

**ASIA LITERARY AGENCY**  
**Autumn 2025 - Highlights**

**NIGHT OF A THOUSAND HELLS - a novel**  
by Intan Paramaditha  
translated by Tiffany Tsao and Stephen Epstein

**Rights sold:**

Indonesian – Gramedia  
US/UK – Europa  
ANZ – Scribe  
Italian – ADD  
Polish – Tajfuny

*Malam Seribu Jahanam (Night of a Thousand Hells)* – a literary sensation in Indonesia – is currently in its third reprint with Gramedia, Indonesia’s largest publisher. Shortlisted for *Tempo* magazine’s 2023 Best Literary Fiction award, the novel has won acclaim for its blending of Gothic and Islamic elements with Asian folktales and myths.

The novel opens when the youngest of three sisters commits a devastating act of violence, forcing her surviving siblings to confront their shared past and in the process uncover family secrets – including another sister who had been living in their midst, unbeknownst to them. The sisters, bound by their grandmother’s prophecies, must grapple with feelings of shame and guilt, of betrayal and abandonment.

Critics and readers alike have praised Paramaditha’s masterful storytelling and her ability to weave together complex themes with psychological depth and rich intertextuality.

*Night of a Thousand Hells*, which currently has an average rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Goodreads, has readers comparing the work to novels by Mariana Enriquez and Shirley Jackson (particularly *The Haunting of Hill House*), describing it as grippingly suspenseful: ‘a masterclass in atmospheric tension’, ‘utterly unputdownable’ and ‘Netflix-ready’. With its fresh perspective on class dynamics, family ruptures and the politics of care through an intersectional feminist lens the novel is, as one reader notes: ‘a story about sisterhood and all its beauty and horror combined with sprinkles of the supernatural and the occult.’

*Night of a Thousand Hells*’ exploration of Islamic culture in Southeast Asia,

intertwined with its tackling of contemporary social issues, is a vital and urgent contribution to global conversations about identity, culture and politics. Inspired by real-life events, the novel addresses religiously motivated violence and its consequences from various perspectives within the Muslim community. Yet even as the work is timely, its themes are timeless and universal: set in the USA, Indonesia and Australia, *Night of a Thousand Hells* reflects powerfully on the darker aspects of the human experience.

**Bio:**

Recipient of the 2025-6 Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, 2024 Conrad Masterclass Speaker, academic, activist, feminist, author Intan Paramaditha is a Fulbright scholar with a PhD from New York University and is Senior Lecturer in Media and Film Studies at Macquarie University, Sydney.

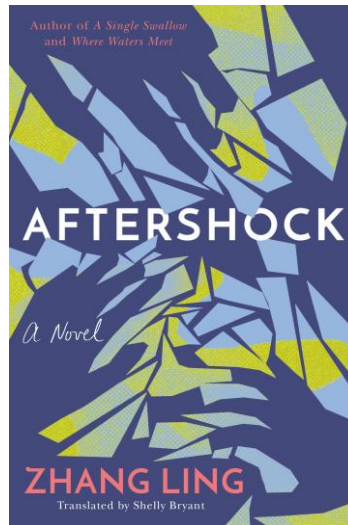
Her debut novel, *The Wandering* (Harvill Secker, 2020, translated by PEN Heim Award-winner, Stephen J. Epstein), was longlisted for the Stella Prize in Australia and received the English PEN Translates Award. Her short-story collection, *Apple and Knife* (2018, also translated by Epstein and published by Harvill) has recently been selected for inclusion on the Vintage Classics 'Weird Girls' series alongside classics from Audrey Neffinger, Angela Carter, Yoko Agawa, Ottessa Moshfegh, et al.

Her novels and stories have been translated into English, Polish, Turkish and Thai, with Italian and Japanese translations forthcoming, including of her latest novel, *Night of a Thousand Hells* which I am attaching here, and which was published to critical acclaim and commercial success in Indonesia in 2023, draws upon elements from the Gothic, from Islamic stories and Asian folk tales.

Paramaditha, who has been invited to literary festivals around the world, has been profiled in publications including *the Guardian*, BBC Radio 4, and ABC News, and her essays have been featured in *The Best American Travel Writing 2021*, *Literary Hub*, *The Nation*, et al.

More information can be found [here](#).

**AFTERSHOCK**  
By Zhang Ling  
Translated by Shelly Bryant



WEL - Amazon Crossing  
Publication May 2024

A catastrophic disaster in China triggers a mother's heart-breaking choice and a daughter's reconciliation with the past in a powerful novel by one of China's best loved and most prolific authors, who in English has been highly praised for *Gold Mountain Blues*, *A Single Swallow* and *Where Waters Meet*.

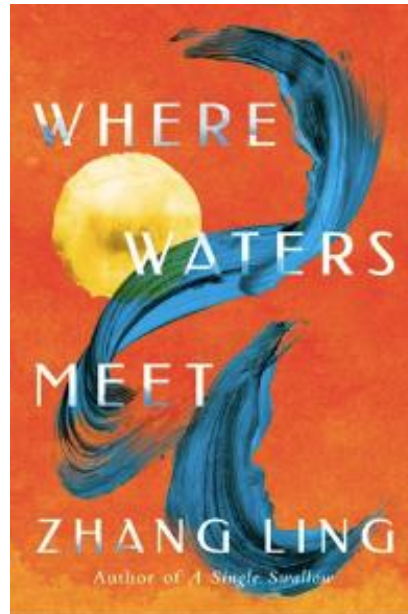
In the summer of 1976, an earthquake swallows up the city of Tangshan, China. Among the hundreds of thousands of people scrambling for survival is a mother who makes an agonizing decision that irrevocably changes her life and the lives of her children. In that devastating split second, her seven-year-old daughter, Xiaodeng, is separated from her brother and the mother she loves and trusts. All Xiaodeng remembers of the fateful morning is betrayal.

Thirty years later, Xiaodeng is an acclaimed writer living in Canada with a caring husband and daughter. However, her newfound fame and success do little to cover the deep wounds that disrupt her life, time and again, and edge her toward a breaking point. Xiaodeng realizes the only path toward healing is to return to Tangshan, find her mother, and get closure.

Spanning three decades of the emotional and cultural aftershocks of disaster, Zhang Ling's intimate epic explores the damage of guilt, the healing pull of family, and the hope of one woman who, after so many years, still longs to be saved.

## WHERE WATERS MEET

By Zhang Ling



### **Rights sold:**

WEL - Amazon Crossing

German - CH Beck Verlag

Winner of the Chinese Media Literature Award for Author of the Year, the Grand Prize of Overseas Chinese Literary Award, and Taiwan's Open Book Award, Zhang Ling is a literary darling in her native China. Her 2009 novella, *Aftershock*, was made into China's first IMAX movie and became the highest-grossing film in China at that time. In 2020, English-speaking readers finally received the gift of Zhang Ling's exceptional literary talent when her novel, *A Single Swallow*, was translated by Shelley Bryant and published by Amazon Crossing.

Critics called Zhang's English-language debut 'truly extraordinary', 'superb', 'thought-provoking', 'vivid and moving'.

Now, Zhang Ling returns with *Where Waters Meet*, a captivating, multi-generational saga that brings much-needed attention to the suffering women endure during wartime and their extraordinary resilience in extreme circumstances.

Zhang vividly portrays historical events in modern Chinese history that are not well known to the Western audience, including the recruitment of 'comfort women' during the Japanese occupation; the famine of early 1960s and the exodus to Hong Kong in the 1960s-70s.

Her first novel to be written in English, Zhang, who has lived in Canada for over 30 years, says, 'A different language brings in a new sense of rhythm, contextual associations, and musicality, which rejuvenate me as a writer. Writing in two languages gives us an extra eye to perceive ourselves as well as the world around us. This third eye helps us to discover not only the differences, but also the overlapping areas,

between the two languages. When we start to explore these areas, we oftentimes find unexpected pathways to the depths of human minds

**Copy:**

'A daughter discovers the dramatic history that shaped her mother's secret life in this emotional and immersive novel by Zhang Ling, the bestselling author of *A Single Swallow*.

There was rarely a time when Phoenix Yuan-Whyller's mother, Rain, didn't live with her. Even when Phoenix got married Rain, who followed her from China to Toronto, came to share Phoenix's life. Now at the age of eighty-three, Rain's unexpected death ushers in a heart-rending separation.

Struggling with the loss, Phoenix comes across her mother's suitcase, a memory box Rain had brought from home. Inside, Phoenix finds two old photographs and a decorative bottle holding a crystallized powder. Her auntie Mei tells her these missing pieces of her mother's early life can only be explained when they meet, and so, clutching her mother's ashes, Phoenix boards a plane for China.

What at first seems like a daughter's quest to uncover a mother's secrets becomes a startling journey of self-discovery. Told across decades and continents, Zhang Ling's exquisite novel is a tale of extraordinary courage and survival. It illuminates the resilience of humanity, the brutalities of life, the secrets we keep and those we share, and the driving forces it takes to survive.

**Advance praise:**

'*Where Waters Meet* brings us back to the turbulent decades in China where people fought one war after another, suffered famine, and endured political persecutions. However, instead of focusing on misery, Zhang Ling introduces us to those who defy their fates. They are brave enough to try sneaking across the border, determined enough to adopt a foreign tongue, and kind enough to care for their families no matter what. A true masterpiece filled with idiosyncratic yet admirable characters, suspenseful mystery, historical complexity, and ironic humor.'

Jianan Qian, O. Henry Prize winner and staff writer at *The Millions*

'A gripping, epic novel . . . a remarkable achievement'

Paul Brinkley-Rogers, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and veteran war correspondent; author of *Please Enjoy Your Happiness*

'Few writers could bring a story about China and other nations together as seamlessly as Zhang Ling.'

Mo Yan

'Reading *Where Waters Meet* is like peeling the onion: after layers of layers of sorrows, pains, regrets, what you find at the heart of the novel is poignant but also an epiphany.

Tragedies make the purest out of bare life: endurance, persistence, compassion. Zhang Ling's first novel written in English is not a typical Chinese romance; it is a miracle testifying to the strength of womanhood, and the narrative itself is a miracle too, a delicately arranged puzzle leading to the heart of love and darkness. A page-turner, Zhang's novel shines with cinematic splendor and unfolds a haunting story about home and exile, trauma and sacrifice, despair and hope, and most importantly, mother and daughter.'

Mingwei Song, poet and Professor and Chair of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Wellesley College

'A stunning, gorgeous novel. Zhang Ling's *Where Waters Meet* is haunting and heart-breaking as it navigates mother-daughter relationships in the face of war and famine. I simply couldn't put it down.'

Devi S. Laskar, author of *The Atlas of Reds and Blues* and *Circa*

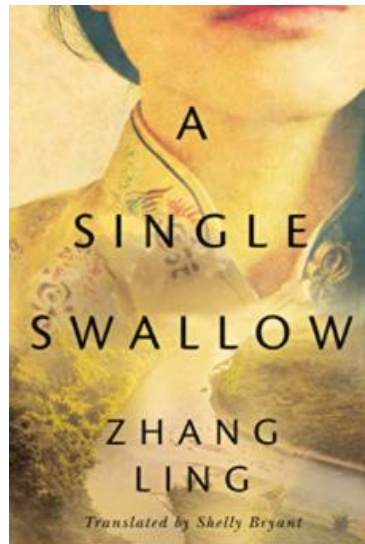
'I love this novel. It is an intriguing and moving story of a Chinese family who have survived terrible wartime sufferings. It reminds us of the resilience of the human spirit.'

Xinran, author of *The Good Women of China* and *The Promise*

'A masterfully composed novel that will leave you breathless until the end' Authorlink

'This emotional and heart-breaking novel is a tale of courage, survival and human resilience in the face of war and repression. Ling's [moving] story of a mother-daughter relationship will appeal to readers of Amy Tan, Xinran and Jung Chang' Booklist

**A SINGLE SWALLOW**  
by Zhang Ling  
translated from Chinese by Shelly Bryant



**Rights sold:**

WEL - Amazon Crossing, publication October 2020  
Croatia – Hena  
Italian - Casa Editrice Nord  
Russian – Phantom Press

Original published as *Loayan* by People's Literature Publishing House, China 2017  
**Over 60,000 copies sold since publication February 2021**  
**9,000 reviews on Amazon – and counting...**

'I am in awe of Zhang Ling's literary talent. Truly extraordinary. In her stories, readers have the chance to explore and gain a great understanding of not only the Chinese mind-set but also their heart and soul.' Anchee Min, bestselling author of *Red Azalea*

**Copy:**

On the day of the historic 1945 Jewel Voice Broadcast – in which Emperor Hirohito announced Japan's surrender to the Allied forces, bringing an end to the Second World War – three men, flush with jubilation, make a pact: to meet again in the Chinese village of their younger days, where they forged their friendship. It's where they had fought – and survived – a war that shook the world and changed their own lives in unimaginable ways. But it is not until seventy years later, when their pledge is finally fulfilled. The only person who's missing from this reunion is Ah Yan, also known as Swallow – the girl each man loved, each in his own, profound way.

American missionary Pastor Billy, brash gunner's mate Ian Ferguson, and local soldier, Liu Zhaohu – dispersed into the world after the war – unravel their personal stories, what took them to the front lines and what carried them away, and through their stories we see Ah Yan's life take shape, vividly and intrinsically woven into their memories, and their hearts. Ah Yan suffered unspeakable atrocities, yet found grace and strength and dignity to rise above, carry on and, ultimately, bring them back together, allowing them to make sense of their own lives, and be at peace with them.

**Bio:**



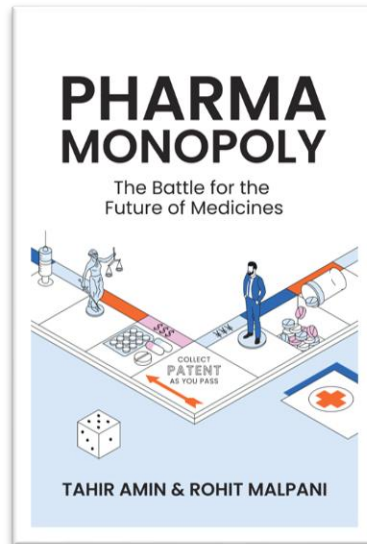
Zhang Ling is the award-winning author of nine novels and numerous collections of novellas and short stories. Born in China, she moved to Canada in 1986. In the mid 1990s, she began to write and publish fiction in Chinese while working in English as a clinical audiologist. Since then she has won the Chinese Media Literature Award for Author of the Year, the Grand Prize of Overseas China Literary Award and Taiwan's Open Book Award. Zhang Ling's first novel in translation was the best-selling *Gold Mountain Blues*, translated into multiple languages. Her novel, *Aftershock*, adapted into China's first IMAX movie, and to date China's highest grossing film ever made, will also be published by Amazon as part of a two-book deal agreed in February 2022 for Ling's next two novels, including *Where Waters Meet*, which she wrote in English and which has been awarded a generous prize from the Canadian Arts Council.

## Highlights – Non-fiction

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### **PHARMA MONOPOLY: THE BATTLE FOR THE FUTURE OF MEDICINES**

By Tahir Amin & Rohit Malpani



Publication spring 2026  
WEL – Polity

#### **Copy:**

Billions of people are actively denied access to affordable medicines by outdated patent rules and economic policies dominated by neoliberalism. It is no accident, and it is not due to the pharmaceutical industry alone.

Tahir Amin and Rohit Malpani, two leading figures in the access-to-medicines movement, examine the origins of a system that champions monopolies and the false god of innovation over public interest and human well-being.

They tell the story of how, move by move, governments have ceded control and then empowered pharmaceutical companies, making it increasingly hard to undo the damages wreaked along the way.

From their unique vantage points and experience, they critique global health initiatives and philanthropists for maintaining the status quo and warn of a future dominated by financial markets and artificial intelligence that will reinforce the worst practices of yesterday and portend new injustices for everyone.

By first questioning the foundations of international efforts to improve access to medicines they then champion a new way forward to rekindle a movement for justice.

**About Tahir:**

Tahir Amin has over 30 years of experience in intellectual property (IP) law, during which he has practised with two of the leading IP law firms in the United Kingdom and served as IP Counsel for multinational corporations. His work focuses on changing the structural power dynamics that allow health and economic inequities to persist by challenging and re-shaping IP laws and the related global political economy to better serve the public interest.

He is a former Harvard Medical School Fellow in the Department of Global Health & Social Medicine and has served as legal advisor/consultant to many international groups, including the European Patent Office and World Health Organization, as well as [testifying before the U.S. Congress](#) on intellectual property and unsustainable drug prices.

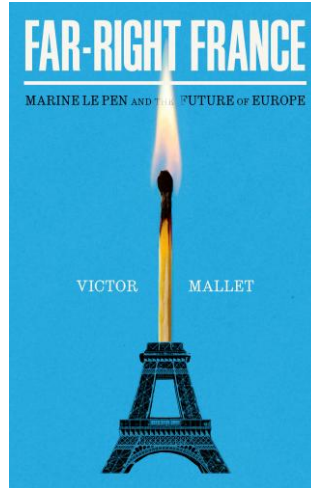
More information about Tahir: <https://www.i-mak.org/people/tahir-amin/>

**About Rohit:**

Rohit Malpani is an independent consultant, based in Paris, working on: the ethics and governance of artificial intelligence in health, antimicrobial resistance, and access to medicines. Previously he was the Director of Policy for the Medecins Sans Frontieres Access Campaign, a Special Advisor at Oxfam, and an intellectual property attorney for the law firm Wilson, Sonsini in Palo Alto, California. He has a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the New York University School of Law.

**FAR-RIGHT FRANCE:  
MARINE LE PEN AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE**

by Victor Mallet



**Rights sold:**

UK/Comm – Hurst

Publication spring 2026

**Copy:**

France's next presidential election is due by 2027, if not sooner; and Marine Le Pen's far-right Rassemblement National is on course to win it. Such a victory would trigger shockwaves internationally, with profound implications for allies and neighbours including the UK and the US.

Founded by the antisemitic Jean-Marie Le Pen, the RN – previously the Front National – was confined to the fringes until his daughter Marine took over in 2011. Together with her telegenic protégé Jordan Bardella, she has modernised the party and 'detoxified' its image. The RN has focused on voters' economic grievances while condemning 'mass immigration' of Muslims and foreign 'criminals' – a strategy starkly reminiscent of Donald Trump's own route, twice, into the White House. Right-wing Nationalists were already gaining ground worldwide and across the EU before Trump's re-election gave them another boost. Now France, at the core of the European project – is the far right's next great prize.

In both rounds of 2024's parliamentary elections, the RN won more votes than any other party. In vivid, sharp prose, Victor Mallet explains how the French far right has won over the country and become a government in waiting – one preparing to transform France, Europe and the world.

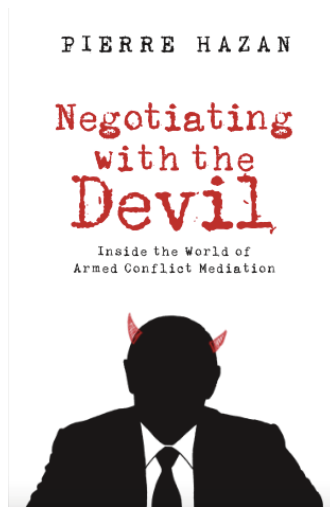
Based on Mallet's experience reporting from Europe, in particular from France, where he was the *Financial Times* Paris Bureau Chief for the paper from 2019 to 2022, *Far-Right France* will explain how a nationalist government would emulate Trump's America, shattering the complacency of the French post-war establishment and overturning long-held assumptions about the economy and society.

**Bio:**

Victor Mallet is an award-winning correspondent who has reported from Europe, Africa, the Middle East and from across Asia for four decades for the *Financial Times* and for Reuters. Fluent in French and Spanish, he has followed French politics since the 1980s and has interviewed politicians including Marine Le Pen, her late father and President Emmanuel Macron. Mallet's previous books include *River of Life, River of Death: The Ganges and India's Future* (OUP) and *The Trouble with Tigers: The Rise and Fall of Southeast Asia* (HarperCollins).

**NEGOTIATING WITH THE DEVIL:  
INSIDE THE WORLD OF ARMED CONFLICT NEGOTIATION**

By Pierre Hazan



Publication spring 2024

WEL – Hurst

French – Textuel

Italian - ADD

How far should mediators go when negotiating with criminal governments or terrorist organizations? And if there is no choice but to negotiate with the devil, what are the risks? In *Negotiating with the Devil*, peace negotiator Pierre Hazan explores that Faustian pact through the lens of specific situations, from the Russian-Ukrainian war to Syria, from the Balkans to the jihadists of the Sahel and other cases.

The book has been very well received by the media, (*Le Monde, Libération, Le Figaro, Médiapart, Le Temps*) and on the radio, television, the Internet.

Vladimir Putin has - quite unintentionally - contributed to its success, as Russia's aggression has made the question of peace and war a matter of almost personal concern not just for specialists (diplomats, humanitarians, mediators, security experts and students) but each and every one of us. No one knows how the conflict will evolve or whether Western Europe will be dragged into the war.

Three-quarters of the interviews Pierre has given on French publication have dealt with Putin: can we negotiate with him? What are our own red lines? Does mediation have a role to play and if so, what is that role?

The book is unfortunately all too timely, but addresses timeless issues of war and peace.

**A selection of reviews:**

'Pierre Hazan analyzes with finesse what this quest for dialogue means in an increasingly chaotic world where the West is no longer hegemonic'

*Le Monde*, Marc Semo, 6 October 2022

'In a short essay that leads one to think against oneself...Pierre Hazan revisits the last thirty years in the theater of mass crimes from Bosnia to the Sahel, from Ukraine to Afghanistan.'

*Libération*, Arnaud Vaulerin, 20 September 2022

'a book that lifts the veil on the dilemmas and pitfalls of mediation in armed conflicts. A little-known world, revealed by the Geneva-based author Pierre Hazan, advisor to the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, one of the main organizations active in this field.'

*Le Figaro*, Andrés Allemand Smaller, 22 September 2022

'enlightening and stimulating'

*Le Temps*, Luis Lema, 18 November 2022

'a fascinating essay'

*Le Vif/L'Express*, Gérald Papy, 22 September 2022

'Private mediation in armed conflicts gained momentum in the 2000s, at a time when Western countries were embarking on the war against terrorism and forbidding themselves to negotiate with terrorists. This policy has failed, says Pierre Hazan, and today the war in Ukraine once again raises the question of war resolution, mediation and the inevitable tensions between justice and peace.' Interview.

*Médiapart*, François Bougon, 23 October 2022

**A selection of endorsements:**

'An engrossing look at the moral dilemmas and the shifting political imperatives in conflict mediation . With his usual uncompromising honesty, and drawing on his rich personal experience as a mediator, Pierre Hazan eschews easy answers and bright lines in looking at when to talk with the most evil forces and when compromise and neutrality can become complicity' – Reed Brody, author of *To Catch a Dictator*

'Like humanitarian actors, mediators find their space only insofar as the belligerents find their interest. Pierre Hazan plunges the reader into the fray of conflicts, in search of possible links bringing warring parties together. Far from a heroic account, based on long experience in the field, he exposes the harsh dilemmas and necessary compromises of a little known action' – Rony Brauman, former president of MSF

'Peace or Justice? Engagement or sanctions ? Neutrality or impartiality? Such critical dilemmas animate this fascinating book about conflict mediation in which Hazan draws from his significant field experiences to offer fresh answers' – Ruti Teitel, Director, Institute for Global Law, Justice and Policy, author of *Globalizing Transitional Justice*

'A gem. Pierre Hazan's elegant introduction to mediating in armed conflict catches both the art and the moral dilemmas of modern peace-making' – David Harland, Director, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

**Bio:**



Pierre Hazan is a senior advisor with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, one of the main organizations in armed conflict mediation. He has advised international organizations, governments and armed groups on questions related to justice, amnesty, reparation, truth commission, forced disappearances, international humanitarian law, and human rights. From November 2021 to December 2022, Pierre Hazan was also a Commissioner of the French Independent Commission on Reparation and Reconciliation for sexual abuses committed by members of Catholic congregations. In March 2022, Pierre became a *Richard von Weizsäcker fellow* at the Robert-Bosch Foundation in Berlin. His latest book, *Negotiating with the Devil, Mediating in Armed Conflicts* published in France in September 2022 (Textuel) received an enthusiastic reception from the media.

He has worked with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and collaborated with the United Nations in the Balkans. He was a member of the International Contact Group on the Basque Conflict, which co-organized in 2011 the Peace Conference that led to the end of political violence in the Basque country. He has worked in many conflict zones in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East, and in Europe.

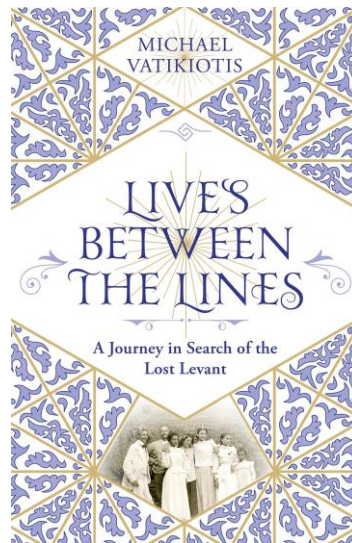
Simultaneously, in 2015, Pierre Hazan created justiceinfo.net, a media of the Fondation Hironnelle, dedicated to justice issues in societies in transition. He was also the curator of the War and Peace exhibition (October 2019-March 2020), which was held at the Martin Bodmer Foundation in partnership with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. On behalf of the City of Geneva, Pierre Hazan was the coordinator in 2018 of the Declaration of Geneva “Human Rights and Culture Heritage: Committed Cities Working Together”. In 2002, with Léo Kaneman and Yaël Reinhartz, Pierre was a founding member of the International Film Festival and Forums on Human Rights.

A Fellow at Harvard Law School (2005) and a senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington D.C. (2006), Pierre Hazan has taught at the Graduate Institute of

International and Development Studies (Geneva), at the Geneva School of Art and Design where he led a SNF research project on the Politics of Memory in Divided Societies. Former diplomatic correspondent, specialized in peace-keeping operations and humanitarian action with Libération (Paris) and Le Temps (Geneva). He is also a member of the Law and Peace Practice Group of the Institute for Integrated Transition, based in Barcelona.

Pierre Hazan has written many books and publications, including Amnesty: A blessing in disguise? (Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, 2020). He was the curator of the War and Peace exhibition at the Bodmer Foundation and co-directed the exhibition catalogue, (Gallimard, 2019). His books include La paix contre la justice ? (AVE/GRIP, 2010), Judging War, Judging History: Behind Peace and Reconciliation (Stanford University Press, 2010), Justice in a Time of War (Texas A&M, 2004). He was the guest editor of The International Journal of Transitional Justice (April 2017) on the special issue « Beyond Borders: A New Regional Architecture of Transitional Justice? ». He was the editor of The Tenth Anniversary of the International Criminal Court, the Challenges of Complementarity (Politorbis, Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012), and collaborated with U.N. special rapporteurs on the Report on the writing and teaching of history(A/68/296), the Report on memorialization processes(A/HRC/25/49) and the report on Processes of Memorialization in the context of grave human rights and humanitarian law violations(A/HCR/45/45, 2020). The fiction TV series on humanitarian action called “Crisis Unit” is based on an original idea of Jean-François Berger, Pierre Hazan, and Jean Leclerc.

**LIVES BETWEEN THE LINES:  
A JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF THE LOST LEVANT**  
By Michael Vatikiotis



**Rights sold:**

WEL - Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Chinese - Horizon

Arabic – Al Rawaq

*Lives between the Lines* brilliantly recreates a world where the Middle East was a place to go to, not flee from, and the subsequent start of a prolonged nightmare of suffering from which the region has yet to recover.

The Middle East is understood today through the lens of unending conflict and violence. Lost in the litany of perpetual strife and struggle are the layers of culture and civilisation that accumulated over centuries, and which give the region its cosmopolitan identity. It was once a region known poetically as the Levant - a reference to the East, where the sun rose. Amid the bewildering mix of races, religions and rivalries, was above all an affinity with the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Today any mixing of this trinity of faiths is regarded as a recipe for hatred and prejudice. Yet it was not always this way. There was a time, in the last century, when Arabs and Jews rubbed shoulders in bazaars and teashops, worked and played together, intermarried and shared family histories.

Michael Vatikiotis's parents and grandparents were a product of this forgotten pluralist tradition, which spanned almost a century from the mid-1800s to the end of the Second World War in 1945. The Ottoman empire, in a last gasp of reformist energy before it collapsed in the 1920s, granted people of many creeds and origins generous spaces to nestle into and thrive. The European colonial order that followed was to reveal deep divisions. Vatikiotis's family eventually found themselves caught between clashing faiths and contested identity. Their story is of people set adrift, who built new lives and

prospered in holy lands, only to be caught up in conflict and tossed on the waves of a violent history.

**Bio:**

Michael Vatikiotis is a member of the Asia Society's International Council and has a decade of experience working as a private diplomat and conflict mediator for the Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Prior to that he worked as a journalist in Asia for thirty years, living in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong. He is the author of three previous books on the politics of Southeast Asia including *Blood and Silk: Power and Conflict in Modern Southeast Asia* (W&N).

**A selection of reviews:**

*Lives between the Lines* is the moving and beautifully written story of a journey to explore [Vatikiotis's] identity by visiting the places - primarily Egypt and Israel - in which several generations of his Levantine ancestors made their homes. As well as being a highly personal family-memoir-cum-travelogue, it is a paean to tolerance between diverse faiths and different communities at a time when much of the Middle East is being consumed by bigotry, fanaticism and sectarian violence

- Justin Marozzi — *Financial Times*

Vatikiotis's pen portraits left me wanting more of this amazing cast of characters. For the family are bit-part players in what is in fact a potted history of the late Levant, living proofs in his view of the Ottoman Empire's enlightened approach to minority cultures . . . Vatikiotis's final two chapters describe and acknowledge the ambiguities consequent on Britain's eventual imperial retreat and the region's expulsions of foreigners - British, Jewish, Greek, Italian alike. They are easily the finest and worth the cover price alone . . . fascinating.

- Richard Spencer — *The Times*

Vatikiotis is quietly opinionated, a quality which makes him an admirable guide for this evocation of an era - a journey of personal discovery, where, despite complexities, everything stands neatly in historical and topographical context.

- Andrew Lycett — *Spectator*

[A] human and fascinating insider view of Levantine families in the mid-twentieth century.

*Times Literary Supplement*

A brilliant evocation of an era when the Middle East was a haven of peace and prosperity for people fleeing Europe. *Lives between the Lines* interweaves a fascinating family history with a portrait of a lost world - which has many echoes and lessons for today.

- Gideon Rachman — *FT*

**Other highlights include:**

***Narcotopia: In Search of the Asian Drug Cartel that Outwitted the CIA***

by Patrick Winn – WAL to PublicAffairs ex UK to Icon

**Also by Patrick Winn:** *Hello, Shadowlands* (WEL to Icon)

**Film/TV rights via ALA/Anonymous Content to Gaumont, producers of *Narcos***

**Translation deals via PublicAffairs:** Complex Chinese – Crystal Press; Italian – Adelphi; Japanese – Kobunsha; Russian – Progress Kniga; Spanish – Amok Ediciones.

***Hinterlands: Journeys through Europe's Frontiers***

by Hannah Lucinda Smith – WAL to Profile (USA to Norton)

**Also by Hannah:** *Erdogan Rising: A Warning to Europe* (William Collins) and co-author of *Zarifa: A Woman's Battle in a Man's World* (PublicAffairs/Virago)

***Whale*** – a novel by Cheon-myeong Kwan, translated from Korean by Chi-young Kim – WEL to Archipelago (UK to Europa)

**Shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2023**

**Translation deals:** French – Actes Sud; German – Weissbook; Indonesian – Mooioe Pustaka; Italian – E/O Edizione; Japanese – Shobunsa; Polish – Znak; Portuguese – Quetzal; Russian – Text; Thai – Nanmee; Turkish – Lotus.

**Also by Cheon-myeong Kwan:** *It's a Man's World, Modern Family, The Cheerful Maid Maria*.

***Untold Night and Day*** – a novel by Bae Suah, translated from Korean by Deborah Smith – UK/Comm to Jonathan Cape

**Translation deals:** Indonesian – Mooioe Pustaka; Italian – Add; Russian – Eksmo; Spanish – Malas Tierras; Vietnamese – Vietnam AZ Communication & Culture.

Also by Bae Suah: *Whisper Sunken Garden; Far Away, Uru Will Be Late; Nowhere To Be Found; Snake and Water; A Greater Music*.

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