

BASIC BOOKS

WITH SEAL PRESS

FALL

2023

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

BASIC BOOKS

with SEAL PRESS

FALL 2023

NEW TITLES

ABOUT BASIC BOOKS & SEAL PRESS 2

NEW HARDCOVERS 3

MEET THE EDITORS 31

FOR REVIEW COPIES OF TITLES PLEASE CONTACT

LIZ WETZEL

212.364.0661 • liz.wetzel@hbgusa.com

COVER DESIGN BY EMMILY O'CONNOR

PATTERN © ANASTASIIA KUCHERENKO / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

About BASIC BOOKS

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 Stephon Alexander, Robert Alter, Isaac Asimov, Edward Baptist, H. W. Brands, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Iris Chang, George Chauncey, Eugenia Cheng, William Easterly, Richard Feynman, Richard Florida, Martin Ford, Howard Gardner, Adrian Goldsworthy, Adam Gopnik, Jonathan Haidt, Victor Davis Hanson, Judith Herman, Christopher Hitchens, Douglas Hofstadter, Leszek Kolakowski, Kevin Kruse, Lawrence Lessig, Claude Levi-Strauss, Alice Miller, Don Norman, Robert Nozick, Judea Pearl, 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.

About SEAL PRESS

Seal Press was founded in 1976 and stands as one of the most enduring feminist publishing houses to emerge from the women's press movement of the 1970s. What began as a letterpress in a Seattle garage has grown to an award-winning publishing house in New York and an imprint of Hachette, the third largest publisher in the world. Seal's list is devoted to groundbreaking, boldly conceived books that inspire and challenge readers, lift up original voices, and imagine a better future. Publishing highlights include Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Julia Serano's *Whipping Girl*, Michelle Tea's *Valencia*, Minda Harts's *The Memo*, and Susan Stryker's *Transgender History*.

TOM HOLLAND

PAX

*War and Peace in
Rome's Golden Age*

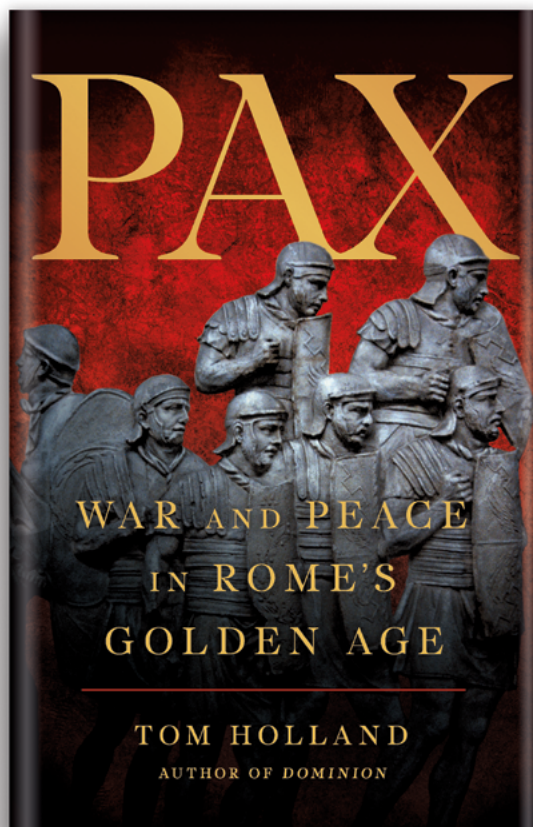
The Pax Romana has long been shorthand for the empire's golden age. Stretching from Caledonia to Arabia, Rome ruled over a quarter of the world's population. It was the wealthiest and most formidable state in the history of humankind.

Pax is a captivating narrative history of Rome at the height of its power. From the gilded capital to realms beyond the frontier, historian Tom Holland shows ancient Rome in all its glory: Nero's downfall, the destruction of Jerusalem and Pompeii, the building of the Colosseum and Hadrian's Wall, the conquests of Trajan. Vividly sketching the lives of Romans both ordinary and spectacular, from slaves to emperors, Holland shows that Roman peace was the fruit of unprecedented military violence.

A stunning portrait of Rome's glory days, this is *the* epic history of the Pax Romana.



TOM HOLLAND is an award-winning historian of the ancient world. He is the author of six other books, including *Rubicon*, *Persian Fire*, and *Dominion*. He contributes regularly to the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*. He co-presents the podcast *The Rest Is History*. He lives in London.



**The definitive history of Rome's
golden age—an ultimate superpower
at the pinnacle of its greatness**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 480 pages

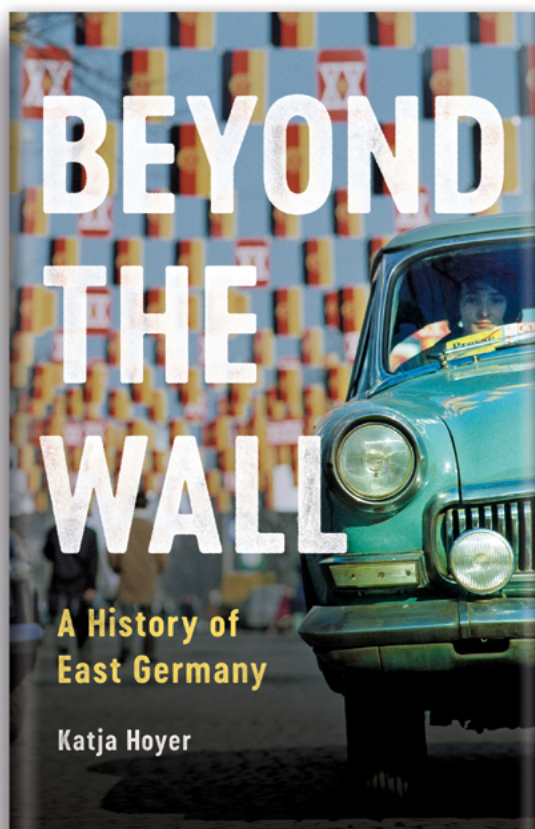
One sixteen-page color gallery

978-0-465-09353-3

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09354-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Sadie Holland



**From the ashes of the Second
World War to the fall of the Berlin Wall,
the definitive history of East Germany**

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 496 pages

Two eight-page color galleries

978-1-5416-0257-1

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0258-8

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo courtesy of the author

KATJA HOYER

BEYOND THE WALL

A History of East Germany

In 1990, a country disappeared. When the Iron Curtain fell, East Germany ceased to be. For over forty years, from the ruin of the Second World War to the cusp of a new millennium, the German Democratic Republic presented a radically different Germany than what had come before and what exists today. Socialist solidarity, secret police, central planning, barbed wire: this was a Germany forged on the fault lines of ideology and geopolitics.

In *Beyond the Wall*, acclaimed historian Katja Hoyer sets aside the usual Cold War caricatures of the GDR to offer a kaleidoscopic new vision of this vanished country, revealing the rich political, social, and cultural landscape that existed amid oppression and hardship. Drawing on a vast array of never-before-seen interviews and documents, this is the definitive history of the other Germany, beyond the Wall.



KATJA HOYER is a German British historian, journalist, and the author of the widely acclaimed *Blood and Iron*. She is a visiting research fellow at King's College London and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a columnist for the *Washington Post*. She was born in East Germany and is now based in the United Kingdom.

JOHN EISENBERG

ROCKET MEN

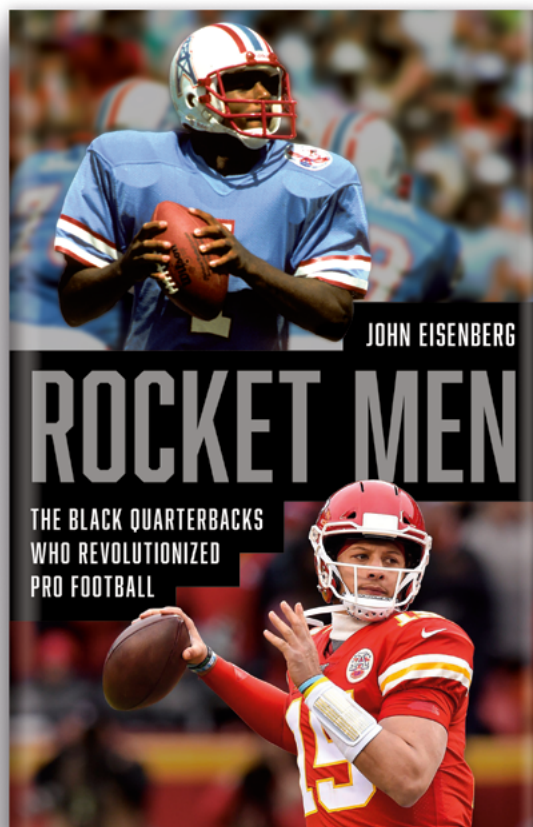
*The Black Quarterbacks Who
Revolutionized Pro Football*

In *Rocket Men*, John Eisenberg offers the definitive history of Black quarterbacks in the NFL—men who shaped not only the history of football but the cause of civil rights in America. From early pioneers like Fritz Pollard to groundbreaking modern standouts like Marlin Briscoe and James “Shack” Harris, Black quarterbacks had to be twice as good as their white counterparts to get playing time—and even then, many never got that chance. That didn’t begin to change in earnest until the 1990s and the 2000s, when racist notions about what Black quarterbacks supposedly couldn’t do began to fade, paving the way for today’s stars like Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson.

Drawing on deep historical research and exclusive interviews, *Rocket Men* is a celebration of the athletes and activists who transformed the game.



JOHN EISENBERG is an acclaimed sportswriter and the author of ten books, including *The Streak* and *The League*. He won nearly two dozen writing awards at the *Baltimore Sun*, where he wrote five thousand columns over three decades, and has taught sports journalism at Towson University. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.



**An acclaimed sportswriter offers
an inside look at the Black quarterbacks
whose skill and grit transformed the NFL**

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

Sports • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

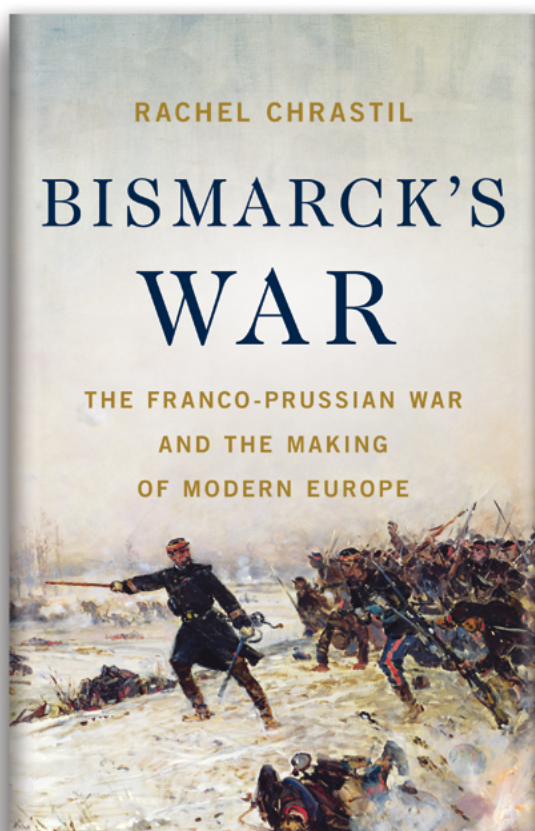
6 x 9¼ • 416 pages

978-1-5416-0040-9

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0042-3

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Phil Hoffman



A new history of the war that toppled the French Empire, unified Germany, and set Europe on the path to World War I

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 528 pages

Five maps and twenty black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-0409-4

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0410-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © John D. Fairfield

RACHEL CHRASTIL

BISMARCK'S WAR

The Franco-Prussian War and the Making of Modern Europe

Among the conflicts that convulsed Europe during the nineteenth century, none was more startling and consequential than the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1871. Deliberately engineered by Prussian chancellor Otto von Bismarck, the war succeeded in shattering French supremacy, deposing Napoleon III, and uniting a new German Empire. But it also produced brutal military innovations and a precarious new imbalance of power that together set the stage for the devastating world wars of the next century.

In *Bismarck's War*, historian Rachel Chrastil chronicles events on the battlefield in full, while also showing in intimate detail how the war reshaped and blurred the boundaries between civilian and soldier as the fighting swept across France. The result is the definitive history of a transformative conflict that changed Europe, and the history of warfare, forever.



RACHEL CHRASTIL is professor of history and provost and chief academic officer at Xavier University in Cincinnati and a former Fulbright Scholar. The author of *Organizing for War*, *The Siege of Strasbourg*, and *How to Be Childless*, she lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY

ROME AND PERSIA

The Seven Hundred Year Rivalry

The Roman Empire was like no other. Stretching from the north of Britain to the Sahara, and from the Atlantic coast to the Euphrates, it imposed peace and prosperity on an unprecedented scale.

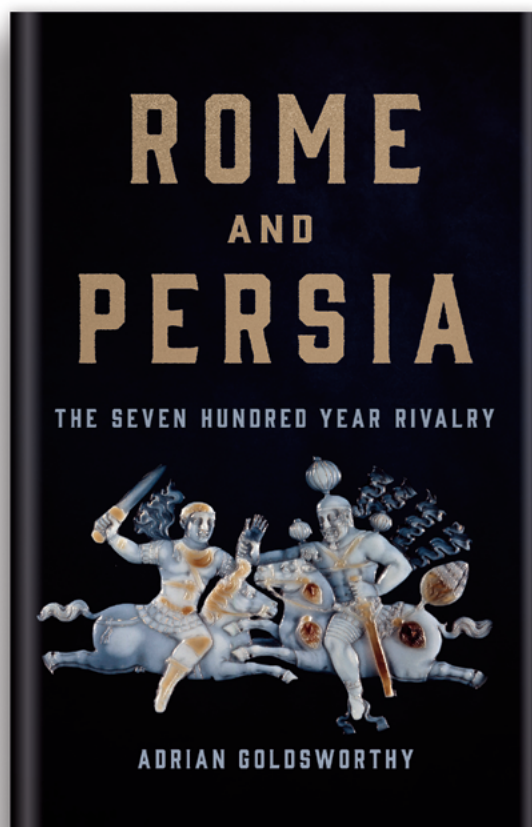
Its only true rival lay in the east, where the Parthian and then Persian empires ruled over great cities and the trade routes to mysterious lands beyond. This was the region Alexander the Great had swept through, creating a dream of glory and conquest that tantalized Greeks and Romans alike. Tracing seven centuries of conflict between Rome and Persia, historian Adrian Goldsworthy shows how these two great powers evolved together. Despite their endless clashes, trade between the empires enriched them both, and a mutual respect prevented both Rome and Persia from permanently destroying the other.

Epic in scope, *Rome and Persia* completely reshapes our understanding of one of the greatest rivalries of world history.



ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY

received his DPhil in ancient history from Oxford and has taught at Cardiff University, King's College, and the University of Notre Dame in London. The author of numerous books, including *Philip and Alexander*, *Pax Romana*, *How Rome Fell*, and *Caesar*, he lives in South Wales, UK.



**The epic rivalry
between the ancient world's
two great superpowers**

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 608 pages

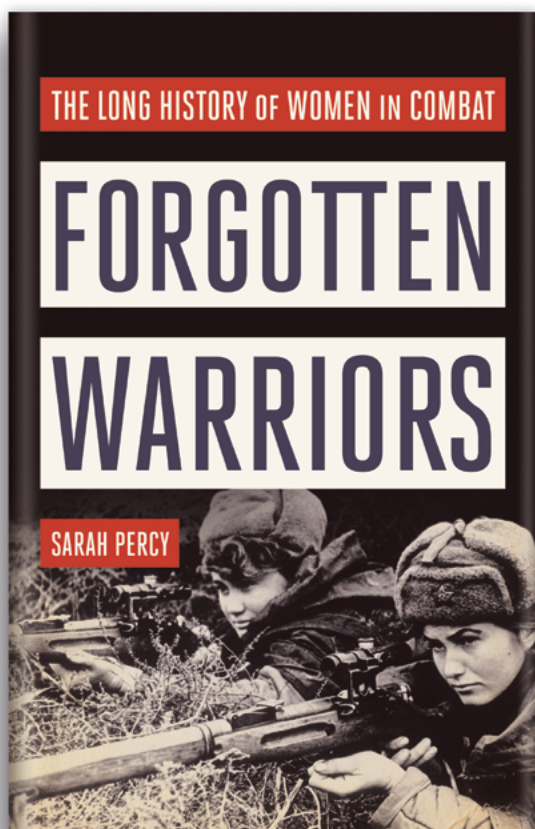
Twenty maps and two eight-page
color galleries

978-1-5416-1996-8

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1994-4

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo courtesy of the author



**The definitive history of women in war,
revealing how women have always been
an essential part of combat**

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 432 pages

978-1-5416-1986-9

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1987-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Stephen Heath Photography

SARAH PERCY

FORGOTTEN WARRIORS

*The Long History of Women
in Combat*

From Boudicca's rebellion to the war in Ukraine, battlefields have always contained a surprising number of women. Some formed all-female armies, like the Dahomey Mino of West Africa; some fought disguised as men; some mobilized in times of national survival, like the Soviet flying aces known as the Night Witches. International relations expert Sarah Percy unearths the stories of these forgotten warriors. She sets the historical record straight, revealing that women's exclusion from active combat in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is a blip in a much longer narrative of female inclusion. Deeply researched and brilliantly told, *Forgotten Warriors* turns the notion of war as a man's game on its head and restores women to their rightful place on the front lines of history.



SARAH PERCY is associate professor at the University of Queensland. The author of *Mercenaries*, she completed her MPhil and DPhil as a Commonwealth Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford. She lives in St. Lucia, Australia.

STEPHEN MOSS

TEN BIRDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

For the whole of human history, we have lived alongside birds. We have hunted and domesticated them for food; venerated them in our mythologies, religions, and rituals; exploited them for their natural resources; and been inspired by them for our music, art, and poetry.

In *Ten Birds That Changed the World*, naturalist and author Stephen Moss tells the gripping story of this long and intimate relationship through key species from all seven of the world's continents. From Odin's faithful raven companions to Darwin's finches, and from the wild turkey of the Americas to the emperor penguin as potent symbol of the climate crisis, this is a fascinating, eye-opening, and endlessly engaging work of natural history.



STEPHEN MOSS is one of Britain's leading nature writers, broadcasters, and environmentalists. Author of over forty books and field guides, he is an award-winning wildlife television producer for the BBC Natural History Unit. He lives in Somerset, England.



**The natural history of
humankind, told through our long
relationship with birds**

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

Nature • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 416 pages

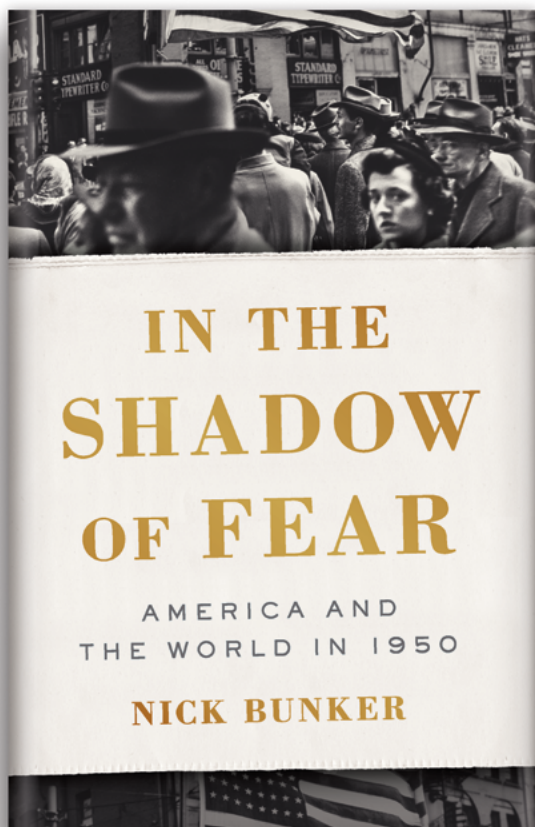
Ten black-and-white drawings throughout

978-1-5416-0446-9

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0447-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Suzanne Moss



**An evocative portrait of a divided
America at the dawn of the Cold War**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 496 pages

Fifteen black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-7554-4

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7555-1

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © CTM Photography

NICK BUNKER

IN THE SHADOW OF FEAR

America and the World in 1950

Halfway through the twentieth century, the United States towered over the world in industrial might. After winning the 1948 election, Harry Truman hoped to use this economic strength to build on FDR's achievements with new liberal reforms. But then, in just ten months between September 1949 and June 1950, the president's ambitions were overtaken by events that left the country gripped by rage and fear. The Soviets tested an atomic bomb, Mao's army swept through China, and at home Truman faced labor unrest and a Republican Party desperate for power.

In the Shadow of Fear is an innovative and gripping history of this pivotal moment. Recounting the launch of Senator Joe McCarthy's anti-communist crusade, the defeat of Truman's liberal program, and the start of the Korean War, prizewinning historian Nick Bunker shows us a polarized nation facing crises at home and abroad—a story with deep resonances today.



NICK BUNKER won the 2015 George Washington Book Prize with *An Empire on the Edge*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for History.

His other books include *Making Haste from Babylon*, which was longlisted for the United Kingdom's Samuel Johnson Prize, and *Young Benjamin Franklin*.

PETER SARRIS

JUSTINIAN

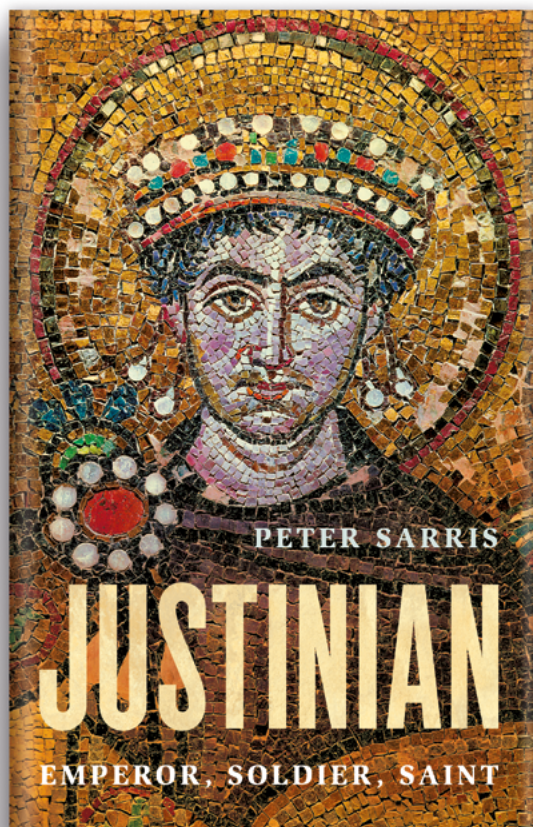
Emperor, Soldier, Saint

*J*ustinian is a radical reassessment of an emperor and his times. In the sixth century CE, the emperor Justinian presided over nearly four decades of remarkable change, in an era of geopolitical threats, climate change, and plague. From the eastern Roman—or Byzantine—capital of Constantinople, Justinian's armies reconquered lost territory in Africa, Italy, and Spain. But these military exploits, historian Peter Sarris shows, were just one part of a larger program of imperial renewal. From his dramatic overhaul of Roman law, to his lavish building projects, to his fierce persecution of dissenters from Orthodox Christianity, Justinian's vigorous statecraft—and his energetic efforts at self-glorification—not only set the course of Byzantium but also laid the foundations for the world of the Middle Ages.

Even as Justinian sought to recapture Rome's past greatness, he paved the way for what would follow.



PETER SARRIS is professor of late antique, medieval, and Byzantine studies at the University of Cambridge. He is author or editor of eight books on the history of late antiquity, the early Middle Ages, and Byzantium, including *Byzantium: A Very Short Introduction*. He lives in Shepreth, UK.



**A definitive new biography of the
Byzantine emperor Justinian**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

Biography • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 576 pages

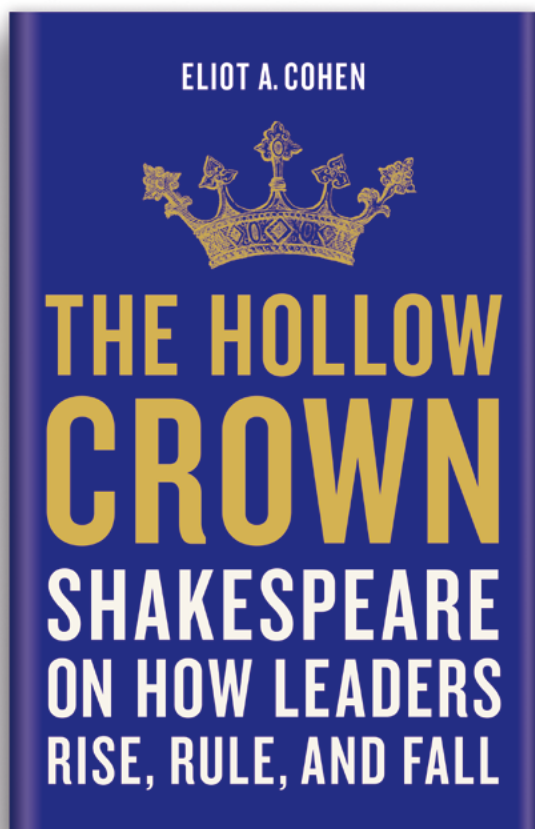
Four maps and one eight-page color gallery

978-1-5416-0133-8

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0134-5

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © John Deed



**What Shakespeare's plays can
teach us about modern-day politics**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

Political Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 304 pages

978-1-5416-4486-1

EBOOK 978-1-5416-4485-4

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Kaveh Sardari

ELIOT A. COHEN

THE HOLLOW CROWN

*Shakespeare on How Leaders
Rise, Rule, and Fall*

William Shakespeare understood power: what it is, how it works, how it is gained, and how it is lost.

In *The Hollow Crown*, Eliot A. Cohen reveals how the battling princes of *Henry IV* and scheming senators of *Julius Caesar* can teach us to better understand power and politics today. The White House, after all, is a court—with intrigue and conflict rivaling those on the Globe's stage—as is an army, a business, or a university. And each court is full of driven characters, in all their ambition, cruelty, and humanity. *Henry V*'s inspiring speeches reframe John F. Kennedy's appeal, *Richard III*'s wantonness illuminates Vladimir Putin's brutality, and *The Tempest*'s grace offers a window into the presidency of George Washington.

An original and incisive perspective, *The Hollow Crown* shows how Shakespeare's works transform our understanding of the leaders who, for good or ill, make and rule our world.



ELIOT A. COHEN is the Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Robert E. Osgood Professor at Johns Hopkins University. Formerly a counselor of the Department of State, his books include *The Big Stick* and *Supreme Command*. He lives in the Washington area.

ROBERTO TROTTA

STARBORN

*How the Stars Made Us
(and Who We Would Be Without Them)*

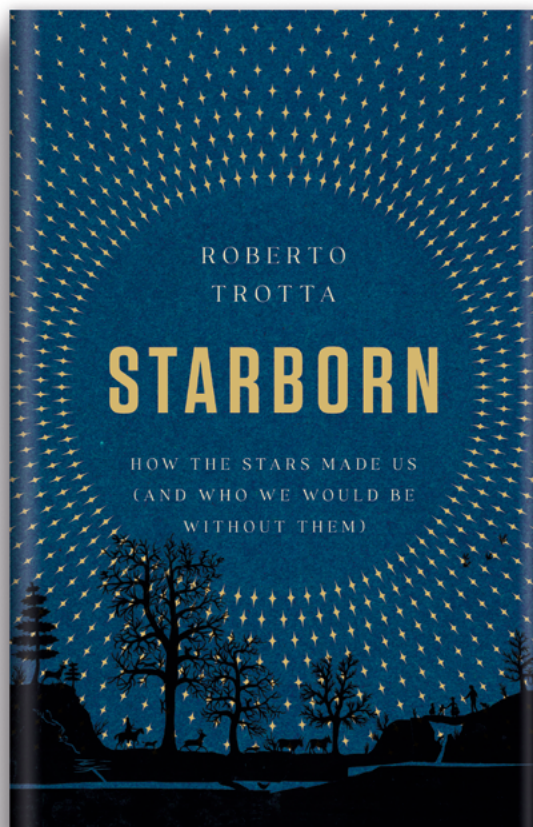
For as long as humans have lived, we have lived beneath the stars. But under the glow of today's artificial lighting, we have lost the intimacy our ancestors once shared with the cosmos.

In *Starborn*, cosmologist Roberto Trotta reveals how stargazing has shaped the course of human civilization. The stars have served as our timekeepers, our navigators, our muses—they were once even our gods. How radically different would we be, Trotta also asks, if our ancestors had looked up to the night sky and seen... nothing? He pairs the history of our starstruck species with a dramatic alternate version, a world without stars where our understanding of science, art, and ourselves would have been radically altered.

Revealing the hidden connections between astronomy and civilization, *Starborn* summons us to the marvelous sight that awaits us on a dark, clear night—to lose ourselves in the immeasurable vastness above.



ROBERTO TROTTA is professor of theoretical physics at the International School for Advanced Study in Trieste, Italy, and professor of astrostatistics at Imperial College London. The award-winning author of *The Edge of the Sky*, he lives under dark skies near Trieste, Italy.



**A sweeping inquiry into how the
night sky has shaped human history**

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

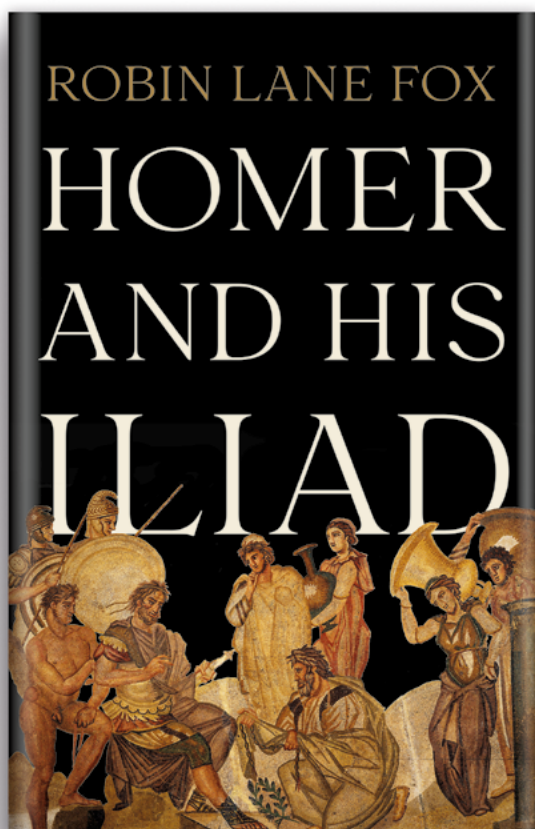
6 x 9¼ • 336 pages

978-1-5416-7477-6

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7478-3

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Paolo Battigelli



**A groundbreaking reassessment
of the *Iliad*, uncovering how
the poem was written and why it
remains enduringly powerful**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

History • \$32.00

6 x 9¼ • 464 pages

978-1-5416-0044-7

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0045-4

Selling Territory: US

Author photo © Jean Rowcliffe

ROBIN LANE FOX

HOMER AND HIS ILIAD

The *Iliad* is the world's greatest epic poem—heroic battle and divine fate set against the Trojan War. Its beauty and profound bleakness are intensely moving, but great questions remain: Where, how, and when was it composed and why does it endure?

Robin Lane Fox addresses these questions, drawing on a lifelong love and engagement with the poem. He argues for a place, a date, and a method for its composition—subjects of ongoing controversy—combining the detailed expertise of a historian with a poetic reader's sensitivity. Lane Fox considers hallmarks of the poem; its values, implicit and explicit; its characters; its women; its gods; and even its horses.

Thousands of readers turn to the *Iliad* every year. Drawing on fifty years of reading and research, Lane Fox offers us a breathtaking tour of this magnificent text, revealing why the poem has endured for ages.



ROBIN LANE FOX is an emeritus fellow at New College, Oxford. His books include *The Invention of Medicine, Augustine* (winner of the major Wolfson History Prize), and *The Classical World*. He lives near Oxford, England.

ROGER MOORHOUSE

THE FORGERS

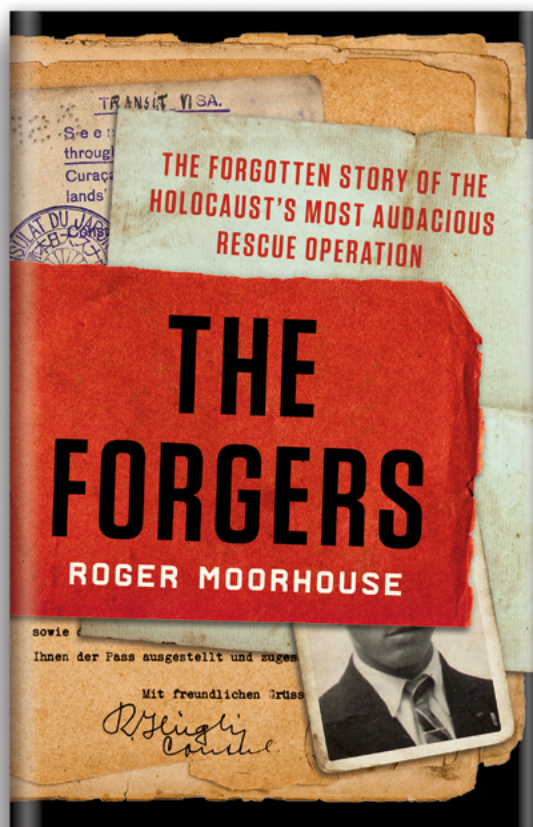
The Forgotten Story of the Holocaust's Most Audacious Rescue Operation

Between 1940 and 1943, a group of Polish diplomats in Switzerland engaged in a wholly remarkable—and until now, completely unknown—humanitarian operation. In concert with Jewish activists, they masterminded a systematic program of forging passports and identity documents for Latin American countries, which were then smuggled into German-occupied Europe to save the lives of thousands of Jews facing extermination in the Holocaust.

With the international community failing to act, the operation was one of the largest actions to aid Jews of the entire war. *The Forgers* tells this extraordinary story for the first time. We follow the desperate bids of Jews to obtain these lifesaving documents as the Nazi death machine draws ever closer. And we witness the quiet heroism of a group of ordinary men who decided to do something rather than nothing and saved thousands of lives.



ROGER MOORHOUSE is a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Warsaw. The author of several books on World War II history, including *Poland 1939* (winner of the Polish Foreign Ministry History Prize), *Berlin at War* (shortlisted for the Hessell-Tiltman Prize), and *The Devils' Alliance*, he lives in the United Kingdom.



**The secret history of one of the largest
—and least-known—rescue operations
of World War II**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 384 pages

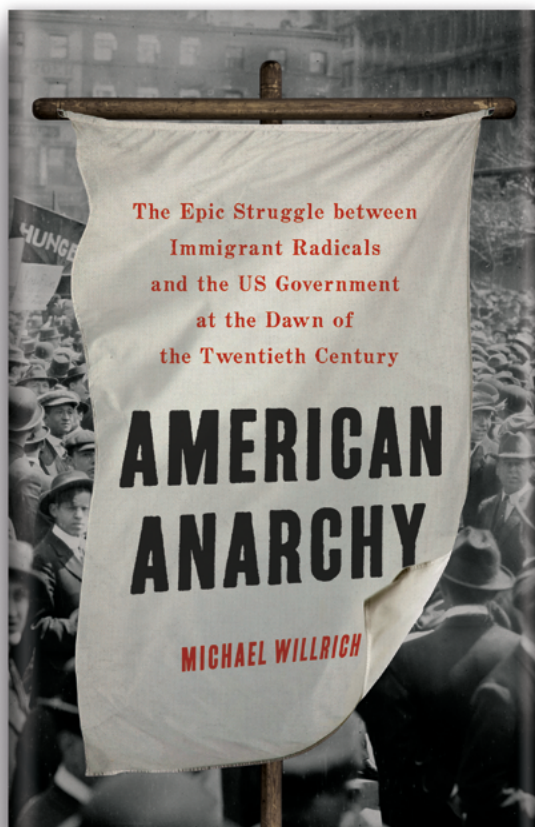
Thirty-eight black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-1985-2

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1984-5

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Hyatt Studio



**A timely new history of America's
anarchist movement and the government's
tireless efforts to destroy it**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 480 pages

Fifteen black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-9737-9

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1667-7

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Dari Pillsbury

MICHAEL WILLRICH

AMERICAN ANARCHY

*The Epic Struggle between Immigrant
Radicals and the US Government at the
Dawn of the Twentieth Century*

In the early twentieth century, anarchists like Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman championed a radical vision of a world without states, laws, or private property. Militant and sometimes violent, anarchists were heroes to many working-class immigrants. But to many others, anarchism was a terrifyingly foreign ideology. Determined to crush it, government officials launched a decades-long “war on anarchy,” a brutal program of spying, censorship, and deportation that set the foundations of the modern surveillance state. The lawyers who came to the anarchists’ defense advanced groundbreaking arguments for free speech and due process, inspiring the emergence of the civil liberties movement. *American Anarchy* tells the gripping tale of the anarchists, their allies, and their enemies, showing how their battles over freedom and power still shape our public life.



MICHAEL WILLRICH is the Leff Families Professor of History at Brandeis University and a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow. He is the author of two award-winning books, *City of Courts* and *Pox: An American History*, and his writing has been published in the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, and *Mother Jones*. He lives in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

JOHNNY SMITH

JUMPMAN

The Making and Meaning of Michael Jordan

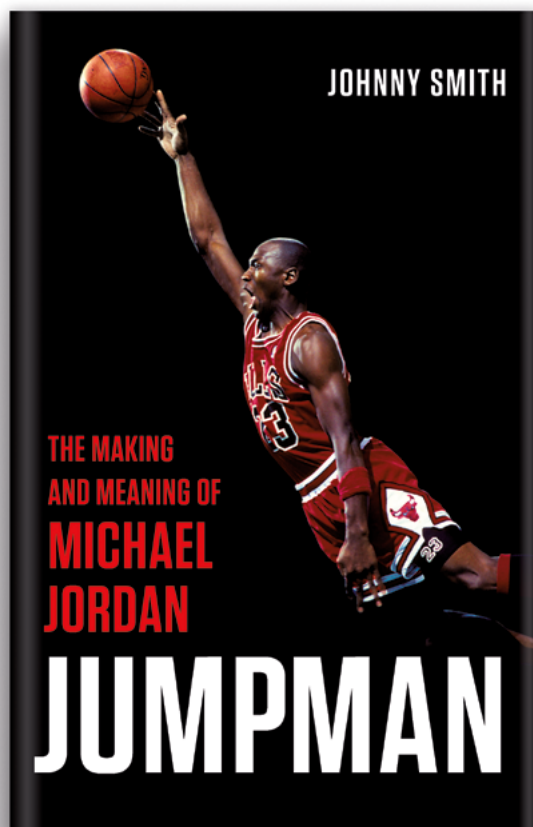
To become the most revered basketball player in America, it wasn't enough for Michael Jordan to merely excel on the court. He also had to become something he never intended: a hero.

As Jordan ascended as an NBA champion, his story assured the public that meritocracy and hard work still mattered. Yet building this narrative came at a cost. In *Jumpman*, sports historian Johnny Smith reveals how Jordan guarded his politics and personal life, allowing him to seem more likable to Americans who wanted to believe that race no longer mattered. In the process of achieving greatness, he remade himself into a paradox: universally known, yet distant and unknowable.

Blending dramatic game action with grand evocations of the social forces sweeping the early nineties, *Jumpman* reveals how the man and the myth together created the legend that we remember today.



JOHNNY SMITH is the J. C. "Bud" Shaw Professor of Sports History and associate professor of history at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also the co-author of *Blood Brothers*, *A Season in the Sun*, and *War Fever* with Randy Roberts. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



How Michael Jordan's path to greatness was shaped by race, politics, and the consequences of fame

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

Sports • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 336 pages

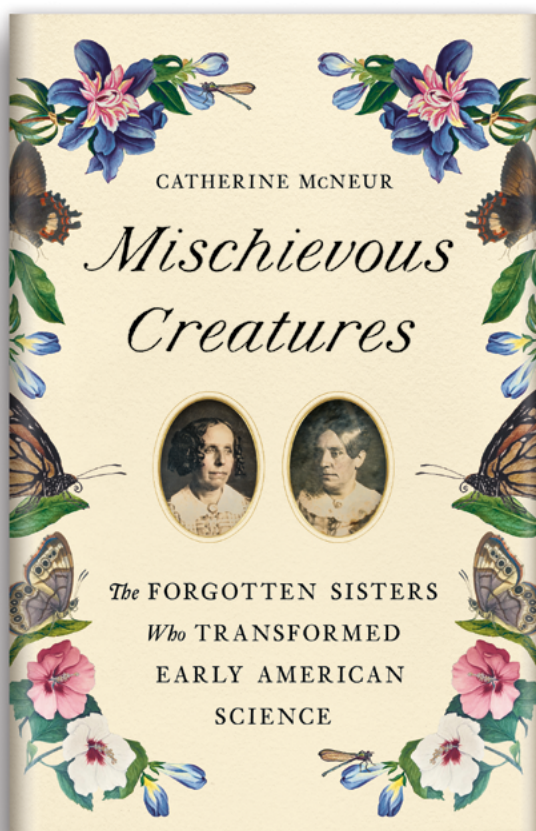
Fifteen black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-7565-0

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7566-7

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Evie Perez



The untold story of two sisters whose discoveries sped the growth of American science in the nineteenth century

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 432 pages

Thirty black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-7417-2

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7418-9

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Andrea Lonas

CATHERINE McNEUR

MISCHIEVOUS CREATURES

The Forgotten Sisters Who Transformed Early American Science

In *Mischievous Creatures*, historian Catherine McNeur uncovers the lives and work of Margaretta Hare Morris and Elizabeth Carrington Morris, sisters and scientists in early America. Margaretta, an entomologist, was famous among her peers and the public for her research on cicadas and other troublesome insects. Elizabeth, a botanist, was a prolific illustrator and a trusted supplier of specimens to the country's leading experts. Together, their discoveries helped fuel the growth and professionalization of science in antebellum America. But these very developments confined women in science to underpaid and underappreciated roles for generations to follow, erasing the Morris sisters' contributions along the way.

Mischievous Creatures is an indelible portrait of two unsung pioneers, one that places women firmly at the center of the birth of American science.



CATHERINE McNEUR is an associate professor of history at Portland State University in Oregon and the author of *Taming Manhattan*. She is the recipient of several awards, including the American Society for Environmental History's George Perkins Marsh Prize. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

MARCUS DU SAUTOY

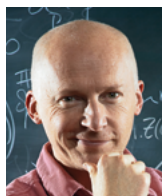
AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY GAMES

From Tarot to Tic-Tac-Toe, Catan to Chutes and Ladders, a Mathematician Unlocks the Secrets of the World's Greatest Games

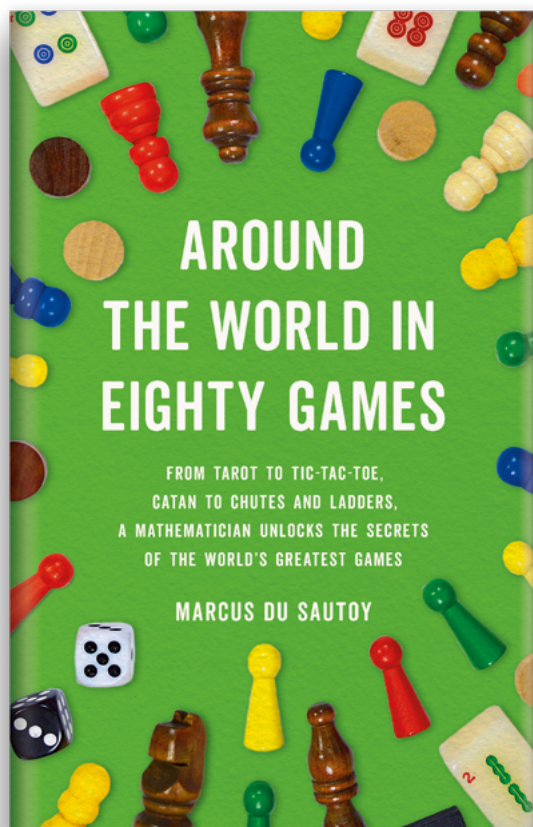
Where should you move first in Connect 4? What is the best property in Monopoly? And how can pi help you win rock paper scissors?

Spanning millennia, oceans and continents, countries and cultures, *Around the World in Eighty Games* gleefully explores how mathematics and games have always been deeply intertwined. Renowned mathematician Marcus du Sautoy investigates how games provided the first opportunities for deep mathematical insight into the world, how understanding math can help us play games better, and how both math and games are integral to human psychology and culture.

For as long as there have been people, there have been games, and for nearly as long, we have been exploring and discovering mathematics. A grand adventure, *Around the World in Eighty Games* teaches us not just how games are won, but how they, and their math, shape who we are.



MARCUS DU SAUTOY is Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science and professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford. He is author of seven books and two plays. Du Sautoy is a Royal Society fellow and recipient of many awards, including the Berwick Prize and an OBE. He lives in London.



**An award-winning mathematician
explores the math behind the games
we love and why we love to play them**

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

Mathematics • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 400 pages

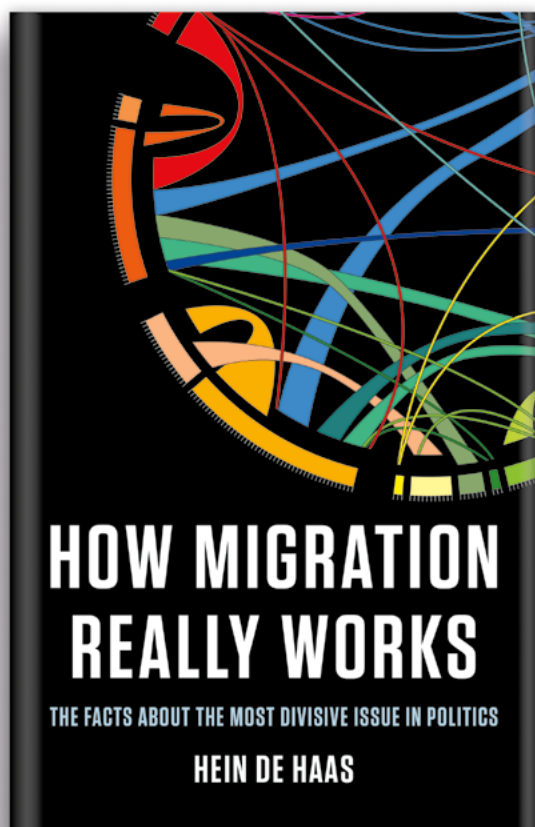
Eighty-six black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-0128-4

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0129-1

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Oxford University Images,
Joby Sessions



**An authoritative guide to global
migration that corrects decades of
misunderstanding and misguided policy**

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

Social Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 368 pages

Thirty black-and-white charts and graphs throughout

978-1-5416-0431-5

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0432-2

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Bram Belloni

HEIN DE HAAS

HOW MIGRATION REALLY WORKS

*The Facts About the Most
Divisive Issue in Politics*

Are borders beyond control? Are immigrants taking away jobs? Or do we badly need immigrants to boost growth and innovation? Today's debates about immigration are often guided more by myths than by facts.

Drawing on three decades of research, migration expert Hein de Haas destroys the myths that politicians, interest groups, and media spread about immigration. Global migration, he reveals, is *not* at an all-time high. Border restrictions have produced *more* migration, but climate change will *not* lead to mass migration. Immigration mainly benefits the *wealthy*, not workers. Ultimately, de Haas shows migration not as a problem to be solved, nor as a solution to a problem, but *as it really is*.

This book is an essential guide to one of our most divisive political issues, showing how we can move beyond today's polarized debate and make migration work better for everyone.



HEIN DE HAAS is professor of sociology at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). He formerly taught at the University of Oxford, where he codirected the International Migration Institute (IMI). One of the world's top migration scholars, he continues to direct IMI from its current home at UvA. He lives in Amsterdam.

DARRIN M.
McMAHON

EQUALITY

The History of an Elusive Idea

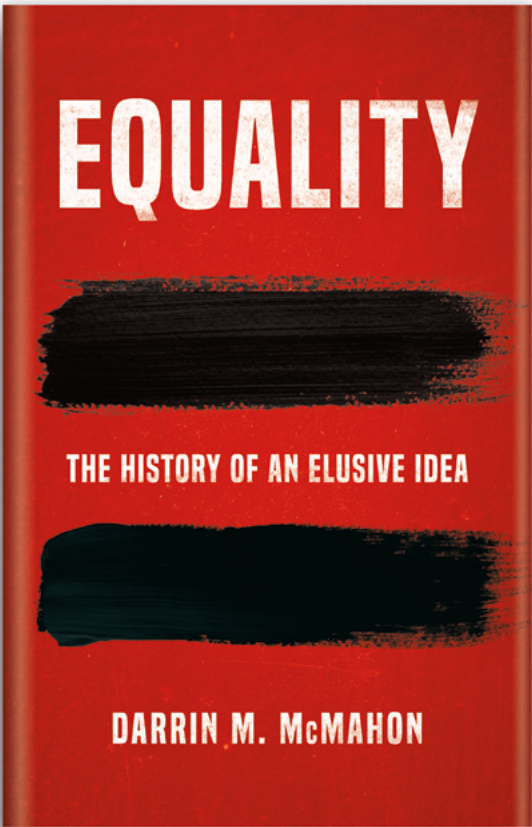
Equality is in crisis. Our world is filled with soaring inequalities, spanning wealth, race, identity, and nationality. Yet how can we strive for equality if we don't understand it? As much as we have struggled for equality, we have always been profoundly skeptical about it. How much do we want, and for whom?

Darrin M. McMahon's *Equality* is the definitive intellectual history, tracing equality's global origins and spread from the dawn of humanity through the Enlightenment to today. Equality has been reimagined continually, in the great world religions and the politics of the ancient world, by revolutionaries and socialists, Nazis and fascists, and postwar reformers and activists.

A magisterial exploration of why equality matters and why we continue to reimagine it, *Equality* offers all the tools to rethink equality anew for our own age.



DARRIN M. McMAHON is the Mary Brinsmead Wheelock Professor of History at Dartmouth College. The author of *Happiness: A History* and *Divine Fury: A History of Genius*, he writes regularly for the national and international press. He lives in Connecticut.



The definitive history of
the idea of equality—and why
we're so ambivalent about it

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 528 pages

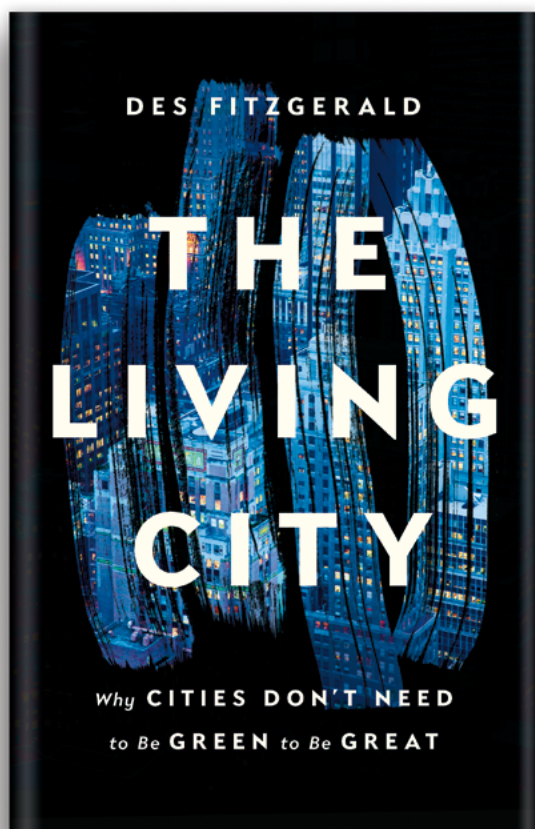
Seven figures and thirty-five
black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-0-465-09393-9

EBOOK 978-0-465-09394-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Jerri Graham Photography



**A sociologist explores why
“green cities” won’t fix everything
—and urges us to celebrate
urban life as it is**

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

Social Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 272 pages

978-1-5416-7450-9

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-7451-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Ron Coombe

DES FITZGERALD

THE LIVING CITY

*Why Cities Don't Need
to Be Green to Be Great*

Everywhere you look, cities are getting greener. The general assumption is clear: if something is unhealthy or bad about urban life today, then nature holds the cure. However, argues sociologist Des Fitzgerald, green spaces are not the panacea that people think.

In *The Living City*, Fitzgerald tours the international green city movement that has flourished across the world and discovers the deep, sometimes troubling, roots of our desire to connect cities to nature. Talking to policy makers, planners, scientists, and architects, Fitzgerald suggests that underneath the wish to turn future cities green is another wish: to make the modern city, and perhaps the modern world, disappear altogether. Ultimately, he makes an argument for celebrating the contemporary city as it is—in all its noisy, constructed, artificial glory.



DES FITZGERALD is professor of medical humanities and social sciences at University College Cork. He has been named a “New Generation Thinker” by the BBC and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. He lives in Cork, Ireland.

SAM LEBOVIC

STATE OF SILENCE

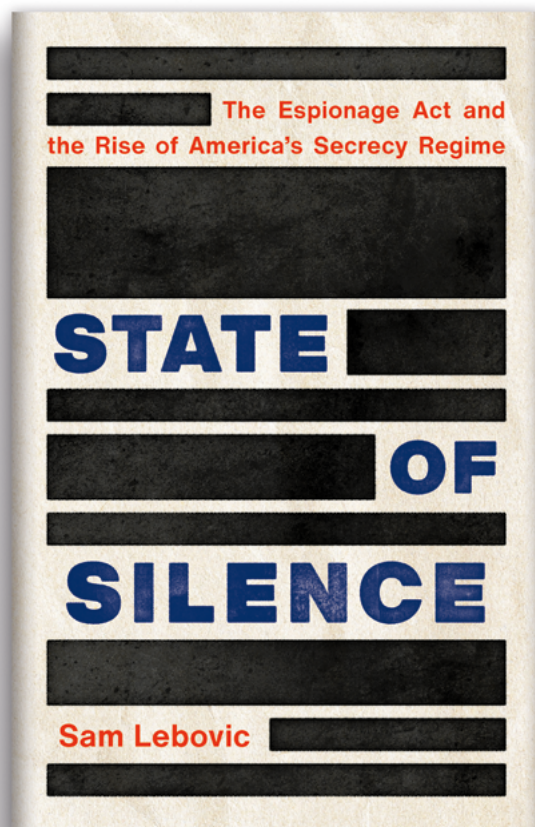
*The Espionage Act and the Rise of
America's Secrecy Regime*

In *State of Silence*, political historian Sam Lebovic uncovers the troubling history of the Espionage Act. First passed in 1917, it was initially used to punish critics of World War I. Yet as Americans began to balk at the act's restrictions on political dissidents and the press, the government turned its focus toward keeping its secrets under wraps. The resulting system for classifying information is absurdly cautious, staggeringly costly, and shrouded in secrecy, preventing ordinary Americans from learning what their country is doing in their name, both at home and abroad.

Shedding new light on the bloated governmental security apparatus that's weighing our democracy down, *State of Silence* offers the definitive history of America's turn toward secrecy—and its staggering human costs.



SAM LEBOVIC is an associate professor in the department of history and art history at George Mason University. He is the author of the award-winning *Free Speech and Unfree News* and *A Righteous Smokescreen*. His work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, and more. He lives in Washington, DC.



**A top scholar reveals how the
Espionage Act gave rise to a vast
American security state that
keeps citizens in the dark**

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

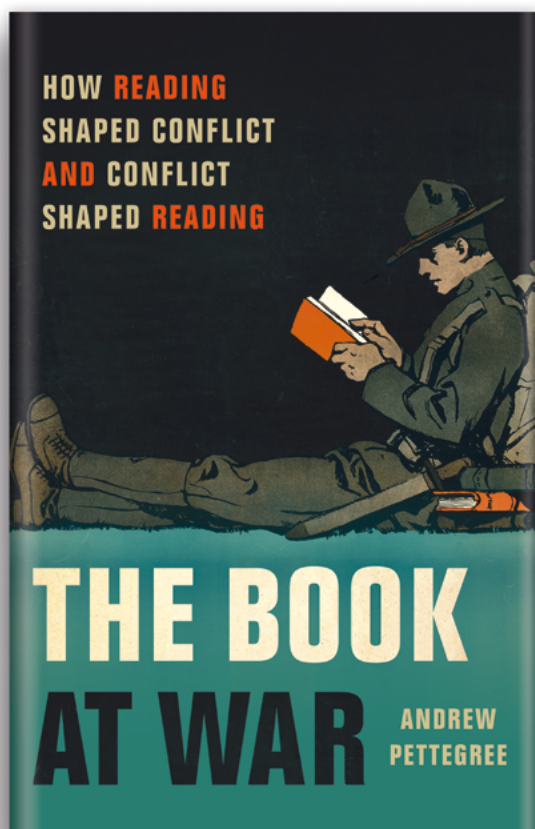
6 x 9¼ • 480 pages

978-1-5416-2016-2

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-2015-5

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Joseph Cote



**A top literary historian illuminates
how books were used in war across
the twentieth century—both
as weapons and as agents for peace**

NEW HARDCOVER • DECEMBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 528 pages

978-1-5416-0434-6

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0435-3

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Alan Richardson

ANDREW PETTEGREE

THE BOOK AT WAR

*How Reading Shaped Conflict and
Conflict Shaped Reading*

We tend not to talk about books and war in the same breath—one ranks among humanity's greatest inventions, the other among its most terrible. But as esteemed literary historian Andrew Pettegree demonstrates, the two are deeply intertwined. *The Book at War* explores the various roles that books have played in conflicts throughout the globe. Winston Churchill used a travel guide to plan the invasion of Norway, lonely families turned to libraries while their loved ones were fighting in the trenches, and during the Cold War both sides used books to spread their visions of how the world should be run. As solace or instruction manual, as critique or propaganda, books have shaped modern military history.

With precise historical analysis and sparkling prose, *The Book at War* accounts for the power—and the ambivalence—of words at war.



ANDREW PETTEGREE is a professor of modern history at the University of St. Andrews. A leading expert on the history of book and media transformations, Pettegree is the award-winning author of several books, including *The Library: A Fragile History* (with Arthur der Weduwen). He lives in Scotland.

JEFFREY O. G. OGBAR

AMERICA'S BLACK CAPITAL

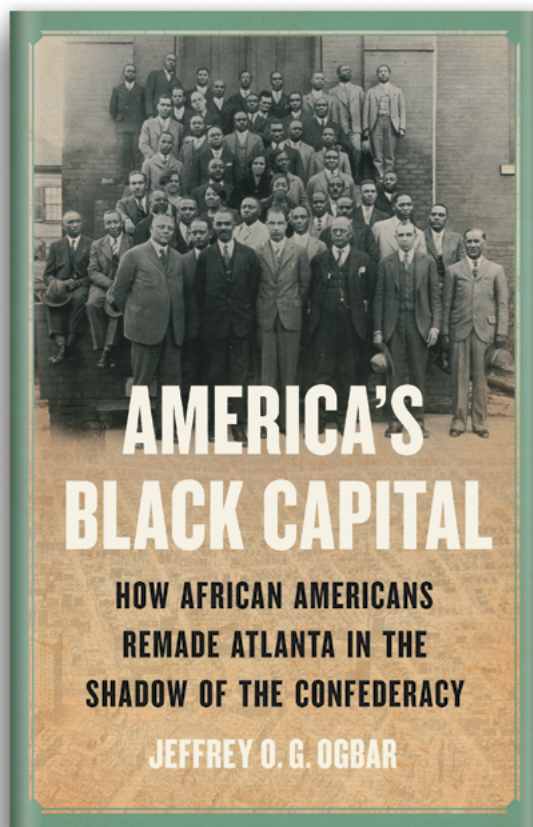
How African Americans Remade Atlanta in the Shadow of the Confederacy

Atlanta is home to some of America's most prominent Black politicians, artists, businesses, and HBCUs. Yet, in 1861, Atlanta was a final contender to be the capital of the Confederacy. Sixty years later, long after the Civil War, it was the Ku Klux Klan's sacred "Imperial City."

America's Black Capital chronicles how a center of Black excellence emerged amid virulent expressions of white nationalism, as African Americans pushed back against Confederate ideology to create an extraordinary locus of achievement. What drove them, historian Jeffrey O. G. Ogbar shows, was the belief that Black uplift would be best advanced by forging Black institutions. *America's Black Capital* is an inspiring story of Black achievement against all odds, with effects that reached far beyond Georgia, shaping the nation's popular culture, public policy, and politics.



JEFFREY O. G. OGBAR is professor of history and founding director of the Center for the Study of Popular Music at the University of Connecticut. He earned his PhD in US history from Indiana University Bloomington and his BA in history from Morehouse College in Atlanta. He lives in Hartford, Connecticut.



The remarkable story of how African Americans transformed Atlanta, the former heart of the Confederacy, into today's Black mecca

NEW HARDCOVER • NOVEMBER

History • \$35.00 / \$44.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 544 pages

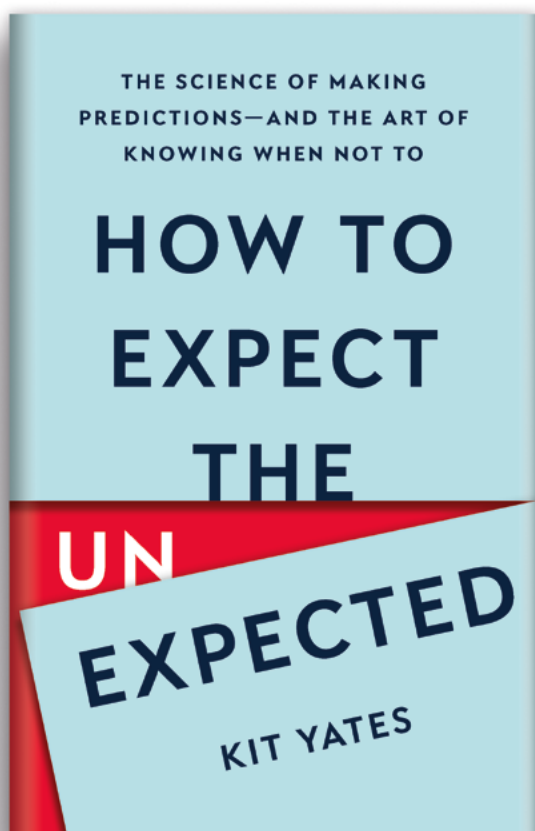
Ten black-and-white illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-0199-4

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0200-7

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Peter Morenus



A “vivid, wide-ranging, and delightful guide” (bestselling author Tim Harford) for understanding how and why predictions go wrong, with practical tips to give you a better chance of getting them right

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

Mathematics • \$32.50 / \$41.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 448 pages

978-1-5416-0493-3

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0494-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © IDPS University of Bath

KIT YATES

HOW TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

*The Science of Making Predictions—
and the Art of Knowing When Not To*

How can you be 100 percent sure you will win a bet? Why did so many Pompeians stay put while Mount Vesuvius was erupting? Are you more likely to work in a kitchen if your last name is Baker? Ever since the dawn of human civilization, we have been trying to make predictions about what the world has in store for us. For just as long, we have been getting it wrong. In *How to Expect the Unexpected*, mathematician Kit Yates uncovers the surprising science that undergirds our predictions—and how we can use it to our advantage.

From religious oracles to weather forecasters, and from politicians to economists, we are subjected to poor predictions all the time. Synthesizing results from math, biology, psychology, sociology, medicine, economic theory, and physics, Yates provides tools for readers to understand uncertainty and to recognize the cognitive biases that make accurate predictions so hard to come by.

This book will teach you how and why predictions go wrong, help you to spot phony forecasts, and give you a better chance of getting your own predictions correct.



KIT YATES is a senior lecturer in the department of mathematical sciences and codirector of the Centre for Mathematical Biology at the University of Bath. He is the author of *The Math of Life and Death* (2020), which was a *Sunday Times* Science Book of the Year. He lives in Oxford, England.

KARL SIGMUND

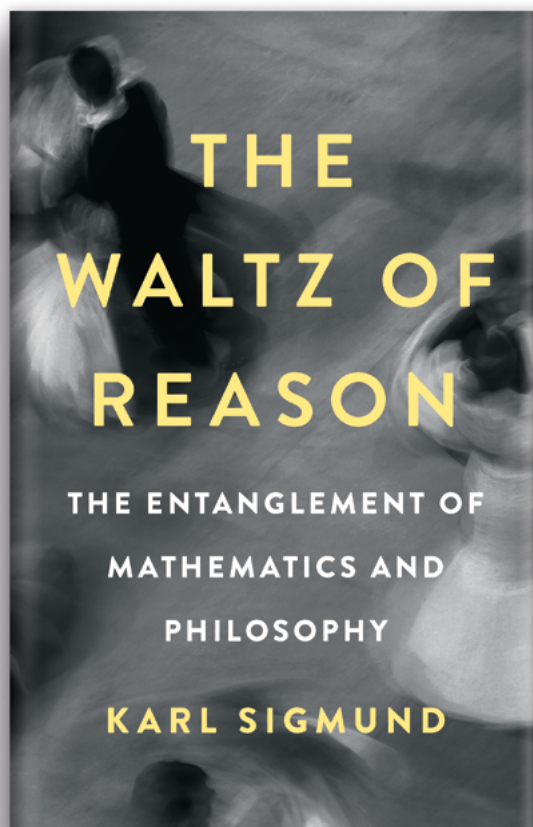
THE WALTZ OF REASON

*The Entanglement of
Mathematics and Philosophy*

“Let no one ignorant of geometry enter here,” Plato warned would-be philosophers. Mathematician Karl Sigmund agrees. In *The Waltz of Reason*, he shows how mathematics and philosophy together have shaped our understanding of space, chance, logic, cooperation, voting, and the social contract. Sigmund shows how game theory is integral to moral philosophy, how statistics shaped the meaning of reason, and how the search for a logical basis for math leads to deep questions about the nature of truth itself. But this is no dry tome: Sigmund’s wit and humor shine as brightly as his erudition. *The Waltz of Reason* is an engrossing history of ideas as vibrant as a ballroom full of dancers, one that empowers as it entertains, following the complex and occasionally dizzying steps of the thinkers who have molded our thought and founded our world.



KARL SIGMUND is a professor emeritus of mathematics at the University of Vienna. One of the pioneers of evolutionary game theory, he has authored several other books on mathematics and philosophy, including *Games of Life* and *Exact Thinking in Demented Times*. He lives in Vienna, Austria.



**A story of mathematics,
philosophy, and how together they
shaped the modern world**

NEW HARDCOVER • DECEMBER

Mathematics • \$32.50 / \$41.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 448 pages

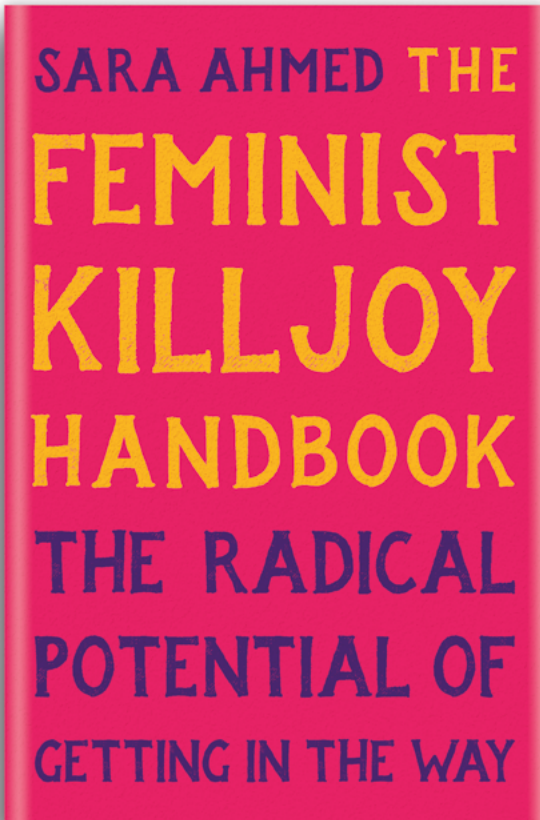
One hundred eighty black-and-white
illustrations throughout

978-1-5416-0269-4

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0270-0

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Bea Lauferweiler



**A renowned feminist thinker argues
we need to get in the way of
happiness, our own and other people's,
to build a more just world**

NEW HARDCOVER • OCTOBER

Gender Studies • \$28.00 / \$35.00 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 304 pages

978-1-5416-0375-2

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0377-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Sarah Franklin

SARA AHMED

THE FEMINIST KILLJOY HANDBOOK

*The Radical Potential of
Getting in the Way*

Do you refuse to laugh at offensive jokes? Have you ever been accused of ruining dinner by pointing out your companion's sexist comment? Are you often told to stop being so "woke"? If so, you might be a feminist killjoy—and this handbook is for you. In this book, feminist theorist Sara Ahmed shows how killing joy can be a radical world-making project.

Presenting sharp analysis of literature, film, and influential feminist works, and drawing on her own experiences as a queer feminist scholar-activist of color, Ahmed reveals the invaluable lessons of the feminist killjoy, from the importance of asking questions to the power of the eye roll. *The Feminist Killjoy Handbook* offers an outstretched hand to feminist killjoys everywhere and an essential intellectual guide to the transformative power of getting in the way.



SARA AHMED is a feminist writer and independent scholar who works at the intersection of feminist, queer, and race studies. Winner of the 2017 Kessler Award from CLAGS, the Center for LGBTQ Studies, Ahmed has published ten books, including the cult classic *Living a Feminist Life*. She lives in England.

MINNA DUBIN

MOM RAGE

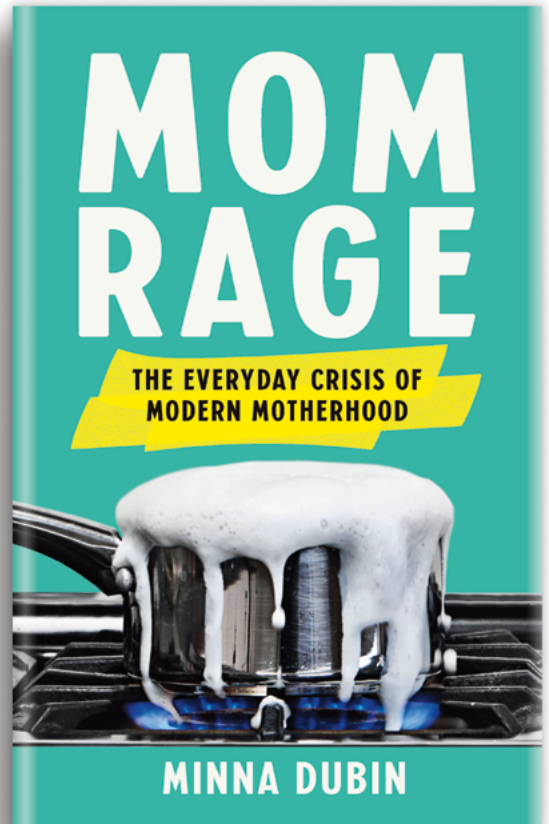
*The Everyday Crisis of
Modern Motherhood*

Mothers aren't supposed to be angry. But Minna Dubin—exhausted by the grueling work of full-time parenting and feeling her career slip away—would find herself screaming at her child or exploding at her husband.

When Dubin pushed past her shame and shared her feelings with other mothers, she realized that she was far from alone. *Mom Rage* is Dubin's groundbreaking work of reportage about an unspoken crisis of anger sweeping the country and the world. She finds that the roots of this anger run deep, from the unequal burden of childcare shouldered by moms to the flattening of women's identities once they have kids. Drawing on insights from moms across the spectrum of race, sexual orientation, and class, Dubin offers practical tools to help readers disarm their rage in the moment, while never losing sight of the broader social change we need to stop raging for good.



MINNA DUBIN's work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Salon*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Romper*, *Parents*, and elsewhere. She lives in Berkeley, California.



**A frank, feminist examination
of the hidden crisis of rage facing
American mothers—and
how we can fix it**

NEW HARDCOVER • SEPTEMBER

Parenting • \$29.00 / \$37.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 256 pages

978-1-5416-0130-7

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0131-4

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Morgan Shidler Photography



MEET THE EDITORS

LARA HEIMERT

SVP, PUBLISHER,
THE BASIC BOOKS GROUP
(BASIC, SEAL, PUBLIC
AFFAIRS, & BOLD TYPE)

p: 212-364-0669

e: 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* best-selling titles. Highlights include Edward Baptist's *The Half Has Never Been Told*, Eugene Rogan's *The Fall of the Ottomans*, Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*, Bee Wilson's *Consider the Fork*, Victor Davis Hanson's *The Dying Citizen*, Neil Price's *Children of Ash and Elm*, and Jason Riley's *Maverick*. 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.

BRIAN J. DISTELBERG

VP, EDITOR IN CHIEF

p: 212-364-0655

e: brian.distelberg@hbgusa.com

Brian J. Distelberg joined Basic Books in 2015 and acquires primarily in history. Books he has edited and published include Brad DeLong's *Slouching Towards Utopia*, Peniel Joseph's *The Third Reconstruction*, Martha Jones's *Vanguard*, Martyn Rady's *The Habsburgs*, Marc David Baer's *The Ottomans*, Walter Johnson's *The Broken Heart of America*, and Alice Baumgartner's *South to Freedom*. He also publishes a select number of books in politics; 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

VP & EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

p: 212-364-0657

e: thomas.kelleher@hbgusa.com

Thomas Kelleher joined Basic Books in 2009, and publishes predominantly in science, mathematics, and economics. He has published Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Edward Frenkel, Thor Hanson, Eugenia Cheng, and Leonard Susskind, among many others. Recent highlights include Azra Raza's *The First Cell*, Lucy Cooke's *Bitch*, William MacAskill's *What We Owe the Future*, Adam Becker's *What Is Real?*, Rob Dunn's *A Natural History of the Future*, and Eugenia Cheng's *Is Math Real?*. He is also responsible for the publishing program surrounding *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*.

MEET THE EDITORS

JANICE AUDET

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0650

e: janice.audet@hbgusa.com

Janice Audet joined Basic Books in 2023 and acquires primarily in the biological and life sciences. Before joining Basic, she was an executive editor for science at Harvard University Press, where she acquired, edited, and published books by Christina Maslach and Michael Leiter, Martin Rees, Govert Schilling, Cecilia Heyes, and Beronda Montgomery.

BRANDON PROIA

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0632

e: brandon.proia@hbgusa.com

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 Taylor's *Race for Profit*, Johanna Fernandez's *The Young Lords*, and Kelly Hernandez's *City of Inmates*. He has also worked as an editor at PublicAffairs, where he published Radley Balko's *Rise of the Warrior Cop*.

EMILY TABER

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0656

e: emily.taber@hbgusa.com

Emily Taber joined Basic Books and Seal Press in 2022. She acquires primarily in economics and business, with a particular interest in economic and business history, behavioral economics, public policy, and workplace inclusion. Previously, she was the economics, finance, and business editor at the MIT Press, where she published books by Ron Adner, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Cass Sunstein, and Ruchika Tulshyan.

MEET THE EDITORS

EMMA BERRY

SENIOR EDITOR

p: 212-364-0542

e: emma.berry@hbgusa.com

Emma Berry joined Basic Books and Seal Press in 2020 and acquires in literary studies, law, psychology and medicine, and the social sciences, with a particular interest in feminism and queer studies. Books she has edited and published include Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen's *The Library*, Stephen Vladeck's *The Shadow Docket*, and Peggy O'Donnell Heffington's *Without Children*. Before joining Basic, she was an editor at Crown, where she acquired and edited books including *The Whiteness of Wealth* by Dorothy Brown and *Let the Lord Sort Them* by Maurice Chammah.

MICHAEL KALER

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0636

e: michael.kaler@hbgusa.com

Michael Kaler joined Basic Books in 2020, and acquires primarily in history and politics, with particular interests in social justice, climate change, and labor issues. He also acquires selectively in international affairs and global studies. Books he has acquired or edited include Jared Farmer's *Elderflora*, Jacqueline Jones's *No Right to an Honest Living*, and Hein de Haas's *How Migration Really Works*. Before joining Basic, Michael worked at Liveright and *New York Magazine*.