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Money, Murder, and Dominick Dunne
A Life in Several Acts

Author: Robert Hofler
Publication Date: April 2017
256 pages, notes, index

Dominick Dunne was the kind of cultural Zelig whose life and career intersected with every cultural strata of American society.

As a film producer he was involved with some of the leading movie productions, actors, directors and producers of the last few decades. As a Vanity Fair journalist focused on the crimes of the rich and powerful, he was an observer and chronicler of many of the most riveting trials of the age, including the trials of O.J. Simpson, the Menendez brothers, Michael Skakal, Phil Spector and Claus von Bulow, as well as the trial of the man who murdered Dunne's own daughter. As a literary figure who reinvented himself as a writer when his Hollywood career went bust, he was a brother-in-law of Joan Didion and a friend to, and confidant of, many literary stars.

As a result his life story is on some level the cultural story of modern America, one that intersects with a platoon of famous names—everyone from Truman Capote, the Kennedys, Frank Sinatra, and Elizabeth Taylor to Nancy Reagan and Phil Spector. And although he told his own story before his recent death, in his own heavily censored memoir, his full biography, including a long life spent largely in hiding, as part of a gay subculture that was still heavily closeted, has never been revealed. Robert Hofler sets out to document that story, based on thorough research and interviews with close family and friends.

Robert Hofler has been an entertainment journalist for more than forty years, at publications including Life, Us, and Variety. He is the author of The Man Who Invented Rock Hudson (a biography of Henry Wilson), and Party Animals (a biography of Allan Carr), as well as Sexplosion: How a Generation of Pop Rebels Broke All the Taboos. Hofler is the theater critic for The Wrap and lives in New York City.

"You've met the two Mrs. Grenvilles. Now meet the two Dominick Dunnes. Or three, Or four. Robert Hofler stunningly captures all of them."
—Stephen M. Silverman, author of David Lean
Truth’s Fool
Derek Freeman and the War over Cultural Anthropology

Author: Peter Hempenstall
Publication Date: December 2017
336 pages, 18 illus., notes, index

Key Points:

- Illuminates the man who ignited a ferocious controversy in 1983 when he denounced the research of Margaret Mead.
- Recounts Freeman’s mission to turn the discipline from its cultural-determinist leanings toward a view of human culture underpinned by biological and behavioral drivers.
- Engages the intellectual questions at the center of the Mead–Freeman debate.

“A perceptive intellectual biography of Freeman’s evolving character, enthusiasms, and academic career that led to his fateful pursuit of Margaret Mead.”
—Lamont Lindstrom, author of Knowledge and Power in a South Pacific Society

Peter Hempenstall is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand and a conjoint professor of history at the University of Newcastle in Australia. His many books include Pacific Islanders under German Rule and the biographies The Meddlesome Priest and The Lost Man: Wilhelm Solf in German History (coauthored with Paula Tanaka Mochida).

“Explains and demythologises our knowledge of a brilliant but complex scholar and his ideological obsessions about anthropology, anthropologists, and Samoa.”
—Penelope Schoeffel, National University of Samoa
Black Fox
A Life of Emilie Demant Hatt, Artist and Ethnographer

Author: Barbara Sjoholm
Publication Date: October 2017
344 pages, 26 illus., notes, index

Key Points:

- Recounts Emilie Demant Hatt's fascinating life among Sami nomads of Scandinavia.
- Analyses the state of anthropology, racial biology, and politics in Scandinavia during the first half of the twentieth century.
- Investigates the boundaries and influences between ethnographers and sources, the nature of authorship and visual representation.

"A fascinating story of a talented woman's unconventional career at the outset of the twentieth century. Through Sjoholm's meticulous archival investigation, Emilie Demant Hatt emerges as a woman of tremendous energy, insight, and vision, unafraid to cross the various academic, artistic, and cultural barriers of her time."
—Thomas A. DuBois, translator of Johan Turi's An Account of the Sámi

"Emilie Demant Hatt's contributions to Sami ethnography deserve wide recognition, and this biography provides an absorbing account of her achievements as an ethnographer as well as an artist."
—Trude Fonneland, author of Contemporary Shamanisms in Norway

Barbara Sjoholm is the editor and translator of Demant Hatt's narrative With the Lapps in the High Mountains. Her many books include novels about Demant Hatt's youthful romance with Danish composer Carl Nielsen: Fossil Island and The Former World.

Author's website: http://www.barbarasjoholm.com/

"Sjoholm is everything one could wish for in a biographer: a sympathetic and dedicated researcher, a vivid prose stylist, and a natural storyteller."
—Christina Thompson, author of Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All
Good Night, Beloved Comrade
The Letters of Denton Welch to Eric Oliver

Editor: Daniel J. Murtaugh
Publication Date: February 2017
144 pages, 10 b/w photos, notes, index

Though German bombs were ravaging Britain, Welch wrote in his published work about the idyllic landscapes and local people he observed in Kent. There, in 1943, he met and fell in love with Eric Oliver, a handsome, intelligent, but rather insecure “landboy”—an agricultural worker with the wartime Land Army. Oliver would become a companion, comrade, lover, and caretaker during the last six years of Welch’s life.

Key Points
• All fifty-one letters that Welch wrote to Oliver are collected and annotated here for the first time.
• Offers a historical record of life amidst hardship, deprivation, and fear of World War II.
• A timeless testament of one young man’s tender and intimate emotions, his immense courage in adversity, and his continual struggle for love and creative existence.

“Whenever a student tells me he has nothing to write about I refer him to Denton Welch. It is time that Denton received the attention he deserves.”
—William S. Burroughs

“Readers are in for a treat: Good Night, Beloved Comrade is a masterpiece. The account of a thrilling and tormenting gay love affair, it is also a devastating experience of disability and, above all, the awakening of a remarkable and unforgettable literary voice.”
—Richard Canning, author of Gay Fiction Speaks

Denton Welch is the author of four novels published between 1943 and 1950: Maiden Voyage, In Youth Is Pleasure, Brave and Cruel, and A Voice through Cloud, as well as a large body of short fiction and poetry.

Daniel J. Murtaugh teaches literature and history at Park University and at Johnson County Community College. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri.
Hamka's Great Story
A Master Writer's Vision of Islam for Modern Indonesia

Author: James R. Rush
Publication Date: July 2016
256 pages, notes, index

Rights: Indonesian language rights sold.

Key Points:
- Presents Indonesia through the eyes of an impassioned, popular thinker who believed that Indonesians and Muslims everywhere should embrace the thrilling promises of modern life, and navigate its dangers, with Islam as their compass.
- In a lifetime of prodigious writing, Hamka advanced Islam as a liberating, enlightened, and hopeful body of beliefs around which the new nation could form and prosper.
- Illustrates a profound global process: how public debates about religion are shaping national societies in the postcolonial world

"Few Muslim intellectuals and activists loom larger in modern Indonesian history than Hamka. In this richly detailed and elegantly written book, James Rush has provided a moving, definitive account of this complex man. This is a major contribution to our understanding of Indonesia and Indonesian Islam."
—Robert W. Hefner, Boston University

Further Exploration
Chapter 1: Society's Compass
Chapter 2: Father and Son
Chapter 3: Hamka-san and Bung Haji
Chapter 4: Islam for Indonesia


"A tour de force of historical writing. This is an epic work that will prove very important."
—Eric Tagliacozzo, Cornell University
In the Province of the Gods

Author: Kenny Fries
Publication Date: August 2017
216 pages, notes, index

A beguiling adventure in Japan

Kenny Fries embarks on a journey of profound self-discovery as a disabled foreigner in Japan, a society historically hostile to difference. As he visits gardens, experiences Noh and butoh, and meets artists and scholars, he also discovers disabled gods, one-eyed samurai, blind chanting priests, and A-bomb survivors. When he is diagnosed as HIV positive, all his assumptions about Japan, the body, and mortality are shaken, and he must find a way to reenter life on new terms.

"Deeply moving and exquisitely written about many things—cultural and physical difference, sexuality, love, loss, mortality, and the ephemeral nature of beauty and art. In the Province of the Gods is also a love letter to Japan, a country that embraced the author at a time when he needed acceptance the most. But perhaps most important, it is that rare kind of book that offers us a profound sense of what it means to be truly alive."
—Mira Bartók, author of The Memory Palace

Kenny Fries is the author of Body, Remember: A Memoir and The History of My Shoes and the Evolution of Darwin's Theory. He is the editor of Staring Back: The Disability Experience from the Inside Out. He teaches in the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Goddard College and is the recipient of a prestigious Creative Capital grant.

Author's website: https://www.kennyfries.com/

"Kenny Fries writes out of the pure hot emergency of a mortal being trying to keep himself alive. So much is at stake here—health, affection, culture, trauma, language—but its greatest surprise is what thrives in the midst of suffering. A beautiful book."
—Paul Lisicky, author of The Narrow Door
My Sister’s Mother
A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin’s Siberia

Author: Donna Solecka Urbikas
Publication Date: April 2016
312 pages, 14 b/w photos, 1 map, notes, references, index

Key Points:

- A daughter’s story of her Polish-born mother and half sister, who endured dehumanizing conditions during World War II as slave laborers in Siberia.
- In this unforgettable memoir, the author recounts her family history and her own survivor’s story, finally understanding the damaged mother who had saved her sister.

“An unprecedented saga of a loving mother and her two daughters raised years and oceans apart: the older one in Soviet slavery during World War II, the younger in freedom and safety in the United States. The demons that possessed the mother in slavery—fighting like a tigress to protect her child—never left her in freedom, emotionally harming her younger daughter. A unique perspective on the tragic deportation of Poles to Siberia.”
—Wesley Adamczyk, author of When God Looked the Other Way

Further Exploration
- Part 1: The Generation between the Wars
- Part 2: Russia and Siberia
- Part 3: Choices and Destiny
- Part 4: Bittersweet Lessons
- Part 5: Epilogue – On Being a Mother

Donna Solecka Urbikas was born in Coventry, England, and immigrated with her parents and sister to Chicago in 1952. After careers as a high school science teacher and environmental engineer, she is now a writer, realtor, and community volunteer. She lives in Chicago with her husband.
I Am Evelyn Amony
Reclaiming My Life from the Lord’s Resistance Army

Author: Evelyn Amony
Editor: Erin Baines, introduction
Publication Date: October 2015
240 pages, 23 b&w photographs, 4 maps, notes, bibliography, index

“It came on its own from my heart. I just felt it was important to narrate these things. I experienced such terrible things, but I am not the only one to have had this experience.”
—Evelyn Amony

Key Points:
- The harrowing story of a woman abducted in 1994 at the age of eleven who spent nearly eleven years inside the Lord's Resistance Army, becoming a forced wife to Joseph Kony and mother to his children.
- Freed after being captured by the Ugandan military, Amony joined a Ugandan peace delegation to the LRA in 2006, trying to convince Kony to end the war that lasted more than two decades.
- This is a story of heartbreaking loss, unrelenting horror and courageous survival.

Further Exploration:
- Chapter 1-3: growing up in a village in Uganda and witnessing the conflict between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army; life after she was abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army; becoming Kony’s wife and conceiving his children
- Chapters 4-6: the LRA is forced to leave Sudan after relations with the Arabs sour; captured by the UPDF and returned home to Uganda; participating in a Ugandan peace delegation to the LRA.

Evelyn Amony is a human rights advocate for war-affected women in northern Uganda, working as chair of the Women's Advocacy Network and with the Justice and Reconciliation Project in Gulu, Uganda.

Erin Baines is an associate professor in the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia and the cofounder of the Justice and Reconciliation Project in Gulu, Northern Uganda. She is the author of Vulnerable Bodies: Gender, the UN, and the Global Refugee Crisis.

“Evelyn Amony provides penetrating insights into one of the most notorious yet least understood armed groups, the Lord's Resistance Army. This is an invaluable account of what a woman experienced during years in captivity and, after escaping, her struggle to regain her humanity and agency. Essential reading for anyone studying armed opposition groups, women and war, transitional justice, and recovery.”
—Dyan Mazurana, Tufts University
The Disintegrations
A Novel

Author: Alistair McCartney
Publication Date: August 2017
232 pages, notes, index

A haunting, obsessive exploration of death

"I know nothing about death, absolutely nothing," asserts the narrator of this inventive autobiographical novel. Yet he can’t stop thinking about it. Detached from life in Los Angeles and his past in Australia, uncomfortable around other humans, he researches death on the Internet; mulls over distant and intimate stories of suicides, serial killers, and "natural deaths," and wanders about LA’s Holy Cross Cemetery. He’s looking for answers, all the while formulating his own disquieting philosophies.

Within this dizzying investigation into the mystery of death is another mystery: who is the companion igniting these memories? This enigmatic novel blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction, story and eulogy, poetry and obituary. Wry yet somber, astringent yet tender, The Disintegrations confronts both the impossibility of understanding death and the timeless longing for immortality.

“A book that takes possession of you right from the opening and will not let you go. Challenging and gripping, a rumination on death and memory that speaks eloquently to our sense of loss, both personal and communal. The writing is exquisite. In the best possible sense, I know this book will haunt me for the longest time.”
—Christos Tsiolkas, author of Barracuda

Alistair McCartney is the author of The End of the World Book, a finalist for the PEN USA Literary Award in Fiction. He teaches creative writing at Antioch University Los Angeles.

Author’s website: http://www.alistairmccartney.com/
The Phantom of Thomas Hardy
A Novel

Author: Floyd Skloot
Publication Date: October 2016
184 pages, notes, index

Summary:

On a street in Dorchester, England, there is a gateway between real and imagined lives. A plaque identifies a Barclays Bank building as "lived in by the Mayor of Casterbridge in Thomas Hardy’s story of that name written in 1885."

In this imaginative novel, worlds continue to collide as Floyd, an American writer recovering from a devastating neuro-viral attack, and his wife, Beverly, immerse themselves in Thomas Hardy’s world. While pondering the enigma of a fictional character living in a factual building, Floyd is approached by Hardy himself—despite his death in 1928.

This phantom—possibly conjured out of Floyd’s damaged brain—tasks the Americans with finding out what Hardy missed in love. Embarking on their quest, they visit Hardy’s birthplace, home, and grave, exploring the Dorset landscape and the famous novels with their themes of tormented love. Peering into the Victorian past, they slowly dismantle the clutter of screens that Hardy placed around his private life, even as their own love story unfolds, filled with healing and hope.

"A rare book—entertaining and erudite, emotionally resonant, and enviably learned. Skloot writes with a deep compassion and curiosity about the private and public personas of Thomas Hardy in what is both a work of fiction and an unconventional, original memoir."
—Christine Sneed, author of Paris, He Said

Floyd Skloot is an award-winning writer of fiction, essays, poetry, and creative nonfiction. His twenty books include Revertigo: An Off-Kilter Memoir and The Wink of the Zenith: The Shaping of a Writer’s Life. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

"Only the inventive Floyd Skloot could come up with—and gorgeously pull off—an experiment like The Phantom of Thomas Hardy. With the intensity of a fevered dream, he seeks his own self-integration after brain trauma while digging around, assembling, and imagining the history of the elusive Hardy. Blending memoir, reportage, literary analysis, and historical fiction (who does that?) Skloot dazzles with the depth of his research, and enchants with his signature vivid, precise, and thoroughly delicious prose."
—Jeanne Marie Laskas, author of Concussion
Written in Blood
Revolutionary Terrorism and Russian Literary Culture 1861-1881

Author: Lynn Ellen Paytk
Publication Date: June 2017
368 pages, notes, index

Key Points:

- Offers a fundamentally new interpretation of the emergence of modern terrorism, arguing that it formed in the Russian literary imagination well before any shot was fired or bomb exploded.
- Contends that the prototype for the terrorist was the Russian writer, whose seditious word was interpreted as an audacious deed—and a violent assault on autocratic authority.
- Demonstrates how literary culture fostered the ethos, pathos, and image of the revolutionary terrorist and terrorism.
- Spotlights Fyodor Dostoevsky and his "terrorism trilogy"—Crime and Punishment (1866), Demons (1870–73), and The Brothers Karamazov (1878–80).

"A superb model of interdisciplinary scholarship: highly original, subtle, thought-provoking, and a pleasure to read. Analyzing both word and deed, Patyk rewrites the history of modern terrorism showing why the Russian case was pivotal. A gripping story."
—Susan Morrissey, author of Suicide and the Body Politic in Imperial Russia

Lynn Ellen Paytk is an assistant professor of Russian at Dartmouth College.

Challenging usual ways of thinking, Written in Blood is sure to become a classic in Russian cultural studies, to be read and appreciated by scholars, students, and general readers alike.
—Anthony Anemone, editor of Just Assassins: The Culture of Terrorism in Russia
Of Beggars and Buddhas
The Politics of Humor in the Vessantara Jataka in Thailand

Author: Katherine A. Bowie
Publication Date: February 2017
376 pages, 21 illus., notes, index

Summary:

The 547 Buddhist jatakas, or verse parables, recount the Buddha's lives in previous incarnations. In his penultimate and most famous incarnation, he appears as the Prince Vessantara, perfecting the virtue of generosity by giving away all his possessions, his wife, and his children to the beggar Jujaka.

Taking an anthropological approach to this two-thousand-year-old morality tale, Katherine A. Bowie highlights significant local variations in its interpretations and public performances across three regions of Thailand over 150 years.

The Vessantara Jataka has served both monastic and royal interests, encouraging parents to give their sons to religious orders and intimating that kings are future Buddhas. But, as Bowie shows, characterizations of the beggar Jujaka in various regions and eras have also brought ribald humor and sly antiroyalist themes to the story.

"Provides historical justification for a new reading of the Vessantara Jataka and offers delightful ethnographic descriptions of its varied performance in several regions of Thailand. An excellent addition to Thai studies and to the understudied field of Southeast Asian literature."—Justin McDaniel, author of The Lovelorn Ghost and the Magic Monk: Practicing Buddhism in Modern Thailand

Katherine A. Bowie is a professor of anthropology and the director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is the author of Rituals of National Loyalty: An Anthropology of the State and the Village Scout Movement in Thailand.

"This fascinating, innovative study helps us grasp significant intersections of narrative, politics, and performance in Thai Buddhist culture."
—Stephen C. Berkwitz, author of South Asian Buddhism: A Survey

Contact: Anne McKenna, Rights Manager, rights@uwpress.wisc.edu
Packy Jim
Folklore and Worldview on the Irish Border

Author: Ray Cashman
Publication Date: July 2016
336 pages, 25 b&w illustrations, 3 maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index

Key Points:
• A Donegal storyteller contemplates life, the universe, and everything.

• Growing up on a secluded smuggling route along the border of Northern Ireland and the Republic, Packy Jim McGrath regularly heard the news, songs, and stories of men and women who stopped to pass the time until cover of darkness.

"A brilliant testament to the ethnographer's art: the deeply rooted wisdom of an ordinary person, and the complex ways in which folklore figures in everyday life along the Irish border."
—James P. Leary, author of Folksongs of Another America

Further Exploration
Chapter 1: Person and Place, Life and Times
Chapter 2: Authority and Rules
Chapter 3: Power and Politics
Chapter 4: Place, History, and Morality
Chapter 5: Place, the Supernatural, and Cosmology

Ray Cashman is an associate professor of folklore at Indiana University. He is the author of Storytelling on the Northern Irish Border, which won both the Chicago Folklore Prize of the American Folklore Society and the Donald Murphy Prize of the American Conference for Irish Studies. He is a coeditor of The Individual and Tradition: Folkloristic Perspectives.

"Octogenarian bachelor Packy Jim McGrath of Lettercran, County Donegal, emerges here as both typical and singular, a barometer of continuity and change. McGrath’s resilience, dignity, and strong sense of self manifest clearly in his stories, which locate him both in the technological consumerist future and in the primordial self-sufficient past. Ray Cashman’s sharp and sympathetic observation delivers a classic ethnography that stakes a major claim for folkloristic studies to cutting-edge humanities research."
—Lillis Ó Laoire, author of On a Rock in the Middle of the Ocean: Songs and Singers in Tory Island
The Many Lives of Cy Endfield
Film Noir, the Blacklist, and Zulu

Author: Brian Neve
Publication Date: July 2015
276 pages, 15 b&w photographs, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index

Key Points:

- First book to portray the filmmaker who was fascinated by the worlds of close-up magic, science, and invention.

- Reveals Endfield's many identities: among them second-generation immigrant, Jew, Communist, and exile.

- Details the blacklist in 1951 that caused Endfield to flee to Britain rather than "name names" beforeHUAC, the U.S. House of Representatives' Un-American Activities Committee.

- Paints detailed scenes of the attempts by Hollywood directors in the postwar 1940s and early 1950s to address social and political controversies of the day.

- Illuminates the complex production and reception histories of Endfield's films, which the critic Jonathan Rosenbaum saw as reflective of "an uncommon intelligence so radically critical of the world we live in that it's dangerous."

- Films include Hell Drivers, Zulu, The Underworld Story, The Sound and the Fury.

Further Exploration:

- Chapter 1-3: immigrating to the United States during the thirties, joining the new social theatre movement after Waiting for Lefty, teaching at the New Theatre School; his early years as a director in Hollywood; the success of The Sound of Fury, being blacklisted by theHUAC

- Chapter 4-6: continuing his film career in Britain during the fifties; writing and producing Zulu, his late years and death in Britain


"One of the finest studies of an individual film director that I have had the pleasure of reading."
—Paul Buhle, Brown University, coauthor of Radical Hollywood and A Very Dangerous Citizen
Six Turkish Film Makers

Author: Laurence Raw
Publication Date: November 2017
224 pages, notes, index

Summary:

Examining the vanguard of New Turkish Cinema, Laurence Raw shows how these films reveal the effects of profound socioeconomic change on ordinary people in contemporary Turkey.

In analysis of and personal interviews with Derviş Zaim, Zeki Demirkubuz, Semih Kaplanoğlu, Çağan Irmak, Tolga Örnek, and Palme d'Or winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Raw draws connections with Turkish theater, art, sculpture, literature, poetry, philosophy, and international cinema. A native of England and a twenty-five-year resident of Turkey, Raw interleaves his film discussion with thoughtful commentary on nationalism, gender, personal identity, and cultural pluralism.

“Surprising and innovative. Raw integrates historical research with literary references and personal reflections, using the work of contemporary Turkish filmmakers to discuss pressing issues of identity and transcultural understanding.”
—Lain Robert Smith, King's College London

Laurence Raw is a professor of English at Başkent University in Turkey. He is the author of Exploring Turkish Cultures and Impressions of the Turkish Stage, in addition to numerous books on British and American literature and film.

“Raw chooses filmmakers whose films individually, and differently, reflect personal encounters with the culture, history, and politics of the Republic of Turkey. Replete with keen insights, this book is a delight to read and a model for compelling film scholarship and cultural commentary.”
—Dennis Rothermel, California State University, Chico
Romantic Geography
In Search of the Sublime Landscape

Author: Yi-Fu Tuan
Publication Date: January 2014
216 pages, 6 b&w illus., notes, index

Summary:

Yi-Fu Tuan has established a global reputation for deepening the field of geography by examining its moral, universal, philosophical, and poetic potentials and implications. In his twenty-second book, Romantic Geography, he continues to engage the wide-ranging ideas that have made him one of the most influential geographers of our time.

Much present-day geography lacks drama, with its maps and statistics, descriptions and analysis, but no acts of chivalry, no sense of quest. Not long ago, however, geography was romantic. Heroic explorers ventured to forbidding environments—oceans, mountains, forests, caves, deserts, polar ice caps—to test their power of endurance for reasons they couldn’t fully articulate. Why climb Everest? “Because it is there.”

In this elegant meditation, he considers the human tendency—stronger in some cultures than in others—to veer away from the middle ground of common sense to embrace the polarized values of light and darkness, high and low, chaos and form, mind and body.

“Called ‘one of the greatest living geographers,’ Tuan waxes rhapsodic about the Earth and humans’ relationship to it in this lovely little tome. He offers readers insight into famed explorers such as Ernest Shackleton and David Livingstone, reminding us that there was a time when geographers were akin to rock stars. Tuan finds poetry in geography, and readers will learn much about history and sustainability from his words.”
—77 Square

Yi-Fu Tuan is the J. K. Wright and Vilas Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and author of twenty-two books, including Morality and Imagination, The Good Life, Human Goodness, and his autobiography, Who Am I?, published by the University of Wisconsin Press, and Humanist Geography, published by George Thompson Publishing.

“Tuan locates romantic geography in the heroic quests that won a deep understanding of place, the more remote and challenging the better. His vision of humanity’s persistent hunger to reject familiar comfort for the new and strange is highly persuasive.”
—William Howarth, author of Walking with Thoreau
Reason After Its Eclipse
On Late Critical Theory

Author: Martin Jay
Publication Date: February 2016
256 pages, notes, bibliography, index

Key Points:
- Tackles a question as old as Plato and still pressing today: what is reason, and what roles does and should it have in human endeavor?
- Examines the overlapping, not fully compatible, meanings accrued to the term "reason" over two millennia, homing in on moments of crisis, critique, and defense of reason.
- Surveys Western ideas of reason from the ancient Greeks through Kant, Hegel, and Marx, and Horkheimer, Marcuse, Adorno, and most extensively Habermas.

"Martin Jay is one of the most respected intellectual historians now working, and any book by him is an important event. His subject here could hardly be bigger: the idea of reason in Western thought over two millennia."
—Michael Rosen, Harvard University

Further Exploration
- Part 1: The Ages of Reason
- Part 2: Reason’s Eclipse and Return

Martin Jay is the Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of fourteen previous books, including The Dialectical Imagination: A History of the Frankfurt School and the Institute of Social Research, 1923–50, which has been translated into thirteen languages; Marxism and Totality: The Adventures of a Concept from Lukács to Habermas; Adorno; Permanent Exiles: Essays on the Intellectual Migration from Germany to America; Downcast Eyes: The Denigration of Vision in Twentieth-Century French Thought; Songs of Experience: Modern European and American Variations on a Universal Theme; and The Virtues of Mendacity: On Lying in Politics.

“A magisterial rethinking of the fate of reason, particularly in German philosophy from Kant to Habermas.”
—Anson Rabinbach, Princeton University
Scattered
The Forced Relocation of Poland’s Ukrainians after World War II

Author: Diana Howansky Reilly
Publication Date: June 2013
192 pages, 32 b&w illustrations, 5 maps, notes, bibliography, index

- Silver Medal for World History, Independent Publisher Book Awards
- Finalist, ForeWord Book of the Year, History
- Finalist, Nonfiction, Housatonic Book Award

Rights: Ukrainian language not available. Author retained.

Key Points:
- Tells how following World War II, the communist government of Poland forcibly relocated the country’s Ukrainian minority by means of a Soviet-Polish population exchange

- Discusses a secretly planned action code-named Operation Vistula.

- Draws on oral interviews and archival research to tell a fascinating, true story of three siblings caught up in the conflict that illustrates the impact of extraordinary historical events on the lives of ordinary people.

- Traces the story to the present, describing survivors’ efforts to receive compensation for the destruction of their homes and communities.

Further Exploration:
- Chapter 1: Caught on the Battlefield of World War II
- Chapter 2: The Reality of the Soviet-Polish Population Exchange
- Chapter 3: Operation Vistula: The Solution to the “Ukrainian Problem”
- Chapter 4: Prisoners in the Central Labor Camp in Jaworzno
- Chapter 5: A New Home in the Recovered Territories?

Diana Howansky Reilly has master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University, in international affairs, and from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She lives in Connecticut.

"Reilly's engaging book, a valuable historical source, is a homage to the Lemkos, whose world has disappeared forever."
—Piotr J. Wróbel, Konstanty Reynert Chair of Polish History, University of Toronto

Contact: Anne McKenna at rights@uwpress.wisc.edu
The Soviet Union and the Gutting of the UN Genocide Convention

Author: Anton Weiss-Wendt
Publication Date: July 2017
400 pages, notes, index

Key Points:

- After the staggering horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, the United Nations resolved to prevent and punish the crime of genocide throughout the world by drafting the UN Genocide Convention treaty.
- The author reveals in detail how the political aims of the superpowers rendered the convention a weak instrument for addressing abuses against human rights.
- Drafted in the midst of Cold War tensions and ideological struggles between the Soviet Union and the West, the Kremlin viewed the genocide treaty as a political document and feared repercussions.
- The American Bar Association and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations worried that the Convention contained vague formulations that could be used against the U.S. in relation to the plight of African Americans.
- The author argues that humanitarian concerns for preventing future genocides were sidelined.

"An absorbing and important contribution to the history of the Cold War, as well as to international law and its political uses."
—Peter H. Solomon Jr., author of Soviet Criminal Justice under Stalin


“A fascinating study of the political manipulation, by both superpowers, of the Genocide Convention as it was being drafted at the dawn of the Cold War and in the period following its adoption.”

Contact: Anne McKenna, Rights Manager, rights@uwpress.wisc.edu
Worse Than the Devil
Anarchists, Clarence Darrow, and Justice in a Time of Terror

Author: Dean A. Strang
Publication Date: May 2016, paperback
288 pages, 20 b/w photos, notes, index

In 1917 a bomb exploded in a Milwaukee police station, killing nine officers and a civilian. Days later, a trial began for eleven Italian immigrants who had already been in jail for months for an unrelated riot. The specter of the bombing, for which no one had been arrested, haunted the proceedings. Against the backdrop of World War I and amid a prevailing hatred and fear of radical immigrants and anarchists, the Italians had an unfair trial. Famed attorney Clarence Darrow led an appeal that gained freedom for most of the convicted, but his own methods were deeply suspect. The entire case left a dark, though largely forgotten, stain on American justice.

“Dean A. Strang’s fascinating book excavates a conspiracy trial in Milwaukee back in 1917 that sheds crucial insights into the failings of our legal system and the hazards of succumbing to mass hysteria against immigrants and alleged terrorists. The book provides urgent lessons for us all. And along the way, the author provides vivid portraits of Clarence Darrow and Emma Goldman.”
—Matthew Rothschild, editor of The Progressive

Dean A. Strang is a criminal defense lawyer in Madison, Wisconsin, and an adjunct professor at the law schools of the University of Wisconsin and Marquette University. Strang appeared in the Netflix documentary series, Making a Murderer for his role as defense attorney for Steven Avery.

“A riveting account of a miscarriage of justice relevant to our times, when fear of radicals of a different stripe may infect our system of justice.”
—Booklist
Primed for Violence
Murder, Antisemitism, and Democratic Politics in Interwar Poland

Author: Paul Brykszynski
Publication Date: New paperback January 2018
240 pages, 21 b&w Illus., notes, index

Key Points:

- Discusses the 1922 election of Gabriel Narutowicz as the first president of the new Republic of Poland.
- Describes how his victory, with the support of a Jewish political party, enraged the right, provoked riots, and led to his murder less than a week later.
- Explores the complex role of antisemitism, nationalism, and violence in Polish politics between the two World Wars.

"The interwar period was an often violent time in which the demons of the twentieth century increasingly had their way. Bryckczynski places the assassination of President Gabriel Narutowicz in the context of growing antisemitism and the emerging challenge to democracy in the recently independent Polish nation. An important story, thoroughly researched and compellingly told."
—John Merriman, Yale University

Paul Bryckczynski is an independent historian who lives in Ontario.
The Human Rights Paradox
Universality and Its Discontents

Editors: Steve J. Stern & Scott Straus
Publication Date: April 2014
274 pages, notes, bibliography, index

Key Points:
- First book to fully embrace the contradiction that human rights are both always and never universal
- Reframes human rights as history, contemporary social advocacy, and future prospect.
- Case studies span Africa, Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and the United States
- Challenges us to consider the consequences—for history, social analysis, politics, and advocacy—of understanding that human rights belong both to “humanity” as abstraction as well as to specific people rooted in particular locales.

Further Exploration:
- Introduction: Embracing Paradox: Human Rights in the Global Age
- Human Rights History from the Ground Up: The Case of East Timor
- Rights on Display: Museums and Human Rights Claims
- Civilian Agency in Times of Crisis: Lessons from Burundi

Steve J. Stern is professor in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His books include Resistance, Rebellion, and Consciousness in the Andean Peasant World, 18th to 20th Centuries; and as coauthor, Confronting Historical Paradigms: Peasants, Labor, and the Capitalist World System in Africa and Latin America.

Scott Straus is associate professor of political science and international studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and author of The Order of Genocide: Race, Power, and War in Rwanda. Lars Waldorf, senior lecturer in international human rights law at the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, is coeditor of Localizing Transitional Justice and Disarming the Past: Transitional Justice and Ex-Combatants.

“A deeply penetrating critique of dominant trends in the human rights literature. This volume poses a persuasive challenge to those scholars who overlook the uneven and nonlinear development of human rights.”

—Victor Peskin, author of International Justice in Rwanda and the Balkans

Contact: Anne McKenna at rights@uwpress.wisc.edu
Memory's Turn
Reckoning with Dictatorship in Brazil

Author: Rebecca J. Atencio
Publication Date: April 2014
144 pages, 9 b&w illus., notes, index

Winner, Alfred B. Thomas Award, Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies

Key Points:

- After twenty-one years of military dictatorship, Brazil returned to democratic rule in 1985. Yet over the following two decades, the country largely ignored human rights crimes.
- The story of the slow turn to memory in Brazil, a turn that has taken place in both politics and in cultural production.
- Shows how testimonial literature, telenovelas, literary novels, theatrical plays, and memorials have interacted with policies adopted by the Brazilian state.
- The first book to analyze Brazil's reckoning with dictatorship through both institutional and cultural means.

"An extremely well-written, engaging, and interesting contribution to the scholarship on postdictatorial memory construction in Latin America. Atencio allows readers to see the multiple and layered ways in which postconflict societies construct and contest the meanings of the past."
—Michael J. Lazzara, author of Chile in Transition

Further Exploration
- Chapter 1: Testimonies and the Amnesty Law
- Chapter 2: A Prime-time Miniseries and Impeachment
- Chapter 3: Literary and Official Truth-Telling
- Chapter 4: From Torture Center to Stage and Sight of Memory

Rebecca J. Atencio is an assistant professor of Brazilian literary and cultural studies at Tulane University. Founder of the blog Transitional Justice in Brazil, she lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Atencio's revelation of cultural and political synergies highlights the ambiguities inherent in recovering truths from the past, for memory and truth are not always the same thing."
—Choice
The Trashing of Margaret Mead
Anatomy of an Anthropological Controversy

Author: Paul Shankman
Publication Date: December 2009
360 pages, 11 illus., notes, index

In 1928 Margaret Mead published *Coming of Age in Samoa*, a fascinating study of the lives of adolescent girls that transformed Mead herself into an academic celebrity. In 1983 anthropologist Derek Freeman published a scathing critique of Mead’s Samoan research, badly damaging her reputation.

Author Paul Shankman explores the many dimensions of the Mead-Freeman controversy as it developed publicly and as it played out privately, including the personal relationships, professional rivalries, and larger-than-life personalities that drove it. Providing a critical perspective on Freeman’s arguments, Shankman reviews key questions about Samoan sexuality, the alleged hoaxing of Mead, and the meaning of the controversy.

"[A] balanced portrait of this complex and often vitriolic anthropological controversy. Well researched and thoroughly documented, this should be of interest both to anthropologists and to educated lay readers with interests in Mead and her legacy."
—Library Journal

"A superbly crafted and highly readable book that essentially lays the Mead-Freeman controversy to rest."
—James Côté, author of *Adolescent Storm and Stress: An Evaluation of the Mead-Freeman Controversy*

Paul Shankman, professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has conducted fieldwork in Samoa periodically since 1966. He has written a number of articles on the Mead-Freeman controversy.

“[A] compelling read about the controversy. Shankman, whose anthropological engagement with Samoa covers forty years and who met both Freeman and Mead, presents measured accounts of their careers, reasons for studying Samoa, and personal lives.”—Roger Sanjek, author of *The Future of Us All: Race and Neighborhood Politics in New York City*
Spirit Children
Illness, Poverty, and Infanticide in Northern Ghana

Author: Aaron R. Denham
Publication Date: May 2017
200+ pages, 15 photos, notes, appendix, bibliography, index

Summary:

In parts of West Africa, some babies and toddlers are considered spirit children—nonhumans sent from the forest to cause misfortune and destroy the family. These are usually deformed or ailing infants, the very young whose births coincide with tragic events, or children who display unusual abilities. In some of these cases, families seek a solution in infanticide. Many others do not.

Refusing to generalize or oversimplify, Denham offers an ethnographic study of the spirit child phenomenon in Northern Ghana that considers medical, economic, religious, and political realities. He examines both the motivations of the families and the structural factors that lead to infanticide, framing these within the context of global public health. At the same time, he turns the lens on Western societies and the misunderstandings that prevail in discourse about this controversial practice. Engaging the complexity of the context, local meanings, and moral worlds of those confronting a spirit child, Denham offers visceral accounts of families' life and death decisions.

"A brilliant, sensitive, and moving book about the heartbreaking phenomenon of infanticide. This is a book to be taken seriously by hospital personnel, public health policymakers, NGO workers, and anyone interested in the fate of the world's most vulnerable young children."
—Alma Gottlieb, coauthor of A World of Babies

Aaron R. Denham is the director of the Master of Development Studies and Global Health program and a senior lecturer in anthropology at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. A former child/adolescent mental health provider and former volunteer with Engineers Without Borders, he is the producer of the documentary film The Spirit Child.