



We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books

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[A Traitor to His Species](#): Henry Bergh and the Birth of the Animal Rights Movement by Ernest Freeberg (Basic Books)

From an award-winning historian, **[A Traitor to His Species](#)** is the outlandish story of the man who gave rights to animals.

Author Ernest Freeberg is a distinguished professor of humanities and head of the history department at the University of Tennessee.

In Gilded Age America, people and animals lived cheek-by-jowl in environments that were dirty and dangerous to man and beast alike. The industrial city brought suffering, but it also inspired a compassion for animals that fueled a controversial anti-cruelty movement. From the center of these debates, Henry Bergh, the founder of ASPCA, launched a shocking campaign to grant rights to animals.

[A Traitor to His Species](#) is revelatory social history, awash with colorful characters. Cheered on by thousands of men and women who joined his cause, Bergh fought with robber barons, Five Points gangs, and legendary impresario P.T. Barnum, as they pushed for new laws to protect trolley horses, livestock, stray dogs, and other animals.

*Vivid and often wrenching... **[A Traitor to His Species](#)** is not a conventional biography, intriguing as its central figure is. The book is above all a compassionate, highly readable account of the 19th-century plight of animals, especially urban animals – and of those who tried to come to their rescue. – New York Times*

*Vivid... The narrative's pace never slackens. Expansive yet carefully documented, Mr. Freeberg's book is less the biography of a man than of a noble effort that eventually spanned the nation. **[A Traitor to His Species](#)** isn't primarily about animals or their rights. Instead, as articulated in Mr. Freeberg's clear-eyed conclusion, this is a book about us, about the searing truth that how we choose to treat animals reveals what kinds of humans we are. – Wall Street Journal*

Freeberg marshals a wealth of detail in tracking Bergh's campaigns and paints a vivid picture of Gilded Age America. Animal lovers and history buffs will savor this immersive account. – Publishers Weekly
*Freeberg's well-written biography benefits from detailed descriptions of the situations and conditions that inspired Henry Bergh to act. **[A Traitor to His Species](#)** is a good read, making a fresh case for Bergh's genius at using the media of the day to advance public awareness and debate over animal welfare in a world that lived close to animals and relied on their*

bodies for labor and raw materials as well as food. – Katherine C. Grier, author of *Pets in America: A History*

Vivid... A successful effort to make a splendid American crusader better known. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review

In his lively treatment, Freeberg offers a thorough and human portrait of the ASPCA's founder, Henry Bergh, presenting the strongest possible case for his courage, resilience and tenacity. In bringing back to life Bergh's fabled battles, Freeberg provides both context and evidence for Bergh's prominence as a leader of the nascent animal protection movement, one of America's most significant post-Civil War reforms. – Bernard Unti, Humane Society of the United States

Raucous and entertaining, [A Traitor to His Species](#) tells the story of a remarkable man who gave voice to the voiceless and shaped our modern relationship with animals. <>

Biographies & Memoirs / Political

[Mario Cuomo](#): The Myth and the Man by George J. Marlin (St. Augustine's Press)

Among all the fifty-six men who have served as New York's governor, none was more complicated, self-righteous, pugilistic, and exasperating than Mario Cuomo.

In [Mario Cuomo](#), George J. Marlin sets the record straight on Mario Cuomo.

As governor, Cuomo is remembered most for his advocacy of the 'personally-opposed-but' position on abortion that led to confrontations with Catholic Church hierarchy, and for dithering about his presidential ambitions, that led the media to dub him the 'Hamlet on the Hudson.' His political style reminded many of Machiavelli; Cuomo styled himself a successor to St. Thomas More.

Marlin traces Cuomo's political rise and documents how and why he abandoned his public opposition to abortion to be elected New York's chief executive.

Marlin, former Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, is the author/editor of 14 books.

In great detail, Marlin describes the protracted conflict between Cuomo and his church on abortion and refutes the governor's claim that his 'position on abortion is absolutely theologically sound.' Marlin critiques Cuomo's famous 1984 Democratic convention speech as nothing more than the usual high-toned partisan liberal bromides that offered little, if anything, that hadn't been touted by his party for half a century.

[Mario Cuomo](#) also uncovers New York State's fiscal, economic, and social decline during Cuomo's 12 years as governor. It explains why voters repudiated Cuomo's version of a welfare state when he sought a fourth term in 1994 and why, in the words of

his son, Governor Andrew Cuomo, his father was “more accomplished as a speech-giver than as a governor.”

*Mario Cuomo, three times Governor of New York, an eloquent hard edged Catholic from Queens, dominated not only his home state but national liberal politics in the age of Reagan. Whether the subject was police or theology, Cuomo rhetorically overpowered the reporters who covered him. But he's finally met his match in George Marlin's [Mario Cuomo: The Myth and the Man](#). Marlin's extraordinary equipment; a former candidate for Mayor of N.Y.C., former executive director of the New York and New Jersey Port Authority, author of books on Catholic voters and the Archbishops of New York, has made him the ideal author of what's sure to be seen as the definitive political biography of Mario Cuomo. –Fred Siegel, Author, *The Prince of the City: Giuliani*, New York, and *The Genius of American Life and The Future Once Happened Here: New York, D.C., L.A., and the Fate of America's Big Cities*. It's easy to forget what an important and fascinating figure Mario Cuomo was during New York's raucous political heyday of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, when the likes of Hugh Carey, Ed Koch, Al D'Amato, and Rudy Giuliani strode the political stage. Thankfully, George Marlin's wonderful new Cuomo biography will help everyone remember both the good and bad of the remarkable man who served three terms as governor, turned down a seat on the Supreme Court and rejected the chance to run for President. Here are both Cuomo's successes and failures – and of the latter there were many. An important work that helps restore our collective memory. – Fredric U. Dicker, the New York Post's longtime state editor and a TV and radio commentator*

*George Marlin is virtually peerless in blending high principle with knowledge of street-level politics and the nuts-and-bolts of otherwise mundane governance to produce readable, yet deeply insightful, social and political portraits. [Mario Cuomo: The Myth and the Man](#), examines in fine detail one of New York state's most consequential, if also deeply flawed, 20th-century gubernatorial incumbencies. Plus, readers get a bonus: Insight into what shaped the career of Mario Cuomo's Democratic superstar son, Andrew. Marlin has been in the trenches himself and thus can separate blarney from beefsteak – which this fine volume once again demonstrates. – Bob McManus, Contributing Editor, *The City Journal*, was the New York Post's Editorial Page Editor and *The Albany Times Union's* Executive City Editor*

George Marlin not only captures the political life and journey of Mario Cuomo, but details his policy approach that led to the near demise of the Empire State. Fortunately, the Conservative Party of New York was there to

carry the torch and provide the margin of victory for George Pataki ending the senior Cuomo's reign. – Michael Long, State Chairman, Conservative Party of New York

For both better and worse, Mario Cuomo was the quintessential American Catholic politician of an entire postwar generation: ambitious, brilliant, articulate, serious about his faith, and flexible in how and where he applied it. George Marlin is a writer of considerable skill, and he uses it here to produce a provocative, absorbing portrait of the man and his career. – Francis X. Maier, Senior Fellow in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center

[Mario Cuomo](#) is readable and insightful. Marlin skillfully separates the Cuomo 'Public Intellectual' myth from the political man. <>

Business & Economics / Workplace / Guides

Good Guys: How Men Can Be Better Allies for Women in the Workplace by David G. Smith & W. Brad Johnson (Harvard Business Review Press)

According to [Good Guys](#), the key to advancing gender equality is – men.

Women are at a disadvantage. At home, they often face an unequal division of household chores and childcare, and in the workplace, they deal with lower pay, lack of credit for their contributions, roadblocks to promotion, and sexual harassment. And while organizations are looking to address these issues, too many gender-inclusion initiatives focus on how women themselves should respond, reinforcing the perception that these are 'women's issues' and that men – often the most influential stakeholders in an organization – don't need to be involved.

Gender-in-the-workplace experts David G. Smith and W. Brad Johnson counter this perception in [Good Guys](#). Smith is a professor of sociology in the College of Leadership and Ethics at the US Naval War College. Johnson is a professor of psychology in the Department of Leadership, Ethics, and Law at the United States Naval Academy and a faculty associate in the Graduate School of Education at Johns Hopkins University.

In this book, Smith and Johnson show that men have a crucial role to play in promoting gender equality at work. Research shows that when men are deliberately engaged in gender-inclusion programs, 96 percent of women in those organizations perceive real progress in gender equality, compared with only 30 percent of women in organizations without strong male engagement.

Good Guys is the first practical, research-based guide for how to be a male ally to women in the workplace. Filled with firsthand accounts from both men and women, and tips for getting started, the book shows how men can partner with their female colleagues to advance women's leadership and equality by breaking ingrained gender stereotypes, overcoming unconscious biases, developing and supporting the talented women around them, and creating productive and respectful working relationships with women.

As long as gender inequality is a 'women's issue,' men aren't going to feel any responsibility to fix it – and that has to change, write assistant sociology professor Smith and psychology professor Johnson (co-authors, Athena Rising) in this persuasive call to arms. – Publisher's Weekly

*Men who care about gender equality often ask, 'How can I be a better colleague to the women I work with?' **Good Guys** is the playbook for how to do that, filled with practical advice and wisdom from leaders across many backgrounds. If you want to do your part to build a more equal and inclusive workplace, this book will help. – Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer, Facebook; founder, LeanIn.Org and OptionB.Org*

Thank you, David Smith and Brad Johnson, for giving us a practical, evidence-based guide for what men can – and must – do to support women at work, at home, and in our communities. – Stew Friedman, organizational psychologist and Practice Professor of Management, Emeritus, The Wharton School; bestselling author, Total Leadership

An amazing how-to book to pivot equality in our homes, offices, and societies. Smith and Johnson offer indispensable advice for how to achieve gender parity – both because it's the right thing to do and it's the smart thing to do. –Dana Born, Codirector, Center for Public Leadership, and lecturer in public policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Many men want to be better allies to women, but we aren't always sure where to begin. Look no further than this book by two excellent guides who draw on their expertise as social scientists, their experiences in organizations, and their interviews with women to show how we can all improve in our efforts to level the playing field. – Adam Grant, New York Times bestselling author, Give and Take and Originals

Good Guys is an important book. Offering practical advice, it is an evidence-based guide advising men how to support women and make the world, or their little corner of it, more equitable. <>

Indian Education for All: Decolonizing Indigenous Education in Public Schools by John P. Hopkins, with James A. Banks as series editor (Multicultural Education Series: Teachers College Press)

In his new book, **Indian Education for All**, John P. Hopkins examines recent efforts to reform Indigenous education in public schools.

John P. Hopkins centers his critique on Montana State's innovative and bold multicultural education policy called Indian Education for All (IEFA) and demonstrates why Indigenous education reforms must decolonize the curriculum and pedagogy to address the academic inequalities facing Native students.

Hopkins is associate dean of students, director of the Diversity and Equity Center, and senior instructor of society and social justice at Saint Martin's University.

Using tribal critical race theory and culturally sustaining and revitalizing pedagogy, **Indian Education for All** proposes a shift in the ways teacher candidates learn about Indigenous education and instruct Native students. It explains why teachers and schools need to privilege Indigenous knowledge and explicitly integrate decolonization concepts into teaching and learning to address the academic gaps in Native education. This book will also help non-Native educators engage in productive and authentic conversations with tribal communities about what Indigenous education reform should entail.

Indian Education for All:

- Brings together multicultural education research and Native American and Indigenous Studies literature to promote strategies for Indigenous education reform in public schools.
- Shows how the politics of reconciliation can resolve tensions between public schools and traditional, place-based Indigenous philosophies, knowledge, values, and cultures.
- Provides practical strategies to adequately prepare teachers to instruct Native students and partner with tribal communities.

Hopkins offers insightful critiques of educational disparities fueled by settler colonialism and practical suggestions for meaningful Indigenous education reform that is centered on Montana's Indian Education for All act. His proposal for a desettling learning process for White teachers is especially needed. A must-read for educational justice across Indian Country. – K. Tsianina Lomawaima, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

In a time of widening inequities, what should education reform entail? Focusing on Montana's Indian Education for All, Professor Hopkins urges a move beyond inclusion toward serious engagement with decolonization and reconciliation. More than critique, the book offers concrete strategies for disrupting coloniality and enacting transformative education partnerships. This important, highly accessible book provides a needed shift in stance whereby anti-colonialism becomes a vital education project for all. – Teresa L. McCarty, GF Kneller Chair in Education and Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles

Hopkins offers important insights into the problems of paradigms of inclusion as an approach to educational policy change and suggests, ultimately, that inclusion serves settler-colonialism. He compellingly argues that we must move to a politics of reconciliation and survivance through decolonizing conversations as the foundation of educational change efforts. – Megan Bang, professor of the learning sciences and psychology, Northwestern University; Senior Vice President, the Spencer Foundation

This is exactly the right book at the right time. While it speaks directly to teachers and teacher educators, this book serves as a guide for all educators working to move from policy to effective practice. Grounded in place and the specificities of Montana's Indian Education for All Act, Hopkins aims to desettle reformist strategies of inclusion and guide readers through the more culturally sustaining and revitalizing processes of reconciliation. It's a must-read for students, practitioners, and policymakers. – Sandy Grande, professor of education and director, Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, Connecticut College

This important and highly accessible book is a must-read for students, practitioners and policymakers. [Indian Education for All](#) provides insights into the problems of the education policy of inclusion, moving toward decolonization and reconciliation. <>

History / Oral Traditions / Indigenous

[Monsters of Contact](#): Historical Trauma in Caddoan Oral Traditions by Mark van de Logt (University of Oklahoma Press)

A story is like a little seed. From it all sorts of other stories branch off for you. A story gives you life. Now that I am old, people invite me to come and eat good things with them and then they ask me to tell stories. So these stories keep me alive. – Old-Man-That-Chief, Pawnee

A murderous whirlwind, an evil child-abducting witch-woman, a masked cannibal, terrifying scalped men, a mysterious man-slaying flint creature: the oral tradition of the Caddoan Indians is alive with monsters. Whereas Western historical methods and interpretations relegate such beings to the realms of myth and fantasy, Mark van de Logt argues in [Monsters of Contact](#) that creatures found in the stories of the Caddos, Wichitas, Pawnees, and Arikaras actually embody specific historical events and the negative effects of European contact: invasion, war, death, disease, enslavement, starvation, and colonialism.

Van de Logt is Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University of Qatar.

Van de Logt examines specific sites of historical interaction between American Indians and Europeans, from the outbreaks and effect of smallpox epidemics on the Arikaras, to the violence and enslavement Caddos faced at the hands of Hernando de Soto's expedition, and Wichita encounters with Spanish missionaries and French traders in Texas. In each case he explains how, through Indian metaphor, seemingly unrelated stories of supernatural beings and occurrences translate into real people and events that figure prominently in western U.S. history. The result is a peeling away of layers of cultural values that, for those invested in Western historical traditions, otherwise obscure the meaning of such tales and their 'monsters.'

Although Western historical methods have become the standard in much of the world, van de Logt demonstrates that indigenous forms of history are no less valuable, and that oral traditions and myths can be useful sources of historical information. A daring interpretation of Caddoan lore, [Monsters of Contact](#) puts oral traditions at the center of historical inquiry and, in so doing, asks readers to reconsider what makes a monster.

[Monsters of Contact](#) is about unmasking a number of monsters in Caddoan (Pawnee, Arikara, Wichita, and Caddo) oral traditions. These monsters include a murderous whirlwind in the Arikara creation account, a masked cannibal man in a Caddo story, an evil child-abducting witch-woman in a Wichita tale, terrifying scalped men in Pawnee and Arikara stories, and the mysterious man-slaying Flint Monster in Pawnee tradition.

Unraveling the meaning of these stories has long been the realm of folklorists, ethnologists, anthropologists, linguists, literary scholars, religious studies experts, and psychoanalysts.

Van de Logt says this project began a few years ago as a result of an accidental discovery. While contemplating the Arikara creation story, he realized that the monstrous whirlwind that appears in several accounts actually represents the smallpox epidemics of the 1700s, especially that of 1780-81. Intrigued by this discovery, he began analyzing monster images in the stories – often called myths – of other Caddoan peoples. In several of them, he found further evidence that these stories were in fact based on actual historical events.

Van de Logt says in [Monsters of Contact](#) that it is difficult to understand the symbolic language of these stories. They are riddled with images and meanings that are largely unfamiliar to readers today. Although the texts offer clues, the sources do not provide the historian much in the form of indisputable facts.

The texts themselves are of problematic provenance. There are often multiple and conflicting versions. In most cases, the stories were recorded many years later, so the contents may have changed over time. Outside influences, such as government officials, missionaries, and other agents of acculturation may have prompted storytellers to alter or leave out significant portions of the text. Sometimes storytellers borrowed themes or passages from non-Native stories. In most cases the original Native texts were not preserved, making modern-day comparative analysis impossible.

[Monsters of Contact](#) is largely interpretive. To some it may fall short of standard expectations of historical analysis. Readers who are satisfied with only ironclad conclusions will most likely be disappointed. Those readers willing to go on an adventurous expedition of discovery, where the outcomes are uncertain, may find in these pages things that are intriguing, engaging, and, convincing.

*In [Monsters of Contact](#), Mark van de Logt connects the 'myths' of Caddoan peoples with tangible historical events attendant to the unfolding trauma of European colonialism. Unleashing literary theory and ethnography to consort with the fragmentary documentary record, van de Logt shows that stories long presumed to lie in the shadowlands of monster-filled 'folklore' are, in fact, powerfully detailed metaphors for the lived experience of these Indian Nations. – James F. Brooks, author of *Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat'Ovi Massacre**

*In this fascinating and thought-provoking study, Mark van de Logt demonstrates how Native American oral traditions can be used successfully to augment the European-based historical record. By tying stories previously dismissed as Caddoan 'fairy tales' to documented historical events, the author reveals the Native Americans' side of history. – F. Todd Smith, author of *From Dominance to Disappearance: The Indians of Texas and the Near Southwest, 1786-1859**

The contributions of scholars to [Monsters of Contact](#) provide readers with deeper insights into the mental, literary, and imaginative world of these peoples. These stories will continue to inspire readers, especially those belonging to the Caddoan nations. Readers will find van de Logt's analysis instructive, and it will encourage them to think more appreciatively about these important cultural treasures. <>

War in the Shadows: Resistance, Deception and Betrayal in Occupied France by Patrick Marnham (Oneworld)

In 1962 the young Patrick Marnham set off by car for a small village in central France. There he was taught French by an imperious countess, who he later discovered had fought in the Resistance until, betrayed, she was sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp. On the very same day that his hostess's network was broken, Jean Moulin, de Gaulle's delegate as head of the combined Resistance forces, was arrested in Lyons, where he was tortured by Klaus Barbie before dying in Gestapo custody. Was this coincidence, or were these events connected? The anonymous letter writer suggested a key to the mystery.

War in the Shadows shines a light on the brutality and cynicism of the Secret War and reveals how it was actually fought. The result is a story of ruthless double-dealing worthy of John le Carré, but with this difference: it is not a fiction.

Patrick Marnham, biographer, reporter and screenwriter, was a staff writer for *Private Eye*, a BBC script writer, Literary Editor of the *Spectator* and Paris correspondent of the *Independent*.

After publishing an acclaimed biography of Jean Moulin, leader of the French Resistance, Marnham received an anonymous letter from a person who claimed to have worked for British Intelligence during the war. The ex-spy praised his book but insisted that he had missed the real 'treasure'.

The letter drew Marnham back into the past, to the early 1960s when he had been taught French by a mercurial woman – a former Resistance leader, whose SOE network was broken on the same day that Moulin was captured. His anonymous correspondent seemed to think these two events were connected and offered a tantalizing set of clues.

Using knowledge of France gained from 12 years as the *Independent's* Paris correspondent, and subsequent research in archives in England and France, Marnham set out to discover the truth about the betrayal of the old lady who had become his tutor and friend. Following a trail leading from London through Occupied Europe to the rank and file Resistance in lost corners of France, he has unraveled the story of a complex wartime deception, involving British, American and French intelligence services.

Part quest, part spy story, part history, **War in the Shadows** reveals the reality of the secret war at every level, and exposes the ruthless double-dealing of the British, French, American and Russian intelligence services through one of the darkest periods of the Second World War.

Patrick Marnham is one of our very best writers on France. – Antony Beevor

A brilliant and revelatory work of modern historical investigation, throwing new light on the French Resistance and the complex world of secret intelligence. Written with remarkable insight, understanding and empathy – a triumph. – William Boyd

An incredible story brilliantly told. Marnham has created an utterly gripping story of wartime espionage, deception, double-crossing and terrible betrayal that drew me in from the outset. A stunning work of investigation, research and scholarship. I honestly think this is the best book I have ever read about the SOE in France. – James Holland, best-selling author and historian

A masterly analysis, impeccably presented – The Spectator

[War in the Shadows](#) shines a light on the brutality and cynicism of the darkest periods of World War II and reveals how it was actually fought. The result is a story of ruthless deception fit for an espionage novel. <>

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Quilting

[Kaffe Fassett's Quilts in Burano](#): Designs Inspired by a Venetian Island by Kaffe Fassett, featuring Liza Prior Lucy & Brandom Mably (The Taunton Press)

In [Kaffe Fassett's Quilts in Burano](#), Kaffe Fassett uses the colorful Venetian island of Burano to form the backdrop of a collection of new quilt designs from the Kaffe Fassett Studio.

San Francisco-born artist Fassett is a name every quilter knows. His work has been commissioned by the British monarchy, American fashion designers, and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

In this 22nd installment of Fassett's popular series of patchwork and quilting books, the quilts have been photographed on location in Burano, a tiny island in Italy's Venetian archipelago, famous for its lace making but also for its brilliantly painted houses in a myriad jewel colors.

The colorful house walls, sometimes distressed and occasionally decorated with murals, form the backdrop, along with the canals, bridges, and boats of this special Venetian island, to this selection of Fassett's new quilt designs.

The collection of 19 quilts features both new fabric designs from the Kaffe Collective and some of his classics. For example, Bali Brocade makes a background to Fassett's

sumptuous Shimmer Star quilt with its ripples of pattern in contrasting prints. His two versions of a very simple quilt comes in two very different colorways. Hot Steps is a riot of color, whereas by contrast its sister quilt, Cool Steps, in dusty blues, greens, and greys has a dreamy quality. Liza Prior Lucy's rich and dark Turkish Coffee quilt, with its hint of Eastern promise, cuts Fassett's new Turkish Delight fabric to brilliant effect.

[Kaffe Fassett's Quilts in Burano](#) provides all the instructional text, diagrams, and templates to make the quilts, plus a section on basic patchwork techniques for less experienced quilters.

[Kaffe Fassett's Quilts in Burano](#) is especially and unreservedly recommended for personal, professional, community, and academic library Needlecraft & Quilting instructional reference collections. – Midwest Book Review

'User friendly' in organization and presentation, [Kaffe Fassett's Quilts in Burano](#) is profusely illustrated and with accessible step-by-step instructions that will enable even novice quilters to produce excellent results. <>

International Policy / Conflict / Middle East

[War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#), 1st edition by Ariel I. Ahram (Polity Press)

For much of the last half century, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has seemed the outlier in global peace. Today Iraq, Libya, Israel/Palestine, Yemen, and Syria are not just countries, but synonyms for prolonged and brutal wars. But why is MENA so exceptionally violent? More importantly, can it change?

Exploring the causes and consequences of wars and conflicts in this troubled region, Ariel Ahram in [War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#) helps readers answer these questions. Ahram is Associate Professor in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech.

In the first part of the book, Ahram shows how MENA's conflicts evolved with the formation of its states. Violence varied from civil wars and insurgencies to traditional interstate conflicts and affected some countries more frequently than others. The strategies rulers employed to stay in power constrained how they recruited, trained, and equipped their armies. The second part explores dynamics that trap the region in conflict – oil dependence, geopolitical interference, and embedded identity cleavages. The catastrophic wars of the 2010s reflect the confounding effects of these traps, culminating in state collapse and intervention from the US and Russia, as well as regional powers like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. Finally, Ahram considers the

possibilities of peace, highlighting the disjuncture between local peacebuilding and national and internationally-backed mediation.

[War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#) is intended for students of security studies and Middle East area studies. It explores key thematic issues of war and conflict in MENA using a number of comparative strategies. It is not a comprehensive military history of the region. Certain conflicts get more attention than others. The conflict in Western Sahara, for instance, is mentioned only a few times. The choice to focus on particular episodes of conflict and war is intended to illustrate themes and concepts using historical references that are likely to be familiar to most readers. They are not intended to downplay the importance of any particular conflict. For sourcing, the book largely relies on secondary materials published in English. At numerous points in the book there are graphs and tables that present longitudinal or cross-case comparative information.

Part I of **[War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#)** sketches the context of conflict and war in the region, testing out the proposition that MENA is exceptionally prone to war. Chapter 1 analyzes different attempts to count and measure the frequency, type, and magnitude of wars in MENA over the last century. It highlights the way MENA diverges from certain global trends and follows others. It highlights the diverse forms of conflict within the region. Chapter 2 provides a conceptual and historical sketch of how the progress of state formation interacted with war-fighting. It describes how states and their rivals organized violence differently at different times during the last century.

Part II of **[War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#)** examines the elements of the conflict traps that affect MENA. Chapter 3 examines the role of oil in war. It shows that states fighting to control oil markets is relatively rare. However, oil contributes to war and violence largely by affecting the ways states manage and respond to internal opposition and challengers. Chapter 4 examines the role of ethnicity or 'ancient hatreds' in regional wars. Finding a common sense of national identity is a crucial component of state-building. But instilling and reproducing this identity often spurs violent resistance. Chapter 5 examines the role of geopolitics and outside intervention in conflict. It shows how outside powers have always played a major role in regional politics, but their ability to spur or restrain conflict has been equivocal. One of the most important elements of geopolitics is not the direct commission of war, but enabling states (and non-state actors) to conduct war on a larger scale.

Chapter 6 offers an extended case study of the last decade of MENA history as a protracted and multi-level regional war. It shows how the civil wars in Libya, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, often treated as discrete conflicts, became interconnected as theaters in a larger regional and global contest. This contest involved the United States and Russia

as the main extra-regional players, but most crucially Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UAE, and others as regional actors asserting supremacy.

The seventh and final chapter of [War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#) shifts the focus to peace and peacemaking. There have been innumerable diplomatic plans and efforts to end wars in MENA. Only a fraction have made much impact. Many of these initiatives came from extra-regional powers or their close regional allies. At the same time, 'bottom-up' efforts to achieve local conciliation and peace also have a mixed record. This chapter evaluates how different approaches to conflict resolution and mitigation address the potential 'traps' of oil, identity, and geopolitics. Attention to those places where peace has gained a footing is important for understanding how conflicts in MENA might end.

This book enhances our understanding of organized political violence in the Middle East. Drawing on a wide range of literatures alongside a comparison of case studies, it highlights the factors driving war and conflict in the region. It is a crucial resource for students interested in these topics. – Brent E. Sasley, University of Texas at Arlington

Ahram knits together the factors that have trapped the Middle East in violence, capturing the complexities of the region in a straightforward and accessible way. [War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#) is an excellent guide to the region today. – Daniel Byman, Georgetown University

Ariel Ahram has cleared the conceptual underbrush and introduced a number of important arguments about conflict in the Middle East. My students will be reading this book. If you want a clear-headed primer on the region's many wars, you should read it, too. – F. Gregory Gause, III, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

[War and Conflict in the Middle East and North Africa](#) will be an essential resource for students of peace and security studies and MENA politics, and anyone wanting to move beyond headlines and soundbites to understand the historical and social roots of MENA's conflicts. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries & Thrillers

[The Sentinel](#): A Jack Reacher Novel by Lee Child & Andrew Child (Jack Reacher Series, No. 25: Delacorte Press)

One of the many great things about Jack Reacher is that he's larger than life while remaining relatable and believable. [The Sentinel](#) shows that two Childs are even better than one. – James Patterson

Jack Reacher is back in [The Sentinel](#)! The 'utterly addictive' (*The New York Times*) series continues as the acclaimed #1 bestselling author Lee Child teams up with his brother, Andrew Child, fellow thriller writer.

Lee Child is the author of twenty-four *New York Times* bestselling Jack Reacher thrillers, with fifteen having reached the #1 position, and the #1 bestselling complete Jack Reacher story collection, *No Middle Name*. Andrew Child, who also writes as Andrew Grant, is the author of numerous novels.

As always, in the Jack Reacher novels, Reacher in [The Sentinel](#) has no particular place to go, and all the time in the world to get there. One morning he ends up in a town near Pleasantville, Tennessee.

But there's nothing pleasant about the place.

In broad daylight Reacher spots a hapless soul walking into an ambush. "It was four against one"... so Reacher intervenes, with his own trademark brand of conflict resolution.

The man he saves is Rusty Rutherford, an unassuming IT manager, recently fired after a cyber-attack locked up the town's data, records, information... and secrets. Rutherford wants to stay put, look innocent, and clear his name.

Reacher is intrigued. There's more to the story. The bad guys who jumped Rutherford are part of something serious and deadly, involving a conspiracy, a cover-up, and murder – all centered on a mousy little guy in a coffee-stained shirt who has no idea what he's up against.

I loved [The Sentinel](#)! Classic Reacher, great story. Brilliant, brilliant, brilliant. I do love the spare writing style, the descriptions, Reacher's responses to threats. Joyous stuff. I hope there will be many more Reachers to come. – Conn Iggulden

It's great to be back in [Reacher's] company in a world where the bad guys get what's coming to them.... A smooth transition for a much-loved character. – The Observer

As always, the bad guys – this time, Russian spies and American-Nazi thugs – discover too late that they are no match for Reacher. Despite the change in authors, the writing remains tight and the non-stop action is as propulsive as ever. – Associated Press

As ever, [Reacher is] the sole, unrivalled champion of the average man. – Daily Mail

Fresh, perfectly plotted, and packed with action, [The Sentinel](#) is one of the year's best, must-read thrillers. – The Real Book Spy

It's terrific.... The story is just as powerful.... Brutal action mixes with keen-eyed detective work as Reacher metes out his own brand of justice.... If this novel is a harbinger of what's to come, then Jack is in good hands. – Booklist, starred review

Much of [The Sentinel](#) is humorous as Reacher patiently teaches bad guys about the flaws in their tactics. While there's lots of action, the novel also feels like a procedural as Reacher interviews suspects and delves deeper toward the truth.... [The Sentinel](#) has] one of the most inventive action sequences in recent memory.... It continues the series without any sense that there's now a coauthor. In a year of drastic change, fans will welcome the consistency. – Publishers Weekly

In [The Sentinel](#) we have a well-plotted thriller with non-stop action – as addictive as a series can get. A must-read. <>

Literature & Fiction / Thrillers

[The Year of the Gun](#) by H.B. Lyle (The Irregular Series, Book 3: Mobius: Hodder & Stoughton)

[The Year of the Gun](#) is the follow-up to the acclaimed *The Red Ribbon* and the third book in 'a great new series'. – Mick Herron, author of *Spook Street*

1912.

Released from the Secret Service, Wiggins sets out for New York and his lost-lover Bela. But after an altercation on board, he finds himself among the low-life of Britain's poorest city, Dublin.

Wiggins falls in with gangster Patrick O'Connell and is soon driving the boss's girlfriend around town. Molly wants O'Connell to support her Irish nationalist cause – a cause needing guns to defeat the British – and then go to find them in America.

Finally, in [The Year of the Gun](#) Wiggins can solve the mystery of Bela – and meet his old mentor, Sherlock Holmes in a story of escalating intrigue, danger, and violence.

Author H.B. Lyle lives in South London with his partner and their twin daughters. After a career in feature film development, he took an MA in creative writing, followed by Ph.D. at the University of East Anglia, an experience which led to the creation of *The Irregular Series*. He also writes screenplays and teaches undergraduates.

Praise for *The Irregular Series*:

A thrilling story of espionage, murder, and the creation of the Secret Service. – Charles Cumming, author of *A Colder War*

A flavorsome smorgasbord that features not only Holmes but also Winston Churchill, this is irresistible stuff. – Barry Forshaw, *The Guardian*

A fine first entry in what promises to be a great new series. Wiggins is a captivating hero, and Lyle draws his Edwardian backstreets in convincing

color. The game is most definitely afoot. – Mick Herron, author of *Slow Horses*

With so many books set in the wide world of Sherlock Holmes, it is difficult to come up with a new story that is both original and compelling, but H.B. Lyle has managed it beautifully with *The Irregular*. – Otto Penzler, ed., *The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories*

An inventive espionage thriller set before World War I... A twist-filled adventure that proves far from elementary. – Tom Nolan, *The Wall Street Journal*

Fans of Arthur Conan Doyle's stories will remember young Wiggins as the leader of the Baker Street Irregulars... Though Lyle's debut novel is certainly an homage, it's not a flat-footed imitation but a crisp, stylish spinoff. – *Kirkus Reviews*

A spinoff of Doyle's *Sherlock Holmes* series, [The Year of the Gun](#) is a fun spy thriller, third in the series, with a likeable hero. <>

Medicine / Mental Health / Childcare

[The Tech Solution](#): Creating Healthy Habits for Kids Growing Up in a Digital World by Dr. Shimi Kang (Viking)

You may have picked up on some warning signs: The more your 9-year-old son plays video games, the more distracted and irritable he becomes. Or maybe comparing her life to others on social media is leaving your teenaged daughter feeling down. Then there are the questions that are always looming: Should I limit screen time? Should I give my 11-year-old an iPhone? – from the book

A Harvard-trained psychiatrist and mom of three gives parents and educators the tech habits children need to achieve their full potential – and a six-step plan to put them into action in [The Tech Solution](#).

[The Tech Solution](#) is a to-the-point resource for parents and educators who want the best approach for raising kids in the digital world. It outlines what readers need to know about the short-term and potential long-term consequences of tech use. Dr. Shimi Kang simplifies cutting edge neuroscience to reveal a new understanding around how we metabolize experiences with technology that will lay the foundation for lasting success. She offers practical advice for tackling specific concerns in the classroom and at home, whether it might be tech addiction, anxiety, cyber bullying, or loneliness. With her 6-week 6-step plan for rebalancing readers' families' tech diets, Kang helps their children build healthy habits and make smart choices that will maximize the benefits of tech and

minimize its risks.

Kang is an award-winning, Harvard-trained psychiatrist, researcher, media expert, bestselling author, and speaker. She is the former Medical Director for Child and Youth Mental Health for Vancouver community, a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia, and the founder of the Provincial Youth Concurrent Disorders Program at BC Children's Hospital.

Although the science of, and practices for, optimizing the human brain presented in [The Tech Solution](#) are universal to any age group, Kang focuses particularly on the period between birth and young adulthood up to age twenty-five. This is the scientifically identified period of peak brain development, with dramatic changes occurring during puberty.

Kang simplifies the neuroscientific foundation for [The Tech Solution](#) and give readers a variety of strategies to guide their children towards it. Chapter 1 introduces the science of how technology is impacting the developing brain, with implications for children's health, behaviors, and character traits. Chapter 2 explores how habits established in childhood lay the foundation for children's future behaviors. She explains how important it is to take advantage of their formative years to guide them towards establishing the healthiest habits they can.

Chapter 3 starts to unpack how, precisely, technology is affecting children's brains and how readers can work to manage those effects. Here we'll investigate the ways video games, social media, gadgets, and apps are engineered to keep young brains glued to their screens by finding ways to reward them with hits of dopamine. Chapter 4 delves into the dangers of screens on the developing brain. Kang exposes the many ways technology is triggering toxic levels of stress and anxiety in children by prompting release of the hormone cortisol. Readers learn to understand the stress response and how to recognize it in their child, and learn ways to guide the child towards positive coping skills.

The effects of technology, however, aren't all bad; when used in the right ways, technology can be beneficial. Chapter 5 shows readers how to help their kids improve their mental, physical, and spiritual health. Fitness trackers, gratitude apps, and music playlists are part of the answer. But they also need to push them to make changes to their offline routines. Chapter 6 explores the fundamental human need to bond and the exciting ways tech can help kids connect and even reverse frightening new trends in teen loneliness and depression. Chapter 7 shows how tech can help kids feed their talents, foster creativity, and find their purpose through developing their identities and individual talents.

Then, having covered how tech is impacting children's emotions and behavior, [The Tech Solution](#) pulls it all together in Chapter 8 to provide readers with a practical six-step

plan for tackling the most important parenting issue of our time. Finally, Kang looks ahead in Chapter 9 and considers how to equip kids to thrive in an era of digital disruption. This means teaching them to think critically and to be conscious and adaptive.

Readers deepen their understanding of how the technology their children are consuming affects them and learn how to establish a healthy tech diet for the family. The key to thriving in a digital world is to know oneself – how human bodies and minds actually work. That knowledge helps people take care of themselves in a new, powerful way and teach their children to do the same. And from this place of knowing and loving they can unleash a new energy of creativity, joy, and fulfillment for their children and themselves. [The Tech Solution](#) provides the framework, neuroscience, and guidance for this process.

New research now shows that screen time is correlated with changes in the brain and that children and young teens are particularly vulnerable. Near epidemic levels of teenage and young adult suicides, lack of motivation, and social isolation are alarming. [The Tech Solution](#) pulls no punches, but fortunately offers all of us hope and practical, straightforward guidelines for how to protect our most important resource: the next generations' brains. – Daniel Levitin, Ph.D., New York Times bestselling author of Successful Aging

If you are a parent wondering about how to approach the use of technology with your children, this thoughtful guide provides science-backed discussions of how the brain responds to the complex ways digital devices compel us to use them. With this knowledge, Dr. Kang provides practical suggestions to steer the use of these devices in helpful ways that can improve your child's development and well-being – and your important relationship with each other as a family. – Daniel J. Siegel, MD, New York Times bestselling co-author of The Whole-Brain Child, Clinical Professor, UCLA School of Medicine, and Executive Director, Mindsight Institute

As we learn more about the powerful impact of new technologies on the health and well-being of kids, it has never been more important for parents to teach responsible ways to use these tools. Dr. Kang offers a practical blueprint for achieving this urgent goal. – Cal Newport, New York Times bestselling author of Digital Minimalism: Choosing a Focused Life in a Noisy World

Without idolizing or demonizing technology, Dr. Shimi Kang offers parents and teachers a science-based guide to its appropriate and positive place in our children's lives that's filled with practical advice and heart-sourced wisdom. – Gabor Maté, M.D., author of #1 national bestseller In

The Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction

*This is just the book that parents need as they try to make sound decisions about their children's exposure to technology. Dr. Kang draws on the latest findings in neuroscience to advance our understanding of the impact of technology on the developing brain, and how we can maximize the benefits and avoid the dangers of social media, the internet, and gaming. – Dr. Stuart Shanker, author of *Self-Reg: How to Help Your Child (and You) Break the Stress Cycle and Successfully Engage with Life* and founder of the MEHRIT Centre*

[Kang] offers practical strategies that parents and caregivers of children can adopt to augment the benefits of good tech. – The Globe and Mail

Readers can use [The Tech Solution](#) to help their children avoid the pitfalls of today's digital world and offer them guidance that will boost their brains and bodies, create meaningful connections, explore creative pursuits, and foster a sense of contribution and empowerment. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / New Testament

[The Fourfold Gospel, Volume 1](#): A Formational Commentary on Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John: From the Beginning to the Baptist by John DelHousaye (Pickwick Publications)

In the spirit of Ludolph of Saxony (c. 1295–1378) and Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), **The Fourfold Gospel** invites readers into the mystery of God's redemption in Jesus Christ. All the parallel passages in the Gospels are glossed together, along with the unique material, using a medieval interpretive approach called the Quadriga or the acronym PaRDeS in Hebrew. Meditating on the literal, canonical, moral, and theological senses of Scripture offers a scaffolding for the spiritual formation for readers. This volume, [The Fourfold Gospel, Volume 1: A Formational Commentary on Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John: From the Beginning to the Baptist](#), in addition to a thorough introduction to the method and the Gospels, focuses on the beginning of the story – the birth, baptism, and temptations of Christ.

Author John DelHousaye is Professor of New Testament and Spiritual Formation at Phoenix Seminary.

DelHousaye says in the preface that in the Gospels, the crowds – many of whom had grown up hearing Scripture read and expounded in the synagogue, praying, and hoping in a messiah – are confused and do not trust Jesus. Even the disciples struggle to understand. After Christendom was underway, Antony of Egypt (c. 251-356), who left his culture to hear Jesus in the desert, said: "A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him saying, 'You are mad, you

are not like us?" Christianity's historical impact, particularly in the West, may disguise the reality that understanding Jesus is still difficult – indeed impossible – without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. That many today reject the gospel should not surprise. The Gospels suggest starting over in Jesus, who is one with our inherent God awareness. The Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner (1904-1984) predicts that third-millennium Christians will have a "genuine experience of God emerging from the very heart of our existence, or they will no longer be Christians."

According to DelHousaye in [The Fourfold Gospel, Volume 1](#), the Gospels invite readers into a strange world, full of demons and the devil, but they are strangers to humans' beliefs about them. Several fields of knowledge have been drawn to the same mysteries, offering their own frames. But how well does the university understand evil and oppression, which are unavoidable in human experience? Anselm of Canterbury describes this path as *fides quaerens intellectum* ('faith seeking understanding'). Jesus comes to people in the darkness, and, without explanation, says, 'follow me'. Mirroring this summons, the Gospels offer a narrative depiction of reality – a necessary simplification, a model. The faith of a mustard seed allows them to participate in the story, to begin a pilgrimage, while allowing space for illumination and growth.

I have never read such an in-depth, multifaceted, and engaging study of the Gospels and their message. The author reports he worked on this steadily for twelve years. I can believe it: the book draws on or provides resources from at least twelve domains: translation, exposition, Hellenistic and Jewish backgrounds, patristic sources and discussion, hermeneutics and theology, Greek lexical and grammatical insights, personal testimony and pastoral counsel, scholarly exegetical discussion, text-critical observations, life of Jesus and Synoptic Problem debates, thematic analysis, and missiological and global church insights.... Do you wish to approach Gospel truths and mysteries with equipping appropriate to their gritty yet godly substance? Enlist in the training regimen afforded by this unusual, nimble, and engrossing resource guide. – Robert W. Yarbrough, Covenant Theological Seminary

Gospel harmonies are out of fashion today, but this is no ordinary gospel harmony. For DelHousaye enriches the reader with commentary and reflections on every dimension of Gospel study. The task is monumental, but DelHousaye proves to be a competent guide. – Tom Schreiner, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

The real treasure here of course is the Gospel scenes themselves, which DelHousaye expertly translates and then guides the reader through in a fourfold commentary, masterfully weaving exegetical insight and meditative application to unfold the meaningful layers of the Gospels in

ways readers will find both illuminating and nourishing. This book will be invaluable to all kinds of students of Scripture, from the relatively uninitiated to those teaching in pulpits, seminaries, or universities. I would not want to teach one of the passages covered here without first consulting DelHousaye's work. I simply do not know of another author like him, or a book like this, and I cannot recommend both to all types of readers highly enough! – Travis Buchanan, Colorado Christian University

Illuminating, invaluable and engaging for students of all backgrounds, DelHousaye in [The Fourfold Gospel, Volume 1](#) provides a knowledgeable and invaluable guide with vast exegetical insight. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Biographies & Memoirs

Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy: Approaching Adolescent Spirituality from the Life and Wisdom of Thomas Merton by Thomas E. Malewitz, with a foreword by Thomas Del Prete (Wipf & Stock)

Although Thomas Merton, the celebrated spiritual author and Cistercian monk, is better remembered for his writings on ecumenism, nonviolence, and advocacy, he also had several documented correspondences with adolescents throughout his life. By examining these artifacts, it is clear that Merton had great insight into the spiritual needs and challenges of adolescents. Throughout his life, Merton's authentic struggles often parallel the searching nature that defines adolescent spirituality.

Through scholarship and practice [Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy](#) explores how the life and writings of Merton may serve as a guide and bridge for ministers of adolescents, and offers some practical suggestions for ministers, educators, and parents on topics affecting contemporary adolescents, through the lens of Merton's life and writings.

Author Thomas Malewitz is a theology teacher at St. Xavier High School in Louisville, Kentucky. He also serves as a lecturer in religious education for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, and as adjunct assistant professor in educational leadership at Spalding University.

Thomas Del Prete in the foreword to [Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy](#) quotes a well-known prayer written by Merton, "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself." As much as Merton's words might resonate with any of us, they would seem to be particularly powerful for young people. Del Prete says that if young people feel uncertainty deeply, they also remind us about hope, possibility, the sheer

exuberance of life. Here again, Merton can be helpful. If the inner journey is about realizing the availability and power of love in all of us, is about finding ourselves and others in this love, it means also, paradoxically, an opening outward, an ever-deepening affirmation of life. Merton's inner journey led him to rediscover and deepen his relationship with the world in multiple life-affirming ways. Young people today would be drawn to many of his concerns and interests – social justice; ecological wholeness; nonviolence; intercultural, interreligious, and cross-cultural communication; authentic voice in music, poetry, and literature; the impact of mass communication; the power of visual, especially photographic images; human relatedness; and, not least, the intuition and experience of the presence of God and God's love in life.

Within [Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy](#) readers find a curriculum that uses Merton as a guide and resource for awakening the spiritual lives of young people, and for helping them to discover themselves more fully as they navigate the terrain of their own life journeys. Merton's spiritual journey and interests are explained to give context for the curricular themes, which in turn are aligned with themes emerging from the National Study of Youth and Religion. Concepts such as ritual, silence, authenticity, passion, and discipline punctuate the curriculum. Informed by Catholic tradition and Mertonian insight, the curriculum at the same time is attuned to the importance of experience and reflection in fostering learning meant to support the process of discovering oneself more fully. Through the curriculum, young people have an opportunity to learn experientially through practices such as meditation and to reflect on the story of Merton and others, including stories captured in film and literature. Young people have an opportunity to revisit familiar pursuits, such as sports, music, the arts, painting, and photography, in ways that explore their relation to their deeper selves. Finally, students visit anew their social lives and how they are carried out, with themes of bullying, relationship, inclusion, and advocacy, as well as community-building, all addressed.

There is a parallel curriculum in [Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy](#), one that calls readers in their vocation as educators to reflect on themselves and their practice, one that orients us to a pedagogy based on humility, trust, respect, and support for young people in their development as whole persons in their current social context.

Seeking to understand how Catholic teaching is received by the modern adolescent, Dr. Thomas Malewitz presents a path of formation for those who teach and form adolescents, with the Trappist monk Thomas Merton as a guide and model.... Dr. Malewitz includes Merton's letters and communication with adolescents, which illustrate Merton's ability to listen, enter into dialogue, and communicate an understanding of the true self always seeking God. This is a must-read for the minister who seeks to form well the adolescents entrusted to his or her care. – Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville

Writing from many years of hands-on experience in the classroom, along with his profound reading of Merton, Thomas Malewitz provides an excellent roadmap for Christian educators to incorporate, indeed immerse, their adolescent curricula in the timeless and prescient wisdom of Thomas Merton. – Paul M. Pearson, Director, Thomas Merton Center

This is a wonderful text for all educators interested in supporting adolescents in developing their spiritual, ethical, and discerning selves – to help them understand their particular place in the world as a positive force for change and the cultivation of happiness. It's a text that is clearly needed today. Malewitz does a superb job of weaving together theory, practical ideas, and student voice. It's a text for educators to revisit time and again. – Elizabeth G. Dinkins, Dean, Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education, Bellarmine University

Agreeing with Del Prete, engaging [Authenticity, Passion, and Advocacy](#) is an opportunity for educators to think afresh about how to help young people open to a greater understanding of themselves and their capacities for love, silence, creative expression, meaningful social action, and community-building. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Theology / Reformed

Covenant Theology: Biblical, Theological, and Historical Perspectives by Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid & John R. Muether, with a foreword by Ligon Duncan & an afterword by Kevin DeYoung (Crossway)

Covenant theology sets the gospel in the context of God's eternal plan of communion with his people and its historical outworking in the covenants of works and grace. – Ligon Duncan, from the foreword

Just as two bookends hold together a row of books, the covenant of works and the covenant of grace hold together the storyline of Scripture.

The three editors of [Covenant Theology](#) are Guy Prentiss Waters, J. Nicholas Reid and John R. Muether. Waters is the James M. Baird Jr. Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, and was formerly an associate professor of biblical studies at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. Reid is associate professor of Old Testament and ancient Near Eastern studies, as well as the director of the hybrid MDiv program at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando. Muether serves as dean of libraries and professor of church history at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando.

Readers of [Covenant Theology](#) join a host of twenty-six scholars, including O. Palmer Robertson, Michael J. Kruger, and Scott R. Swain, as they explore how the concept of covenant is clearly taught in Scripture and how it lays the foundation for other doctrines of salvation. This monumental work is Trinitarian, eschatological, historical, confessional, and practical, presenting readers with a great hope and consolation: the covenant-making God is a covenant-keeping God.

Part 1 covers Biblical Covenants; Part 2, Historical Theology; and Part 3, Collateral and Theological Studies.

According to the afterword of [Covenant Theology](#) by Kevin DeYoung, covenants in the Bible are about more than contracts. Covenants establish a relationship between God and his people, a covenant bond that establishes stipulations, makes promises, guarantees blessings, and threatens curses. Normally this involved blood as a sign and seal of the obligations established, the blessings promised (upon obedience), and the curses threatened (upon disobedience).

If ministers want to help their people grasp covenant theology – or if they need some helpful books in their own minds – they need to understand three different covenants, one covenant of grace, and two ways of existing in this one covenant.

[Covenant Theology](#) talks about three different covenants in the Bible.

The first covenant encountered in Scripture is the covenant of works. The Westminster Confession of Faith says:

The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience.

Adam was a public person. He was the federal head for the whole human race, meaning he was the representative for all who would come after him. Adam and Eve would be God's treasured people, in paradise, in his presence – if they kept the covenant. God promises to make Abraham into a great nation (people) and give him a great land (paradise) and be with him as his God (presence). The same three basic items are in the new covenant as well. As the church, worshipers are God's chosen people, enjoying the 'already' (and awaiting the 'not yet') of their heavenly inheritance of paradise, while they delight in the presence of God by union with his Son and by the indwelling of his Spirit.

There is no grace as forgiveness of sin in the covenant with Adam. No deliverance is operative (though it is foretold) because at that point there is no human sin to infest God's perfect world. The blessings of God are promised on condition of works fulfilled.

If the first covenant is a covenant of works, the second is a covenant of grace.

The Westminster Confession of Faith says:

Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offereth unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing, and able to believe.

In other words, outside of a couple of chapters in Genesis and Revelation, the entire Bible shows the unfolding of God's plan and promise to bless his people through this one covenant of grace.

Besides the covenant of works and the covenant of grace, there is a third type of arrangement, usually called the covenant of redemption. In simple terms, the covenant of redemption refers to the eternal agreement between the Father and the Son to save a people chosen in Christ before the ages began.

The Son was granted, by an eternal arrangement, a people to save and to redeem. This is why Jesus in John 5:36 says that he has come to do the works that the Father has given him to accomplish and why Jesus in Luke 22:29 speaks of the kingdom the Father has assigned to him. The covenant of grace in time is made possible by the covenant of redemption from all eternity.

Of the three foundational covenant blessings – *I will make you a people, I will give you a land, I will be with you* – the most important is the last one, the promise of God's presence.

According to [Covenant Theology](#), covenant theology is the Bible's story from the first page to the last. The promise of God's presence was given to childless Abraham, reiterated at the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, repeated at the renewal of the covenant on Moab, declared again to David and then to Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and finally fulfilled in the New Testament and brought to its culmination in the new heavens and new earth.

It has been said that Reformed theology is covenant theology, for covenant is not merely a doctrine or theme in the Bible but is the principle that structures all its revelation. Robert Rollock said, 'God speaks nothing to man without the covenant.' Therefore, it is a delight to see this amazing scholarly collaboration by the faculty of Reformed Theological Seminary, which will surely prove to be a sourcebook for future studies of Reformed covenant theology. Here is a gold mine of biblical and historical studies by trusted pastor-theologians of Christ's church. – Joel R. Beeke, President and Professor of Systematic Theology and Homiletics, Puritan Reformed

Theological Seminary; author, *Reformed Preaching*; coauthor, *Reformed Systematic Theology*

The revived interest in covenant theology has sparked rich insights and lively debate. Representing a variety of views and specialties, and united by biblical fidelity and rigorous scholarship, [Covenant Theology](#) is a very impressive and welcome collection. – Michael Horton, J. Gresham Machen Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics, Westminster Seminary California

[Covenant Theology](#) is a gift to the church, a grand account of covenant in Scripture and in Christian theology. This work is scholarly and readable, rigorous and complete. Every chapter is thorough, whether it gathers data on familiar themes or explores new territory. The contributors and editors have presented a resource that pastors and scholars will draw from for many years. – Daniel Doriani, Vice President at Large and Professor of Biblical and Systematic Theology, Covenant Theological Seminary

Breathtaking! I don't know of any work that has the diversity and scope of [Covenant Theology](#). Every aspect of the covenant doctrine receives attention from the book's contributors. Each chapter is an urgent invitation. The covenant doctrine is analyzed here with unquestionable scholarship and inalienable commitment to Scripture and Reformed theology. Starting with the exegesis of biblical material, going through the historical development of the theme in the church, contrasting and comparing it with extrabiblical material, and analyzing the concept of the covenant in modern theology, this book offers the most comprehensive exposition of the covenant doctrine available today. – Augustus Nicodemus Lopes, Assistant Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Recife, Brazil; Vice President, Supreme Council, Presbyterian Church of Brazil

If covenant is the Bible's word for God's relationship with his people, what could be more important than thinking deeply and clearly about covenant theology? This volume is a sure guide to the covenantal thinking that underpins so much of pastoral ministry. Bringing rigorous exegesis into conversation with historic perspectives and modern debates, it is a remarkably comprehensive and thorough work that will help any preacher or student of Scripture. – Jonty Rhodes, Minister, Christ Church Central Leeds, UK; author, *Covenants Made Simple* and *Man of Sorrows, King of Glory*

In the history of Reformed theology, the biblical teaching of the triune God's sovereign initiative to enter into covenant union and communion

*with his people, before and after the fall into sin, has been a central focus, and some say it even defines Reformed theology. For this reason, the contributors to this comprehensive volume, which treats the topic of the covenant or covenants in biblical, historical, and systematic perspectives, provide a wonderful overview of Reformed theology's engagement with Scripture's teaching. Encyclopedic in scope, balanced in tone and temper, sensitive to diversity of expression and formulation – this volume is a model of theological study and an indispensable resource for anyone who has interest in exploring the scriptural witness to God's covenant. – Cornelis P. Venema, President and Professor of Doctrinal Studies, Mid-America Reformed Seminary; author, *Christ and Covenant Theology* and *Chosen in Christ**

*I rarely use the term magisterial of any book, but this one deserves it. The faculty of Reformed Theological Seminary have produced an outstanding volume on the biblical doctrine of the covenant. The opening section is marked by superb exegetical studies that ground the whole book in Scripture. The historical section that follows presents material (such as the use of covenant in the early church and the medieval period) that is not otherwise easily accessible. Later sections bring the discussions right up to the present time and interact with modern exponents and critics of covenantal theology. This is the volume to which those inquiring into the biblical idea of covenant should be pointed, and its presentation will instruct and challenge, while its annotated bibliography of modern studies will lead to many other sources. Everyone seriously pursuing an interest in this central biblical theme must have this book. – Allan Harman, Research Professor, Presbyterian Theological College, Australia; coauthor, *The Story of the Church**

Rich and learned, [Covenant Theology](#) offers the most comprehensive rendering of the covenant doctrine available. It is an indispensable resource for anyone who is interested in exploring covenant theology. These important essays by a distinguished seminary faculty are a lasting gift to scholarship as well as to the church. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Community Service / Inspirational

Liberation Is Here: Women Uncovering Hope in a Broken World by Nikole Lim (InterVarsity Press)

As a freelance filmmaker, Nikole Lim's career allowed her to step in and out of the lives of marginalized people around the world. But when confronted with the prevalence of sexual violence in Kenyan and Zambian communities, she commits to advocating alongside the courageous survivors whose lives have intersected with hers. These

women's powerful stories inspired her to embark on a new vocation, partnering with survivors of sexual violence to launch a nonprofit organization that equips women to lead through the rewritten stories of their lives. But as told in [Liberation Is Here](#) as Lim sought to help her friends experience healing and liberation, her perspective is altered. Spiritually depleted, she found herself ministered to by the women she came to serve – the once oppressed become her liberators.

Lim is a speaker, educator, and consultant on leveraging dignity through the restorative art of storytelling. She is the founder and international director of Freely In Hope.

Illustrated with dramatic full-color photography from Lim's own camera, [Liberation Is Here](#) transports readers to forgotten corners of the world. From the slums of Nairobi, hospitals of Lusaka, killing fields of Kigali, and the back alleys of Barcelona, Lim weaves together a narrative of God's grace and healing amid fear and trauma. Her journey proves that liberation is not just near, but it is here – in the eyes of the broken, the hearts of the oppressed, and the untold stories of the global community.

As a filmmaker and photographer, Lim says she has worked with international organizations to capture stories of people around the world, from the city of Los Angeles to the jungles of Vietnam. In each instance she made an effort to uncover their stories of triumph amidst oppression. [Liberation Is Here](#) is the story of her struggle for liberation, and the oppressed who unexpectedly liberated her in the process.

[Liberation Is Here](#) follows the stories of three individuals: Nekesa, Mara, and Mubanga. As survivors of sexual violence, these women's relentless courage captured her. Building friendships with each one of them challenged her to change her career and start Freely in Hope, a nonprofit organization that equips survivors and advocates to lead in ending sexual violence. This book highlights their journey of healing from trauma. The wars and triumphs that have led to their transformation also transformed her. As they evolved in so many ways, Freely in Hope also evolved to support their audacious dreams by expanding its services in funding holistic education, leadership development, and storytelling platforms that prevent sexual violence in communities across Kenya and Zambia.

Encountering the monstrosity of these dark stories is triggering. At the same time, exposing these stories is a gesture of pulling back darkness to bear witness to light. [Liberation Is Here](#) is an attempt to bring to readers stories that expanded Lim's capacity to find love amidst life's most difficult experiences. As the stories of these survivors intertwined with her own, she now sees the world as a strange juxtaposition – the unfolding of beautiful things from desolate places.

It's rare when a storyteller uses multiple mediums to communicate a thought or message, but that is exactly what Nikole Lim does in [Liberation Is Here](#). Using powerful words and visual imagery, she becomes a

storyteller of transformation – both hers and others – to make us see faith in new ways. Liberation isn't for some; it's for all. Liberation isn't far away; it's here and now. – Bianca Juarez Olthoff, writer, pastor, and author of *Play with Fire*

Nikole Lim's [Liberation Is Here](#) is the story of three African women, all of them sexually assaulted as children, and their extraordinary journeys to survival, restoration, and leadership. Their unforgettable stories convey the appalling reality of near-total impunity enjoyed by men who rape children. Ms. Lim finds hope in the breathtaking courage of rape survivors whose suffering has compelled them to advocate on behalf of others. – Gary Haugen, CEO of International Justice Mission

What a vulnerable, deep, and profound book of hope and hidden beauty! Through the lens of an artist, in powerful and beautiful images, Nikole Lim's [Liberation Is Here](#) stewards the stories of women who have survived abuse and sexual violence.... May all who read [Liberation Is Here](#) experience the binding power of our common humanity as we hold onto hope and seek mutual healing and justice. – Mae Elise Cannon, author of *Social Justice Handbook* and *Beyond Hashtag Activism*, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace

[Liberation Is Here](#) captivated me right from the start and left me feeling inspired and changed. Nikole's story and the stories of those she encounters in her journey stretch our minds and hearts, helping us to see possibility in our pain and realize truths that unite us and set us free. Join me in reading it again and again. – Nicole Zasowski, marriage and family therapist, author of *From Lost to Found*

[Liberation Is Here](#) gives so much hope to all who question their ability to overcome adversity. Nikole Lim paints a picture of strength and God's overwhelming love for humankind. It is a testament of faith that transcends culture, economic status, and race. As women, each of us can see ourselves. I was captivated by each and every word and reminded of how resilient we truly are when we allow miracles to overtake us. – Sha' Givens, author, minister, humanitarian

Nikole Lim's journey is a reminder of the power of storytelling. It highlights critical elements, such as the importance of establishing a person's safety, the integrative function of narrating trauma in this safe environment, and the importance of meaning making and relationships in healing from trauma. I experienced a whole range of emotions – crying, laughing, cheering, anger – reading [Liberation Is Here](#). This book helped me reprocess many personal and client experiences. Thank you for sharing your story, Nikole. This is a must-read for anyone working with survivors of trauma! – Lubi Kwendakwema Zulu, clinical psychologist

[Liberation Is Here](#) is for world changers, countercultural leaders, and perspective shifters – dreaming of the day when liberation is a fully embodied experience for all of humanity suffocating under the weight of oppression. The vivid, inspiring, and compelling stories help readers analyze and reprocess their own experiences. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Interdenominational

[Perspectives on Paul](#): Five Views edited by Scott McKnight & B.J. Oropeza, with an afterword by Dennis Edwards (Baker Academic)

[Perspectives on Paul](#) is a five-views work bringing together an all-star lineup of Pauline scholars to offer a constructive and interdenominational conversation on key issues of Pauline theology.

Editors are Scot McKnight and B.J. Oropeza. McKnight is professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. Oropeza is professor in the department of biblical and religious studies at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California.

The editors begin [Perspectives on Paul](#) with an informative recent history of biblical tradition related to the perspectives on Paul. John M. G. Barclay, A. Andrew Das, James D. G. Dunn, Brant Pitre, and Magnus Zetterholm then discuss how to interpret Paul's writings and theology, especially the apostle's view of salvation.

Contents include:

Paul in Perspective: An Overview of the Landscape More Than Forty Years after Paul and Palestinian Judaism – B. J. Oropeza and Scot McKnight

1. The Roman Catholic Perspective on Paul – Brant Pitre
 2. The Traditional Protestant Perspective on Paul – A. Andrew Das
 3. The New Perspective on Paul – James D. G. Dunn
 4. The Paul within Judaism Perspective – Magnus Zetterholm
 5. The Gift Perspective on Paul – John M. G. Barclay
- Afterword: Pastoral Reflections on Perspectives on Paul: Five Views – Dennis Edwards

After each chapter, all five contributors give their perspectives on the topic.

[Perspectives on Paul](#) concludes with an assessment of the perspectives from a pastoral point of view by Dennis Edwards.

Three Protestant Pauls, a Catholic Paul, and a Jewish Paul all walk into one volume – and collegial colloquy ensues. The scholars assembled here communicate the key issues, arguments, and interpretations that currently shape our highly charged moment in Pauline studies. [Perspectives on Paul](#) makes and marks an energetic contribution to important developing

conversations. – Paula Fredriksen, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
To have a summary of scholarship on Pauline theology is good. To have the experts speak for themselves is better. But to have back-and-forth conversation among experts, such as we find in [Perspectives on Paul](#), is a gift. If you find yourself confused about or behind on the study of Paul, look no further. I found the thoughtful engagement in this book very insightful. – Nijay K. Gupta, Northern Seminary

For many readers, Paul is perplexing – there is the New Perspective, the Old Perspective, and a variety of other perspectives. McKnight and Oropenza have provided a much needed and highly accessible summary of the way E. P. Sanders's Paul and Palestinian Judaism has impacted Pauline scholarship in the last forty years. This volume, with five different approaches to reading Paul, offers a one-stop shop for those desiring to understand the dominant perspectives in conversation with other prominent and influential voices. – Jeanette Hagen Pifer, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

[Perspectives on Paul](#) provides a constructive, up-to-date conversation on key issues of Pauline theology. It is for professors, students, and pastors who want to know what is going on in recent Pauline scholarship and want to see civil engagement about the apostle Paul's theology in its context. <>

Science / Anthropology / Evolution

[Fossil Men](#): The Quest for the Oldest Skeleton and the Origins of Humankind by Kermit Pattison (William Morrow)

A decade in the making, [Fossil Men](#) is a scientific detective story played out in anatomy and the natural history of the human body: the first full-length account of the discovery of a startlingly unpredicted human ancestor more than a million years older than Lucy.

Author Kermit Pattison is a journalist whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *GQ*, *Fast Company*, and *Inc.*, among many other publications. He spent more a decade doing research for [Fossil Men](#), a large portion of which was spent in the field in Ethiopia with the team that discovered Ardi.

[Fossil Men](#) is the ultimate mystery: where do we come from? In 1994, a team led by fossil-hunting legend Tim White uncovered a set of ancient bones in Ethiopia's Afar region. Radiometric dating of nearby rocks indicated the resulting skeleton, classified as *Ardipithecus ramidus* – nicknamed 'Ardi' – was an astounding 4.4 million years old, more than a million years older than the world-famous 'Lucy.' The team spent the next 15 years studying the bones in strict secrecy, all while continuing to rack up landmark fossil discoveries in the field and becoming increasingly ensnared in bitter disputes with

scientific peers and Ethiopian bureaucrats. When finally revealed to the public, Ardi stunned scientists around the world and challenged a half-century of orthodoxy about human evolution – how we started walking upright, how we evolved our nimble hands, and, most significantly, whether we were descended from an ancestor that resembled today's chimpanzee. But the discovery of Ardi wasn't just a leap forward in understanding the roots of humanity – it was an attack on scientific convention and the leading authorities of human origins, triggering an epic feud about the oldest family skeleton.

In **Fossil Men** Pattison brings readers a cast of eccentric, obsessive scientists, including White, an uncompromising perfectionist whose virtuoso skills in the field were matched only by his propensity for making enemies; Gen Suwa, a Japanese savant whose deep expertise about teeth rivaled anyone on Earth; Owen Lovejoy, a onetime creationist-turned-paleoanthropologist with radical insights into human locomotion; Berhane Asfaw, who survived imprisonment and torture to become Ethiopia's most senior paleoanthropologist; Don Johanson, the discoverer of Lucy, who had a rancorous falling out with the Ardi team; and the Leakeys, for decades the most famous family in paleoanthropology.

Entertaining. ... Satisfying. ... Gripping. ... Big personalities, simmering turmoil, and fascinating popular science. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review
At the core of Kermit Pattison's rip-roaring tale is the prickly, obsessive, brilliant American paleontologist, Tim White, who braves revolutions, tribal warfare, and bitter scientific rivals to unearth ancient bones, without which there would be no pre-history, no civilization, no humanity. – Peter Nichols, New York Times bestselling author of The Rocks and Evolution's Captain

Fossil Men is a wonderful mix of history, science and politics, full of pathos and insight in equal measure. I found it difficult to put down, and I didn't want it to end.... This book should be required reading for all those who care about how science may help answer the question of who we are as humans. A monumental achievement! – Hasok Chang, Professor of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
An exciting book, full of colorful personalities, momentous discoveries, and new ideas that challenge us to reconsider everything we believed about the evolution of humankind. – Booklist

Compelling science. ... Perfect for National Geographic readers who want to dig deep into the human evolutionary tree. – Library Journal
Equal parts biography and adventure novel, Pattison illustrates the colorful characters – flaws and all – whose research has shaped our origin story as we know it today. – Discover magazine

Based on a half-decade of research in Africa, Europe and North America, [Fossil Men](#) is not only a brilliant investigation into the origins of the human lineage, but the oldest of human emotions: curiosity, jealousy, perseverance and wonder. <>

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