALSO HUMAN

*The Inner Lives of Doctors*

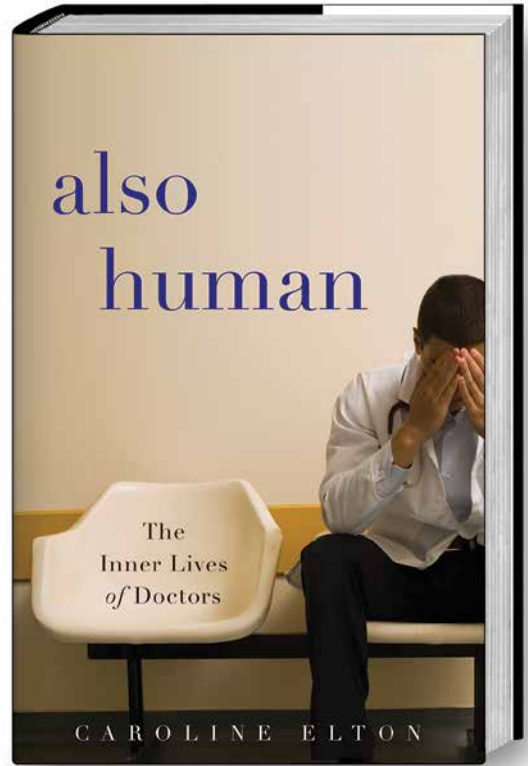
**F**rom *ER* and *M\*A\*S\*H* to *Grey's Anatomy* and *House*, the medical drama endures for good reason: we're fascinated by the people we must trust when we are most vulnerable. In *Also Human*, vocational psychologist Caroline Elton introduces us to some of the distressed physicians who have come to her for help: doctors who face psychological challenges that threaten to destroy their careers and lives, including an obstetrician grappling with his own homosexuality, a high-achieving junior doctor who walks out of her first job within weeks of starting, and an oncology resident who faints when confronted with cancer patients. Entering a doctor's office can be terrifying, sometimes for the doctor most of all. By examining the inner lives of these professionals, *Also Human* offers readers insight into, and empathy for, the very real struggles of those who hold power over life and death.



### CAROLINE ELTON

is a vocational psychologist who has spent the last twenty years working with doctors. She received her PhD from

University College London's School of Medicine, and set up and led the Careers Unit, supporting doctors in over seventy hospitals across London for the National Health Service. She lives in London.



**A psychologist's stories of doctors who seek to help others but struggle to help themselves**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • JUNE

Medicine / Psychology • \$30.00 US

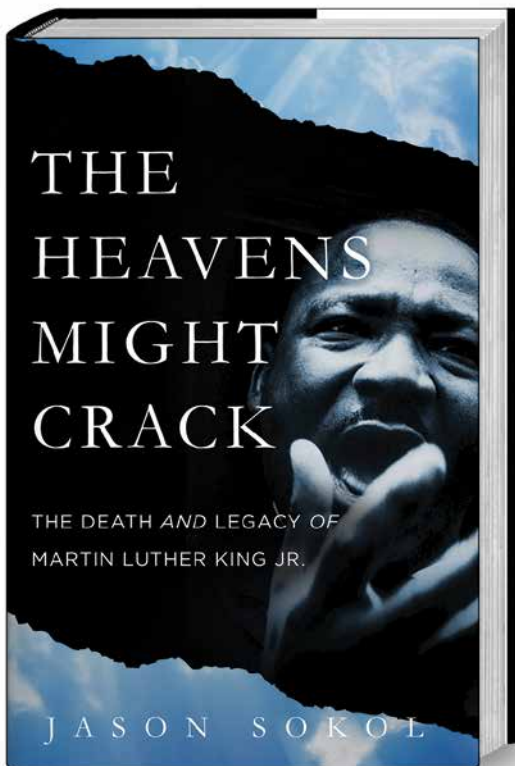
6 x 9-1/4 • 352 pages

978-0-465-09373-1

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09375-5

Selling Territory: US

Author photo © Charlotte Knee Photography



**A vivid portrait of how Americans grappled with King's death in the days, weeks, and months after his assassination**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH**

History • \$30.00 / \$39.00 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 336 pages

Fifteen black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-0-465-05591-3

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-9739-3

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Nina Morrison

## JASON SOKOL

### THE HEAVENS MIGHT CRACK

*The Death and Legacy of  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

**O**n April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was fatally shot as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. At the time of his murder, King was a polarizing figure—scorned by many white Americans, worshipped by some African Americans and liberal whites, and deemed irrelevant by many blackyouth. In *The Heavens Might Crack*, historian Jason Sokol traces the diverse responses, both in America and throughout the world, to King's death. Whether celebrating or mourning, most agreed that the final flicker of hope for a multi-racial America had been extinguished.

A deeply moving account of a country coming to terms with an act of shocking violence, *The Heavens Might Crack* is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand America's fraught racial past and present.



### JASON SOKOL

is the Arthur K. Whitcomb Associate Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire. The author of two critically acclaimed books on the history of the civil rights movement, Sokol lives in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

# LIAN XI

## BLOOD LETTERS

*The Untold Story of Lin Zhao,  
a Martyr in Mao's China*

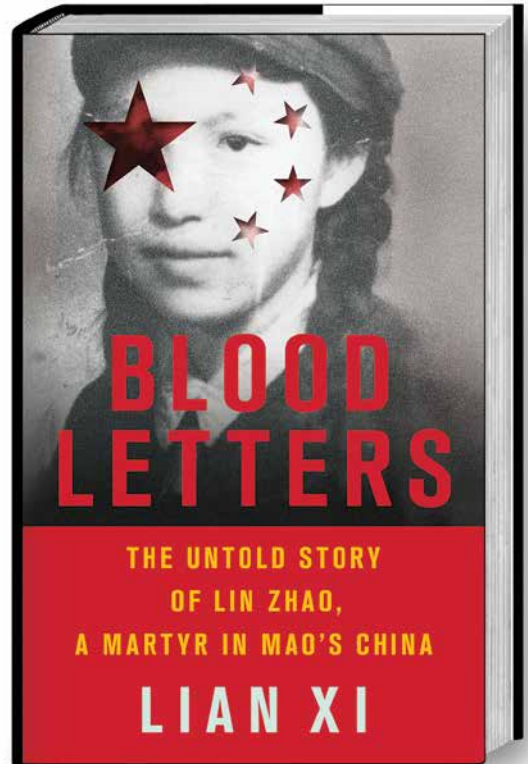
**B**lood Letters tells the astonishing tale of Lin Zhao, a poet and journalist arrested by the authorities in 1960 and executed eight years later, at the height of the Cultural Revolution. The only Chinese citizen known to have openly and steadfastly opposed communism under Mao, she rooted her dissent in her Christian faith—and expressed it in long, prophetic writings done in her own blood, and at times on her clothes and on cloth torn from her bedsheets.

Miraculously, Lin Zhao's prison writings survived, though they have only recently come to light. Drawing on these works and others from the years before her arrest, as well as interviews with her friends, her classmates, and other former political prisoners, Lian Xi paints an indelible portrait of courage and faith in the face of unrelenting evil.



**LIAN XI** is a professor of world Christianity at Duke Divinity School. The author of *Redeemed by Fire* and *The Conversion of Missionaries*, he

lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



**The staggering story of the most important Chinese political dissident of the Mao era, a devout Christian who was imprisoned, tortured, and executed by the regime**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • MARCH

History • \$30.00 / \$39.00 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 352 pages

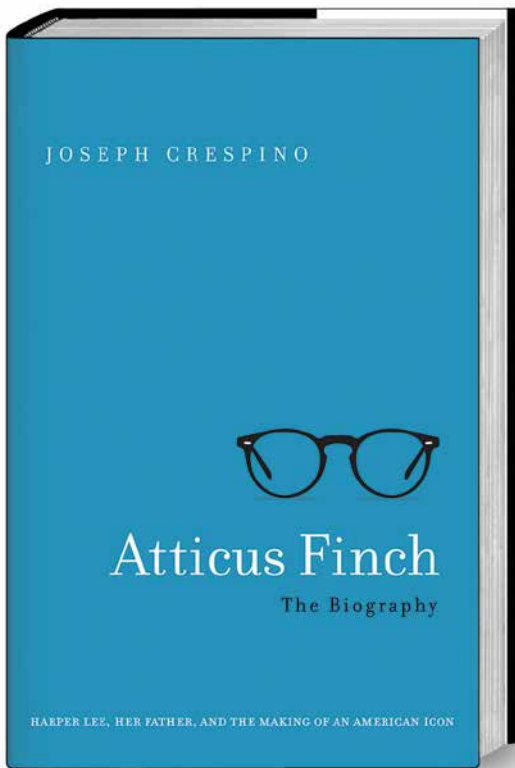
Fifteen black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-4423-6

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4422-9

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Duke Photography



## Who was the real Atticus Finch?

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### NEW HARDCOVER • MAY

Biography / Literature • \$28.00 US

6 x 9-1/4 • 272 pages

Ten black-and-white illustrations

978-1-5416-4494-6

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4495-3

Selling Territory: US

Author photo © Kay Hinton

# JOSEPH CRESPINO

ATTICUS FINCH

*The Biography*

The publication of *Go Set a Watchman* in 2015 forever changed how we think about Atticus Finch. Once seen as a paragon of decency, he was reduced to a small-town racist. How are we to understand this transformation?

In *Atticus Finch*, historian Joseph Crespino draws on exclusive sources to reveal how Harper Lee's father provided the central inspiration for each of her books. A lawyer and newspaperman, A. C. Lee was a principled opponent of mob rule, yet he was also a racial paternalist. Harper Lee created the Atticus of *Watchman* out of the ambivalence she felt toward white southerners like him. But when a militant segregationist movement arose that mocked his values, she revised the character in *To Kill a Mockingbird* to defend her father and to remind the South of its best traditions. A story of family and literature amid the upheavals of the twentieth century, *Atticus Finch* is essential to understanding Harper Lee, her novels, and her times.

**JOSEPH CRESPINO** is the Jimmy Carter



Professor of history at Emory University. He is the author of *In Search of Another Country*, winner of the 2008 Lillian Smith Book Award from the

Southern Regional Council, and *Strom Thurmond's America*. He lives in Decatur, Georgia.

# DAMBISA MOYO

## EDGE OF CHAOS

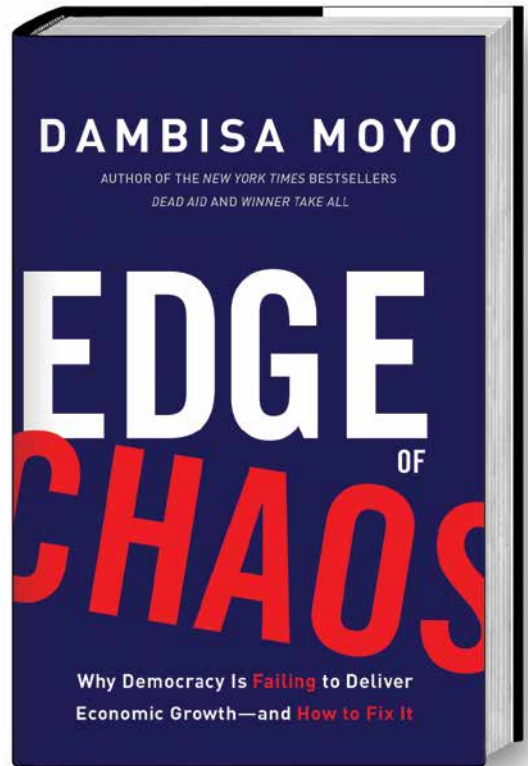
*Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver  
Economic Growth—and How to Fix It*

**A**round the world, people who are angry at stagnant wages and growing inequality have rebelled against established governments and turned to political extremes. Liberal democracy, history's greatest engine of growth, now struggles to overcome unprecedented economic headwinds—from aging populations to scarce resources to unsustainable debt burdens. Hobbled by short-term thinking and ideological dogma, democracies risk falling prey to nationalism and protectionism that will deliver declining living standards.

In *Edge of Chaos*, Dambisa Moyo shows why economic growth is essential to global stability, and why liberal democracies are failing to produce it today. Rather than turning away from democracy, she argues, we must fundamentally reform it. *Edge of Chaos* presents a radical blueprint for change in order to galvanize growth and ensure the survival of democracy in the twenty-first century.



**DAMBISA MOYO** is a prize-winning economist. The author of *New York Times* bestsellers *Winner Take All* and *Dead Aid*, she was named one of the “100 Most Influential People in the World” by *Time Magazine*. Moyo is a regular contributor to the *Wall Street Journal* and *Financial Times*. She lives in New York City.



**From an internationally acclaimed economist, a provocative call to jump-start economic growth by aggressively overhauling liberal democracy**

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### NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL

Economics / Current Events • \$28.00 / \$36.50 CAN

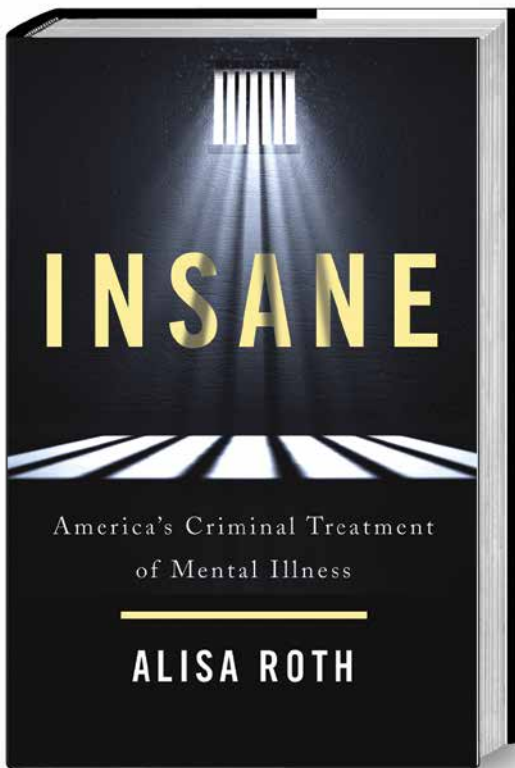
6 x 9-1/4 • 272 pages

978-0-465-09746-3

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09747-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Helen Jones Photography



**An urgent exposé of the mental health crisis in our courts, jails, and prisons**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL**

Law / Social Science • \$28.00 / \$36.50 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 320 pages

978-0-465-09419-6

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09420-2

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Matthew Septimus

## ALISA ROTH

### INSANE

*America's Criminal Treatment of Mental Illness*

**A**merica has made mental illness a crime. Jails in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago each house more people with mental illnesses than any hospital. Across America, as many as half of all inmates have a psychiatric problem. One in four fatal police shootings involves a person with such disorders.

In this revelatory book, journalist Alisa Roth goes deep inside the criminal justice system to show how and why it has become a warehouse where inmates are denied proper treatment, abused, and punished in ways that make them sicker.

Through intimate stories of people in the system and those trying to fix it, Roth reveals the hidden forces behind this crisis and suggests how a fairer and more humane approach might look. *Insane* is a galvanizing wake-up call for criminal justice reformers and anyone concerned about the plight of our most vulnerable.



**ALISA ROTH** is a former reporter at *Marketplace*. A Soros Justice Fellow, her work has also appeared on NPR and in the *New York Review of Books*. She lives in New York.

# LAURA JACOBS

## CELESTIAL BODIES

*How to Look at Ballet*

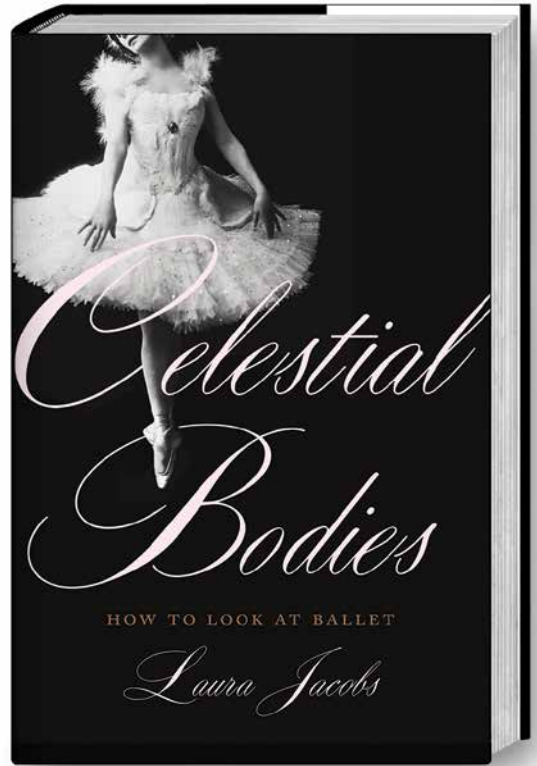
As much as we may enjoy *Swan Lake* or *The Nutcracker*, for many of us ballet is a foreign language. It communicates through movement, not words, and its history lies almost entirely abroad—in Russia, Italy, and France. In *Celestial Bodies*, dance critic Laura Jacobs makes the foreign familiar, providing a lively, poetic, and uniquely accessible introduction to the world of classical dance. Combining history, interviews with dancers, technical definitions, descriptions of performances, and personal stories, Jacobs offers an intimate and passionate guide to watching ballet and understanding the central elements of choreography.

Beautifully written and elegantly illustrated with original drawings, *Celestial Bodies* is essential reading for all lovers of this magnificent art form.



### LAURA JACOBS

is a contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* and the dance critic for the *New Criterion*, where she has been since 1994. Dubbed “our best dance critic” by the editor of *Ballet Review*, Jacobs has also written about dance for the *Atlantic*, *Chicago Reader*, and *London Review of Books*. She lives in New York City.



**A distinguished dance critic offers an enchanting introduction to the art of ballet**

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#### NEW HARDCOVER • MAY

Dance • \$27.00 / \$35.00 CAN

5-1/2 x 8-1/4 • 272 pages

Twenty-one black-and-white illustrations throughout

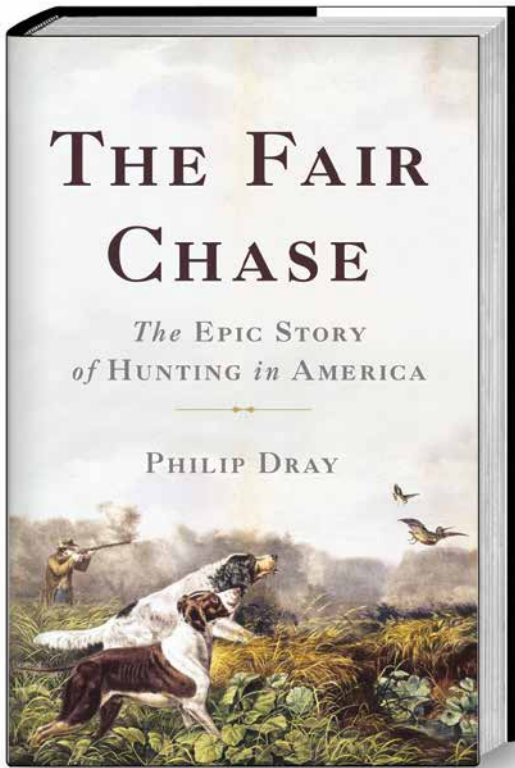
978-0-465-09847-7

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09848-4

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © James Wolcott





**An award-winning historian tells the story of hunting in America, showing how this sport has shaped our national identity**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MAY**

History • \$30.00 / \$39.00 CAN

6 x 9-1/4 • 400 pages

Twenty black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-0-465-06172-3

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1673-8

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Mindy Tucker

## PHILIP DRAY

### THE FAIR CHASE

*The Epic Story of Hunting in America*

In the nineteenth century, hunting was popularized as a cure for the “softness” of urban life. The hunting code of ethics, known as fair chase, became a kind of worldview almost overnight, permanently embedding in our culture certain ideals of independence, fairness, manliness, and resourcefulness, as well as promoting the romance of the West. But hunting is also entwined with some of the more fraught aspects of American history, including the appropriation of Native American culture, Manifest Destiny, and even eugenics and Social Darwinism.

In this sweeping, empathetic, and balanced book, historian Philip Dray explores how hunting has shaped the American psyche.



**PHILIP DRAY** is a historian who has written or coauthored seven books on American history and culture, including *At the Hands of Persons Unknown*, which won the Robert F. Kennedy Book Prize and the Southern Book Critics Circle Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Dray lives in Brooklyn, New York.

# ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY

## HADRIAN'S WALL

**S**tretching eighty miles from coast to coast across northern England, Hadrian's Wall is the largest Roman artifact known today. It is commonly viewed as a defiant barrier, the end of the empire, a place where civilization stopped and barbarism began. In fact, the massive structure remains shrouded in mystery. Was the wall intended to keep out the Picts, who inhabited the North? Or was it merely a symbol of Roman power and wealth? What was life like for soldiers stationed along its expanse? How was the extraordinary structure built—with what technology, skills, and materials?

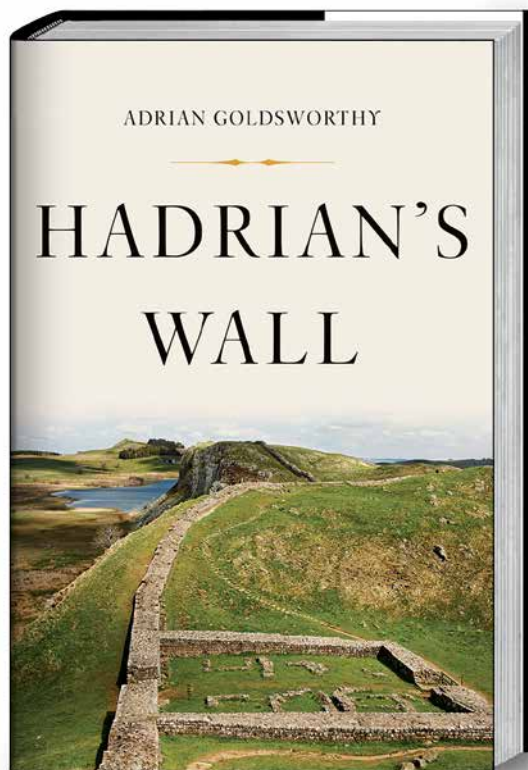
In *Hadrian's Wall*, Adrian Goldsworthy embarks on a historical and archeological investigation, sifting fact from legend while simultaneously situating the wall in the wider scene of Roman Britain. The result is a concise and enthralling history of a great architectural marvel of the ancient world.

**ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY** is an



award-winning historian of the classical world. He is the author of numerous books about ancient Rome, including *Caesar*, *How Rome Fell*,

*Pax Romana*, and *Augustus*. Goldsworthy lives in South Wales.



**From an award-winning historian of ancient Rome, a definitive history of Hadrian's Wall**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • APRIL**

History • \$25.00 / \$32.50 CAN

5 x 7-1/2 • 192 pages

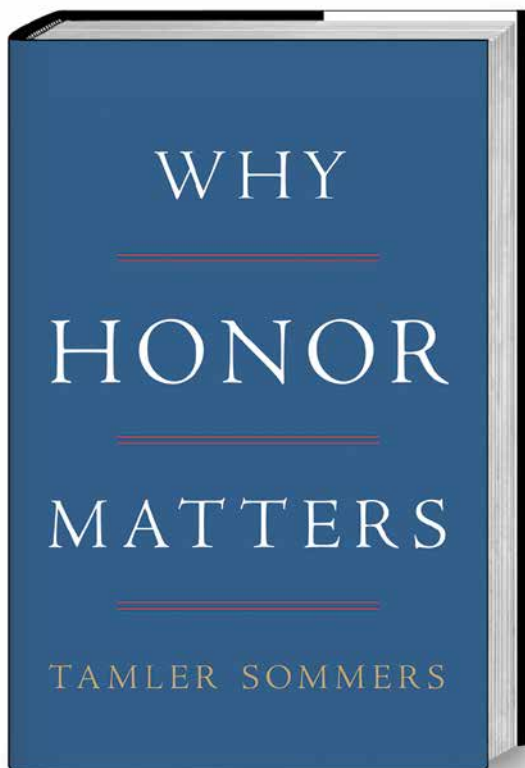
Thirty-three black-and-white illustrations  
and four maps throughout

978-1-5416-4442-7

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4445-8

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Jo Nixon



**A controversial call to put honor at the center of morality**

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**NEW HARDCOVER • MAY**

Philosophy • \$27.00 / \$35.00 CAN

5-1/2 x 8-1/4 • 272 pages

978-0-465-09887-3

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09888-0

Selling Territory: WxUK,CW

Author photo © Jaime Lagdameo

# TAMLER SOMMERS

## WHY HONOR MATTERS

To the modern mind, the idea of honor is outdated, sexist, and barbaric. It evokes Hamilton and Burr and pistols at dawn, not visions of a well-organized society. But for philosopher Tamler Sommers, a sense of honor is essential to living moral lives. In *Why Honor Matters*, Sommers argues that our collective rejection of honor has come at great cost. Reliant only on Enlightenment liberalism, the United States has become the home of the cowardly, the shameless, the selfish, and the alienated. Properly channeled, honor encourages virtues like courage, integrity, and solidarity, and gives a sense of living for something larger than oneself. Sommers shows how honor can help us address some of society's most challenging problems, including education, policing, and mass incarceration. Counterintuitive and provocative, *Why Honor Matters* makes a convincing case for honor as a cornerstone of our modern society.



### TAMLER SOMMERS

is an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Houston. He is the host of the podcast *Very Bad Wizards* and the author of two previous books. Sommers holds a PhD in philosophy from Duke University. He lives in Houston, Texas.

# JUDEA PEARL AND DANA MACKENZIE

THE BOOK OF WHY

*The New Science of Cause and Effect*

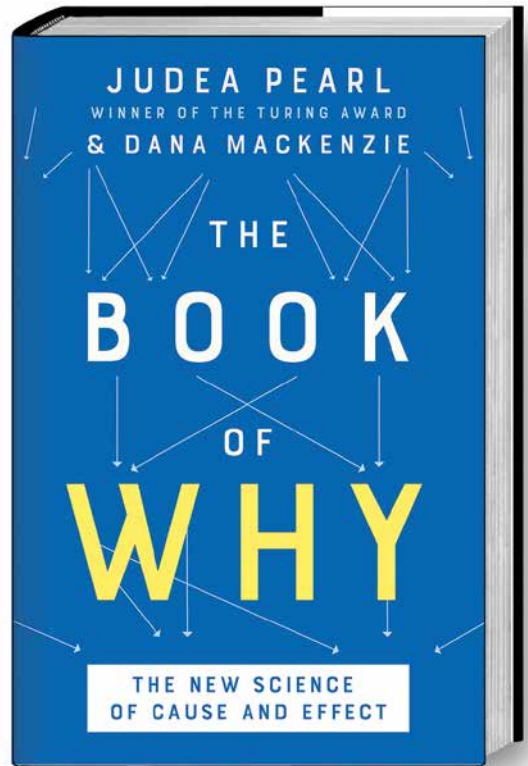
“Correlation does not imply causation.” This mantra has been invoked by scientists for decades. But today, that taboo is dead. The causal revolution, sparked by Judea Pearl and his colleagues, has cut through a century of confusion and placed causality—the study of cause and effect—on a firm scientific basis. His work explains how we can know easy things, like whether it was rain or a sprinkler that made a sidewalk wet; and how to answer hard questions, like whether a drug cured an illness. Pearl’s work enables us to know not just whether one thing caused another, it lets us explore the world that is and the worlds that could have been. It shows us the essence of human thought and the key to artificial intelligence. Anyone who wants to understand either needs *The Book of Why*.



**JUDEA PEARL** is a professor of computer science at UCLA, winner of the 2011 Turing Award, and the author of three classic technical books on causality. He lives in Los Angeles, California.



**DANA MACKENZIE** is an award-winning science writer and the author of *The Big Splat, or How Our Moon Came to Be*. He lives in Santa Cruz, California.



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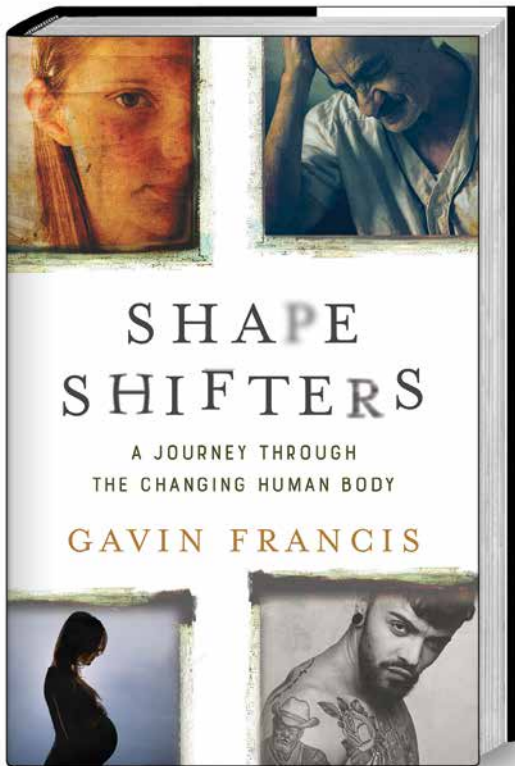
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### GAVIN FRANCIS

is a physician and the award-winning author of four books, including *Adventures in Human Being*, which has been translated into fifteen languages; *Empire Antarctica*; and *True North*. A regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*, *Guardian*, and *New York Review of Books*, Francis lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.

# THOR HANSON

## BUZZ

*The Nature and Necessity of Bees*

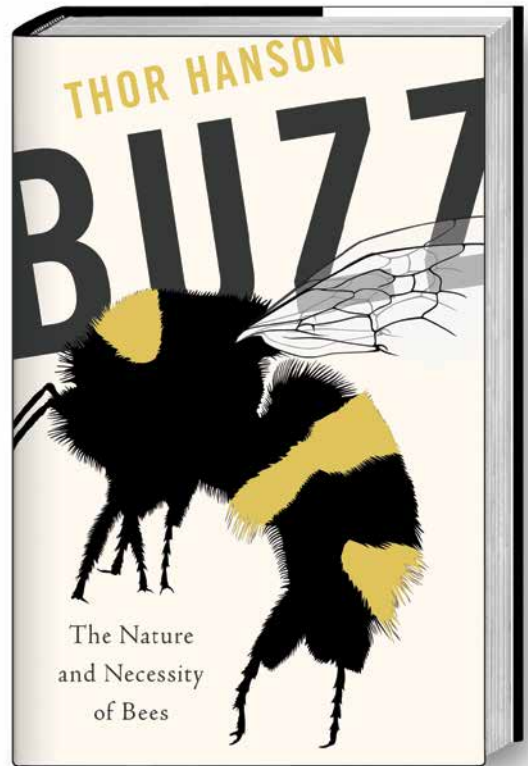
**B**ees are like oxygen: ubiquitous, essential, and, for the most part, unseen. While we might overlook them, they lie at the heart of relationships that bind the human and natural worlds. In *Buzz*, Thor Hanson takes us on a journey that begins 125 million years ago, when a wasp first dared to feed pollen to its young. From honeybees and bumbles to lesser-known diggers, miners, leafcutters, and masons, bees have long been central to our harvests, our mythologies, and our very existence. They've given us sweetness and light, the beauty of flowers, and as much as a third of the foodstuffs we eat. And, alarmingly, they are at risk of disappearing.

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**THOR HANSON** is a conservation biologist and Guggenheim fellow. He lives with his wife and son on an island in Washington State.

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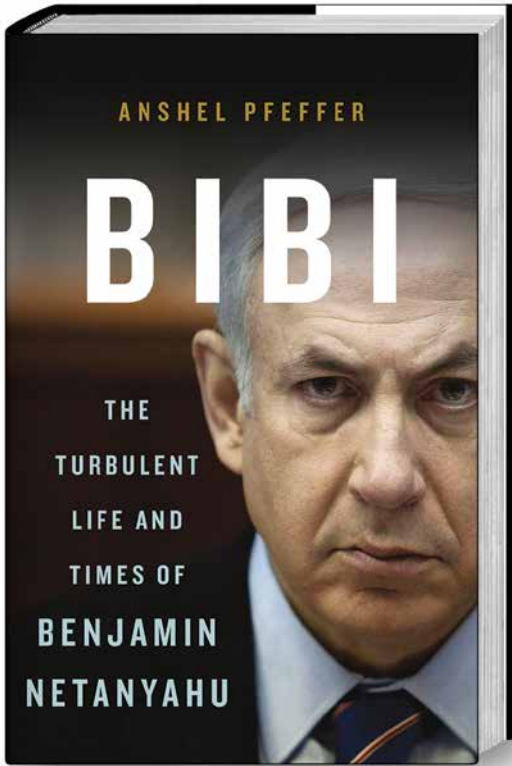
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## ANSHEL PFEFFER

### BIBI

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**F**or many in Israel and elsewhere, Benjamin Netanyahu is anathema, an embarrassment, even a precursor to Donald Trump. But he continues to dominate Israeli public life. How can we explain his rise, his hold on Israeli politics, and his outsized role on the world's stage?

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### ANSHEL PFEFFER

has covered Israeli politics and global affairs for two decades. He is a senior correspondent and columnist for *Haaretz*, the Israel correspondent for the *Economist*, and he regularly contributes to the *Guardian*. He lives in Jerusalem.

# SERHII PLOKHY

## CHERNOBYL

*The History of a Nuclear Catastrophe*

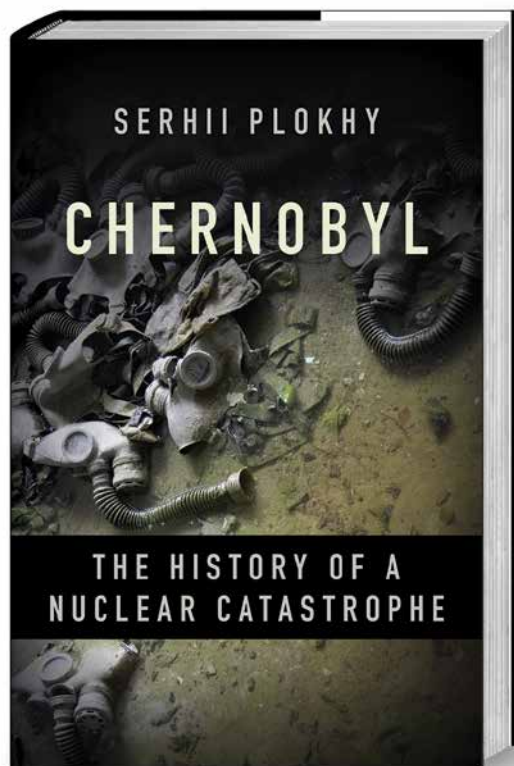
**O**n the morning of April 26, 1986, Europe witnessed the worst nuclear disaster in history: the explosion of a reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Soviet Ukraine. Dozens died of radiation poisoning, fallout contaminated half the continent, and thousands fell ill.

In *Chernobyl*, Serhii Plokhy draws on new sources to tell the dramatic stories of the fire-fighters, scientists, and soldiers who heroically extinguished the nuclear inferno. He lays bare the flaws of the Soviet nuclear industry, tracing the disaster to the authoritarian character of Communist party rule, the regime's control of scientific information, and emphasis on economic development over all else.

Today, the risk of another Chernobyl looms in the mismanagement of nuclear power in the developing world. A moving and definitive account, *Chernobyl* is also an urgent call to action.



**SERHII PLOKHY** is the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. An award-winning author of numerous books, Plokhy lives in Arlington, Massachusetts.



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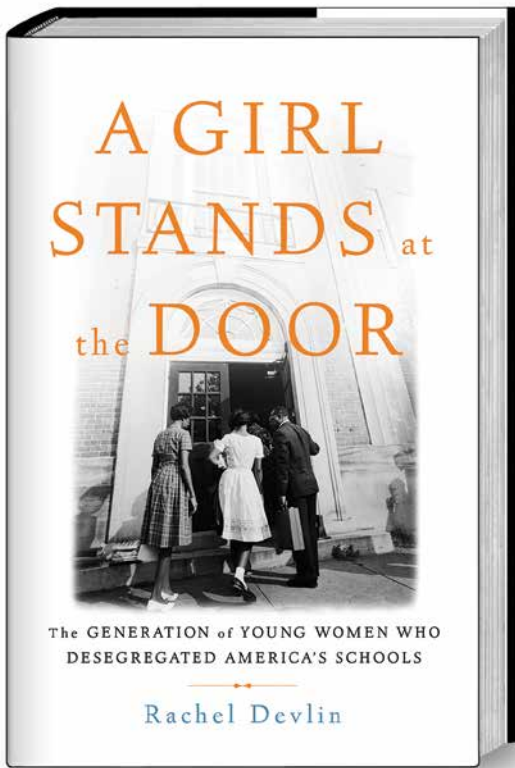
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**T**he struggle to desegregate America's schools was a grassroots movement, and young women were its vanguard. In the late 1940s, parents began to file desegregation lawsuits with their daughters, forcing Thurgood Marshall and other civil rights lawyers to take up the issue and bring it to the Supreme Court. After the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, girls far outnumbered boys in volunteering to desegregate formerly all-white schools.

In *A Girl Stands at the Door*, historian Rachel Devlin tells the remarkable stories of these desegregation pioneers. She also explains why black girls were seen, and saw themselves, as responsible for the difficult work of reaching across the color line in public schools. Highlighting the extraordinary bravery of young black women, this bold revisionist account illuminates today's ongoing struggles for equality.



### RACHEL DEVLIN

is an associate professor of history at Rutgers University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

# BRIAN A. CATLOS

## KINGDOMS OF FAITH

*A New History of Islamic Spain*

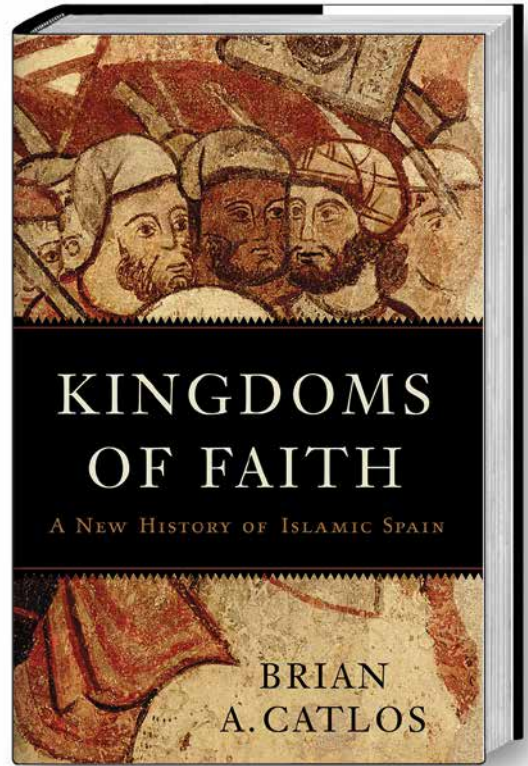
In *Kingdoms of Faith*, award-winning historian Brian A. Catlos rewrites the history of Islamic Spain from the ground up, evoking the cultural splendor of al-Andalus, while offering an authoritative new interpretation of the forces that shaped it.

Prior accounts have portrayed Islamic Spain as a paradise of enlightened tolerance or the site where civilizations clashed. Catlos taps a wide array of primary sources to paint a more complex portrait, showing how Muslims, Christians, and Jews together built a sophisticated civilization that transformed the Western world, even as they waged relentless war against each other and their coreligionists. Religion was often the language of conflict, but seldom its cause—a lesson we would do well to learn in our own time.



### BRIAN A. CATLOS

is a professor of religious studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His books have won numerous awards, including the American Historical Association's Premio del Rey Award and John E. Fagg Prize. Catlos lives in Boulder, Colorado, and Barcelona, Spain.



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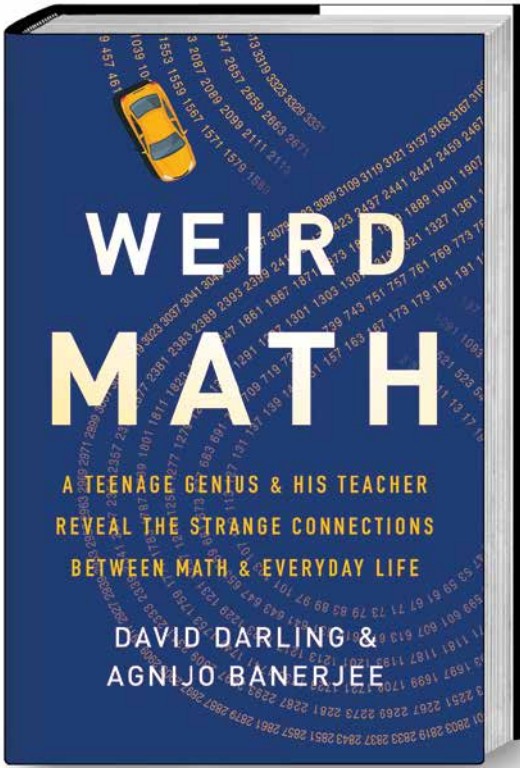
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A Teenage Genius and His Teacher Reveal the Strange Connections Between Math and Everyday Life

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**DAVID DARLING** is a science writer and astronomer. He is the author of the acclaimed *Equations of Eternity*, among other books. He lives in Dundee, Scotland.



**AGNIJO BANERJEE** is a brilliant young mathematician and child genius. A student of Darling's, he lives near Dundee, Scotland.

# LAURENCE TRIBE AND JOSHUA MATZ

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Of impeachments, one Constitutional Convention delegate declared, "A good magistrate will not fear them. A bad one will be kept in fear of them." *To End a Presidency* is an essential book for all Americans seeking to understand how this crucial but fearsome power should be exercised.



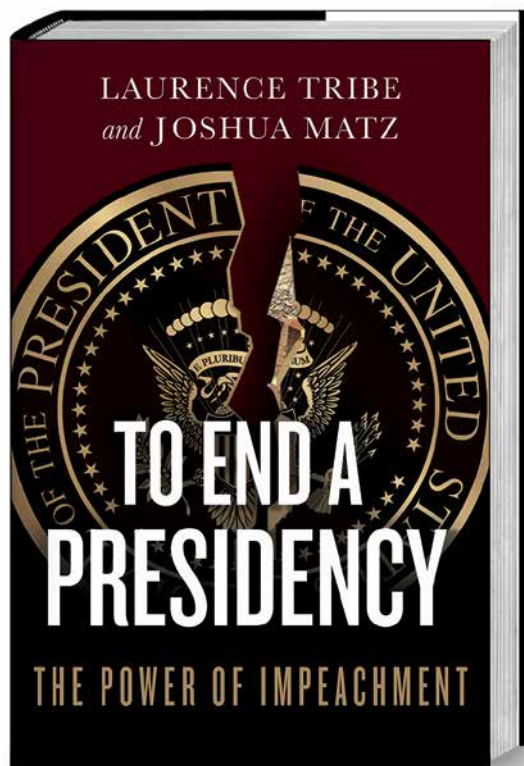
## LAURENCE TRIBE

is the Carl M. Loeb University Professor and a professor of constitutional law at Harvard. One of America's foremost constitutional scholars, he is the coauthor of *Uncertain Justice* (with Joshua Matz) and numerous other books and articles. He lives in Brookline, Massachusetts.



## JOSHUA MATZ,

a graduate of Harvard Law School, is the publisher of *Take Care*, which provides legal analysis of the Trump presidency. He lives in Washington, DC.



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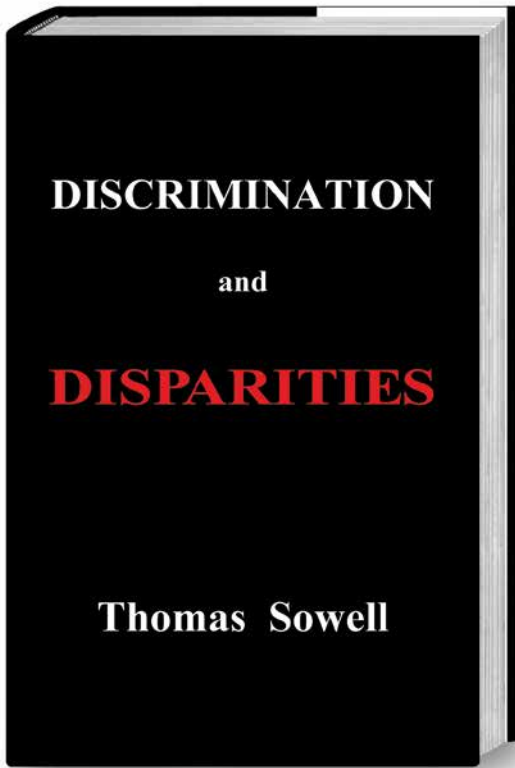
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# THOMAS SOWELL

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**THOMAS SOWELL** is a senior fellow



at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He is the author of dozens of books and the recipient of many awards.

# JAY COST

## THE PRICE OF GREATNESS

*Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and the Creation of American Oligarchy*

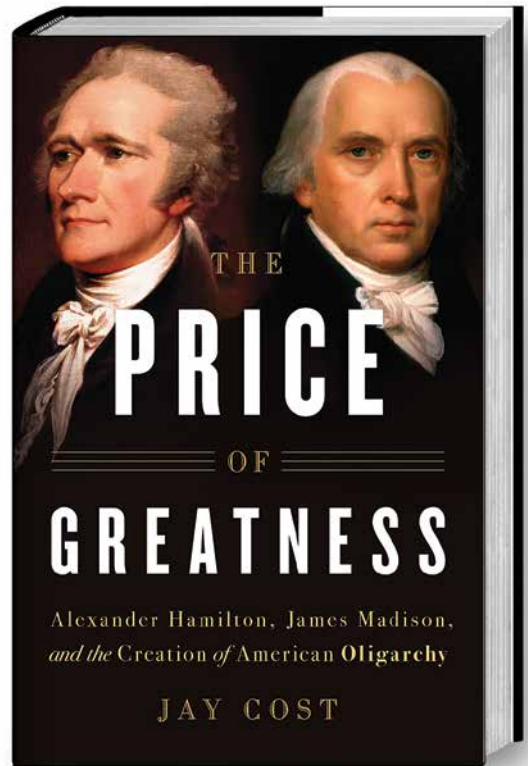
In the history of American politics there are few stories as enigmatic as that of Alexander Hamilton and James Madison's bitterly personal falling out. Together they helped bring the Constitution into being, yet soon after the new republic was born they broke over the meaning of its founding document. Hamilton emphasized economic growth, Madison the importance of republican principles.

Jay Cost is the first to argue that both men were right—and that their quarrel reveals a fundamental paradox at the heart of the American experiment. He shows that each man in his own way came to accept corruption as a necessary cost of growth. *The Price of Greatness* reveals the trade-off that made the United States the richest nation in human history, and that continues to fracture our politics to this day.



**JAY COST** is a senior writer at the *Weekly Standard* and has written for the *Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, and *Commentary*. He holds a

PhD in political philosophy from the University of Chicago. The author of *A Republic No More*, he lives in Harmony, Pennsylvania.



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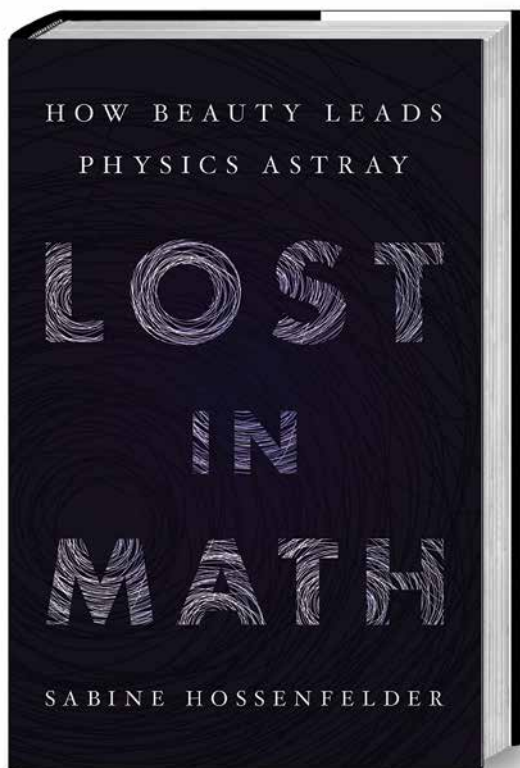
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**Most physicists think of beauty as the royal road to discovery; a leading critic shows it is instead the road to nowhere**

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# SABINE HOSSENFELDER

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**SABINE HOSSENFELDER** is a re-



search fellow at the Frankfurt Institute for Advanced Studies and the author of the popular physics blog Backreaction. She has written for

*New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, and *NOVA*. She lives in Heidelberg, Germany.

# DAVID RUNCIMAN

## HOW DEMOCRACY ENDS

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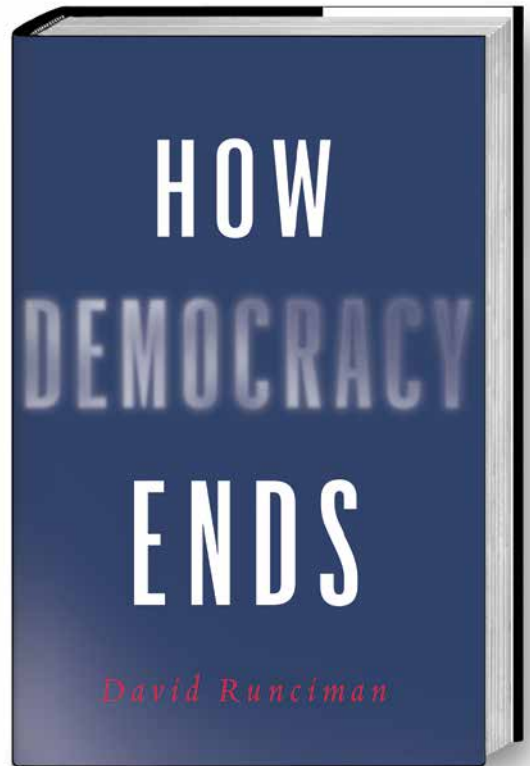
In *How Democracy Ends*, David Runciman argues that we are trapped in outdated twentieth-century ideas of democratic failure. By fixating on coups and violence, we are focusing on the wrong threats. Our societies are too affluent, too elderly, and too networked to fall apart as they did in the past. We need new ways of thinking the unthinkable—a twenty-first-century vision of the end of democracy, and whether its collapse might allow us to move forward to something better.

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### DAVID RUNCIMAN

is a professor of politics at Cambridge University. The author of five previous books and a contributing editor to the *London Review of Books*, he hosts the widely-acclaimed podcast *Talking Politics*. Runciman lives in Cambridge, United Kingdom.



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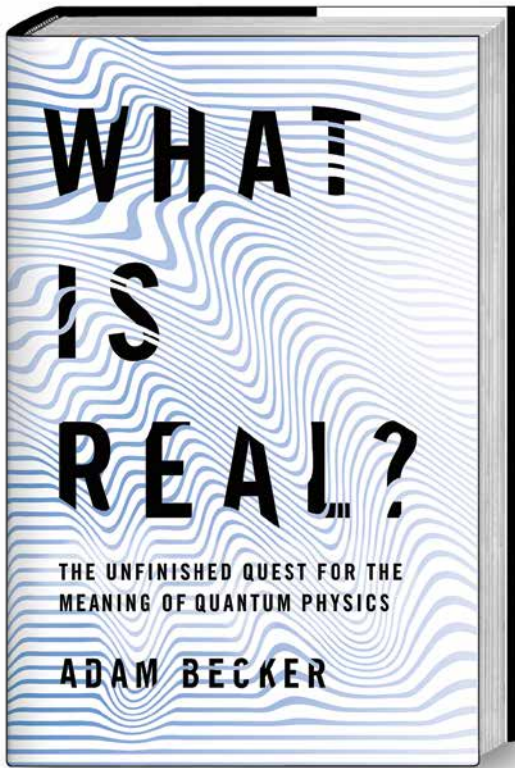
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## ADAM BECKER

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**ADAM BECKER** is a science writer with a PhD in astrophysics. He has written for the BBC and *New Scientist*, and is a visiting scholar at

UC Berkeley's Office for History of Science and Technology. He lives in Oakland, California.

# CHARLES S. COCKELL

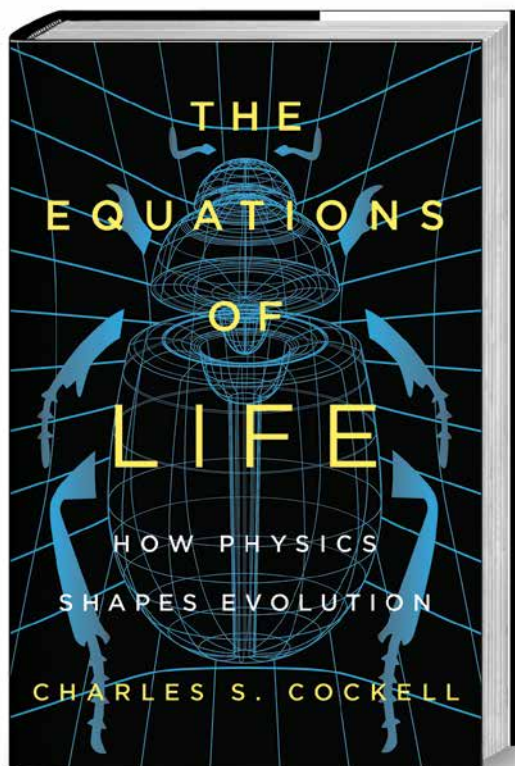
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A remarkable scientific contribution breathing new life into Darwin's theory of evolution, *The Equations of Life* makes a radical argument about what life can—and can't—be.

**CHARLES S. COCKELL** is a professor of astrobiology at the University of Edinburgh and the director of the UK Centre for Astrobiology. He lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.



**A groundbreaking new theory of evolution, arguing that life develops in predictable ways**

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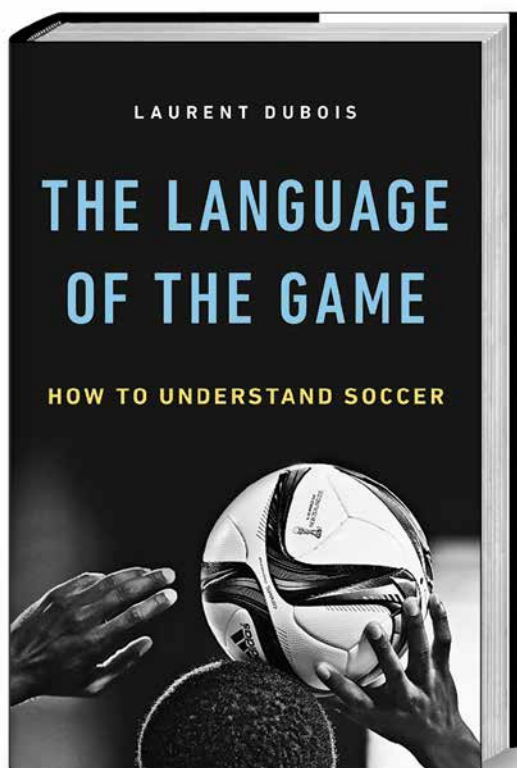
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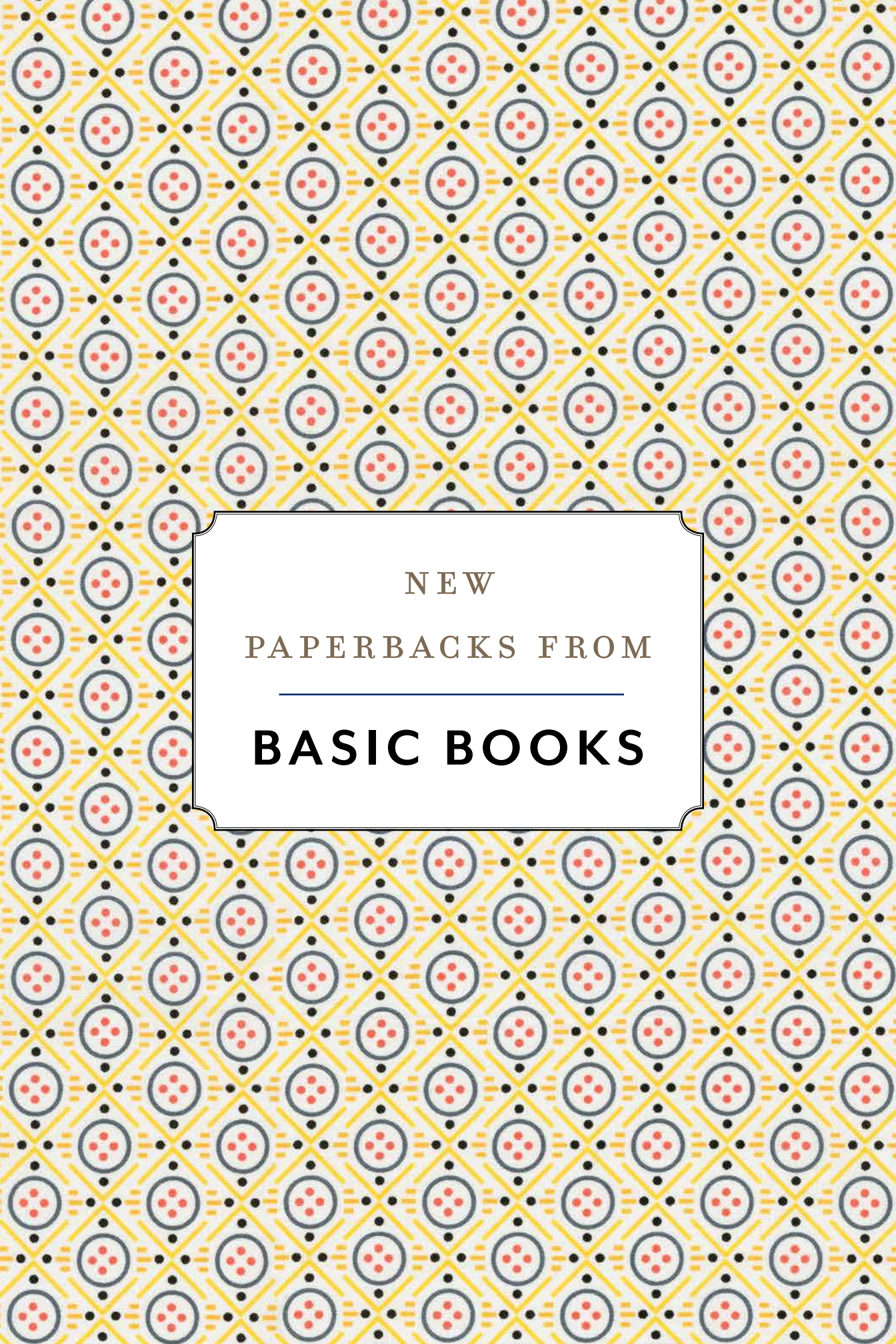
Filled with perceptive insights and stories both legendary and little known, *The Language of the Game* is a rewarding read for anyone seeking to understand soccer better.



### LAURENT DUBOIS

is a professor of romance studies and history at Duke University, where he teaches the popular course Soccer

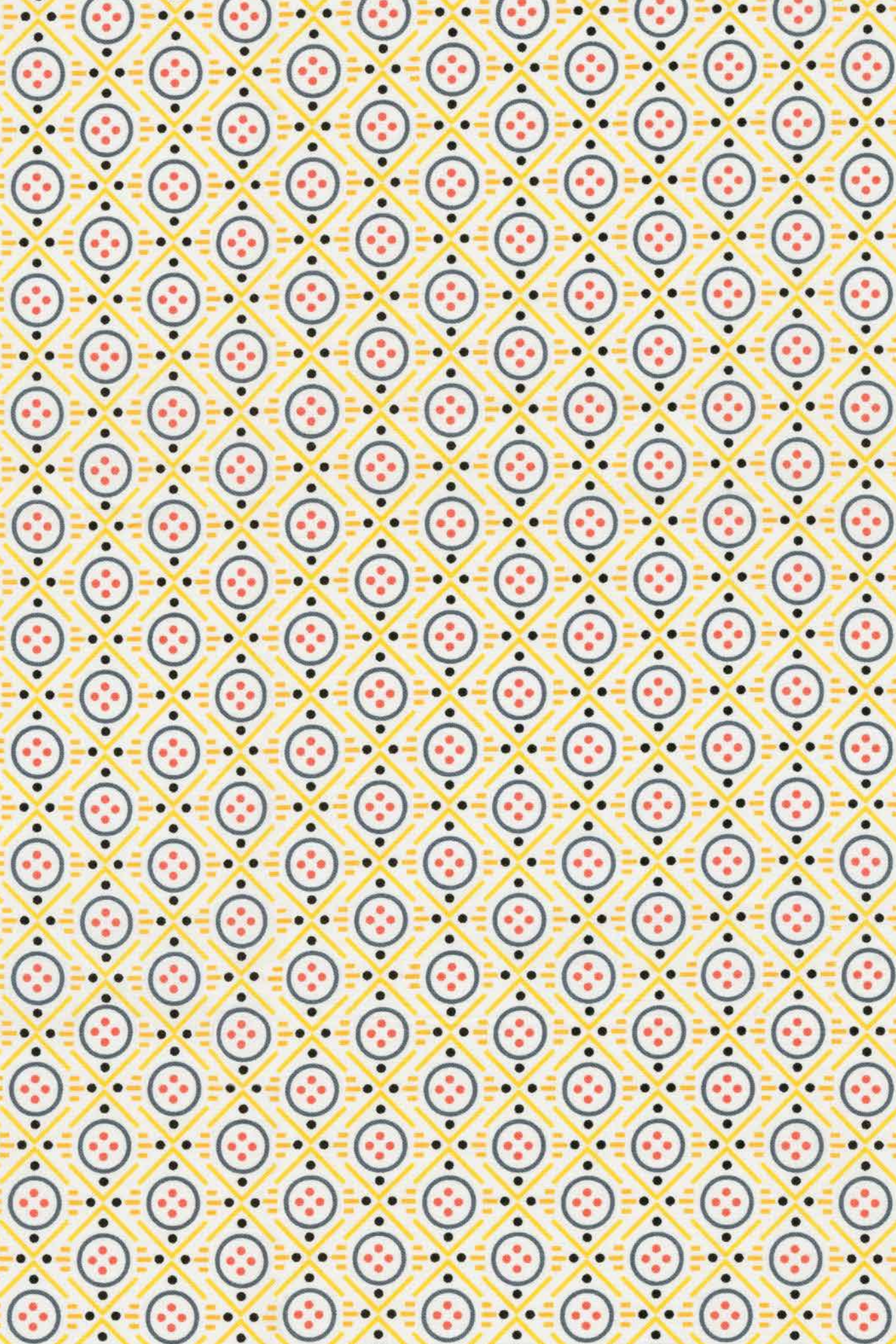
Politics. The prize-winning author of five books, including *The Banjo*, *Haiti*, and *Soccer Empire*, he lives in Durham, North Carolina.



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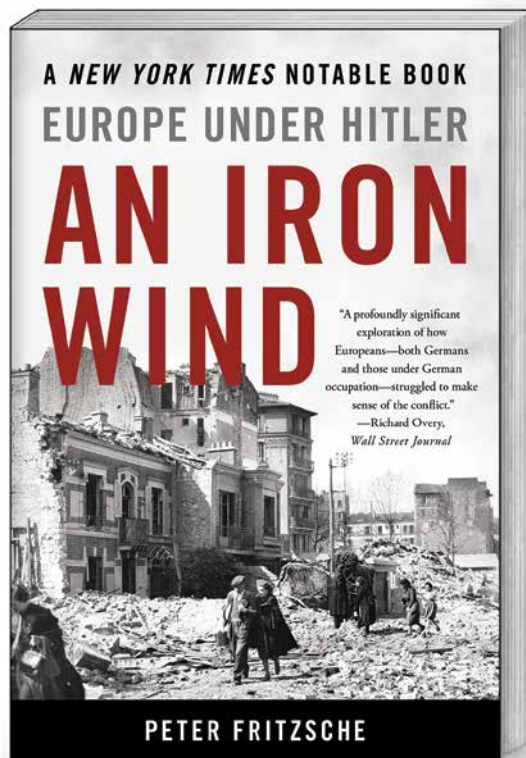
—*Christian Science Monitor*

**PETER FRITZSCHE** is the W. D. & Sarah



E. Trowbridge Professor of History at the University of Illinois. The author of nine books, including the award-winning *Life and Death in the*

*Third Reich*, he lives in Urbana, Illinois.



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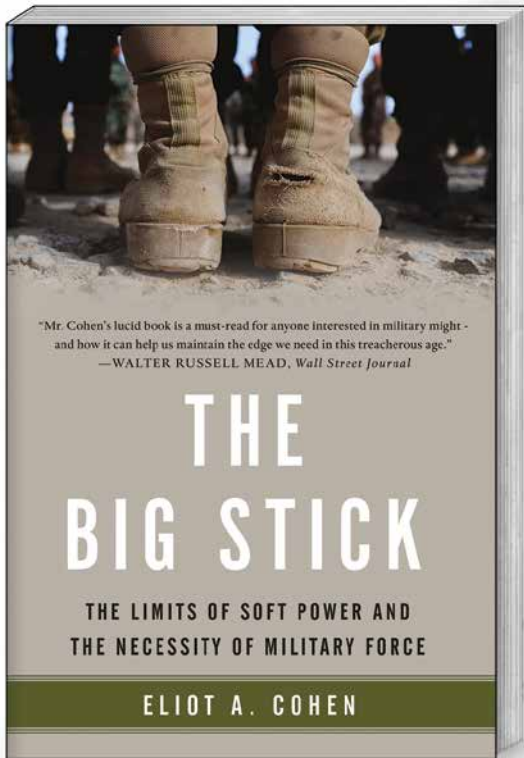
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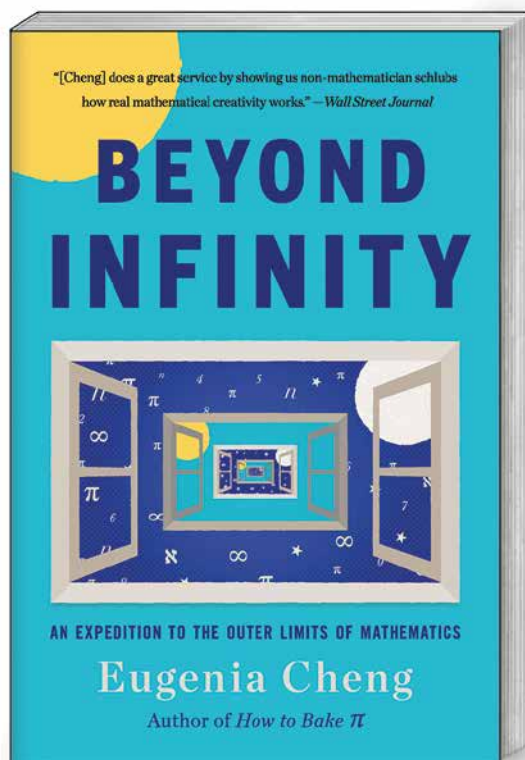
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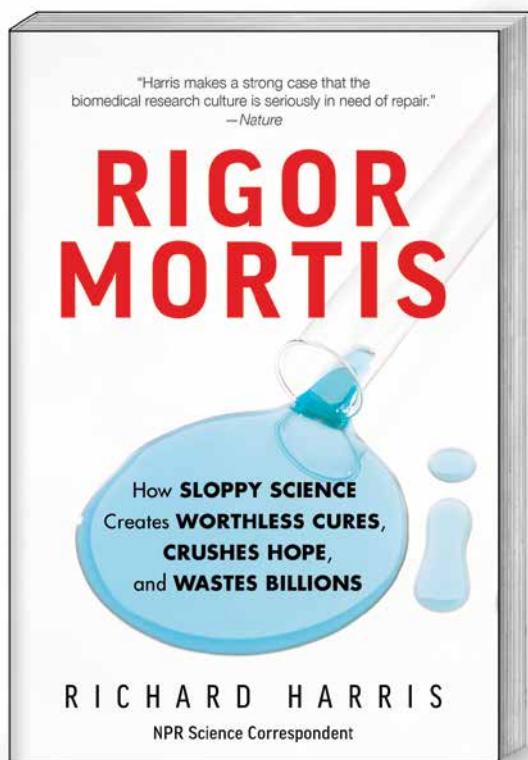
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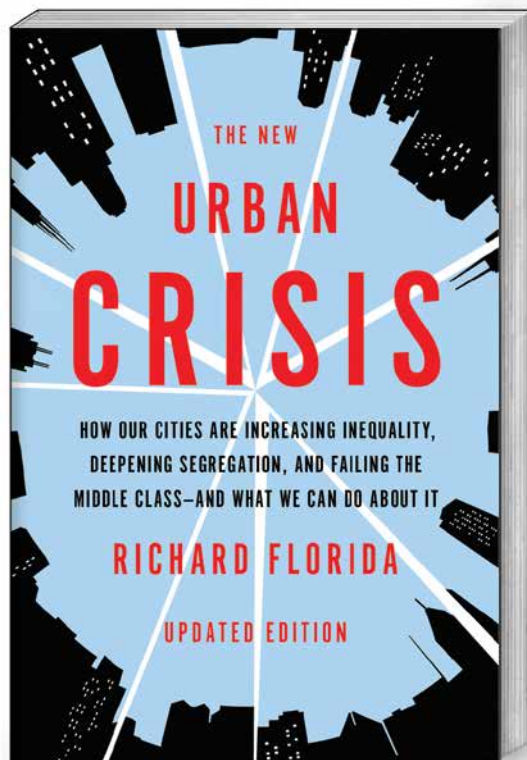
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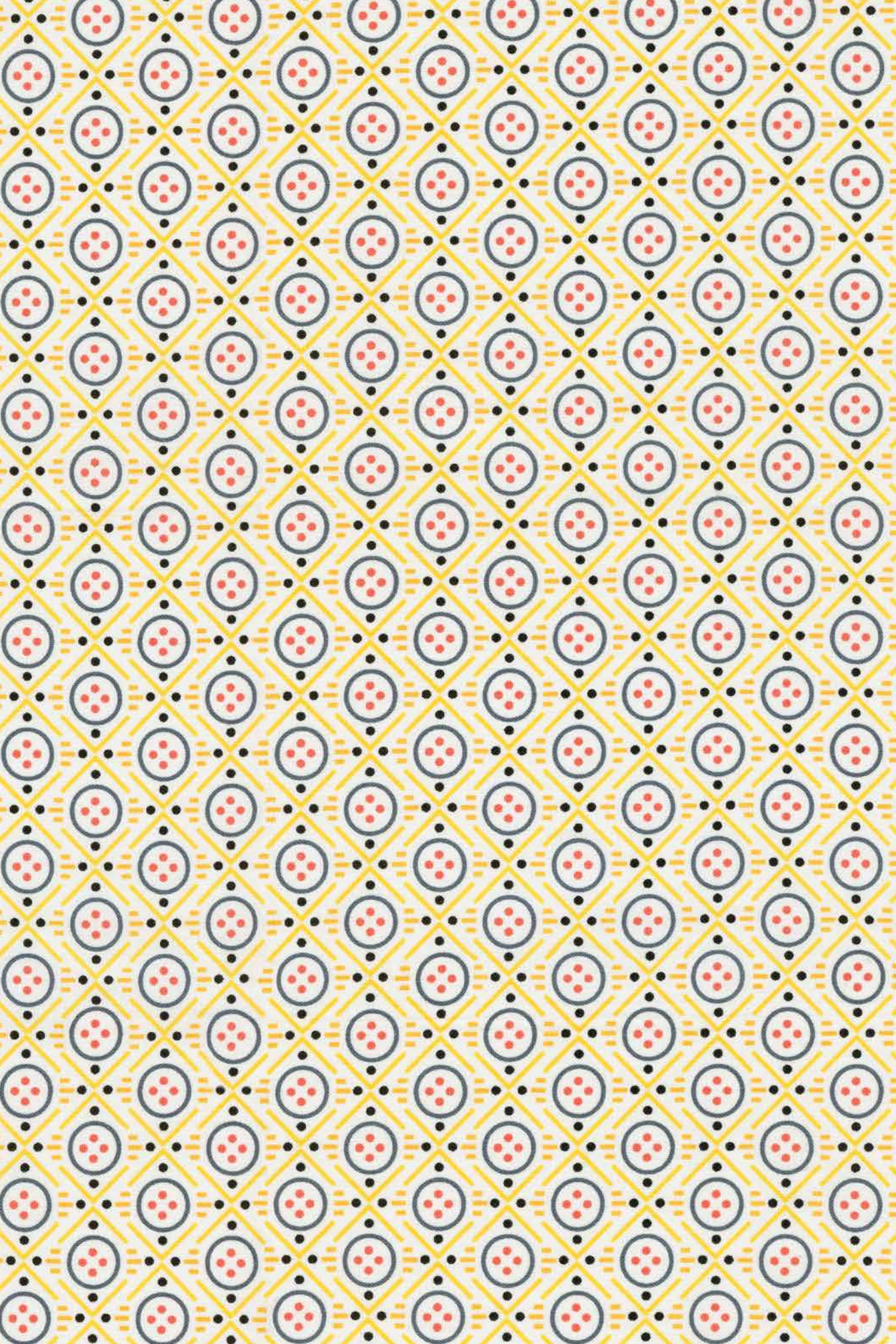
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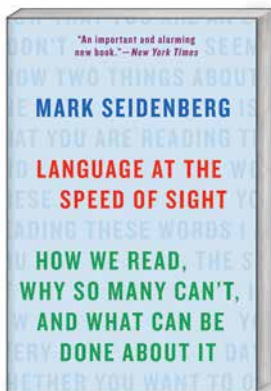


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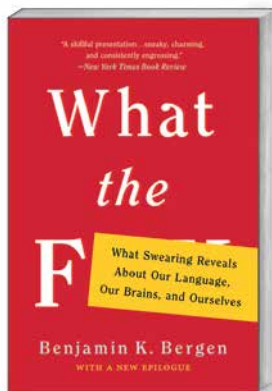
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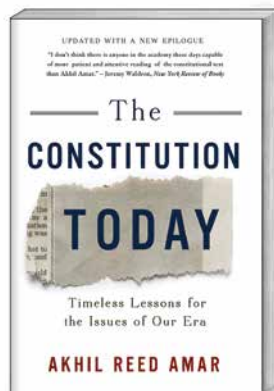
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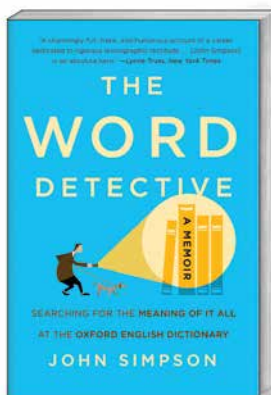
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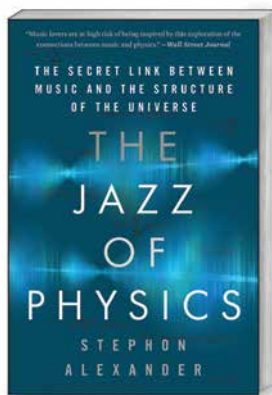
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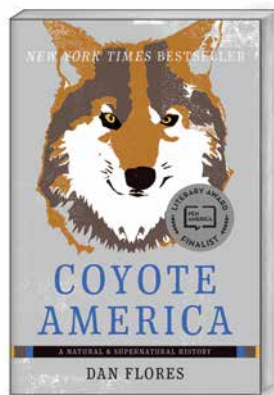
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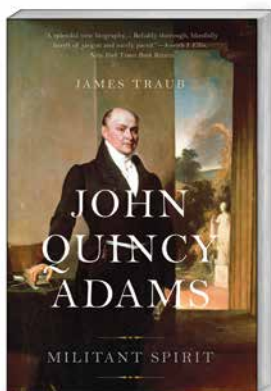
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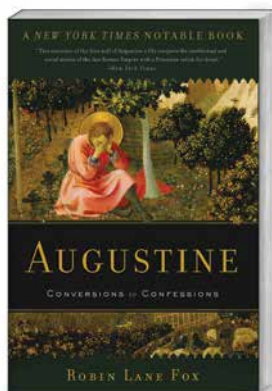
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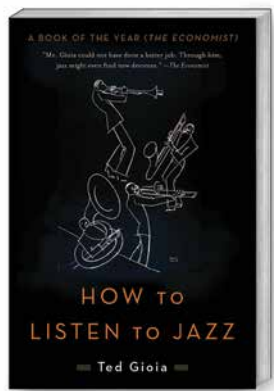
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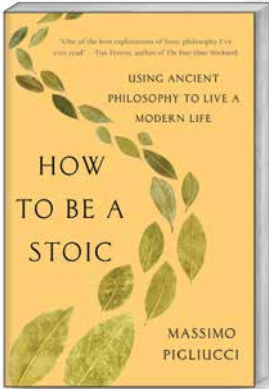


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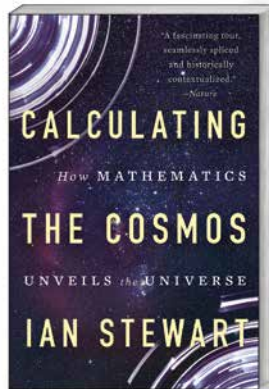


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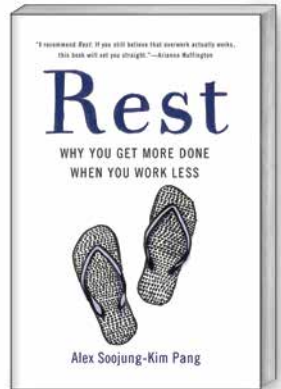
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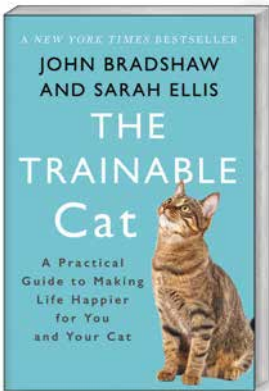
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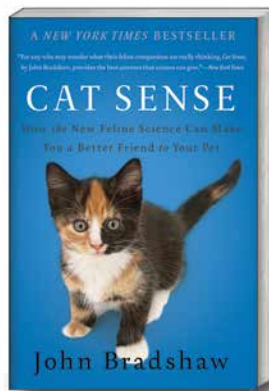
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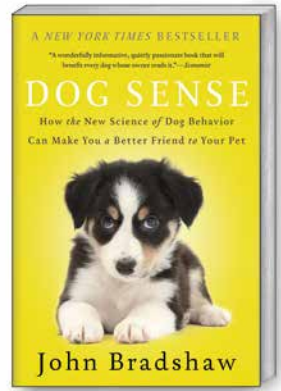
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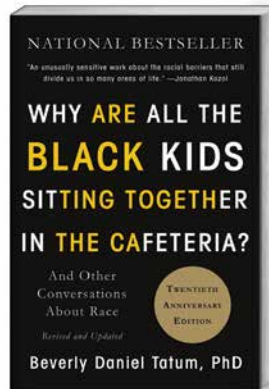
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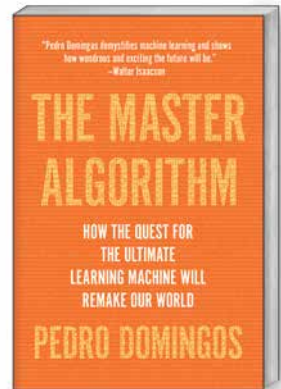
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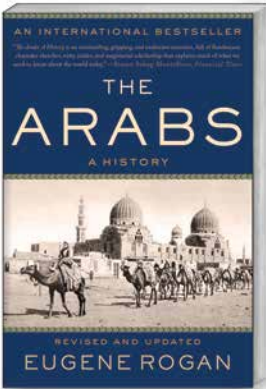


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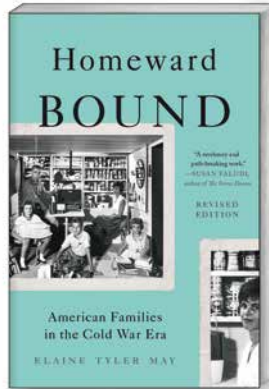
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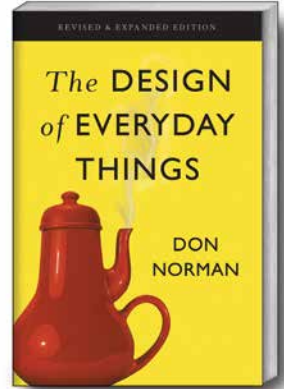
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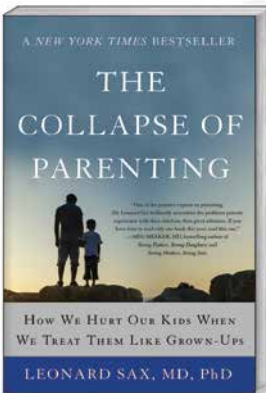
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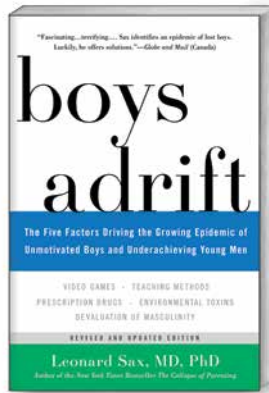
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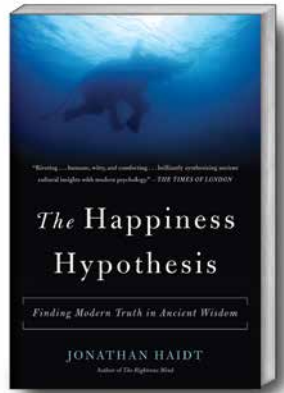
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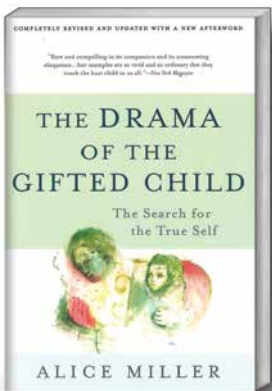
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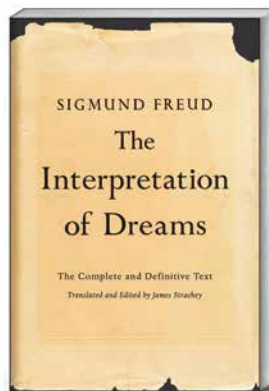
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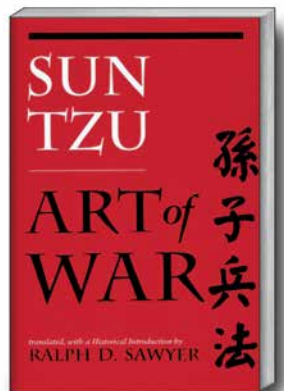
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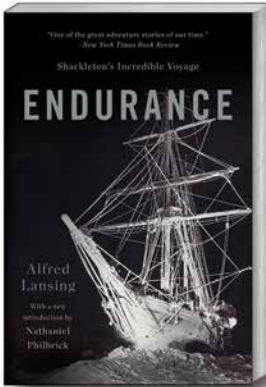


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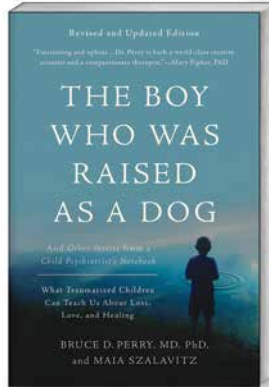
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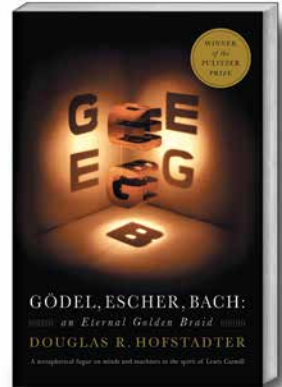
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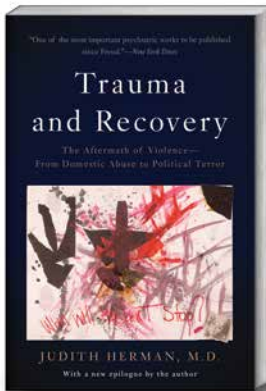
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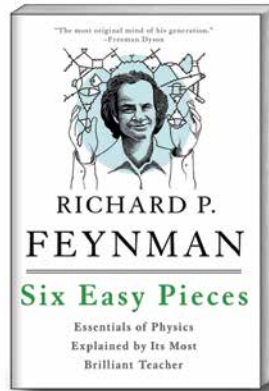
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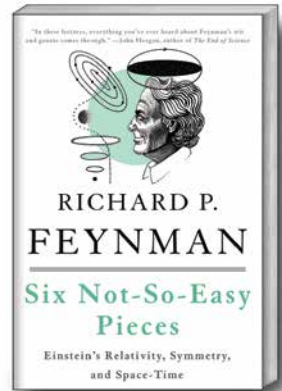
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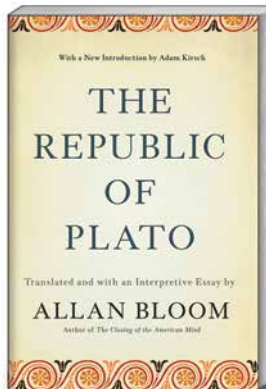
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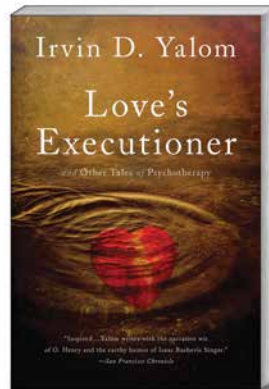
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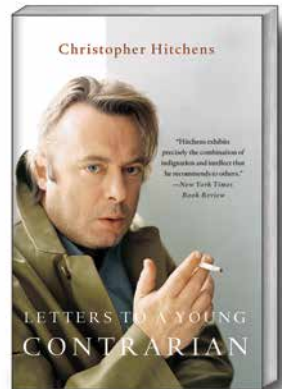
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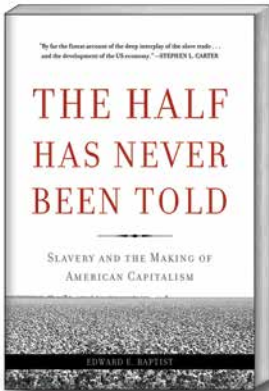
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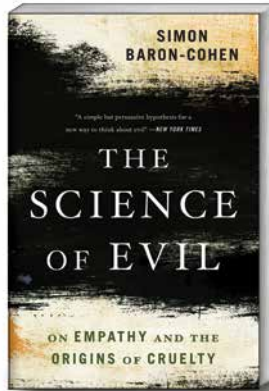
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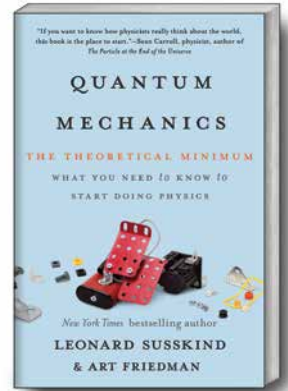
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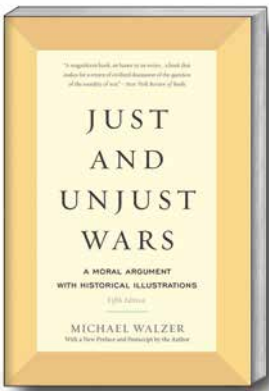
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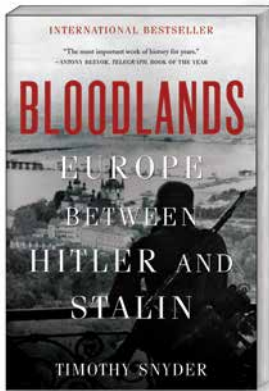
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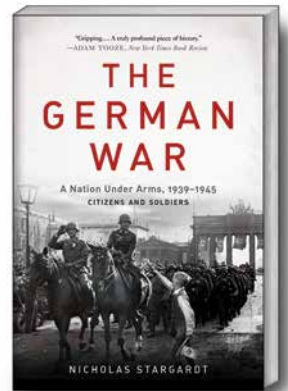
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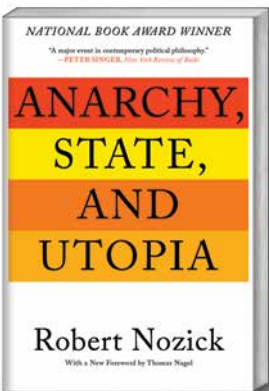
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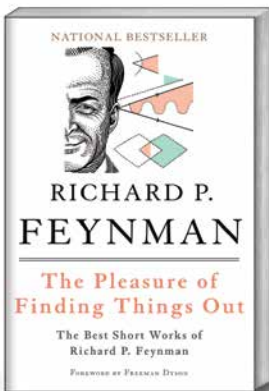
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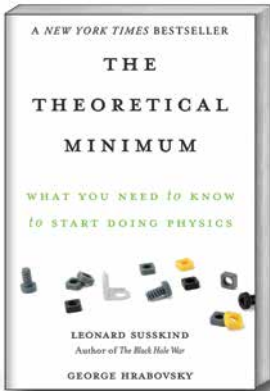


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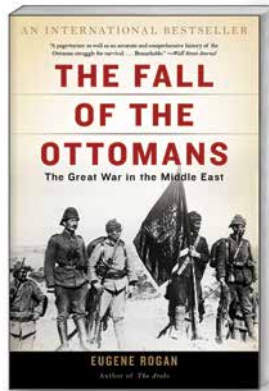
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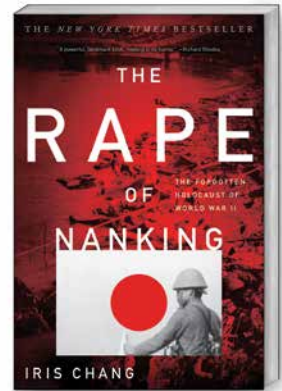
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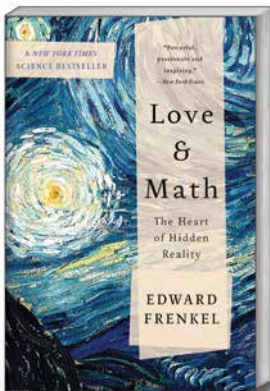
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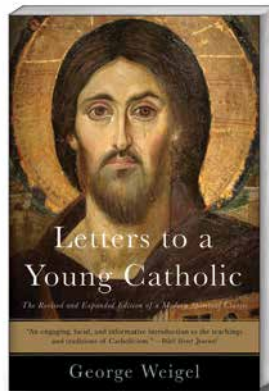
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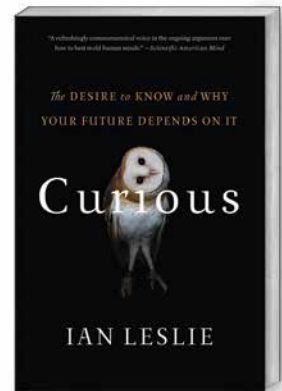
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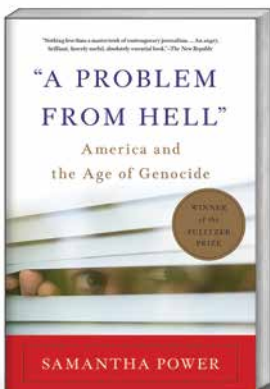
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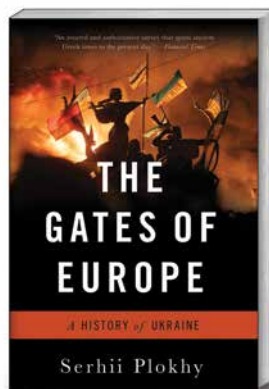
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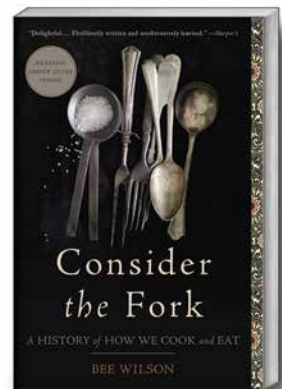
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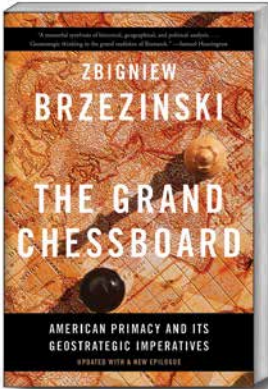


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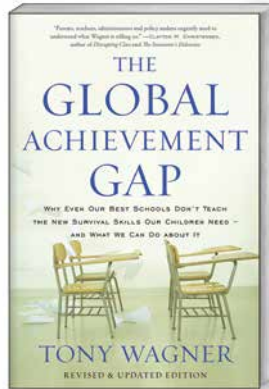
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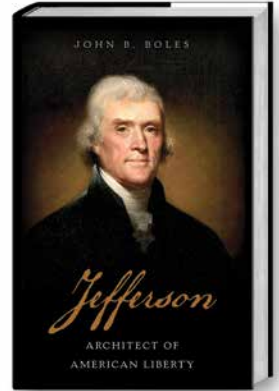
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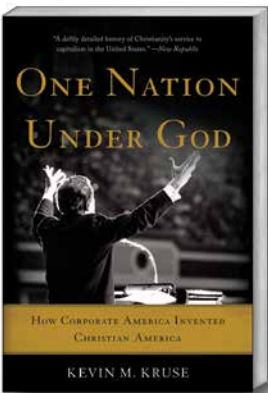
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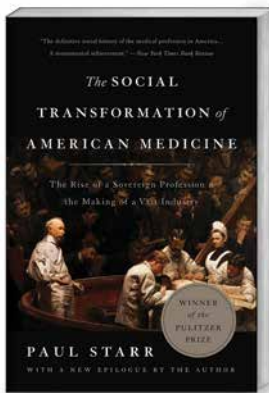
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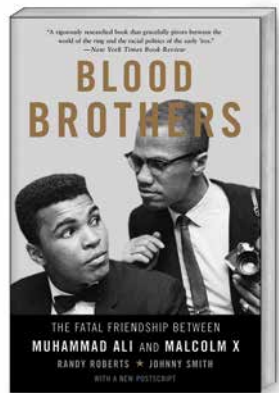
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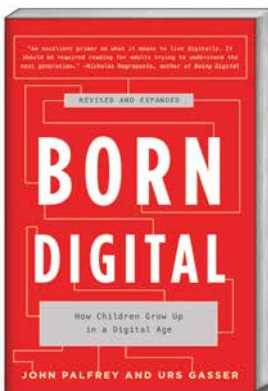
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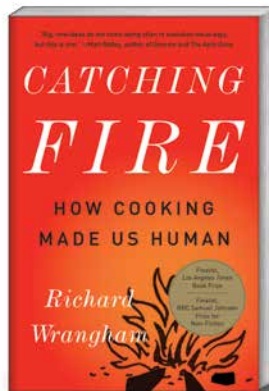
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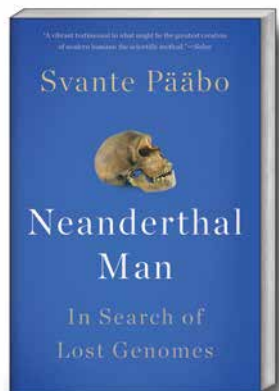
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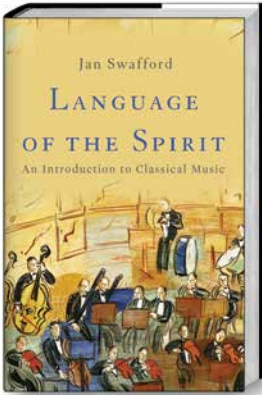


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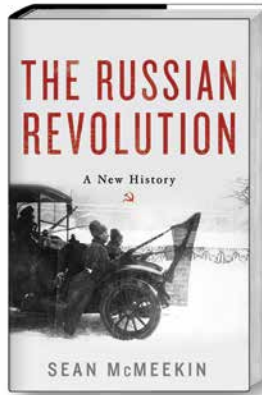


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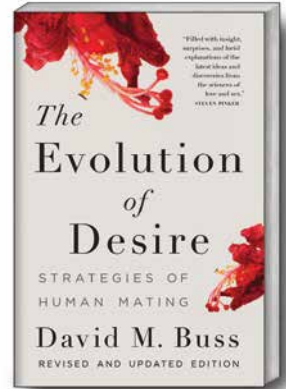
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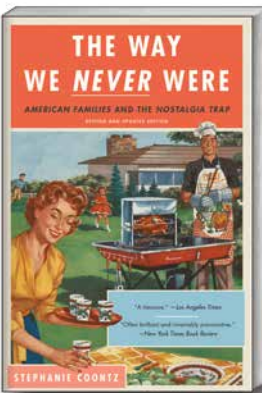
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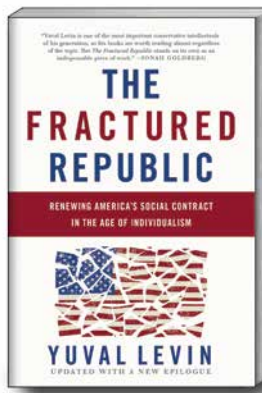
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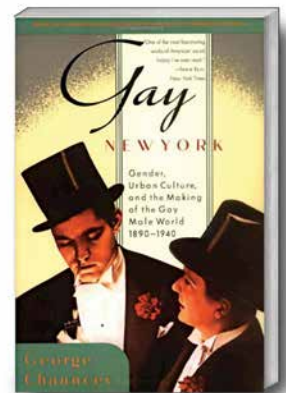
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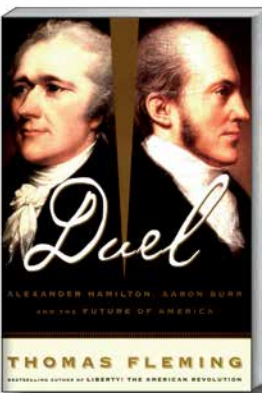
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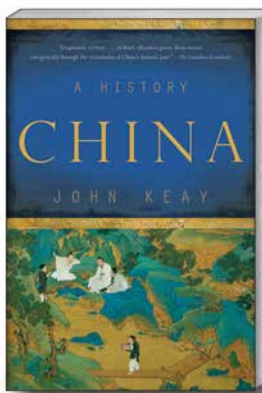
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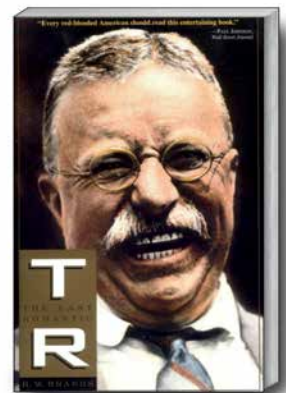
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Lara Heimert joined Basic Books in 2005. Previously, she was publisher of the trade division at Yale University Press. She has published numerous prize-winning and *New York Times* bestselling titles. Highlights include Edward Baptist's *The Half Has Never Been Told*, Eugene Rogan's *The Fall of the Ottomans*, John Bradshaw's *Dog Sense* and *Cat Sense*, Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*, Nicholas Stargardt's *The German War*, Bee Wilson's *Consider the Fork*, and Richard Florida's *The New Urban Crisis*. A graduate of Princeton University, Lara acquires primarily in the field of history, broadly conceived—from world wars to marginalia, from culinary history to political theory, from diaspora to doodles.

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TJ Kelleher joined Basic Books in 2009, and publishes predominantly in science, mathematics, and economics. He has published Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Edward Frenkel, and Leonard Susskind, among many others. Recent highlights include Martin Ford's *Rise of the Robots*, Dan Flores's *Coyote America*, Stephon Alexander's *The Jazz of Physics*, Massimo Pigliucci's *How to Be a Stoic*, and Eugenia Cheng's *Beyond Infinity*. He is also responsible for the publishing program surrounding *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*.

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John Kulka came to Basic Books in 2017 from Harvard University Press, where he was an executive editor-at-large. Prior to Harvard, he was at Yale University Press. A graduate of Lehigh University (BA) and Columbia University (MA), he is interested in biography, literature, philosophy, political thought, and the argumentative essay. He has published books by David Bromwich, Stephen Burt, Jonathan Culler, Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, Francis Fukuyama, Toni Morrison, Yascha Mounk, Jedediah Purdy, Amartya Sen, Richard Sennett, Zephyr Teachout, Helen Vendler, and Marina Warner, among many others.

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Dan Gerstle joined Basic Books in 2013 from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and acquires mainly in history, politics, current affairs, and the social sciences. The books he has edited and published include the 2017 Lincoln Prize-winning *Thunder at the Gates* by Douglas Egerton, *Engines of Liberty* by ACLU National Legal Director David Cole, *Jefferson* by John B. Boles, *Locked In* by John Pfaff, and *Toussaint Louverture* by Philippe Girard. Forthcoming titles include next works from historians Manisha Sinha, Walter Johnson, Matt Sutton, Jeremy Popkin, and Jared Farmer; and from journalists Bhaskar Sunkara, Joan Biskupic, and Andrew McCarthy. Dan holds a BA from Princeton University and an MA in American Studies from Yale University.

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Brian J. Distelberg joined Basic Books in 2015 from Harvard University Press. He acquires in history, politics, law, and social science. In history, he has acquired books by authors including Laurent Dubois, R. Marie Griffith, Martyn Rady, and Michael Willrich; in politics, Bernard Harcourt and Jonathan Rodden; and in law, Laurence Tribe, Joshua Matz, and Alexandra Natapoff. A graduate of Harvard University, Brian also holds a PhD in US history from Yale University.

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Leah Stecher joined Basic Books in 2013. A graduate of Bowdoin College, she acquires in history, women's studies, social sciences, and biography, and has acquired books by authors including Mo Moulton, Virginia Postrel, Lisa Levenstein, Ernest Freeberg, and David Patrikarakos.





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