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*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

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Audio / Politics / International / Biographies & Memoirs

[A State at Any Cost: The Life of David Ben-Gurion, Audiobook, MP3Cd, 31.5 hours, unabridged](#) by Tom Segev, translated by Haim Watzman, read by Paul Boehmer (Tantor Media, Inc.)

[A State at Any Cost: The Life of David Ben-Gurion, hardcover](#) by Tom Segev, translated by Haim Watzman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

As the founder of Israel, David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973) long ago secured his reputation as a leading figure of the twentieth century. Determined from an early age to create a Jewish state, he took control of the Zionist movement, declared Israel's independence, and navigated his country through wars, controversies and remarkable achievements. And yet Ben-Gurion remains an enigma – he could be driven and imperious, or quizzical and confounding.

In [A State at Any Cost](#) journalist-historian Tom Segev uses large amounts of previously unreleased archival material to give an original, nuanced account, transcending the myths and legends that have accreted around the man.

Segev is among Israel's leading journalists and historians. Translator Haim Watzman is a Jerusalem-based writer, journalist, and translator. Reader of the audio version, Paul Boehmer, is a seasoned actor who has appeared on Broadway, film, and television and has been cast in various roles in many episodes of *Star Trek*.

Segev's probing biography ranges from the villages of Poland to Manhattan libraries, London hotels, and the hills of Palestine, and shows readers Ben-Gurion's relentless activity across six decades. Along the way, Segev reveals for the first time Ben-Gurion's secret negotiations with the British on the eve of Israel's independence, his willingness to countenance the forced transfer of Arab neighbors, his relative indifference to Jerusalem, and his occasional 'nutty moments' – from UFO sightings to plans for Israel to acquire territory in South America. Segev also reveals that Ben-Gurion first heard about the Holocaust from a Palestinian Arab acquaintance, and explores his tempestuous private life, including the testimony of four former lovers.

[A State at Any Cost](#) is a full and startling portrait of a man who sought a state 'at any cost' – at times through risk-taking, violence, and unpredictability, and at other times through compromise, moderation, and reason. Segev's Ben-Gurion is neither a saint nor a villain but rather a historical actor who belongs in the company of Lenin or Churchill – a twentieth-century leader whose iron will and complex temperament left a complex and contentious legacy that we still reckon with today.

"[A] fascinating biography ... a masterly portrait of a titanic yet unfulfilled man ... this is a gripping study of power, and the loneliness of power. – The Economist

Segev ... has spent four decades exploring Ben-Gurion's impact on Israel, in a body of work that has no equal either for the brilliance of his storytelling or the ironies of his analysis. He is neither a sentimental apologist for Ben-Gurion nor a crusading dethroner in the style of the New Historians with whom he has often been grouped. He is, rather, a student of power, and is at once fascinated and horrified by what he sees. – Adam Shatz, London Review of Books

[A] deeply researched, engrossing and, in some respects, controversial biography ... Segev is best when probing the human side of the complex leader.... Ben-Gurion emerges in Segev's book as a man of vision and integrity. – Francine Klagsbrun, The New York Times Book Review

The Israeli historian Tom Segev paints a conflicting portrait of Israel's founder in his monumental [A State at Any Cost](#) ... Segev is unsparing in his depiction of the less appealing sides of his private and political personalities. He also convincingly and meticulously builds the case for Ben-Gurion as a visionary leader, efficient organiser and persuasive advocate without whose efforts Israel, as an independent and sovereign state, may never have come into being. – Anshel Pfeffer, The Times (London)

Segev unearths a man of contradictions ... what Segev's deft unfolding of the trajectory of Ben-Gurion's life makes clear is that his legacy is Israel itself. – Diane Cole, *The Washington Post*

Writing without fear or favor, Tom Segev has authority ... [[A State at Any Cost](#)] is also an oblique but illuminating history of the making of Israel. – David Pryce-Jones, *The New Criterion*

To say that Segev has written another history of David Ben-Gurion (1886–1973) would be an understatement ... [[A State at Any Cost](#)] is a definitive biography of Israel's former prime minister ... Scholars and devoted readers of political history, notably of the Middle East, will turn to Segev's majestic analysis of this pivotal leader for decades to come. – *Library Journal*

Eminent Israeli journalist and historian [Tom Segev] chronicles the life of a driven leader who galvanized others to the exhausting, relentless pursuit of a state of Israel ... A fair portrait of a difficult, hard-nosed character. – Kirkus

Tom Segev's meticulously researched and most elegantly written new biography of David Ben-Gurion is a must for anybody interested in both the glorious and the dark pages of the history of Zionism and Israel, as reflected throughout the life and times of the Jewish State's most important founding father. – Saul Friedländer, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Nazi Germany and the Jews* and *Where Memory Leads*

[A] carefully researched and nonjudgmental biography ... Tom Segev's [A State at Any Cost](#) aptly summarizes the lodestar of Ben-Gurion's life. – Avraham Avi-hai, *The Jerusalem Post*

In the course of six years of research, Segev ... discovered a leader fraught with dramatic contrasts ... the author has come up with significant historical revelations. – Ofer Aderet, *Haaretz*

Tom Segev has completed a monumental task. The work includes the research of a true detective. – Avner Cohen, author of *Israel and the Bomb*

Exhaustively researched, definitive, probing, [A State at Any Cost](#) is a must for anyone interested in the history of Zionism and Israel. <>

Biographies & Memoirs / Poetry

[Love Unknown: The Life and Worlds of Elizabeth Bishop](#) by Thomas Travisano (Viking)
Elizabeth Bishop's friend James Merrill once observed that "Elizabeth had more talent for life – and for poetry – than anyone else I've known." [Love Unknown](#), a new biography, reveals just how she learned to marry her talent for life with her talent for writing in order to create a brilliant array of poems, prose, and letters – a remarkable body of work that would make her one of America's most beloved and celebrated poets.

In [Love Unknown](#), Thomas Travisano, founding president of the Elizabeth Bishop Society, Professor Emeritus of English at Hartwick College, tells the story of the famous poet and traveler's life.

As a child, Bishop lost her father to Bright's disease, then her mother to a mental breakdown, losses that would, deniably shape her view of the world. A keen observer of human nature even then, she honed her talent through adolescence as she moved between Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, then firmly established herself as a poet during her time at Vassar College.

As told in [Love Unknown](#), Bishop moved through extraordinary mid-twentieth century worlds with relationships among an extensive international array of literati, visual artists,

musicians, scholars, and politicians – along with a cosmopolitan gay underground that was then nearly invisible to the dominant culture.

"The art of losing isn't hard to master / so many things seem filled with the intent / to be lost that their loss is no disaster," begins Bishop's most famous poem 'One Art,' a moving meditation on the process of recovery after immense loss. Bishop's life was marked by numerous tragedies, but it was also filled with joy.

Though she only published 100 poems in her lifetime, Bishop won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1956, the National Book Award in 1970, and was the recipient of the Neustadt International Prize for Literature in 1976. One of the few acclaimed gay female poets of her time, she was an explorer with a passion for traveling, spending time in Nova Scotia, Key West, Paris, and Brazil, where she lived for fifteen years with her partner, Lota de Macedo Soares.

Travisano, who has been studying Bishop for more than forty years and helped select the epitaph on her grave, has created a biography that is not only highly readable, but atmospheric and detailed in time, place, and character. Travisano draws on extensive research and fresh interviews, and on Bishop's correspondence with May Swenson, Anne Stevenson, and Robert Lowell, along with newly discovered letters to her psychiatrist, Dr. Ruth Foster, and to Louise Bradley, her first great epistolary friend. Travisano explores how Bishop's life unfolded as a search for the kind of unexpected encounters and epiphanies that appear so often in her work. Hers was a life of experimentation and discovery, and [Love Unknown](#) fully demonstrates that Bishop's 'art of losing' was linked in equal measure to a singular 'art of finding.'

[Love Unknown](#) points movingly to the many relationships that moored Bishop, keeping her together even as life – and her own self-destructive tendencies – threatened to split her apart. – *The Wall Street Journal*

Reading [Love Unknown](#) is almost as enjoyable as reading one of Bishop's strange and marvelous poems. – *The Washington Post*

A definitive biography-cum-literary study of Elizabeth Bishop... Travisano's essential volume illuminates Bishop's life and, most valuably, her work. – *Publishers Weekly*, starred
Utterly captivating... illuminating, interwoven analysis of [Elizabeth Bishop's] work. – *Booklist*, starred

A masterly biography. – *Library Journal*, starred

An authoritative and sensitive biography... A finely textured portrait of an acclaimed poet. – *Kirkus*

This is the biography we've been waiting for. Alternately heartbreaking and joyous, it contains many fascinating discoveries, all orchestrated by an insightful, sympathetic narrator. – Steven Axelrod, President of the Robert Lowell Society and author of *Robert Lowell: Life and Art*

Thomas Travisano's new critical biography, [Love Unknown](#), is as illuminating as it is engrossing – a major addition to our ever-deepening understanding of Bishop's life and singular art. – Lloyd Schwartz, poet, Pulitzer Prize-winning critic, and co-editor of *Elizabeth Bishop: Poems, Prose, and Letters*

You are confident, reading Travisano's [Love Unknown](#), that his biography comes as close to communicating an understanding and appreciation of the elusive and complicated Bishop as can be achieved. – Scott Donaldson, author of *Hemingway vs. Fitzgerald and The Paris Husband*

Elizabeth Bishop's great poetry has been considered an art of loss, as in her celebrated ironic line, 'the art of losing isn't hard to master.' In Thomas Travisano's new, wide-ranging

biography, she emerges instead as a poet of gain upon gain, maker of an art grown from all she had lost in childhood. He gives us a writer alive to adventure, ever seeking, discovering, and burning with the fire to transmute ordinary things she encounters into gold. – Grace Schulman, winner of the Frost Medal of Distinguished Lifetime Achievement in American Poetry

*Thomas Travisano has deftly orchestrated an immense amount of research and years of meditation on the life of this great poet. The result is a biography that is full of revelations, indispensable readings of the poems, no candle unlit in illuminating Bishop's writing life from childhood to her last year. This is an utterly captivating book. – Howard Norman, author of *The Ghost Clause**

*Thomas Travisano displays a particular mastery of the contexts of Elizabeth Bishop's life and art. He offers much new and precisely evaluated insight into Bishop's family, friends and communities. Travisano ends his biography in a truly Bishop-like fashion – with a funny and incisive story, a story that shows how well he appreciates and can emulate Bishop's singular and deceptive casualness of tone. – Lorrie Goldensohn, author of *Elizabeth Bishop: The Biography of a Poetry**

In his extensively researched and insightful new biography, [Love Unknown](#), Travisano sheds new light on the poet's life, illuminating both the world she lived in and the work she left behind. <>

Business & Economics / Law / Taxes / Guides / Reference

[Every Nonprofit's Tax Guide: How to Keep Your Tax-Exempt Status & Avoid IRS Problems, 6th edition](#) by Stephen Fishman J.D. (Nolo)

Nonprofits enjoy privileges not available to other organizations. But these privileges come with obligations: Nonprofits must comply with special IRS rules and regulations to maintain their tax-exempt status. [Every Nonprofit's Tax Guide, 6th edition](#) explains ongoing and annual IRS compliance requirements for nonprofits, including:

- A detailed look at Form 990
- Line-by-line instructions for Form 990-EZ
- Conflicts of interest and compensation rules
- Charitable giving rules
- Unrelated taxable business income rules
- Lobbying and political activity restrictions
- Nonprofit bookkeeping

Author Stephen Fishman has dedicated his career as an attorney and author to writing useful, authoritative, and recognized guides on business, taxation, and intellectual property matters for small businesses, entrepreneurs, independent contractors, and freelancers. He is a two-time recipient of the Independent Book Publishers Association's Benjamin Franklin Award.

Whether readers are just starting their nonprofit or are well established, they will find the information they need to avoid the most common issues nonprofits run into with the IRS. Organized by issue, [Every Nonprofit's Tax Guide](#) is a reference guide to complicated IRS rules that every small to medium sized nonprofits must comply with. From annual filing requirements to unrelated business income to volunteers to lobbying activities, this book explains how to stay out of trouble with the IRS.

This book is for readers if they have a nonprofit that is up and running, whether it's been one day or one decade. Failure to comply with nonprofit tax laws can lead to dire consequences – revocation of their tax-exempt status, or the imposition of taxes and

penalties on their nonprofit, or even on their officers, directors, or employees personally. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), the most far-reaching tax reform law in over 30 years, took effect in 2018. It dramatically altered the tax environment for charitable giving and imposed new restrictions and rules for nonprofits.

Fortunately, most nonprofits can handle IRS compliance tasks themselves or with minimal help. [Every Nonprofit's Tax Guide](#), 6th edition can help. It contains step-by-step guidance on:

- How to file annual information returns with the IRS.
- What types of records the nonprofit is required to keep.
- Classifying workers as employees or independent contractors and dealing with employment taxes.
- How to comply with the tax laws governing the use of volunteers.
- The deductibility of charitable contributions.
- When they must provide written substantiation for contributions.
- Avoiding IRS taxes or penalties due to conflicts of interest, payment of excessive compensation, insider transactions, and other prohibited behavior.
- How to avoid having to pay taxes on side businesses their nonprofit conducts to earn extra income.
- What types of lobbying are and are not allowed.
- How to steer clear of the prohibition on political activity.

Nolo's... material is developed by experienced attorneys who have a knack for making complicated material accessible. – Library Journal

Nolo is a pioneer in both consumer and business self-help books and software. – Los Angeles Times

Nonprofits need to take ongoing compliance with IRS rules and regulations more seriously than ever before. Practical, comprehensive, and easy to understand, [Every Nonprofit's Tax Guide](#) is the essential tax reference book for nonprofits. Readers can turn to this book whenever they have a question about IRS rules or nonprofit compliance issues. <>

Business & Management / Self-Help

[The Genius Habit: How One Habit Can Radically Change Your Work and Your Life](#) by Laura Garnett (Sourcebooks)

Readers can learn to make their job the right job.

Maybe readers are young professionals just starting to think seriously about what they want out of their careers. Maybe they have been job hopping for a few years and haven't found the perfect fit. Or maybe they want to launch their careers to a new level and bring fresh energy to their work. In [The Genius Habit](#), performance strategist Laura Garnett shows them how the path to finding long-lasting professional happiness starts with building the habit that makes extraordinary accomplishment all but guaranteed.

Garnett is a performance strategist, TEDx speaker, and the creator of the Genius Habit. She works with CEOs and executives to identify their unique genius and purpose, and craft an actionable plan to leverage them in their day-to-day work.

Garnett shows readers:

- The difference between passion and purpose and why one matters more than the other.
- How to stop equating achievements with happiness.

- Why having a mentor is not a necessity for career success.
- The benefits of continually fine-tuning their career so they are challenged and fulfilled every day.

*Laura Garnett's genius is that she not only understands that careers are non-linear, but she provides the GPS to discovering your purpose and your genius, which will unlock your gifts and make work an inspiring journey. – David S. Kidder, co-founder and CEO of Bionic and New York Times bestselling author of *The Intellectual Devotional* and *The Startup Playbook**

*Work doesn't have to feel like, well, work. With Laura's advice, you can find your Zone of Genius, accomplish more, and stop counting the minutes until quitting time. – Laura Vanderkam, author of *Off the Clock: Feel Less Busy While Getting More Done**

Laura Garnett has written a powerful guide to finding and sustaining success and joy in your work. She has helped me and many other people get in touch with our essence and our unique gifts, and coached us on how to live and work in that zone for an ever-growing proportion of our lives. The results are nothing short of astounding on all fronts. Life can hold so much more satisfaction and delight than we can imagine, and this book shows us how to unlock that. – Raj Sisodia, co-founder and Chairman Emeritus of Conscious Capitalism International

*Loving your job and career shouldn't feel like a struggle. Instead, it should be about finding and harnessing your true greatness. In [The Genius Habit](#), Laura Garnett shows you exactly how to do this while inspiring and helping others along the way. – Dorie Clark, author of *Entrepreneurial You* and *Stand Out**

*Among the most hopeful – and useful – ideas detailed in this book is that genius is a habit one can cultivate, and a process one can commit to. Whether you are a young professional just starting your climb up the corporate ladder, an evolved business person, or a mid-career expert who wants to be an entrepreneur, Laura Garnett's book is the voice of a patient, highly intelligent mentor who can significantly expand your own capabilities. – Vineet Nayar, Founder and Chairman of the Sampark Foundation and bestselling author of *Employees First, Customers Second**

*Give yourself the gift of genius – not through inborn luck, but through Laura Garnett's powerful, practical system to build a lifelong Genius Habit. Bored at work? Instead of berating yourself, consider that your plateaus are signals pointing toward greater purpose. This book will help you dismantle barriers to find what really lights you up as you click into the contagious joy of doing the work you – and only you – were born to do. – Jenny Blake, author of *Pivot: The Only Move That Matters Is Your Next One**

*There is a genius hiding in all of us and if you haven't found yours, you are probably dreading every Monday morning drive to work. Most of us go a lifetime searching for joy at work. Finding your genius is the key. It turns out there is a genius habit you can develop and Laura Garnett shows us how. In following her timeless advice we can get to the joy we always dreamed was possible and become the person we were destined to be. – Rich Sheridan, author of *Joy, Inc.* and Chief Joy Officer*

*[The Genius Habit](#) is a solid self-help book with a clear, actionable process that will appeal to readers of *Jen Sincero* and *Gretchen Rubin*. – Booklist*

Combining the most recent and exciting research on productivity and performance with Garnett's experience guiding dozens of high-level clients to the heights of success, [The Genius Habit](#) is a must-read for anyone who believes that work can and should be one of the most rewarding aspects of life. <>

The Communication Effect: How to Enhance Learning by Building Ideas and Bridging Information Gaps, 1st edition by Jeff Zwiers (Corwin)

The world is indeed full of facts. But facts are not of much use when offered by the hatful – either by teacher to students in class, or in the reverse direction, as in name-dropping in an ‘objective.’ – Jerome Bruner

The ‘communication effect’ is what happens when teachers saturate their classrooms with authentic communication, which occurs when students use language to build up ideas and do meaningful things. For starters, authentic communication deepens and increases language development, learning of content concepts and skills, rigor and engagement, empathy and understanding of others’ perspectives, agency and ownership of core ideas across disciplines, and social and emotional skills for building strong relationships. And these are just the starters.

With [The Communication Effect](#), Jeff Zwiers challenges teachers in Grades 3 and up to focus less on breadth and more on depth by grounding instruction and assessment in authentic (rather than pseudo-) communication.

Zwiers is a senior researcher at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. He supports the Understanding Language Initiative, a research and professional development project focused on literacy, cognition, discourse, and academic language. His current research focuses on effective lesson planning and classroom practices that foster academic interactions and literacy.

[The Communication Effect](#) provides:

- Ideas for cultivating classroom cultures in which authentic communication thrives.
- Clear descriptions and examples of the three features of authentic communication:
 - Building up key ideas (claims and concepts).
 - Clarifying terms and supporting ideas.
 - Creating and filling information gaps.
- Over 175 suggestions for using the three features of authentic communication to enhance twenty commonly used instructional activities across disciplines.
- Additional examples of not-so-commonly-used activities that embody the three features.
- Suggestions for improving four different types of teacher creativity needed to design effective lessons, activities, and assessments that maximize authentic communication.

[The Communication Effect](#) was written mainly for teachers, but instructional coaches, administrators, and curriculum designers will benefit from it too. Most of the classroom examples come from four content areas: ELA, math, science, and history, in Grades 3 through 9.

The ultimate beneficiaries of [The Communication Effect](#) are students. Even though all students will likely benefit from the ideas and enhancements in these pages, Jeffers says he wrote this book with the following students in mind:

- Students who often just ‘play the game’ of school.
- Students who don’t want to play the game of school.
- Students who face extra academic challenges because they are still developing proficiency in using English for academic purposes.

- Students with diverse cultural backgrounds and learning paradigms that differ from what and how school expects them to learn and show learning.
- Students with diverse and special needs who can benefit from more and better communication at school.
- Students who need more practice putting their academic ideas into words and are reticent to push themselves to use language.
- Students who aren't motivated enough by points and grades.
- Students in schools and classrooms that struggle to engage students in learning.

Chapter 1 provides an in-depth discussion of authentic and pseudo-communication, outlining the three features of authentic communication that guide all of the suggested recommendations throughout later chapters. Chapter 2 presents ideas for how to cultivate a classroom culture where authentic communication can thrive. Chapters 3 through 7 detail how specific instructional activities that emphasize reading, listening, speaking, writing, and conversing can be enhanced in order to offer rich and robust opportunities for authentic communication. These chapters also include detailed classroom examples to show how teachers used the enhancements in a lesson. Chapters 5 and 6 include Going Deeper sections that describe related, novel teaching activities that have been enhanced enough to use tomorrow. Finally, Chapter 8 caps off [The Communication Effect](#) with a look at how all teachers can leverage four dimensions of teacher creativity to meet the challenges of addressing the authenticity challenge.

Students deserve to get the most out of each minute of each lesson, and authentic communication can help. As readers read [The Communication Effect](#) and apply its ideas, they will see how much better equipped and inspired their students are to grow into the amazing and gifted people that they were meant to become. <>

Cooking, Food & Wine / Biographies & Memoirs

[Dinner at the Club: 100 Years of Stories and Recipes from South Philly's Palizzi Social Club](#) by Joey Baldino & Adam Erace (Running Press)

In [Dinner at the Club](#), authors Joey Baldino and Adam Erace offer a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse at the inner workings – and treasured recipes – of the 100+-year-old Palizzi Social Club.

"The official name of the row house at 1408 South 12th Street in South Philadelphia is Filippo Palizzi Societa di Mutuo Soccorso di Vasto, but we always just called it the Club." So begins Chef Baldino and co-author Erace's behind-the-curtain look inside one of South Philadelphia's most popular and enduring members-only establishments, Palizzi Social Club – [Dinner at the Club](#).

Chef and restaurateur Baldino, known for his deeply traditional Italian cooking, owns Sicilian BYOB Zeppoli in Collingswood, NJ and Palizzi Social Club. Prior to opening Zeppoli, he honed his culinary skills as chef de cuisine at Vetri, sous chef for the opening of Osteria, and in the kitchens of other top Philadelphia chefs, including Georges Perrier, Michael Solomonov, and Jose Garces. Erace is a food and travel writer who contributes to more than 50 publications, including *Men's Journal*, *Fortune*, *Food & Wine*, and *Travel + Leisure*.

A hard-to-get reservation is prized among serious restaurant-goers, but a table limited to members only seems to be the Philadelphia diner's Holy Grail. Palizzi Social Club is 100 years old this year in South Philly, but it was after Chef Baldino took over from his late uncle Ernie that business really started to boom.

Nestled inside a typical South Philly row home steps from where Chef Baldino grew up, Palizzi is a time capsule of the neighborhood's history and a vibrant living part of its present. The Club is a welcoming place for members to "eat a lot, drink more, and most of all, be social," a tradition that Chef Baldino is proud to uphold, having taken his place as president in late 2016. In that role, he is the steward of his family's legacy of hospitality, good food, stiff drinks, and an enticing air of secrecy, and he shares it all in [Dinner at the Club](#).

Palizzi has mastered the balance of old-school Italian kitsch and super-high-quality food and cocktails. Once a gathering place for the Abruzzi-American community, Palizzi Social Club is a current hot spot: members can take up to three guests, and if the light is on outside, they're open. In 2017, Palizzi was named *Bon Appetit's* #4 Best New Restaurant, *Esquire's* honorable mention best new restaurant, and *Eater Philly's* #1 restaurant of the year.

In [Dinner at the Club](#), readers find not just colorful South Philly history and characters, but a wealth of Chef Baldino's recipes, passed down by his family and perfected in his kitchen. Readers meet past Club presidents Cesar Laverghetta (1918-1920), Dominico DiCicco (1930-1935), Pete Delborrello (1962-1975) and Ernest Mezzaroba (1975-2016), some of the namesakes for the Club's signature drinks, which are all named for past presidents.

Beyond the cocktails, home cooks discover the frugal roots of a South Philly classic, Brasciole: ingeniously devised by immigrant cooks who couldn't afford filet mignon, and instead purchased the cheapest cuts of beef they could find, then pounded and braised them into filet-like tenderness. They uncover the distinctively South Philly origins of the American cheese-topped Pizzazz Pie and the secret to Chef Baldino's deeply flavorful Escarole and Beans.

Chef Joey's menu at Palizzi has a broad Southern Italian scope. Seventy adaptable, accessible recipes throughout [Dinner at the Club](#) include dishes like:

- Fennel and Orange Salad
- Arancini with Ragu and Peas
- Spaghetti with Crabs
- Stromboli
- Hazelnut Torrone

Readers learn the time-honored techniques behind such fabled favorites as the Giant Raviolo di Vasto with Sage Brown Butter, a massive single square of pasta stuffed with ricotta, spinach and an egg yolk that oozes out when cut, to complement the brown butter sauce. For the holidays, a complete menu for a traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes is included (inspired by the 'insane' spread that Chef Baldino recalls from his Uncle Ernie's and Aunt Mary's table). And diners can conclude their meal with Spumoni or Ricotta Pie, just as they would on South 12th Street – whether 100 years ago, or today. Every recipe is shared in the familiar tone that Chef Baldino would use if readers were standing next to him at the stove preparing dinner for the family on a Sunday afternoon *Joey Baldino cooks from his heart, without pretense, and in celebration of those who ate, drank, and communed at the club before him.* [Dinner at the Club](#) brings to life the richness and magic of Italian-American South Philly, and the collection of winning recipes will coax all who enter your home kitchen to 'eat a lot, drink more, and mostly: be social.' – Danny Meyer, restaurateur and CEO of Union Square Hospitality Group *Palizzi Social Club is a South Philly institution and a national destination: old school, authentic, and with food any Italian grandmother would co-sign on. You also need to*

be member to get in, which means that most people will never see it. That's why I'm thrilled this book exists. It lets everyone, at least for a moment, bask in the glory of the place. – Questlove, musician with The Roots

[Dinner at the Club](#) is a peek into a true relic of Philadelphia history, the Palizzi Social Club. With beautiful stories and delicious recipes, this book preserves the memory and celebrates the heart of Italian culture in the city and transports you to a dinner at the club. – Marcus Samuelsson, Award-Winning Chef, Restaurateur, and Co-Owner of the Red Rooster Harlem

Old-world flavors and heartfelt presentation make for a delicious mix in this rare look inside a South Philly institution. – Publishers Weekly, starred review

[Dinner at the Club](#) offers readers an otherwise impossible up-close look at the private club that has captured the imaginations of native Philadelphians and visitors alike. The book is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for non-members to step inside 'the Club,' packed with history and anecdotes, a map of the neighborhood's most historic sites and businesses, nearly 70 recipes and more than a dozen cocktails, and beautiful full-color photographs of Palizzi's 100+-year history and lively present. <>

Education & Learning / Physical Education / Elementary

[Dynamic Physical Education for Elementary School Children](#), 19th edition by Robert P. Pangrazi & Aaron Beighle (Human Kinetics)

[Dynamic Physical Education for Elementary School Children](#), 19th edition (DPE) is the longest-running elementary methods textbook on the market, and this latest edition is just as pertinent, essential, and cutting-edge as ever. DPE does more than provide the foundational knowledge needed to teach quality physical education – it applies this knowledge with an array of physical activities that equip preservice physical educators to teach with confidence from their first day.

Author Robert P. Pangrazi taught for 31 years at Arizona State University in the department of exercise science and physical education and is now a professor emeritus. He is a best-selling author of numerous books and texts over the years. Co-author Aaron Beighle is a professor at the University of Kentucky in the department of kinesiology and health promotion, teaching physical education methods courses. For the first time, the text is made even more practical with the free interactive website Dynamic PE ASAP, which replaces the previous print resource *Dynamic Physical Education Curriculum Guide: Lesson Plans for Implementation*. With the Dynamic PE ASAP site, teachers have access to ready-to-use activities and complete lesson plans, as well as the ability to build their own lesson plans from the provided activities. This resource puts a complete curriculum for quality physical education at teachers' fingertips.

[Dynamic Physical Education for Elementary School Children](#) also offers practical teaching tips, case studies of real-life situations to spark discussion, and instructor resources (an instructor guide, presentation package, and test package) that will make preparing for and teaching a course a breeze.

The 19th edition has been updated to reflect the latest knowledge and best practice in physical education, including the following:

- A new chapter on physical activity and youth.
- Recent research on physical activity and the brain.
- Updated and expanded content on physical activity guidelines and assessment.

- New activities to integrate health concepts into the physical education curriculum.
- A chapter on lesson planning that is aligned with and linked to the Dynamic PE ASAP website.
- New technology features throughout.

The **19th edition** emphasizes creating a social and emotional learning environment in which all students can learn and thrive. The ultimate goal of DPE is to help students learn skills, be personally and socially responsible, and embrace the joy of physical activity for a lifetime.

The first 12 chapters of [Dynamic Physical Education for Elementary School Children](#) lay the foundation for becoming an effective instructor of quality physical education. These chapters highlight the importance of physical activity and delve into identifying developmental needs, designing curriculum, writing lessons and assessments, and navigating school procedures.

Chapters 13 through 30 explore how to teach the objectives of physical education, including:

- Foundational skills, such as locomotor and manipulative skills.
- Specialized skills, such as game skills and gymnastics.
- Lifetime activities and sport skills, such as basketball and hockey.

These chapters include an array of field-tested activities, all listed in progression from easiest to most difficult, enabling teachers to incorporate proper skill sequencing. With its emphasis on skill development and the promotion of lifelong healthy activity, [Dynamic Physical Education for Elementary School Children](#) is highly applicable for both physical educators and classroom teachers. It is an ideal text to support an elementary methods PE course, providing the detail that PETE students need. The content is also very accessible to students learning to become elementary education teachers.

[Dynamic Physical Education for Elementary School Children](#), with more than one million copies sold, returns stronger than ever in its **19th edition**. Preservice and in-service elementary teachers will learn to deliver quality, effective, and student-friendly physical education by introducing foundational skills, sport skills, and lifetime activities as well as helping children learn to have fun and be responsible in physical activity settings. With this latest edition, this methods textbook remains the go-to book for both preservice and in-service teachers – just as it started out 19 editions ago. <>

Entertainment & Sports / Football / Biographies & Memoirs

[Red Cagle: West Point's Three-Time All-American](#) by Cathy C. Post (Pelican Publishing Company)

Ever wonder who was playing for West Point the day Knute Rockne told Notre Dame to 'win one for The Gipper'? – Red Cagle!

Christian Keener Cagle, nicknamed 'Red' after Red Grange, was a football phenom in the 1920s. When Notre Dame's Knute Rockne gave his famous speech, he was talking about beating Cagle and West Point. [Red Cagle](#), a biography of the Louisiana native, is a rousing tale of athletic competition, fateful young love, and an untimely, mysterious death, based on interviews with Cagle's few surviving relatives and hundreds of documents, newspapers articles, and archival film.

Author Cathy Post is a graduate of McNeese State University, a retired high school and kindergarten teacher, and a former legal secretary for the district attorney and Third

Circuit Court of Appeals in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Post's family is one of the six chronicled in this true account. Red Cagle was also the cousin of Post's father. For decades Post has been the guardian of a game-worn helmet from Cagle's days at West Point. She began her research with the family's oral history and spent years diligently tracking down the facts to flesh out his fascinating history.

By any coach's reckoning, 'Red' Cagle was too small for his chosen sport. At five feet nine and 165 pounds, Cagle was dwarfed by massive linemen, yet he won the Helms Trophy and was voted All-American three years in a row.

From humble beginnings in the rural South to a life of national recognition, Cagle's saga encapsulates a rousing tale of athletic competition, the rigors of West Point, and fateful young love wrapped around the life of a true Louisiana sports legend. Writing from a personal perspective, Post in [Red Cagle](#) verifies family lore about the 1920s football hero's storied life through interviews with surviving relatives and meticulous research.

One of the best new sports biographies on the shelf. [Red Cagle](#) reads like a fast paced suspense novel, steeped in football history and cadet life at West Point, capped off with the controversy surrounding Cagle's sudden death... Concise but gripping game descriptions transport the reader right into the cheering stadiums. Jam-packed with well-researched detail, this book is a historic gem. You just don't want to put the book down! – Billy Loftin, LSU defensive lineman, 1966-68

Bringing historical events to life on the page, author Post injects an intimate connection with her chosen topics. [Red Cagle](#), a fascinating history, is no exception. <>

History / Texas / Biographies & Memoirs

[A Man Absolutely Sure of Himself: Texan George Washington Littlefield](#) by David B. Gracy II, with a foreword by J. Phelps White III (University of Oklahoma Press)

[A Man Absolutely Sure of Himself](#) is the first full biography of George Washington Littlefield, the Texas and New Mexico rancher, Austin banker and businessman, University of Texas regent, and philanthropist. In just two decades, Littlefield's business acumen vaulted him from debt to inclusion in 1892 on the first list of American millionaires.

Author David B. Gracy II is the Governor Bill Daniel Professor Emeritus in Archival Enterprise, School of Information, University of Texas at Austin and author of *Littlefield Lands: Colonization on the Texas Plains, 1912-1920*; *Sunrise! Governor Bill Daniel and the Second Liberation of Guam*; and *Moses Austin: His Life*.

Littlefield's cattle operations during the open range and early ranching periods spanned a domain in New Mexico and Texas larger than the states of Delaware and Connecticut combined. In a unique contribution to ranching art, Littlefield commissioned murals and bronze doors depicting scenes from his ranches to decorate Austin's American National Bank, which he led for its first twenty-eight years.

Gracy in [A Man Absolutely Sure of Himself](#) provides new information about Littlefield's term as University of Texas regent and the necessity of choosing between friendship and duty during the university's confrontation with Gov. James E. Ferguson. Proud of his Civil War service in Terry's Texas Rangers, Littlefield funded one of the nation's first centers for Southern history. He also underwrote the school's purchase of its first rare book library and its training programs preparing troops for World War I's new combat roles.

Littlefield played a central role in advancing Austin from a cattleman's town into the business center it wanted to become. His Littlefield Building, the tallest office building

between New Orleans and San Francisco when it was built, served for a generation as the prime location of the town's business community.

Gracy, a relative of Littlefield, grounds his vivid prose in a lifetime of research into archival and family sources. [A Man Absolutely Sure of Himself](#), a comprehensive biography, illuminates an exceptional figure whose life singularly illustrates the evolution of Texas from Southern to Western to American.

At long last, we have a complete biography of one of Texas's most influential entrepreneurs, George Washington Littlefield. With this book, author David B. Gracy II provides an excellent source for understanding the mind and mentality of an ardent states-righter and 'true' Southerner who evolved to be a Westerner, and then an American. – David J. Murrah, author of *C. C. Slaughter: Rancher, Banker, Baptist*
David B. Gracy's biography of George Washington Littlefield is a masterfully researched and written, unvarnished yet sympathetic study of a Texan American icon. – Monte L. Monroe, Texas State Historian and Southwest Collection Archivist, Texas Tech University
Grounded in thorough research, [A Man Absolutely Sure of Himself](#) is a grand retelling of the life of a highly successful entrepreneur and Austin civic leader whose work affected spheres from ranching and banking to civic development and academia. <>

Law Enforcement / Terrorism / Biographies & Memoirs

[Brooklyn to Baghdad: An NYPD Intelligence Cop Fights Terror in Iraq](#) by Christopher Strom, with Jerome Preisler & Michael Benson (Chicago Review Press)

I first saw the suspect in the courtyard, cuffed and blindfolded. I told the soldier guarding him that I was there – to interview the detainee, and to please remove the blindfold so I could photograph him.

"What is your occupation?" I asked.

"I am a technician."

"What do you do?"

"I repair generators."

I had struck gold with that response: In a previous interview, the detainee from the prisoner detention facility said he also fixed generators for a living. His text messages indicated that the term 'generator' was code for IED/EFP. 'Generator repairman' was code for bomb-maker.

Ironically, most of the muhallahs were powered by a huge Caterpillar diesel generator courtesy of the US government (i.e., you, the taxpayer). That the earlier detainee claimed to be a generator repairman was an obviously rehearsed cover story that almost immediately fell apart.

Now I had a second generator repairman....

"Replace the blindfold," I said to the guard.

As I assessed the body language and facial affect of the detainee, I noted signs of deception, primarily the breaking of eye contact and continuous swallowing.

Many think there's only one interrogation of a detainee. The reality is that, based on my HUMINT report, the next team of interrogators would have a working roadmap based on my initial contact with the detainee. A behavioral snapshot of his psychology, physiology, and level of compliance all factor in and, more important, give insight into this person sitting in front of you. Responses to questions can now be exploited for inconsistencies, follow-on questions asked, other forensic evidence collected from the scene, and, my favorite, statements from fellow detainees can be gathered that either support or negate a working theory.

As I stepped away from the detainee, I noticed a large blue-metal drill press hooked up to some type of timing device with electrical cord attached, a machine used to form and shape metal. Believing that this machine could possibly be used in the manufacture of EFP liners, I said to Mike Dominique, "You see what I see?"

*Mike was astonished. "Dude, that's a f**king EFP press," he said. – from the book [Brooklyn to Baghdad](#) is the true story of a retired NYPD intelligence sergeant applying his street-cop tactics and interrogation skills against a lethal insurgency that had infected Iraq.*

Author Chris Strom is a former US Marine and retired sergeant with the NYPD Intelligence Division. In October 2007, Strom was recruited by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), a government agency that devised top-secret strategies for combating IEDs in Iraq and Afghanistan. As the lead tactical debriefing officer, he participated in over 110 combat missions and 91 captures of high-value targets (HVTs) in southern Iraq and performed more than 200 battlefield interrogations. Co-authors are Jerome Preisler and Michael Benson. Preisler is a native New Yorker who has written forty published books of fiction and narrative nonfiction, including all eight titles in the number-one *New York Times* bestselling Tom Clancy's *Power Plays* series. Benson is one of today's most popular true-crime writers.

As told in Strom's memoir, [Brooklyn to Baghdad](#), a group of retired Special Forces soldiers and law enforcement experts came together to form the counterinsurgency group codenamed 'Phoenix Team.' Exposing the corruption of both the Iraqi and US governments, the team faced serious setbacks and challenges. [Brooklyn to Baghdad](#) shows the effectiveness of Phoenix Team, their ability to process forensic evidence and human intelligence gleaned through interrogations at the point of capture to provide direct targeting for follow-on missions. [Brooklyn to Baghdad](#) also illustrates the politics of Washington, DC, and the US Army in the war-fighting effort, which continually hampered complete success while simultaneously preserving career aspirations. Throughout are many humorous and emotional anecdotes that reveal the men behind the missions and the toll the theater of war takes on real human lives.

An exhilarating and infuriating look at busting bad guys on both sides of the Earth. Feel secure that the man about to tell you his story of law enforcement from Brooklyn to Baghdad is of the utmost character. You are in good hands. – Vincent Marra, NYPD Deputy Inspector, Ret., from his foreword

If you don't understand how important a weapon on-the-ground intelligence and interrogation – or, as Christopher Strom might put it, 'talking' – can be, you need to read this book. 'Phoenix' and similar intel programs played an important role in Iraq and will continue to do so in any future conflict; here they are presented at ground level.

[Brooklyn to Baghdad](#) illuminates a part of modern warfare rarely mentioned in history books, let alone news accounts of war. Its warts-and-more portrayal of personalities is refreshing. Its candid discussion not only of problems but of the dilemmas and ethics, or occasional lack thereof, of contemporary policing and military intelligence gathering makes it more than just a page-turner, though it is that, too. Strom, Preisler, and Benson have added an important book to the post-9/11 oeuvre. – Jim DeFelice, coauthor of *American Sniper*, *Every Man a Hero*, and other bestsellers

Terse, detailed account of a no-nonsense cop's time running interrogations in Iraq. – Kirkus Reviews

Overall, this is a highly informative glimpse into the cat and mouse side of counterterrorism. – Booklist Online

The warts-and-all approach used in [Brooklyn to Baghdad](#) exposes the corruption in Iraqi and US governments and the politics in Washington and the war effort. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mystery / Historical

[The Twice-Hanged Man](#) by Priscilla Royal (**Medieval Mysteries Series: Poisoned Pen Press**)

It is Autumn, 1282 in [The Twice-Hanged Man](#).

Author Priscilla Royal grew up in British Columbia and earned a B.A. in World Literature at San Francisco State University, where she discovered the beauty of medieval literature. She is a theater fan as well as a reader of history, mystery, and fiction of lesser violence.

As Royal tells the story, [The Twice-Hanged Man](#) opens with Edward I waging a bloody conflict with Wales. Prioress Eleanor escorts her younger brother, Robert, and his wife, who is in labor, from their Marcher lands to greater safety at a Wynethorpe manor in a village just inside the English border. They are joined by Brother Thomas, the Prioress's trusted friend, and Sister Anne, who helps navigate the difficult birth and delivers a baby girl.

Mother and child may be healthy, but Death never wanders far from this beloved Prioress – whether she's home at Tyndal in Norfolk or traveling the realm. The local abbot begs her help – the village priest has been found dead, and standing over him is, a reliable witness says, the ghost of Hywel, the village stonemason who was recently hanged for slaying some sleeping English soldiers.

Bone tired, Brother Thomas questions the village hangman, who assures him that Hywel was hanged once and then, when the weight of the fat felon strung up alongside him broke the beam of the gallows, was hanged again. The experienced executioner checked all the bodily signs – Hywel was dead. But where is his grave?

And what secrets are the mysterious locals keeping from the outsiders visiting their troubled home in [The Twice-Hanged Man](#)?

Prioress Eleanor returns in another of Royal's historically detailed and expertly executed medieval whodunits. This fifteenth entry featuring Eleanor and Brother Thomas once again features a main mystery as well as intriguing subplots involving the series' recurring characters. – Booklist

The 15th adventure for Royal's clever, conflicted prioress continues her mastery of the medieval, provides a mystery that's twisty but not impenetrable, and advances the ongoing story of the problematic sexual relationships of the continuing cast. – Kirkus Reviews

Edward I's England is again at war with Wales in Royal's excellent 15th whodunit set in 13th-century Britain. Royal seamlessly integrates historical events into what stands as one her best puzzles, the most Agatha Christie-like in terms of motive. – Publishers Weekly, starred review

[The Twice-Hanged Man](#) is another delicious historical mystery in Royal's long run. <>

Literature & Fiction / Thrillers

[Aftershock: Fear is the Deadliest Weapon](#) by Adam Hamdy (**Pendulum Trilogy Series, Book 3: Mobius**, Headline Publishing Group)

Ash peered into the forest, which was lit by the glow of a blazing fire and saw the silhouettes of men running alongside them. There were two to their left and three to their right. All carried snub-nosed machine guns and all moved confidently and quickly.

Another explosion intensified the light, allowing Ash to see more of their pursuers and she raised her pistol the moment she made out the Pendulum masks on their faces. – from the book

[Aftershock](#) is the page-turning climax to an explosive series that has gripped fans of Lee Child and Simon Kernick. Adam Hamdy's first *Pendulum* novel was chosen as a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick.

Hamdy is an author, screenwriter, and filmmaker who has worked with producers and studios on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to his own original work, Hamdy has adapted a number of comic books and novels for the screen.

In [Aftershock](#), having survived the lethal Pendulum conspiracy, photographer John Wallace atones for his past mistakes.

DI Patrick Bailey clings to the hope that he can, at last, return to a normal life in London. FBI investigator Christine Ash – alone and paranoid – hunts down the remaining members of the ruthless Foundation organization. But when masked assassins strike at the heart of the UK government, a shocking new threat emerges that forces all three to reunite.

With time running out, in [Aftershock](#), they must defeat a lethal new adversary: a manipulative mastermind with sinister powers unlike anything they've seen before.

Watch out, Jack Reacher and Alex Cross, the new generation is here! – Crime Time

I read Pendulum in one gloriously suspenseful weekend. Definitely one of the best thrillers of the year. – James Patterson, #1 New York Times bestselling author

So tense, you will be biting your nails long before the final chapter. – The Sun

A relentless, adrenaline-charged thriller that grips from the first page –Daily Express

One of the best thriller writers I've read in recent years, Adam's writing is slick and unputdownable, he hooks you in from the first chapter and doesn't let you come up for air. – Jenny Blackhurst, #1 eBook bestselling author

A fast-paced, cinematic thriller. – Publishers Weekly

There are treats along the way ... Expands into a wide-screen thriller involving bombs, helicopters, and a law-enforcement army. – Booklist

Hamdy grabs the reader from the first line and doesn't let up on the pace or the tension for a moment... This is heart-stopping stuff! – CHOICE Magazine

A fast-paced, high octane thriller. – Booklist

Corruption, subterfuge, and murder are all present in Freefall. But it's the little intricacies like levels of trust... and lies that weave this book into the expertly crafted web the reader has to pick through... The tension is ramped up completely! I loved Freefall. –

Bibliophile Book Club

A fabulous thriller with a very contemporary spin. – Northern Crime

A real page turner, [Aftershock](#) is starting out as the top thriller of the (almost new) year.

<>

Literature & Fiction / Young Readers / Series

[The Queen of Nothing](#) by Holly Black (**The Folk of the Air Series, Volume 3**: Little, Brown and Company)

His voice is soft, and I make the mistake of looking into his black eyes, at his wicked, curving mouth.

"But your beauty will fade," he continues, just as softly, speaking like a lover. "And all you have and all you are will rot away to nothing. You will be nothing. You are nothing."

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Holly Black, comes the highly anticipated and jaw-dropping finale to *The Folk of the Air* trilogy – [The Queen of Nothing](#). Black is the bestselling author of contemporary fantasy novels for teens and children, including *The Folk of the Air* trilogy, *Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale* and the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Spiderwick* series. She has been a finalist for the Eisner Award, and the recipient of the Andre Norton Award and Mythopoeic Award.

Power is much easier to acquire than it is to hold onto. Jude learned this lesson when she released her control over the wicked king, Cardan, in exchange for immeasurable power.

Now in [The Queen of Nothing](#), as the exiled mortal Queen of Faerie, Jude is powerless and left reeling from Cardan's betrayal. She bides her time determined to reclaim everything he took from her. Opportunity arrives in the form of her deceptive twin sister, Taryn, whose mortal life is in peril. When Taryn spurs her to come back to Faerie, she finally has the chance for revenge.

Jude must risk venturing back into the treacherous Faerie Court, and confront her lingering feelings for Cardan, if she wishes to save her sister. But Elfhome is not as she left it. War is brewing. As Jude slips deep within enemy lines, she becomes ensnared in the conflict's bloody politics. All the while, her complex feelings for Cardan deepen and shift, and she must reconcile these with her own aims for survival.

And when a dormant yet powerful curse is unleashed, panic spreads throughout the land, forcing her to choose between her ambition and her humanity...

Whether you came for the lore or the love, perfection. – Kirkus, starred review

A compelling final piece in a powerful set. – Booklist, starred review

We're being promised a 'jaw-dropping' finale... Based on the ride she's taken readers on so far, we'd expect nothing less. – Entertainment Weekly

For those lamenting the end of *Game of Thrones* or fans of Leigh Bardugo and Sarah J. Maas, *The Folk of the Air* series brings the Faerie world to life in the masterful way that only Holly Black can. The series has captured YA readers by storm and the fandom hadn't been able to wait for the final installment. They won't be disappointed in [The Queen of Nothing](#). <>

Politics / Identity / Culture / Europe

[The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race and Identity](#) by Douglas Murray (Bloomsbury Continuum)

[The Madness of Crowds](#) is the challenging and brilliantly-argued new book from the bestselling author of *The Strange Death of Europe*.

Douglas Murray is an author and journalist based in Britain. Murray has been a contributor to the *Spectator* since 2000 and has been Associate Editor at the magazine since 2012.

In this devastating new book [The Madness of Crowds](#), Murray examines the twenty-first century's most divisive issues: sexuality, gender, technology and race. He reveals the astonishing new culture wars playing out in workplaces, universities, schools and homes in the names of social justice, identity politics and intersectionality.

According to Murray, we are living through a postmodern era in which the grand narratives of religion and political ideology have collapsed. In their place have emerged a crusading desire to right perceived wrongs and a weaponization of identity, both accelerated by the new forms of social and news media. Narrow sets of interests

now dominate the agenda as society becomes more and more tribal – and, as Murray shows, the casualties are mounting.

According to Murray in [The Madness of Crowds](#), whatever else they lacked, the grand narratives of the past at least gave life meaning. The question of what exactly we are meant to do now – other than get rich where we can and have whatever fun is on offer – was going to have to be answered by something.

The answer that has presented itself in recent years is to engage in new battles, ever fiercer campaigns and ever more niche demands. To find meaning by waging a constant war against anybody who seems to be on the wrong side of a question which may itself have just been reframed and the answer to which has only just been altered. These wars are not being fought aimlessly; they are consistently being fought in a particular direction. The purpose – unknowing in some people, deliberate in others – is to embed a new metaphysics into our societies: a new religion, if you will. The interpretation of the world through the lens of `social justice`, `identity group politics` and `intersectionalism` is probably the most audacious and comprehensive effort since the end of the Cold War at creating a new ideology.

To date `social justice` has run the furthest because it sounds – and in some versions is – attractive. Even the term itself is set up to be anti-oppositional. `You're opposed to social justice? What do you want, social injustice?`

Identity politics, meanwhile, has become the place where social justice finds its caucuses. It atomizes society into different interest groups according to sex (or gender), race, sexual preference and more. It presumes that such characteristics are the main, or only, relevant attributes of their holders and that they bring with them some added bonus. Identity politics is where minority groups are encouraged to simultaneously atomize, organize and pronounce.

The least attractive-sounding of this trinity is the concept of intersectionality. This is the invitation to spend the rest of our lives attempting to work out each and every identity and vulnerability claim in ourselves and others and then organize along whichever system of justice emerges from the perpetually moving hierarchy which we uncover. It is a system that is not just unworkable but dementing, making demands that are impossible towards ends that are unachievable. Having begun to view everything through the new lenses we have been provided with, everything is then weaponized, with consequences which are deranged.

Among the things all these issues have in common is that they have started as legitimate human rights campaigns. Not content with being equal, they have started to settle on unsustainable positions such as `better.` Some might counter that the aim is simply to spend a certain amount of time on `better` in order to level the historical playing field.

What everyone knows are the things that people will be called if their foot even nicks against these freshly laid tripwires. `Bigot`, `homophobe`, `sexist`, `misogynist`, `racist` and `transphobe` are just for starters. The rights fights of our time have centered around these toxic and explosive issues. But in the process these rights issues have moved from being a product of a system to being the foundations of a new one.

In the claims and supporting rhetoric quoted throughout [The Madness of Crowds](#) there is a good deal of this in evidence – a demonstration of virtue demands an overstating of the problem, which then causes an amplification of the problem. But there is more trouble in all of this, and it is the reason why Murray says he takes each of the bases of these new metaphysics not just seriously but one by one.

While racial equality, minority rights and women's rights are among the best products of liberalism, they make the most destabilizing foundations. We present each as agreed upon and settled. Yet while the endless contradictions, fabrications and fantasies within each are visible to all, identifying them is not just discouraged but literally policed. And so we are asked to agree to things which we cannot believe.

It is the central cause of the ugliness of both online and real-life discussion. For we are being asked to perform a set of leaps and jumps which we cannot, and are perhaps ill-advised to make. We are asked to believe things that are unbelievable and being told not to object to things (such as giving children drugs to stop them going through puberty) which most people feel a strong objection to. The pain that comes from being expected to remain silent on some important matters and perform impossible leaps on others is tremendous. As anyone who has lived under totalitarianism can attest, there is something demeaning and eventually soul-destroying about being expected to go along with claims one does not believe to be true and cannot hold to be true. If the belief is that all people should be regarded as having equal value and be accorded equal dignity, then that may be all well and good. If one is asked to believe that there are no differences between homosexuality and heterosexuality, men and women, racism and anti-racism, then this will in time drive one to distraction. That distraction – or crowd madness – is something we are in the middle of and something we need to try to find our way out from.

If we fail, then the direction of travel is already clear. We face not just a future of ever-greater atomization, rage and violence, but a future in which the possibility of a backlash against all rights advances – including the good ones – grows more likely. [The Madness of Crowds](#) suggests a number of ways out of this. But the best way to start is not just to understand the basis of what is going on at the moment but to be free to discuss it.

Simply brilliant. Reading it to the end, I felt as though I'd just drawn my first full breath in years. At a moment of collective madness, there is nothing more refreshing – or, indeed, provocative – than sanity. – Sam Harris, author of five *New York Times* bestsellers and host of the *Making Sense* podcast

Whether one agrees with him or not, Douglas Murray is one of the most important public intellectuals today. – Bernard-Henri Lévy

Readers of all political persuasions cannot afford to ignore Murray's masterfully argued and fiercely provocative book, [The Madness of Crowds](#), in which he seeks to inject some sense into the discussion around this generation's most complicated issues. He ends with an impassioned call for free speech, shared common values and sanity in an age of mass hysteria. <>

Politics / Mental Health

[The Cult of Trump: A Leading Cult Expert Explains How the President Uses Mind Control](#)
by Steven Hassan (Free Press)

One of America's leading experts in cults and mind-control provides an eye-opening analysis of Trump and the indoctrination tactics he uses to build a fanatical devotion in his supporters in [The Cult of Trump](#).

Over the past two years, Trump's behavior has become both more disturbing and yet increasingly familiar. He relies on phrases like, 'fake news,' 'build the wall,' and continues to spread the divisive mentality of us-versus-them. He lies constantly, has no conscience, never admits when he is wrong, and projects all of his shortcomings on to

others. He has become more authoritarian, more outrageous, and yet many of his followers remain blindly devoted. Scott Adams, the creator of Dilbert and a major Trump supporter, calls him one of the most persuasive people living. His need to squash alternate information and his insistence of constant ego stroking are all characteristics of other famous leaders – cult leaders.

Author Steven Hassan specializes in helping people to recover from mind control as well as helping loved ones to exit without coercion. He has been helping people leave destructive relationships and organizations since 1976 after he was rescued from the infamous cult, the Moonies. Hassan directs the Freedom of Mind Resource Center, a counseling and publishing organization outside of Boston, teaches at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and is pursuing a doctorate from Fielding University.

In [The Cult of Trump](#), Hassan draws parallels between our current president and people like Jim Jones, David Koresh, Ron Hubbard and Sun Myung Moon. He specifically details the ways in which people are influenced through an array of social psychology methods and how they become fiercely loyal and obedient. Hassan draws on his forty years of personal and professional experience studying hypnosis and destructive cults, working as a deprogrammer, and a strategic communications interventionist. He emphasizes why it's crucial that people recognize ways to identify and protect themselves and their loved ones.

[The Cult of Trump](#) is an accessible and in-depth analysis of the president, showing that under the right circumstances, even sane, rational, well-adjusted people can be persuaded to believe the most outrageous ideas.

[Hassan] is an authority on breaking away from cults... an argument that... bears consideration as the next election cycle heats up. – Kirkus Reviews

A brilliant analysis of a unique modern phenomenon. Readers will nod their head in recognition as Hassan expertly takes them through a fascinating, engaging exploration of the coercive control techniques that President Donald Trump uses daily to influence his followers. – Dr. Philip Zimbardo, author of The Lucifer Effect and emeritus professor of psychology, Stanford University

There is a growing recognition of an important cult-like element in Donald Trump's many-sided destructiveness. Steve Hassan confronts this element and takes us to the far reaches of possible cultic influence. We learn still more about our dangerously unfit President, knowledge that can be of help to us in combating him and the social forces behind him. – Robert Jay Lifton, author of Losing Reality: On Cults, Cultism, and the Mindset of Political and Religious Zealotry

Donald Trump, who rose to the presidency through a conspiracy theory – 'birtherism' – and pedaled lies in unprecedented ways for a president, needs to be considered as a cult figure. Practical cult expert Steven Hassan does this by explaining how brainwashing works, how the nation got to this place, and how we can get out of it. His book should become part of the compendium of essential reading on the Trump phenomenon. – Bandy X. Lee, MD, MDiv, editor of the New York Times bestseller The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump

This book is a fascinating tour through the ways people are recruited and retained by cults, the characteristics of cult leadership and the dimensions of undue influence. Point by point, Hassan shows how Trump and his followers meet each of the criteria that define a cult and how Trump's childhood and rise to the presidency shaped his imperious, narcissistic style and why his followers, both in the voting public and the

congress, cannot make a rational evaluation of his words and actions. This book is a must for anyone who wants to understand the current political climate. – Judith Stevens-Long, author of *Living Well, Dying Well*

Drawing on both his experiences as cult expert and ex-cult member, Hassan opens a wide-ranging, thoughtful and well-researched analysis of some of the most puzzling aspects of the current presidency, including the remarkable passivity of fellow Republicans, the gross pandering of many members of the press, the curious avoidance of clear labels that could and should be applied by the media.... This is both a clarifying and a terrifying book. Highly recommended. –Thomas G. Gutheil, MD and professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School.

[The Cult of Trump](#), in step-by-step detail, examines the inner workings of our current Presidential administration. Hassan masterfully parallels the psychological manipulation employed by cults over its members with the current administration's distortion of reality by its twisting narratives and use of systematic techniques to influence our view of the country. The picture is much darker than mere buffoonery. –Robin Boyle Laisure, J.D., advisory council member of International Cultic Studies Association, and author of *Employing Trafficking Laws to Capture Elusive Leaders of Destructive Cults*

Hassan in [The Cult of Trump](#) describes in compelling, fascinating, and ultimately disturbing detail how Trump mirrors cult leaders, both in his narcissistic personality and in the influence and mind-control techniques, including hypnosis, he uses to keep his followers believing in him. Hassan's book is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand the Trump phenomenon and looking for a way forward. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism / Biographies & Memoirs

[Tsongkhapa: A Buddha in the Land of Snows](#) by Thupten Jinpa, with a foreword by His Holiness the Dalai Lama (**Lives of the Masters Series**: Shambhala)

Born in 1357 in Amdo, northeastern Tibet, and educated in central Tibet, Tsongkhapa led a life that exemplified the importance of study, critical reflection, and meditative practice. In an autobiographical poem he declared:

First I sought wide and extensive learning,

Second I perceived all teachings as personal instructions, Finally, I engaged in meditative practice day and night; All these I dedicated to the flourishing of the Buddha's teaching.

[Tsongkhapa](#) is the new standard work and biography of Tsongkhapa, one of the principle founders of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism – the school of the Dalai Lamas.

Author Thupten Jinpa is a former monk and holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University, where he also worked as a research fellow. Jinpa is an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University, Montreal, and Chairman of the Mind and Life Institute, which is dedicated to promoting dialogues and collaborations between the sciences and contemplative knowledge, especially Buddhism.

In this groundbreaking addition to the *Lives of the Masters* series, Jinpa, a scholar-practitioner and long-time translator for His Holiness the Dalai Lama, offers the most comprehensive portrait available of Jé Tsongkhapa (1357–1419), one of the greatest Buddhist teachers in history. A devout monastic, Tsongkhapa took on the difficult task of locating and studying all of the Indian Buddhist classics available in Tibet in his day. He went on to synthesize this knowledge into a holistic approach to the path of awakening. In an achievement of incredible magnitude, he integrated the pivotal yet

disparate Mahayana teachings on emptiness while retaining the important role of critical reason and avoiding the extreme of negating the reality of the everyday world. Included in [Tsongkhapa](#) is a discussion of Tsongkhapa's early life and training; his emergence as a precociously intelligent Buddhist mind; the composition of his Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment, Great Exposition of Tantra, and many other important works; and his founding of the Lhasa Prayer Festival and Ganden Monastery.

Tsongkhapa had a far-reaching impact on Tibetan tradition. In terms of the three higher trainings in ethics, concentration, and wisdom, he wrote, "Those who wish to discipline others have first to discipline themselves." His strict adherence to the culture and practice of vinaya, or monastic discipline, set a widely admired standard. His thorough and illuminating writings about Madhyamaka philosophy profoundly enriched Tibetan understanding of Nagarjuna's school of thought, stimulating critical thinking about the deeper implications of the view of emptiness. Moreover, his systematic exploration of Buddhist tantra, especially the highest yoga system of Guhyasamaja and Cakrasamvara, has ensured not only that their practice has flourished but also that they have been more clearly understood.

... Jinpa's scholarship in original sources is thorough and critical, yet not begrudging; his insight into the character and genius of this remarkable individual is penetrating; and his appreciation of the complex surrounding web of historical factors, personal relationships, and enduring institutions is revelatory. He transports us imaginatively into the unique and globally relevant world of Renaissance Tibet and grants us a vivid vision of the roots of the archetypically Buddhist civilization Tibet eventually attained. No one interested in understanding Buddhism, Tibet, and a previously little-known exemplary genius of the global renaissance of the fifteenth century should miss this pioneering work. – Robert A. F. Thurman, Jey Tsong Khapa Professor Emeritus of Indo-Tibetan Buddhology, Columbia University

*In a most lively, yet highly informative and eye-opening manner, Thupten Jinpa offers us a definitive biography of one of the giants of Tibetan Buddhism. [Tsongkhapa: A Buddha in the Land of Snows](#) will be cherished as a classic in the world of biographies of great Tibetan masters. – Matthieu Ricard, author of *Enlightened Vagabond: The Life and Teachings of Patrul Rinpoche**

... Drawing on a wealth of previously unstudied materials, many dating from Tsongkhapa's own lifetime, Thupten Jinpa transforms Tsongkhapa from a static icon into a complex and fascinating human being, his genius only heightened by his humanity. – Donald Lopez, Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, University of Michigan

*Tsongkhapa's extraordinary life made readable and inspiring. In these pages some of the most important roots of Tibetan Buddhism come alive, inviting our own wonder, learning, and appreciation. – Jack Kornfield, author of *The Wise Heart: A Guide to the Universal Teachings of Buddhist Psychology**

As a practitioner who has been deeply touched and influenced by Tsongkhapa's teachings, it is uplifting and comforting to read a reliable biography, not a hagiography, that portrays this remarkable teacher as a human being like us – someone who questions accepted views and seeks the truth, someone who changes their ideas and actions when presented with good reasons.... Thupten Jinpa's respect and reverence for Tsongkhapa shine throughout the book, especially in his brilliant

translations of portions of Tsongkhapa's texts and poetry. – Thubten Chodron, author of *Guided Buddhist Meditations* and *How to Free Your Mind*

[Tsongkhapa](#) is a new standard work and definitive biography of incredible magnitude. It is a necessary resource for anyone interested in Tsongkhapa's transformative effect on the understanding and practice of Buddhism in Tibet in his time and his continued influence today. The volume is part of *The Lives of the Masters* series. Indispensable to practitioners and scholars alike, these volumes offer a gateway to better understanding these great figures and their times. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism

Zhije: The Pacification of Suffering: Essential Teachings of the Eight Practice Lineages of Tibet (The Treasury of Precious Instructions) by Jamgon Kongtrul Lodro Taye, translated by Sarah Harding (**Tsadra Foundation Series, Volume 13**: Snow Lion)

In his vast work The Treasury of Precious Instructions; Jamgon Kongtrul Lodro Taye, that most eminent of Tibetan Buddhist masters, collected together all the empowerments, instructions, and practices of the eight great chariots of the practice lineages. Not only that, but he himself received the complete transmissions for all the practices, accomplished them including the retreats, and preserved them in his own mindstream. He then passed on the transmissions to his own students and all who requested them.

The Treasury of Precious Instructions exemplifies how Jamgon Kongtrul Lodro Taye's whole life was dedicated to teaching and spreading the Dharma, whether it be sutra or mantra, kama or terma, old or new translation school, free of sectarian bias. Without his supreme efforts, many traditions of Tibetan Buddhism would have been lost. – from the foreword by His Holiness the 17th Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje

In [Zhije](#), Jamgön Kongtrul Lodrö Taye presents the Zhije (Pacification) teachings of some of Tibet's most historically significant and influential teachers. This is the **13th volume** in the *Treasury of Precious Instructions* series, and it is Kongtrul's great collection of teachings from all of Tibet's Buddhist lineages.

Jamgön Kongtrul Lodrö Taye (1813–1900), one of Tibet's greatest Buddhist masters, was a versatile and prolific scholar and one of the most outstanding writers and teachers of his time in Tibet. He was a pivotal figure in eastern Tibet's nonsectarian movement and made major contributions to education, politics, and medicine. Translator Sarah Harding has been a Buddhist practitioner since 1974 and has been teaching and translating since completing a three-year retreat in 1980 under the guidance of Kyabje Kalu Rinpoche.

The Treasury of Precious Instructions by Jamgön Kongtrul Lodrö Taye is a shining jewel of Tibetan literature, presenting essential teachings from the entire spectrum of practice lineages that existed in Tibet. In its eighteen volumes, Kongtrul brings together some of the most important texts on key topics of Buddhist thought and practice as well as authoring significant new sections of his own.

In this volume, **Zhije: The Pacification of Suffering**, Kongtrul presents a diverse corpus of texts from the Zhije (Pacification) tradition that trace especially to the South Indian master Dampa Sangye (d. 1117), whose teachings are also celebrated in the Chöd (Severance) tradition. It includes source scriptures by Dampa Sangye, empowerments by Lochen Dharmashīrī, and guidance by Dampa Sangye, Lochen Dharmashīrī, and Sönam Pal. Also included are lineage charts related to the transmission of Zhije teachings as well as detailed notes and an orientation to the texts by Harding. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Textbooks

[Systematic Theology](#) by Robert Letham (Crossway)

[Systematic Theology](#) is a comprehensive systematic theology by a respected theologian covering the whole field of Reformed Christian doctrine from biblical, historical, and theological angles.

Author Robert Letham is professor of systematic and historical theology at Union School of Theology. A Presbyterian minister with twenty-five years of pastoral experience, he is the author of numerous books.

[Systematic Theology](#) seeks to provide an articulation of the Reformed faith rooted in the historic creeds while addressing current issues. Intended to be used as a textbook, this single-volume systematic theology is well-suited for the world today, interacting not only with the biblical text but also with the history of Christian doctrine, current cultural challenges to the Bible's teaching, and the daily experiences of regular Christians. Letham begins [Systematic Theology](#) with God's ultimate self-revelation as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in indivisible union, continuing on with the works of God in creation, providence, and grace. He draws deeply from Scripture and important voices from the church to provide a clear and concise articulation of the Reformed faith. He also addresses current issues such as feminism, charismatic gifts, sexual ethics, environmentalism, other religions, the nature of truth, and civil liberties. Each chapter is followed by discussion questions, with a glossary of terms included at the end.

This is a first-class volume, impressively erudite, yet eminently readable. Scrupulously biblical, but at the same time recognizing the value of Christian tradition, it draws extensively, but judiciously, on the insights of the early church fathers, the Reformed confessions, and federal theology, while remaining in constant dialogue with the world of contemporary theological scholarship. The overall organization reflects Letham's independence of judgment, and the end product is not only a Reformed systematic theology of enduring value but also an encyclopedic reference work for both historical and systematic theology. Unsurpassed in its field. – Donald Macleod, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, Edinburgh Theological Seminary; author, *A Faith to Live By; The Person of Christ; and Christ Crucified*

Robert Letham has blessed us with a systematic theology that is sure to stimulate reflection, discussion, and deeper understanding of both the Holy Scriptures and the church's interpretations of them to formulate its theology over the last two millennia. One does not need to agree with every detail of Letham's magnum opus to realize that here is a treasure house of Christian wisdom on the whole counsel of God that will inform your mind and move your heart and affections to serve your Savior and Lord more single-mindedly and zealously than ever before. – Joel R. Beeke, President and Professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary; Pastor, Heritage Reformed Congregation, Grand Rapids, Michigan; author, *Reformed Preaching*

Robert Letham has produced a substantial Reformed systematic theology which is not so much multum in parvo as multum in magno. He starts with the doctrine of God and the Holy Trinity rather than with the necessity and sufficiency of special revelation. In this sense it may be said that he stresses the catholicity of Reformed doctrine and does justice to the place of natural theology in it, reflecting his own Trinitarian expertise. Letham's style is not only clear but also fair-minded, giving space to alternative views. Letham is good at the big doctrinal pictures and sensitive to the need to drill down at particular points. He judges between central and peripheral issues. He is to be warmly

congratulated on this new book. – Paul Helm, Professor of Theology and Religious Studies Emeritus, King’s College, London

Robert Letham’s [Systematic Theology](#) is the fruit of demanding exegetical work wrapped in a deep appreciation for all the great theology that God has provided for his people through ecumenical creeds and doctrinal standards. It is meant to be faithful to the past and grandly succeeds in that intention. While Letham clearly embeds his theology in properly understood church tradition, he is not afraid to address current theological trends. The text is exceptionally well written, easily comprehended, massively researched, and a drink of cool water for those thirsting for more of God and his word. – Richard C. Gamble, Professor of Systematic Theology, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary

I enthusiastically welcome the publication of this volume by Robert Letham. Keenly informed by the richness of his own Reformed tradition, [Systematic Theology](#) engages the best of Christian thought – Patristic, medieval, Reformation, modern, and contemporary – on a deep and fruitful level. There is nothing parochial about this book; reading it will be a joyous education for students and pastors. It deserves a wide audience among Reformed Christians and beyond. – William B. Evans, Younts Professor of Bible and Religion, Erskine College; author, *Imputation and Impartation and A Companion to the Mercersburg Theology*

Robert Letham writes with a teacher’s knack for illustration, a preacher’s liveliness and warmth, and a scholar’s breadth – all of these in exemplary service to what certain Reformers called ‘prophecy’: the powerful conveyance of the word of God that enlivens and purifies the saints’ worship. Extended throughout these chapters is the doctrine of union with Christ. Letham’s Protestant account of theosis near the end of the volume, articulated as a perfecting of this union, not only culminates his book-long engagement with Eastern Orthodox authors and traditions but also goes a long way in addressing the need felt by many young evangelicals for thicker connection to early-church formulations and writings. Avoiding easy answers at every turn, Letham’s contagious enthusiasm for the simple genius of the Christian tradition will inspire readers to live, believe, and preach Scripture more earnestly and fully. – Andrew Keuer, Professor of Theology and Ethics, Greek Bible College

[Systematic Theology](#) grounds theological understanding and practice in the life and ministry of the church, accessible to pastors, students, scholars, and anyone who desires to understand, believe, and live scriptural doctrine more fully. <>

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