

International Rights Guide

FRANKFURT 2025

A Note from the Senior International Rights Manager

With Frankfurt Book Fair fast approaching, we are looking forward to seeing many of you in person again soon. In the meantime, we're excited to share our new Frankfurt Rights Guide for 2025 here with you now!

This guide features a curated selection of standout trade books from our Fall 2025 season, showcasing thought-provoking titles from across the disciplines. In the social sciences, Carl Benedikt Frey shares insights from the interlinked history of technology and economic progress while Susan Stokes examines why some leaders undermine their own democracies. In our humanities list, John Blair gives us a look at vampire epidemics and hysteria through the ages, and we're delighted to highlight a compelling new work on Peter Singer and the philosophy of Effective Altruism from David Edmonds. Finally in the sciences, our titles cover a huge range of topics from the evolution of our seven-decade life expectancy to the circadian rhythms of our natural body clocks, to the thrilling scientific adventure story of the HMS *Challenger*. There's something here to spark every reader's curiosity!

In addition to our frontlist, we've included a selection of exciting backlist titles you may have missed—timeless reads that continue to resonate and inspire.

Don't miss the author videos throughout the guide, offering a closer look at the voices behind the books.

Happy browsing—and see you in Frankfurt!

Rebecca Bengoechea

Senior International Rights Manager



Rebecca Bengoechea
*Senior International
Rights Manager*

rebecca_bengoechea@
press.princeton.edu



Emma Morgan
International Rights Manager

emma_morgan@
press.princeton.edu



Eleanor Smith
International Rights Executive

eleanor_smith@
press.princeton.edu

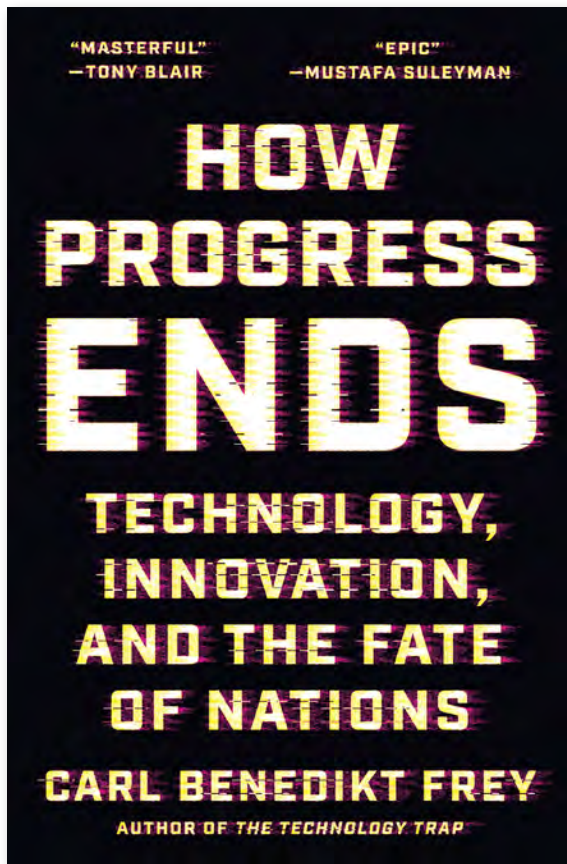
Contents

I Social Science

II Humanities

2I Science

Social Science



How 1,000 years of global history show why technological and economic progress is often followed by stagnation and even collapse

In *How Progress Ends*, Carl Benedikt Frey challenges the conventional belief that economic and technological progress is inevitable. To appreciate why we cannot depend on any AI-fueled great leap forward, Frey offers a remarkable and fascinating journey across the globe, spanning the past 1,000 years, to explain why some societies flourish and others fail in the wake of rapid technological change.

“Frey masterfully reveals why some nations thrive while others stumble in periods of technological upheaval. At a time when AI reshapes our world, this book offers vital lessons for political leaders seeking to harness innovation while avoiding the institutional traps that have derailed progress throughout history.”

—Tony Blair, Executive Chairman of the Tony Blair Institute and former Prime Minister of Britain and Northern Ireland



Carl Benedikt Frey is Associate Professor of AI and Work at the University of Oxford. His books include *The Technology Trap* (Princeton).

Why It Will Sell

Ambitious yet accessible,, this book assesses the historical factors that impact technological and economic progress, and why this matters now.

Uncovers a recurring tension between decentralised exploration to make discoveries and centralised institutions to scale them.

Globally comparative, from ancient agriculture to AI.

Author's previous book was translated into 9 languages.

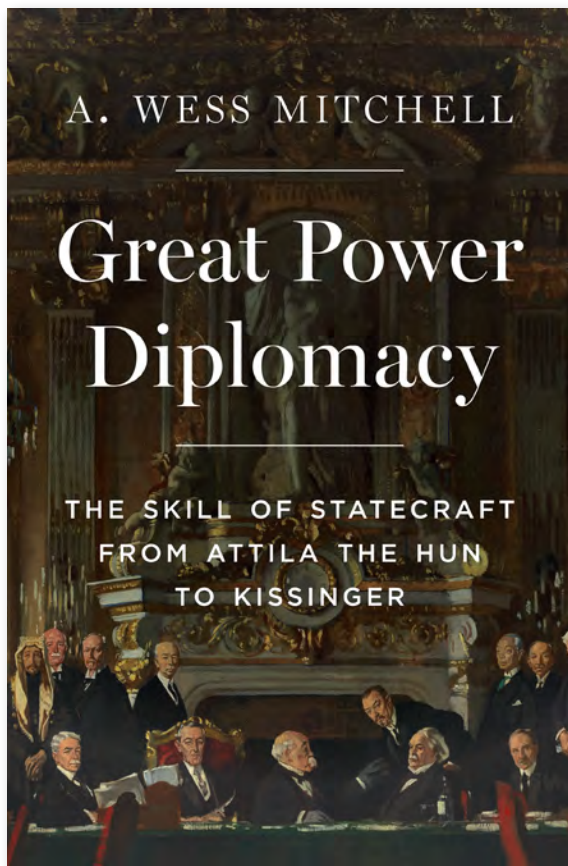
Published: September 2025

Editor: Hannah Paul

552 pages. 26 b/w illus.

German and Polish rights licensed.

Economics | Business | History



▶ Video Introduction

A captivating history of diplomacy—and an urgent reminder of why we need to revive its lost arts to survive in a dangerous era of great power competition

From the beginning of time, human societies have found themselves confronted by enemies too numerous or ferocious to defeat solely by force of arms. In these dramatic moments, wise leaders have turned to diplomacy to rearrange the gameboard in their favor and stymie seemingly unstoppable foes. In *Great Power Diplomacy*, American historian and diplomat A. Wess Mitchell recounts the forgotten story of how history's most legendary empires have used diplomacy as a tool of grand strategy to outwit, outmaneuver, and outlast militarily superior opponents.

“An illuminating account of the possibility of great power diplomacy as an alternative to war.”

—Graham Allison, author of *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides's Trap?*



A. Wess Mitchell is a historian and diplomat. He is the author of *The Grand Strategy of the Habsburg Empire* (Princeton).

Why It Will Sell

Seeks to recover the lost art of using negotiation to avoid conflict, rather than shows of military strength.

Spans 1,500 years of global diplomatic history, from Constantinople to the Cold War.

Features vivid characters—both iconic and obscure—that bring statecraft to life through a gripping narrative.

Equips readers to understand how we can use diplomacy to navigate current geopolitical instability.

Published: October 2025

Editor: Dave McBride

352 pages. 17 b/w illus.

Turkish rights licensed.

History | Politics

Susan C. Stokes

THE BACKSLIDERS

**Why Leaders
Undermine Their
Own Democracies**

▶ Video Introduction

Why democracy is under assault across the globe by the leaders entrusted to preserve it

Democracies around the world are getting swept up in a wave of democratic erosion. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, two dozen presidents and prime ministers have attacked their countries' democratic institutions, violating political norms, aggrandizing their own powers, and often trying to overstay their terms in office.

"A fascinating book that breaks new ground in a crowded field by highlighting both the demand and supply sides of the new authoritarianism (and their mutually reinforcing roles). Notably, Susan Stokes demonstrates how inequality contributes to democratic erosion and how backsliding leaders in turn deepen polarization and sow mistrust in institutions."

—Dani Rodrik, Harvard University



Susan C. Stokes is professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, where she chairs the Chicago Center on Democracy. Her books include *Mandates and Democracy*.

Why It Will Sell

An accessible but sophisticated introduction to the what and the how of democratic erosion around the world.

Backed by deep, rigorous original research, the book argues that inequality in a society, rather than the age or wealth of the democracy, is the key factor in erosion—a major corrective to established thinking.

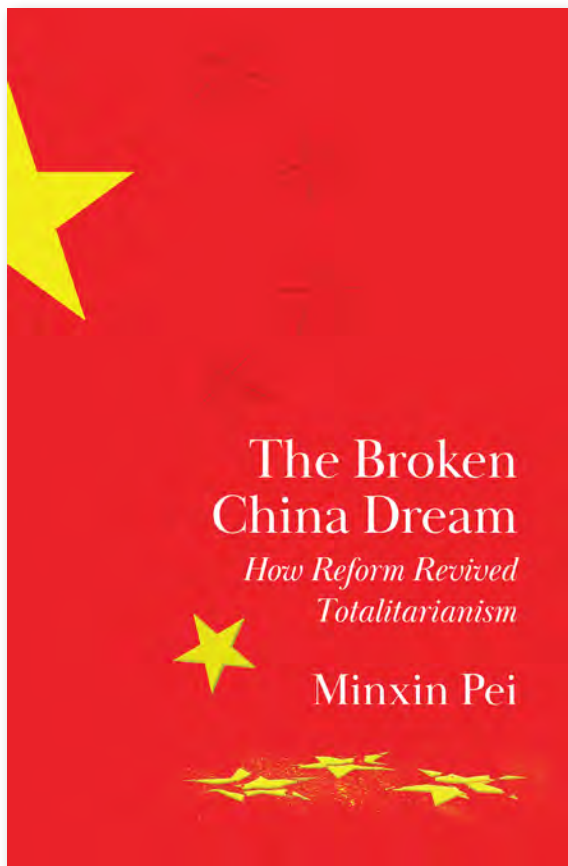
Describes how journalists, judges, NGOs, opposition leaders, and voters can put the brakes on democratic erosion.

Published: September 2025

Editor: Dave McBride

264 pages. 31 b/w illus.

Politics



A provocative book that demystifies China's great democratic leap backward under Xi Jinping

When China embarked on its transformative journey of modernization in 1979, many believed the country's turn toward capitalism would put its totalitarian past to rest and mark the birth of a democratic, open society. Instead, China reverted to a neo-totalitarian state, one backed by one of the fastest-growing, most formidable economies on earth. *The Broken China Dream* pulls back the curtain on the regime of strongman Xi Jinping, revealing why the reforms of the post-Mao era have been reversed on nearly every front—and why the world failed to see it coming.

“Today's leading analyst of modern China reveals why it has been so easy for Xi Jinping to reinstate a totalitarian system. Minxin Pei shows how an unreformed party-state stood behind the economic miracle and how, in the absence of constraining legal or political institutions, Xi Jinping has found it easy to reimpose rule by fear.”
—Martin Wolf, chief economics commentator at the *Financial Times*



Minxin Pei is the Tom and Margot Pritzker '72 Professor of Government and a George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College.

Why It Will Sell

A leading China scholar reveals how post-Mao reforms laid the groundwork for Xi Jinping's authoritarian consolidation.

Compelling analysis of why China's economic liberalization failed to produce political openness.

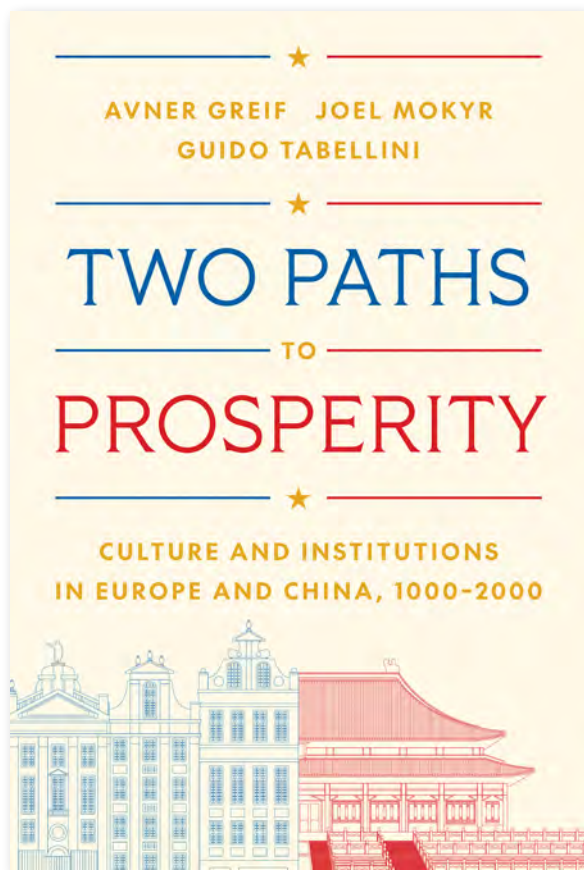
Accessibly written, this book is essential reading for understanding modern-day China, including its politics, economics and foreign policy.

Author is a prominent voice on this subject, and has written widely for trade media.

Published: December 2025

Editor: Dave McBride
336 pages. 23 tables.

Politics | Asian Studies



▶ Video Introduction

How the social organization of Europe and China shaped their divergent economic and political trajectories over the past millennium

In the eleventh century, when Europe was still backward and poor, China was a rich and sophisticated civilization. Yet Europe became the birthplace of democracy and the Industrial Revolution, driving the Great Enrichment, while China stagnated until the end of the twentieth century and was always ruled by autocracies. *Two Paths to Prosperity* traces the emergence of two very different social organizations in premodern China and Europe—the clan and the corporation—showing how they were key factors in the economic and political divergence of these two great civilizations.

“A major new attempt to explain the biggest puzzle of world economic history. This book takes the debate to a new level of clarity and sophistication. Unputdownable.”

—James A. Robinson, University of Chicago

Avner Greif is the Bowman Family Endowed Professor Emeritus in Humanities and Sciences and Professor of Economics at Stanford University. **Joel Mokyr** is the Robert H. Strotz Professor of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Economics and History at Northwestern University and Sackler Professor at the Eitan Berglas School of Economics at Tel Aviv University. **Guido Tabellini** is the Intesa Sanpaolo Chair in Political Economics and Vice President at Bocconi University.

Why It Will Sell

An important contribution to a fundamental question in economic history, from highly respected co-authors in the field.

Offers a bold new interpretation of ‘the Great Divergence’, with a unique focus on the role played by differences in culture and social organization between Europe and China.

Published: November 2025

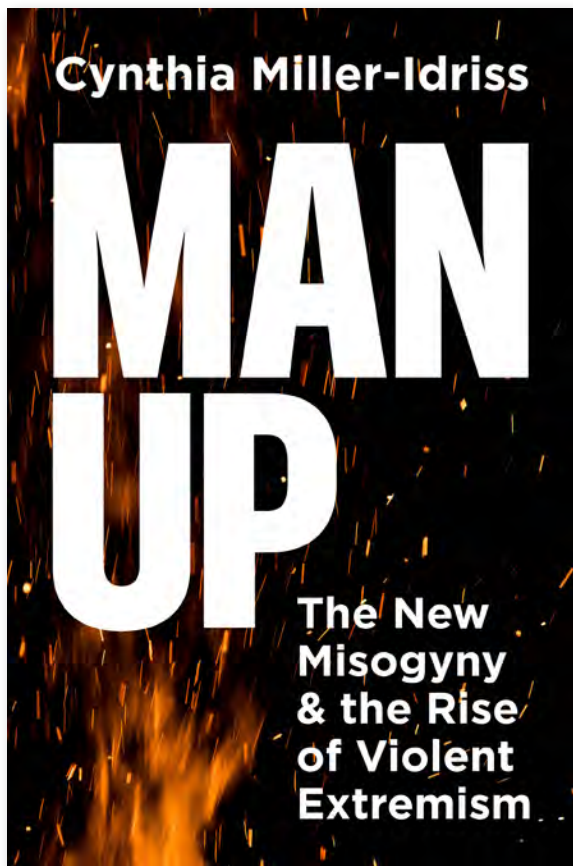
Editor: Joe Jackson

544 pages. 16 b/w illus.

11 tables. 1 map.

Italian rights licensed.

Economics | History



▶ Video Introduction

The revelatory and urgent story of how an explosion of misogyny is driving a surge of mass and far-right violence throughout the West

In *Man Up*, Cynthia Miller-Idriss, a leading expert on extremism, reveals how an epidemic of misogyny—both online and off—and a patriarchal backlash are driving an exponential rise in mass and far-right violence. She also offers essential strategies that all of us—including parents, teachers, and counselors—can use to fight the rising tide of violence, beginning with recognizing the misogyny that pervades our everyday lives.

“Women-hating is a central feature of far-right culture. Miller-Idriss guides us on how this happened and what it means for how gender operates today.”

—Kathleen M. Blee, coauthor of *Out of Hiding: Extremist White Supremacy and How It Can Be Stopped*



Cynthia Miller-Idriss is a sociologist and professor at American University, where she is the founding director of the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL).

Why It Will Sell

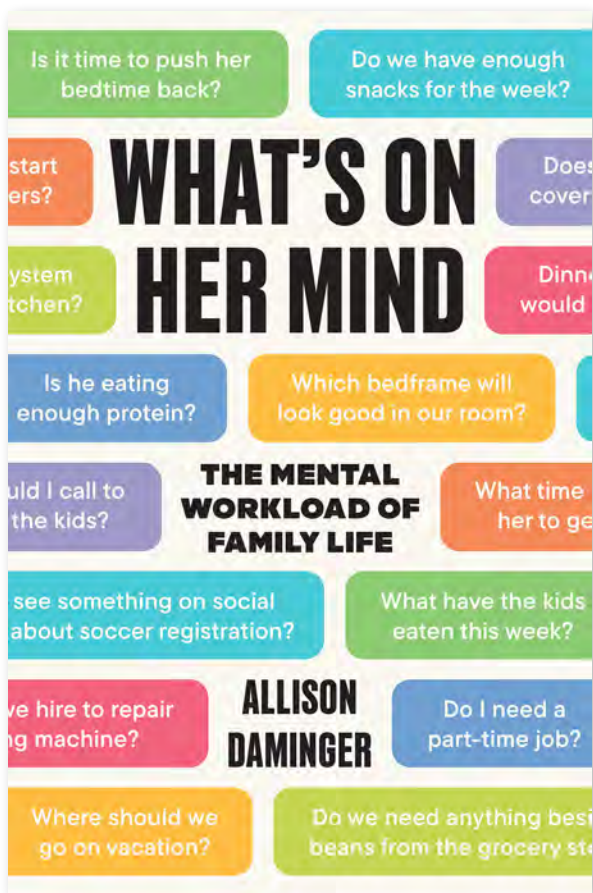
Provides insights from an internationally recognised expert author, who makes the link between misogyny and broader forms of mass violence for the first time.

Offers actionable steps to counter the threat of misogyny and mass violence.

From North America to Norway to New Zealand, increasing incidents of mass violence underscore the timeliness of this topic.

Published: September 2025
Editor: Rachael Levay
344 pages.

Sociology | Politics



▶ Video Introduction

The mental labor that keeps families afloat—and why women do most of it

Mothers and fathers use their time differently, with women spending roughly twice as many hours on family labor as men.

But what about the gendered differences in the ways women and men think? *What's on Her Mind* provides an illuminating look at the cognitive labor that families depend on and reveals why this essential aspect of family life is disproportionately handled by women—even in couples that aspire to practice equality.

“What’s on Allison Daminger’s mind? It’s cognitive labor, her term for a vital form of housework we all do but hadn’t named until this pathbreaking work. Through captivating research with diverse couples, Daminger shows that gender equality will remain elusive until we attend to mind use in housework. Already it feels like a classic.”

—Caitlyn Collins, author of *Making Motherhood Work*



Allison Daminger is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her work has been featured in leading publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Psychology Today*, and the *Atlantic*.

Why It Will Sell

An in-depth look at cognitive labor within family life, shifting the focus from how people use their time to how people use their minds.

Draws on nearly 200 family interviews to provide new data around who does what work—and the mental labor of that work.

Compellingly and accessibly written, Daminger offers both policy and personal suggestions for rebalance.

Published: September 2025

Editor: Rachael Levay

248 pages. 3 b/w illus. 1 table.

Sociology | Women's Studies

Furious Minds

The Making of the
MAGA New Right



Laura K. Field

▶ Video Introduction

The story of the radical conservative intellectual movement shaping Donald Trump's agenda—and how it threatens American freedoms, values, and democracy

In *Furious Minds*, Laura Field, who spent close to a decade in conservative academic circles, chronicles the rise of the New Right—the network of academics, public intellectuals, and influencers who provide ideological fuel to Trumpism. This movement includes figures such as Patrick Deneen, Christopher Rufo, Peter Thiel, and JD Vance. Their agenda is built to last, and it has dire long-term implications for liberal democracy.

“A pathbreaking intellectual history from the world’s preeminent researcher of the contemporary American right. *Furious Minds* scrupulously chronicles the coalescence of a modern movement that took place as much online as in the seminar room or the corridors of power. Essential reading to understand today’s political situation.”
—John Ganz, *New York Times*–bestselling author of *When the Clock Broke*



Laura K. Field is a political theorist who has written about the New Right for *The New Republic*, *Politico*, *The Bulwark*, and other publications. She holds a PhD in government from the University of Texas at Austin and lives in Washington, DC.

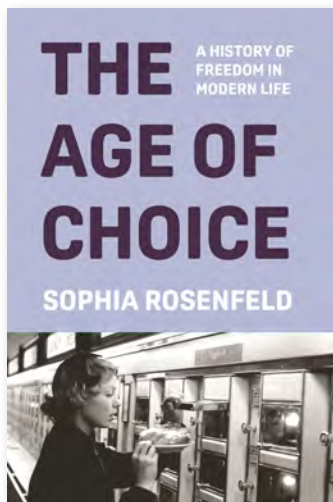
Why It Will Sell

Offers an intellectually curious and serious analysis of the theories and ideas motivating the New Right

Explores the thinkers of the New Right and how this illiberal renaissance threatens democratic freedoms, values and ideals.

Readable and approachable, this book gives readers an insider viewpoint into contemporary American politics, and its reverberations around the world.

Published: November 2025
Editor: Dave McBride
432 pages. 1 b/w illus.
Politics



▶ Video Introduction

Published: February 2025
 Editor: Rob Tempio
 480 pages. 8-page color insert. 60 b/w illus.
 German, French and Italian rights licensed.

History | Politics

Why It Will Sell

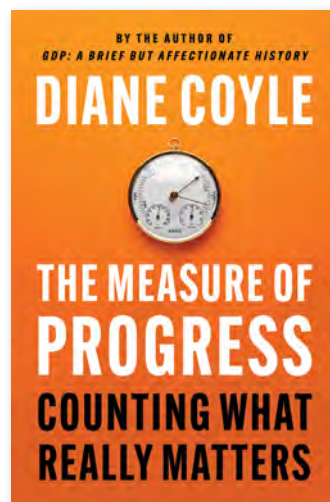
Longlisted for the Cundhill History Prize 2025.

Looks too at the experiences of women, often drivers of this change, and the ever increasing valuing of choice in their lives.

A sweeping history of the rise of personal choice in the modern world and how it became equated with freedom

Choice touches virtually every aspect of our lives, from what to buy and where to live to whom to love, what profession to practice, and even what to believe. But the option to choose in such matters was not something we always possessed or even aspired to. How did all this happen? *The Age of Choice* tells the long history of the invention of choice as the defining feature of modern freedom.

Drawing on a wealth of sources ranging from novels and restaurant menus to the latest scientific findings about choice in psychology and economics, *The Age of Choice* urges us to rethink the meaning of choice and its promise and limitations in modern life.



▶ Video Introduction

Published: April 2025
 Editor: Hannah Paul
 320 pages. 34 b/w illus. 16 tables.
 Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese (Brazil) rights licensed.

Economics

Why It Will Sell

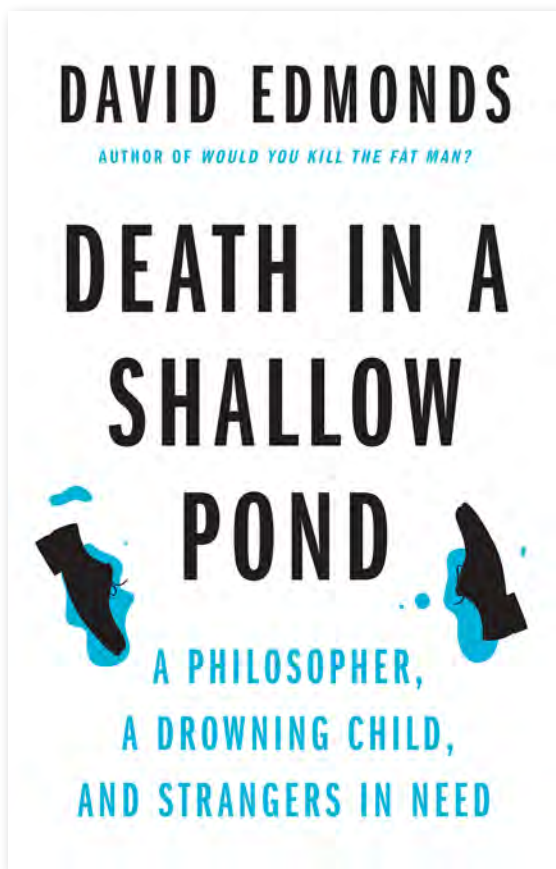
Fantastic follow-up to Coyle's widely translated book, *GDP*, on the unsuitability of GDP for measuring today's economy and where we need to go next.

Tackles technical material using everyday language and interspersed with personal anecdotes.

Why do we use eighty-year-old metrics to understand today's economy?

The ways that statisticians and governments measure the economy were developed in the 1940s, when the urgent economic problems were entirely different from those of today. In *The Measure of Progress*, Diane Coyle argues that the framework underpinning today's economic statistics is so outdated that it functions as a distorting lens, or even a set of blinkers. When policymakers rely on such an antiquated conceptual tool, how can they measure, understand, and respond with any precision to what is happening in today's digital economy? Coyle makes the case for a new framework, one that takes into consideration current economic realities.

Humanities



 Video Introduction

A fascinating account of Peter Singer's controversial "drowning child" thought experiment—and how it changed the way people think about charitable giving

Death in a Shallow Pond describes the experiences and events that led Singer to make his radical thought experiment and how it moved some young philosophers to establish the Effective Altruism movement, which tries to optimize philanthropy. The book also explores the reactions of critics who argue that the Shallow Pond and Effective Altruism are unrealistic, misguided, and counter-productive, neglecting the causes of poverty. Ultimately, however, Edmonds argues that the Shallow Pond retains the power to shape how we live in a world in which terrible and unnecessary suffering persists.

"One of the best histories of philosophy I have read. It tells the story of Peter Singer and Effective Altruism, which has been the most influential movement in philosophy over the last several decades."

—Tyler Cowen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Stubborn Attachments*



David Edmonds is the best-selling author of many critically acclaimed and popular books on philosophy, including *Wittgenstein's Poker* (with John Eidinow) and *Would You Kill the Fat Man?*.

Why It Will Sell

Brings to life the people and ideas behind one of the most powerful thought experiments and its impact towards relieving poverty.

Part biography of Peter Singer and his work, part exploration of the Effective Altruism movement, critiques and all.

Author is a well-known to fans of popular philosophy through his podcasts such as *Philosophy Bites*, and previous books which have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Published: September 2025

Editor: Rob Tempio

288 pages.

Chinese (Simplified) rights licensed.

Philosophy

Hanna Pickard

What Would You Do Alone in a Cage with Nothing but Cocaine?

A Philosophy of Addiction



▶ Video Introduction

A revolutionary new paradigm for understanding addiction

Why do people with addiction use drugs self-destructively? Why don't they quit out of self-concern? Why does the rat in the experiment, alone in a cage, press the lever again and again for cocaine—to the point of death? In this pathbreaking book, Hanna Pickard proposes a new paradigm for understanding the puzzle of addiction. For too long, our thinking has been hostage to a false dichotomy: either addiction is a brain disease, or it is a moral failing. Pickard argues that it is neither, and that both models stifle addiction research and fail people who need help.

"Hanna Pickard is the only philosopher in the world (I suspect in history) to have devoted a quarter century to developing deep expertise across all aspects of addiction research, including doing clinical work herself. The result is this brilliant masterpiece—a synoptic, comprehensive, state-of-the-art exploration of how we can best explain the puzzle of addiction."

—Owen Flanagan, author of *What Is It Like to Be an Addict?*



Hanna Pickard is Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Bioethics and Krieger-Eisenhower Professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Why It Will Sell

Revolutionizes addiction theory by rejecting both brain disease and moral failure models, saying that 'one-size-fits-all' is a broken system.

Offers a powerful and compassionate new framework to treat addiction, based on the idea of responsibility without blame.

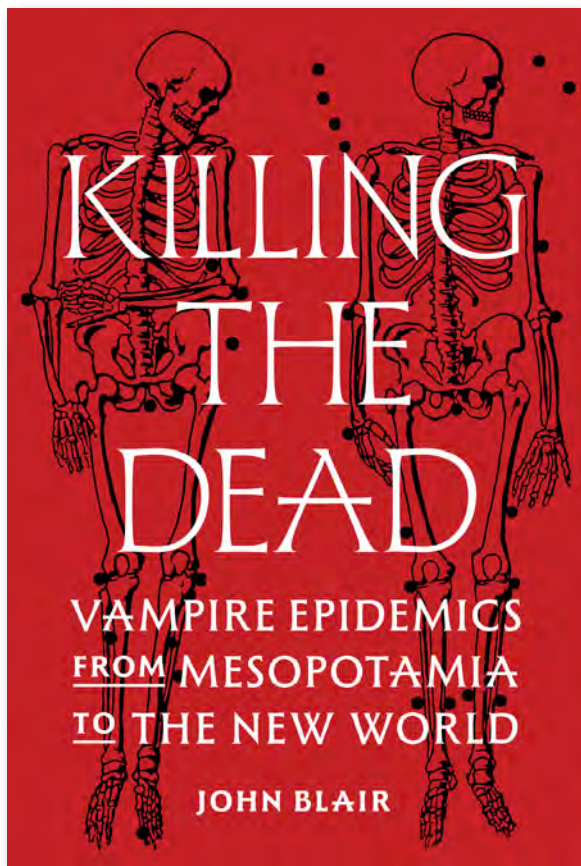
Written by a philosopher-clinician, blending academic rigor with real-world therapeutic insight.

Published: January 2026

Editor: Rob Tempio

344 pages. 9 b/w illus.

Psychology | Philosophy



▶ Video Introduction

A riveting history of vampire panics across cultures and down through the millennia—and why killing the dead is better than killing the living

Killing the Dead provides the first in-depth, global account of one of the world's most widespread yet misunderstood forms of mass hysteria—the vampire epidemic. In a spellbinding narrative, John Blair takes readers from ancient Mesopotamia to present-day Haiti to explore a macabre frontier of life and death where corpses are believed to wander or do harm from the grave, and where the vampire is a physical expression of society's inexplicable terrors and anxieties.

“*Killing the Dead* is a scholarly tour de force—a book of lasting value that will long be the definitive treatment of the subject. From the ancient through to the modern world, by way of Blair's home turf in the Middle Ages, the author finds important and exciting things to say about the walking dead at every turn.”

—Levi Roach, author of *Empires of the Normans*



John Blair is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology at the University of Oxford. His many books include *Building Anglo-Saxon England* (Princeton).

Why It Will Sell

Explores the world-wide historic belief in the undead, including China, Rome, the Americas and modern-day Romania.

Focuses on real archaeological evidence, alongside anthropology, psychology, literature and pop culture, to build a picture of the history and evidence of beliefs in vampires.

Published: November 2025

Editor: Ben Tate

536 pages. 38 color +
41 b/w illus. 10 maps.

History | Archaeology

"A clarion call to take an entirely fresh look at Roman society."

—PETER BROWN

SURVIVING ROME



The Economic Lives of
the Ninety Percent

KIM BOWES

▶ Video Introduction

A radical revision—and worker's-eye view—of everything we thought we knew about the ancient Roman economy

The story of ancient Rome is predominantly one of great men with great fortunes. *Surviving Rome* unearths another history, one of ordinary Romans, who worked with their hands and survived through a combination of grit and grinding labor. Drawing on new archaeological and textual evidence, *Surviving Rome* presents a radical new perspective on the economy of ancient Rome while speaking to the challenges of today's laborers and gig workers surviving in an unforgiving global world.

"This book is a clarion call to take an entirely fresh look at Roman society as a whole. Bowes enables us to glimpse, beyond the shimmering glare of upper-class life, the lives of the millions of less privileged men, women, and children as they struggled and hustled, with gritty tenacity, to get by in a hard world that is both familiar to us and yet, in so many ways, so very strange."

—Peter Brown, author of *Through the Eye of a Needle*



Kim Bowes is professor of archaeology and ancient history at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Houses and Society in the Later Roman Empire* and *Private Worship, Public Values, and Religious Change in Late Antiquity*.

Why It Will Sell

Written by a leading Roman archaeologist, who has received a Guggenheim grant for her work.

Based on pioneering archaeological work and written sources (including graffiti!), painting a vivid portrait of the lives of the bottom 90%.

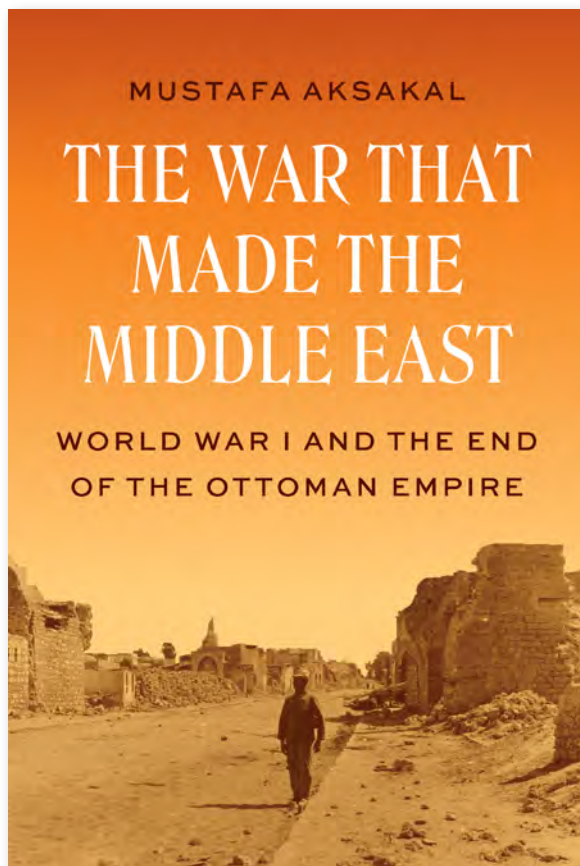
A radical new perspective on the Roman economy and consumer revolution, which reassesses our understanding of Rome's poor and working people.

Published: November 2025

Editor: Rob Tempio

512 pages. 69 b/w illus. 4 b/w maps. 16 tables.

Ancient History | Classics



▶ Video Introduction

A new history that tells the story of how European imperial ambitions destroyed the Ottoman Empire during the Great War and created a divided and unstable Middle East

The Ottoman Empire's collapse at the end of the First World War is often treated as a foregone conclusion. It was only a matter of time, the story goes, before the so-called Sick Man of Europe succumbed to its ailments—incompetent management, nationalism, and ethnic and religious conflict. In *The War That Made the Middle East*, Mustafa Aksakal overturns this conventional narrative. He describes how European imperial ambitions and the Ottoman commitment to saving its empire at any cost—including the destruction of the Armenian community and the deaths of more than a million Ottoman troops and other civilians—led to the empire's violent partition and created a politically unstable Middle East.



Mustafa Aksakal is associate professor of history at Georgetown University. He is the author of *The Ottoman Road to War in 1914*.

Why It Will Sell

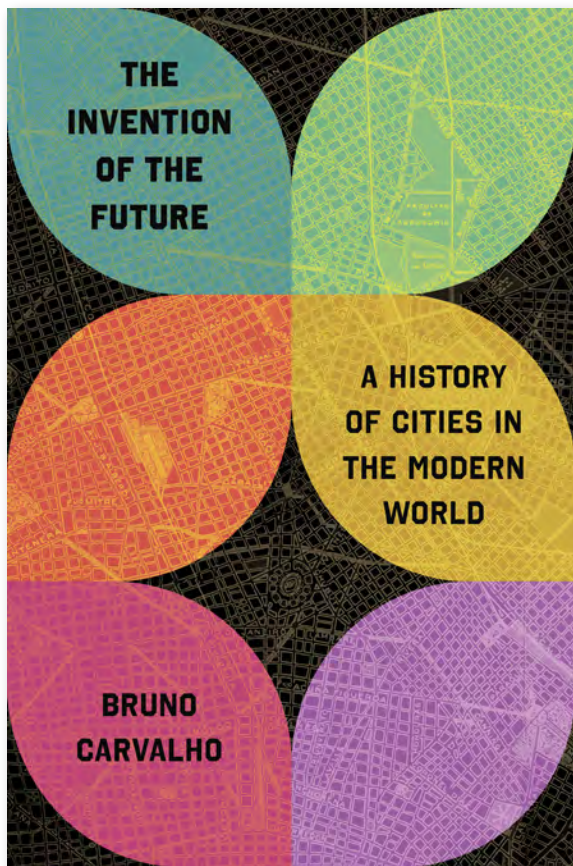
A new interpretation of the demise of the 600-year old multiethnic, multireligious Ottoman empire, and how this collapse wasn't inevitable.

Reveals previously overlooked stories of Ottoman diplomacy and regional complexity to reshape our understanding of the period.

Combines sweeping political narrative with the experience of everyday people, both the rulers and the ruled.

Published: January 2026
Editor: Priya Nelson
256 pages. 12 b/w illus. 3 tables.
5 maps.

History | Middle East Studies

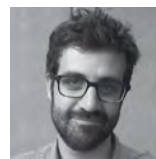


▶ Video Introduction

A kaleidoscopic and original new history of urbanization—from Lisbon to New York, Paris to Rio de Janeiro, and Buenos Aires to Lagos

Urban dwellers and planners have long imagined future cities that would be radically different from those of the past. Planners pursued progress, whether focused on flying vehicles above, sewage systems below, or daily life in between. Yet, as Bruno Carvalho shows in this original and wide-ranging history, which features some sixty illustrations, modern cities continuously defied predictions. A compelling history of imagined futures and the transformation of urban life, *The Invention of the Future* also suggests what we might learn from the stories of our cities as we shape them for the twenty-first century.

“Bruno Carvalho’s ambitious book is a powerful reminder that planners, architects, writers, artists, and politicians have long been imagining new futures for their cities.”
—Lizabeth Cohen, Bancroft Prize–winning author of *Saving America’s Cities*



Bruno Carvalho is a professor at Harvard University, where he teaches courses on cities. He is the author of *Porous City: A Cultural History of Rio de Janeiro*

Why It Will Sell

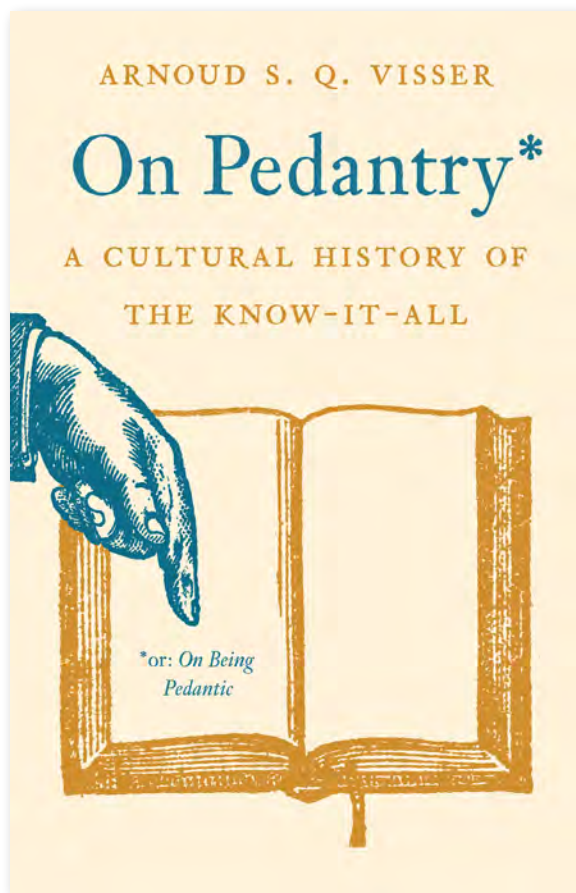
An argument-driven big history that draws together exceptional materials and examples across time, space, and genre.

Features 60 black-and-white images, illustrating past imaginings of the future across 250 years of transatlantic urbanization.

Proposes that the history of urbanization can renew our capacity to envision and enact large-scale transformations, even in the face of world disruption such as climate change.

Published: January 2026
Editor: Priya Nelson
440 pages. 62 b/w illus.

History | Urban Planning



▶ Video Introduction

A lively and entertaining cultural history of a supremely annoying intellectual vice

Intellectuals have long provoked scorn and irritation, even downright aggression. Many learned individuals have cast such hostility as a badge of honor, a sign of envy, or a form of resistance to inconvenient truths. *On Pedantry* offers an altogether different perspective, revealing how the excessive use of learning has been a vice in Western culture since the days of Socrates.

Drawing on a wealth of sources ranging from satire and comedy to essays, sermons, and film, *On Pedantry* sheds critical light on why anti-intellectual views have gained renewed prominence today and serves as essential reading in an age of rising populism across the globe.

“An elegant and witty history of the overbearing schoolmaster through the ages, *On Pedantry* wears its vast learning with a stylish lightness (though true pedants will revel in the breadth of Visser’s notes).”

—Dennis Duncan, author of *A History of the Index*



Arnoud S. Q. Visser is professor of textual culture in the Renaissance at Utrecht University and director the Dutch national research school for cultural history. His books include *A Cultural History of Fame in the Renaissance*.

Why It Will Sell

Offers a broad argument on pedantry, which explores how it has been utilised and how attitudes towards pedantry have changed, or remained the same, over time.

Explores the cultural trope of the pedant, from ancient Greece to the modern cinema screen.

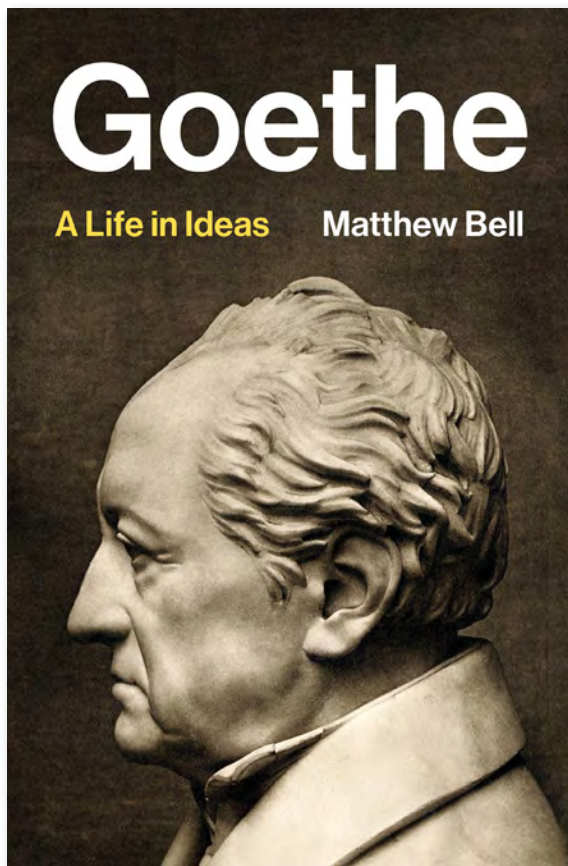
Charming and amusingly written, but reveals a dark parallels between anti-pedantry and anti-intellectualism.

Published: November 2025

Editor: Eric Crahan

344 pages. 45 b/w illus.

History | Cultural History



▶ Video Introduction

A new intellectual biography of Goethe, examining the paradox of his thought

In this important and ambitious work, Matthew Bell offers a wide-ranging intellectual biography of Goethe, tracing the evolution of his thought and reassessing its value. Bell examines the full spectrum of Goethe's writing, from his most well-known works, including the dramatic poem *Faust* and the novels *Wilhelm Meister* and *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, to lesser-known essays and reviews. Throughout, Bell draws on Goethe's letters and diaries, most of which are still only available in German, embedding Goethe's thought in his lived experience and in the cultural and intellectual life of Europe from the 1750s to the 1830s.

"This is an intellectual biography that finely intertwines historical context, literary criticism and the history of ideas, as well as Goethe's relationship to Newton and emerging theories of evolution. Above all, it makes a forceful case to read Goethe again—as a writer, scientist and diplomat who played his part in redrawing the map of Europe."

—Martin Puchner, author of *Culture: A New World History*



Matthew Bell is professor of German and comparative literature at King's College London. He is the author of *Goethe's Naturalistic Anthropology* and the editor of *The Essential Goethe* (Princeton).

Why It Will Sell

A major new intellectual biography that covers Goethe's literary, philosophical, scientific and political output.

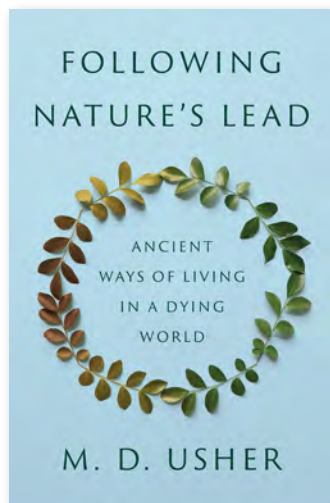
Offers fresh insight by drawing on Goethe's letters and diaries, many of which remain untranslated.

Reveals Goethe's proto-evolutionary thinking and his paradoxical philosophy of radical ideas with political conservatism.

Published: September 2025

Editor: Ben Tate
776 pages. 23 b/w illus. 3 maps.

Literature | Biography



▶ Video Introduction

Published: May 2025
 Editor: Rob Tempio
 232 pages. 21 b/w illus.
 Turkish rights licensed.
 Classics | Nature

Why It Will Sell

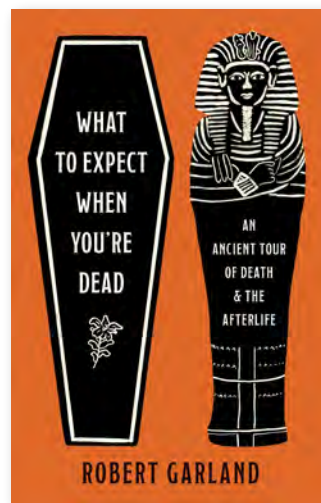
Invites readers to see how ancient ways of thinking matter urgently for today's modern climate crisis.

A passionate manifesto for living more harmoniously with Nature.

Draws from a broad range of disciplines—philosophy, mythology, religion, economics and even mathematics.

A dazzling and revelatory exploration of what ancient ideas and ways of living can teach us about creating a more sustainable world

How should we think and live in a world facing environmental catastrophe? In this urgent, original, and wide-ranging book, classicist and farmer M. D. Usher brings together ancient, indigenous, and modern ideas about how to live in this world and describes how we might begin to reconnect with Nature and heal our damaged planet and lives. The ancients hewed close to Nature, the source of their survival, in ways that most of us can scarcely conceive of today, and ancient philosophy often argues that humans should follow Nature's lead.



▶ Video Introduction

Published: April 2025
 Editor: Rob Tempio
 344 pages. 25 b/w illus.
 Bulgarian, Japanese, Polish and Russian rights licensed.

Ancient History | Religion

Why It Will Sell

Deeply researched but filled with intriguing stories and lightly—and humorously—written.

Thematic chapters, including the settling of one's affairs, to the preparation of the body and one's tomb, to what to expect in the afterlife.

An entertaining and enlightening book about how ancient peoples dealt with death—and what we might learn from them

A lively story of death, *What to Expect When You're Dead* explores the fascinating death-related beliefs and practices of a wide range of ancient cultures and traditions—Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Hindu, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Etruscan, Greek, Roman, Early Christian, and Islamic. Robert Garland invites readers to put themselves in the sandals of ancient peoples and to imagine their mental state moment by moment as they sought to assist the dead on their journey to the next world and to understand life's greatest mystery.

Science



SEVEN DECADES

HOW WE EVOLVED
TO LIVE LONGER

MICHAEL D. GURVEN

▶ Video Introduction

An anthropologist uncovers new evidence for the evolutionary origins of human longevity—and explains why growing old is an opportunity, not a burden

Our ability to live for decades may seem like a modern luxury made possible by clean water and advances in medicine. In fact, human longevity is a legacy of our unique evolutionary path as a species. *Seven Decades* challenges the belief that life in the past was “nasty, brutish, and short,” tracing how our capacity for long life came to be and transforming how we think about aging.

“This beautifully written book shows how to get the most good years out of life. In a genre littered with Instagram scientists and antiaging charlatans, Michael Gurven has tapped into a consummately original source of longevity wisdom: an Amazonian tribe with the world’s lowest rate of cardiovascular disease. Read it to live longer or just for fun. Either way, you won’t regret it.”

—Dan Buettner, *National Geographic* Fellow and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Blue Zones*



Michael D. Gurven is Professor of Anthropology at UC, Santa Barbara. His work has been featured in the *New York Times* and the BBC.

Why It Will Sell

Eminently readable, with the stories from the author’s travels creating a personal touch.

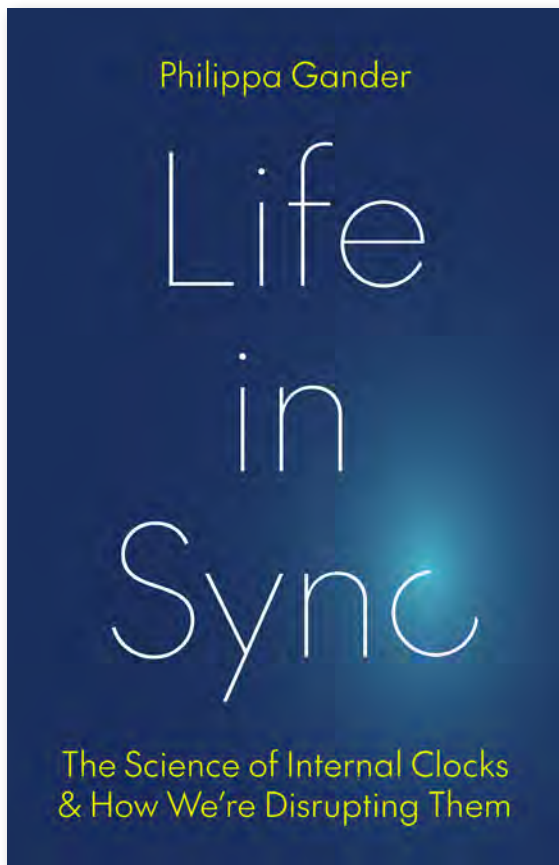
Boldly argues that a seven-decade life emerged at the dawn of *Homo Sapiens*, and is not due to modern lifestyles.

A unique evolutionary perspective on aging, from a leading authority on this topic.

Key takeaways that inform how we think about aging, and how societal values contribute to a successful old age.

Published: September 2025
Editor: Alison Kalett
536 pages. 70 b/w illus.
Chinese (Simplified) rights licensed.

Science | Biology



▶ Video Introduction

Why we need to reconnect with nature's biological rhythms—and rediscover the benefits of a good night's sleep

All of life is profoundly shaped by the daily, monthly, and yearly cycles of our planet, and all creatures have internal timekeeping systems that rely on cues from the surrounding environment. With modern technology, we are changing our environments—and by proxy, the ecosystems around us—to override these innate rhythms of life. But at what cost? *Life in Sync* reveals how Earth's rotations shape our biology, what human sleep cycles looked like before the advent of artificial light, and why technology can't free us from the constraints of our circadian clocks.

"Recent breakthroughs in chronobiology reveal powerful strategies to recover lost rhythms—and improve sleep. Drawing on decades of her own research, Gander leads an in-depth tour of the science and leaves no doubt that respecting circadian clocks is crucial not just for individual well-being but also for the future of our planet."

—Lynne Peebles, author of *The Inner Clock*:



Philippa Gander is professor emeritus and founder of the Sleep/Wake Research Centre at Massey University in New Zealand.

Why It Will Sell

Captivating storytelling, with examples ranging from migratory birds and hibernating squirrels to jet-lagged pilots.

Shows how disrupted sleep harms our health and how new research can help realign us with nature's cycles.

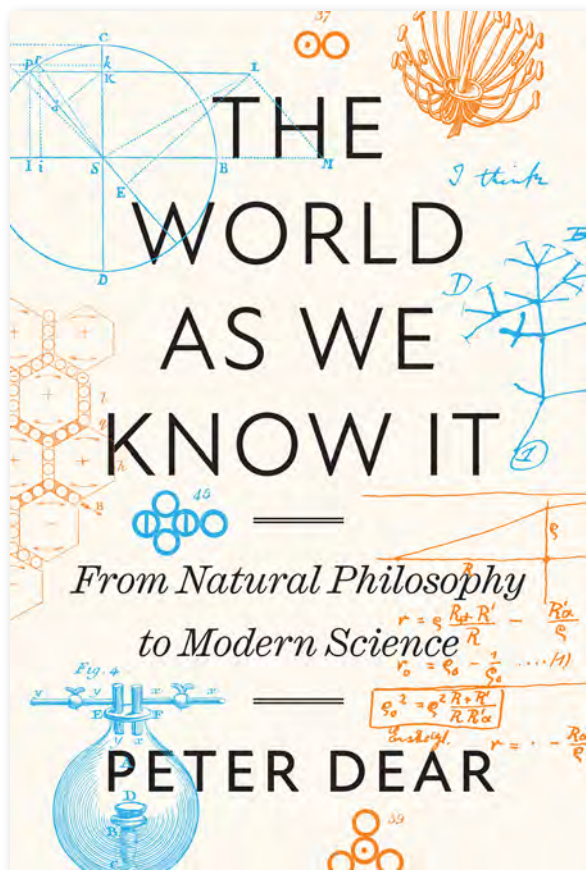
Integrates human and animal studies, and looks at the impact of human activity on whole ecosystems.

Offers a clear introduction to a growing field at the intersection of environmental science, health, and behavioral biology.

Published: October 2025

Editor: Alison Kalett
168 pages. 31 b/w illus.

Science | Nature



▶ Video Introduction

A monumental historical account of how of we came to see the world through the lens of science

Science is the basis of our assumptions about ourselves and our world, from ideas about our evolutionary past to our conceptions of the vast expanses of space and the smallest particles of matter. In this panoramic book, acclaimed historian of science Peter Dear uncovers the roots of such beliefs, revealing how they constitute a natural philosophy that has been developed and refined over the course of centuries—and how the world as we have come to know it was by no means inevitable.

“Peter Dear, long admired as a commanding voice in the history of early modern science, has given us a brilliant, cogent overview of the natural sciences from the seventeenth century to the quantum revolution... An exciting book, indispensable to anyone interested in modern science.”

—James Turner, author of *Philology: The Forgotten Origins of the Modern Humanities*



Peter Dear is professor emeritus of history at Cornell University. His books include *Revolutionizing the Sciences* (Princeton), *The Intelligibility of Nature*, and *Discipline and Experience*.

Why It Will Sell

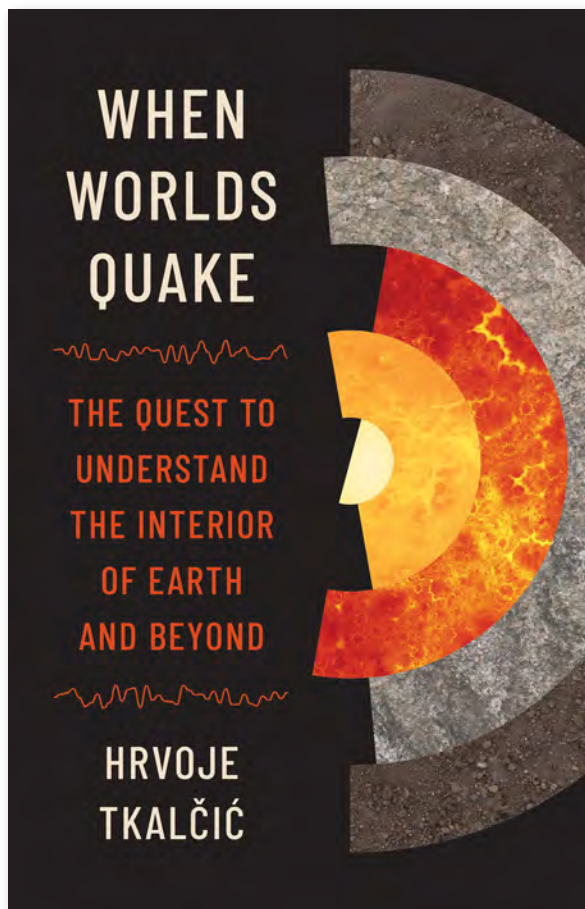
Covers the history of the development of ‘science’ from the 1700s through to the 1930s.

A broad survey of the history of science that emerges from a course the author has taught for decades.

Explores various scientific subjects, from astrophysics to electromagnetism, and emphasises that our ideas about them are shaped by cultures and individuals.

Published: October 2025
Editor: Eric Crahan
384 pages. 44 b/w illus.

Science | History



▶ Video Introduction

How earthquakes can reveal the subsurface secrets of our planet and other worlds

When Worlds Quake is a fascinating account of how scientists around the globe seek to use quakes to answer tantalizing questions about the structure and inner dynamics of our planet and to discover the deepest secrets of our nearest neighbors in the solar system. A riveting and often personal narrative about the cutting-edge science of global and planetary seismology, *When Worlds Quake* reveals how quakes can help scientists to understand the mysterious inner architecture and ongoing evolution of our planet, as well as worlds beyond our own.

“Linking personal experiences with cutting-edge science, Tkalčić conveys the challenges in understanding the nature and dynamics of our planet.”

—Brian L. N. Kennett, coauthor of
Exploiting Seismic Waveforms



Hrvoje Tkalčić is professor and head of Geophysics at the Australian National University, where he is director of the Wararamunga Seismic and Infrasound Monitoring Facility.

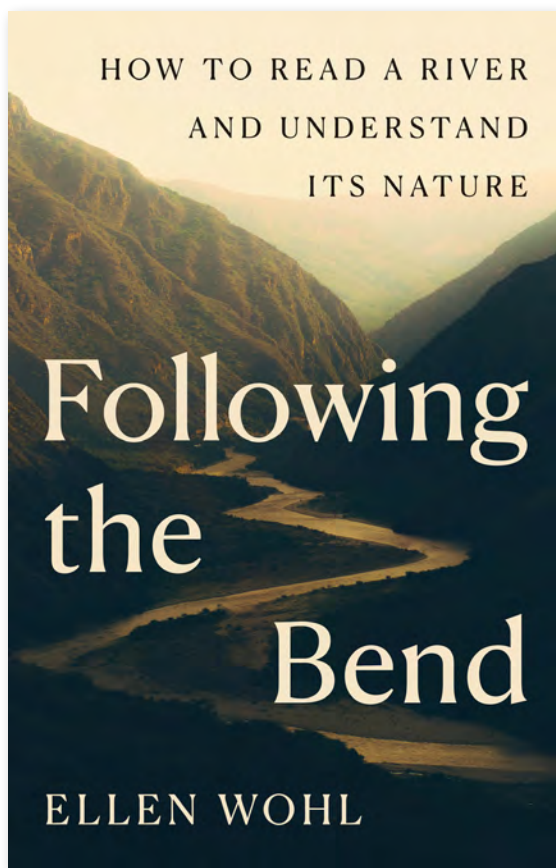
Why It Will Sell

Accessibly introduces the complex science around quakes, and how they help us understand the interior structure of the Earth, other planets and moons.

Offers a personal perspective from an observational seismologist.

Global in its focus, the author having travelled to remote parts of the world, from the Australian Outback to the Southern Ocean.

Published: January 2026
Editor: Ingrid Gnerlich
280 pages. 8-page color insert.
30 b/w illus.
Croatian rights not available.
Earth Science



▶ Video Introduction

An engaging and thought-provoking introduction to river science

When we look at a river, either up close or while flying over a river valley, what are we really seeing? *Following the Bend* takes readers on a majestic journey by water to find answers, along the way shedding light on the key concepts of modern river science, from hydrology and water chemistry to stream and wetland ecology.

Sharing a new understanding of how rivers function as both physical systems and ecosystems, *Following the Bend* enables us to observe rivers with fresh eyes and more fully appreciate the beauty, vibrancy, and complexity of our planet's vital waterways.

"Ellen Wohl writes beautifully. *Following the Bend* is a comprehensive but wholly accessible scientific guide, drawn from a life spent thinking about moving water and the ways it shapes the world."

—David Owen, author of *Where the Water Goes*



Ellen Wohl is University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Colorado State University. Her many books include *Dead Wood*, *Something Hidden in the Ranges*, and *Of Rock and Rivers*.

Why It Will Sell

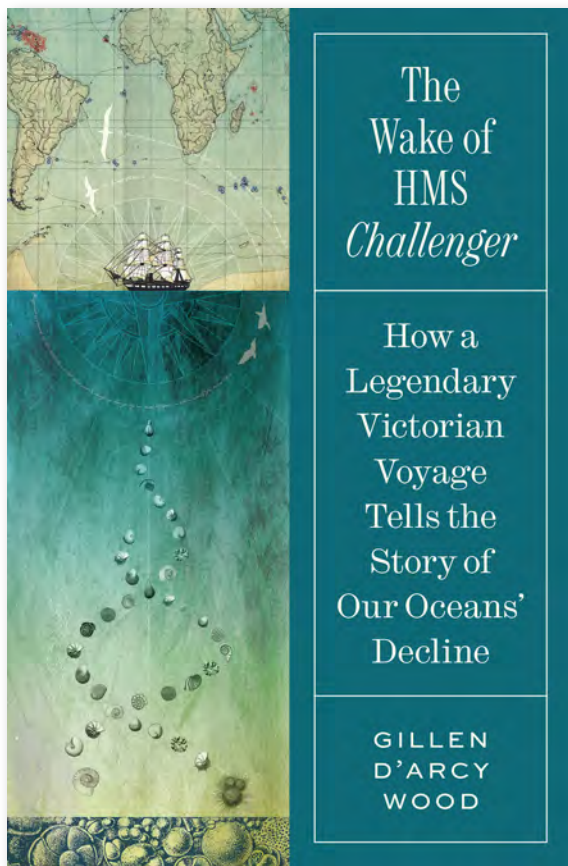
Distills decades of fieldwork into an accessible, narrative-driven introduction to global river systems, by a leading scientist.

Combines science with lyrical storytelling, including personal insights from the author's expeditions.

Ideal for nature and science enthusiasts, and invites readers to re-connect with rivers in their local area.

Published: September 2025
Editor: Ingrid Gnerlich
304 pages. 38 b/w illus.

Nature | Science



▶ Video Introduction

A scientific adventure story that dramatizes how profoundly our oceans have changed over the past 150 years

In December 1872, *HMS Challenger* embarked on the first round-the-world oceanographic expedition. In *The Wake of HMS Challenger*, Gillen D'Arcy Wood looks afresh at this legendary scientific odyssey and shows why, 150 years later, its legacy looms larger than ever.

“The Wake of HMS Challenger contains multitudes. It’s a tale of daring adventure, human drama, deep-sea exploration, and scientific revelation, set on a Victorian-era ship that sailed 70,000 nautical miles. So far, so excellent, but this story offers even more. Now, in a time of climate upheaval—as we seek to understand the ocean in all her multitudes—the Challenger expedition has left vital clues in its wake. Gillen D’Arcy Wood has written an important book that is also a whole lot of fun to read.”

—Susan Casey, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Underworld*



Gillen D’Arcy Wood is professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois. He is the author of the award-winning *Tambora* and *Land of Wondrous Cold* (both Princeton).

Why It Will Sell

Blends a beautiful literary style of adventure narrative with history, earth science, and marine biology.

This timely tale for eco-conscious readers reveals how much our oceans, time capsules for climate change, have declined since this iconic mission.

The book is purposefully non-anthropocentric, uniquely putting the emphasis on the oceans and marine creatures.

Author’s previous books have been translated into 6 languages.

Published: October 2025

Editor: Ingrid Gnerlich

328 pages. 37 b/w illus.

Science | History of Science



▶ Video Introduction

Published: March 2025

Editor: Ingrid Gnerlich

248 pages. 18 b/w illus. 5 tables.

Chinese (Simplified), German, Hungarian, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Turkish rights licensed.

Science | Neuroscience

Why It Will Sell

Accessible introduction to the science of memory, interspersed with engaging stories.

A timely exploration of both the benefits and downsides of our flexible memories—particularly in today's era of fake news.

An illuminating look at the adaptive nature of our memories—and how their flexibility and fallibility help us survive and thrive

We tend to think of our memories as impressions of the past that remain fully intact, preserved somewhere inside our brains. In fact, we construct and reconstruct our memories every time we attempt to recall them. *Memory Lane* introduces readers to the cutting-edge science of human memory, revealing how our recollections of the past are constantly adapting and changing, and why a faulty memory isn't always a bad thing.



▶ Video Introduction

Published: May 2025

Editor: Alison Kalett

248 pages. 11 color illus.

Chinese (Simplified), Japanese, Korean and Russian rights licensed.

Science | Biology

Why It Will Sell

Introduces popular readers to a fascinating sub-surface world, where single-cell organisms 'breathe' rocks, eat pure electrons, and live for millions of years.

Engagingly blends clear science and vivid adventure writing to transport readers to expeditions across the globe, from jungles to volcanoes.

A biologist's firsthand account of the hunt for life beneath earth's surface—and how new discoveries are challenging our most basic assumptions about the nature of life on Earth

Life thrives in the deepest, darkest recesses of Earth's crust—from methane seeps in the ocean floor to the highest reaches of Arctic permafrost—and it is unlike anything seen on the surface. *Intraterrestrials* shares what scientists are learning about these strange types of microbial life—and how research expeditions to some of the most extreme locales on the planet are broadening our understanding of what life is and how its earliest forms may have evolved.

New in the Pedia Books series



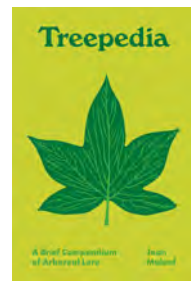
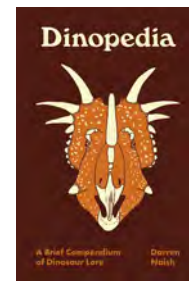
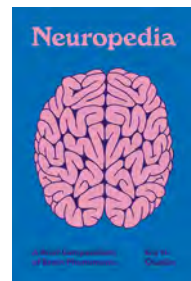
Published: October 2025
Editor: Rob Tempio
216 pages. 50 b/w illus.

Science

An enchanting collection of the ancient myths that emerged out of the wonders—and disasters—of the natural world

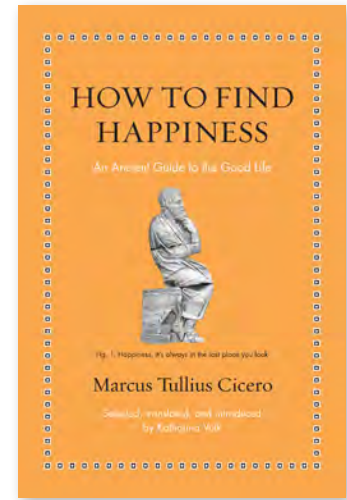
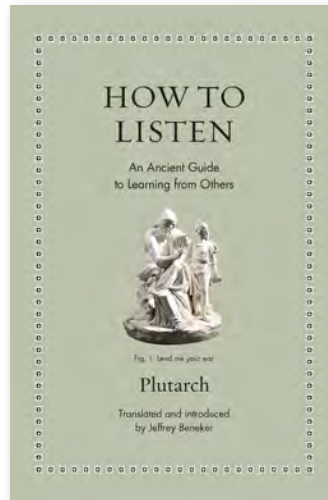
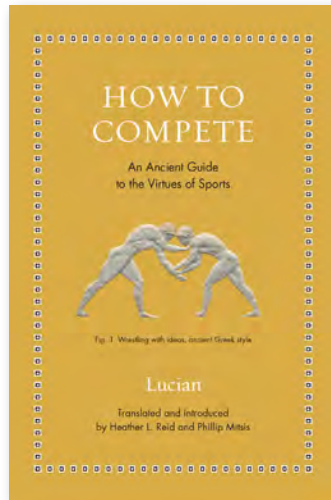
Mythopedia is a fun, fact-filled A-Z treasury of myths inspired by natural events. Bringing together fifty legends from antiquity to the present, this delightfully entertaining book takes you around the world to explore sunken kingdoms and lost cities, accursed mountains and treacherous terrains, and lethal lakes and singing sand dunes, explaining the historical background and latest science underlying each tale.

ALSO AVAILABLE

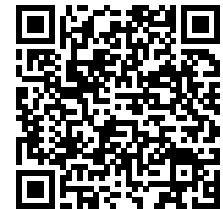
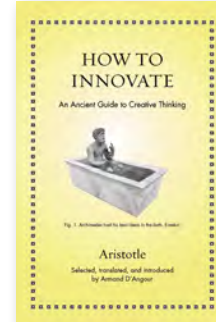
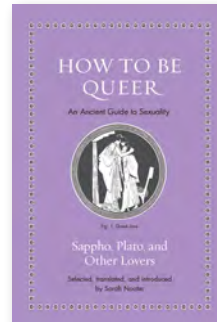
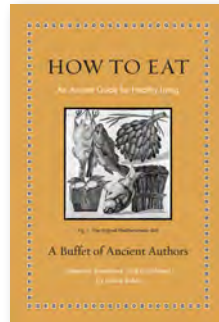
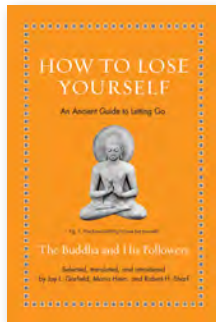


Scan here to see more titles in the series

New in the Ancient Wisdom for Modern Readers series



ALSO AVAILABLE



Scan here to see more
titles in the series

Princeton University Press International Rights Agents

Arabic Rights

Amélie Cherlin
Dar Cherlin
amelie@darcherlin.com

Brazil

João Paulo Riff
Agencia RIFF
Tel: +55 21 2287 6299
joaopaulo@agenciariiff.com.br

Bulgaria, Romania & Serbia

Mira Droumeva
A.N.A. Sofia Ltd.
mira@anas-bg.com

China (Complex & Simplified)

David Tsai
Bardon Chinese Media Agency
Tel: +886 2 2364 4995 ext. 35
david@bardonchinese.com

Czech Republic, Slovakia & Slovenia

Lucie Polakova
Andrew Nurnberg Associates
Tel/Fax: +420 222 782 041
polakova@nurnberg.cz

France

Corinne Marotte
Marotte et Compagnie Agence Littéraire
info@marotteetcompagnie.ag
www.marotteetcompagnie.ag

Germany

Christian Dittus
Paul & Peter Fritz AG
Tel: +41 44 388 4140
cdittus@fritzagency.com

Greece

John L. Moukakos
JLM Literary Agency
Tel: +30 1 384 7187
jlm@jlm.gr

Hungary & Croatia

Judit Hermann
Andrew Nurnberg Associates
Tel: +36 1 302 6451
rights@nurnberg.hu

Israel

Geula Geurts
The Deborah Harris Agency
Tel: +972 2 563 3237
geula@dhliterary.com

Italy

Roberto Gilodi
Reiser Literary Agency
Tel: +39 011 521 5357
roberto.gilodi@reiseragency.it

Japan

Tsutomu Yawata
The English Agency
Tel: +81 3 3406 5385
tsutomu_yawata@ej.co.jp

Korea

Sue Yang
Jackie Yang
Eric Yang Agency
Tel: +82 2 592 3356
sueyang@eyagency.com
jackieyang@eyagency.com

Latvia, Lithuania & Estonia

Tatjana Zoldnere
Eastern European and Asian Rights Agency
Tel: +371 6750 6495
zoldnere@eeearagency.com

The Netherlands

Carolyn Schreiber
Marianne Schönbach Literary Agency
c.schreiber@schonbach.nl

Poland

Piotr Wawrzeńczyk
Book/Lab Literary Agency
Tel: +48 22 646 5860
agencja@literatura.com.pl

Portugal

Gonçalo Gama Pinto
Ilidio Matos, Agência Literária Lda.
Tel: +351 96 841 6630
goncalo.gamapinto@ilidiomatos.com

Russia

Alena Sanina
Synopsis Literary Agency
Tel: +7 916 421 9708
agency@synopsis-agency.ru

South-East Asia

Jackie Yang
Eric Yang Agency
Tel: +82 2 592 3356
jackieyang@eyagency.com

Spain & Latin America

Anna Bofill Rahola
Agencia Literaria Carmen Balcells, S.A.
Tel: +34 93 200 89 33
a.bofill@agenciabalcells.com

Turkey

Bahar Albayrak
Kalem Agency
Tel: +90 216 345 4247
Cell: +90 532 067 1836
rights3@kalemagency.com

Princeton University Press

International Rights Team
InternationalRights@press.princeton.edu

Index

Age of Choice, 10

Aksakal, 16

Ancient Wisdom for Modern Readers, 30

Bell, 19

Blair, 14

Bowes, 15

Carvalho, 17

Coyle, 10

Daminger, 8

D'Arcy Wood, 27

Dear, 24

Death in a Shallow Pond, 12

Edmonds, 12

Field, 9

Following Nature's Lead, 20

Following the Bend, 26

Frey, 2

Furious Minds, 9

Gander, 23

Garland, 20

Goethe, 19

Great Power Diplomacy, 3

Greif, Mokyr & Tabellini, 6

Gurven, 22

How Progress Ends, 2

Intraterrestrials, 28

Invention of the Future, 17

Killing the Dead, 14

Life in Sync, 23

Lloyd, 28

Man Up, 7

Mayor, 29

Measure of Progress, 10

Memory Lane, 28

Miller-Idriss, 7

Mitchell, 3

Mythopedia, 29

On Pedantry, 18

Pickard, 13

Principles of Cognition,

Rosenfeld, 10

Seven Decades, 22

Surviving Rome, 15

The World as We Know It, 24

Tkalčić, 25

Two Paths to Prosperity, 6

Usher, 20

Visser, 18

Wake of HMS Challenger, 27

War That Made the Middle East, 16

What's on Her Mind, 8

What to Expect When You're Dead, 20

What Would You Do Alone in a Cage with Nothing
but Cocaine?, 13

When Worlds Quake, 25

Wohl, 26

