



BERNSTEIN LITERARY AGENCY

Rights Guide

March 2024

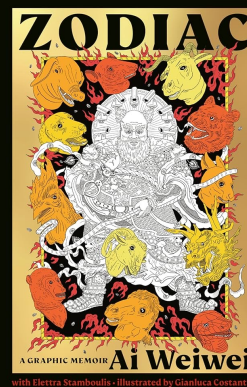
Peter and Amy Bernstein founded the Bernstein Literary Agency in 2009. To date, we have worked with over 100 brilliant authors around the globe and across a wide range of subjects to get their books published and their stories told. For more information about our agency and to contact us, please visit our website.

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com>

Zodiac: A Graphic Memoir

by Ai Weiwei, with Elettra Stamboulis, Gianluca Costantini (Illustrator)

Penguin Random House
Coming Soon



NATIONAL BESTSELLER

In this beautifully illustrated and deeply philosophical graphic memoir, legendary artist Ai Weiwei explores the connection between artistic expression and intellectual freedom through the lens of the Chinese zodiac.

As a child living in exile during the Cultural Revolution, Ai Weiwei often had nothing to read but government-approved comic books. Although they were restricted by the confines of political propaganda, Ai Weiwei was struck by the artists' ability to express their thoughts on art and humanity through graphic storytelling. Now, decades later, Weiwei and Italian comic artist Gianluca Costantini present *Zodiac*, Weiwei's first graphic memoir.

Inspired by the twelve signs of the Chinese zodiac and their associated human characteristics, Ai Weiwei masterfully interweaves ancient Chinese folklore with stories of his life, family, and career. The narrative shifts back and forth through the years—at once in the past, present, and future—mirroring memory and our relationship to time. As readers delve deeper into the beautifully illustrated pages of *Zodiac*, they will find not only a personal history of Ai Weiwei and an examination of the sociopolitical climate in which he makes his art, but a philosophical exploration of what it means to find oneself through art and freedom of expression.

Contemplative and political, *Zodiac* will inspire readers to return again and again to Ai Weiwei's musings on the relationship between art, time, and our shared humanity.

Rights sold: Crown (Penguin Random House)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/zodiac-by-ai-weiwei/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Zodiac-Graphic-Memoir-Ai-Weiwei/dp/1984863002>

"Each chapter frames the artist's take on traditional beliefs about the characteristics humans share with the 12 animals of the Chinese lunar calendar. Gianluca Costantini's intricate line drawings pair with Elettra Stamboulis's comic-bubble text to help expand Ai's lifelong campaign for free expression to a new medium for a new generation."—*The New York Times*

"Rich with metaphor, philosophical musings, and rebellious wisdom, the book is 'comic' in the classical sense—a work of komikos in which mirth and myth, commentary and critique are all combined, and tragedy is never too far off."—*Al Jazeera*

"As serious as *Zodiac's* subject matter may be, the book remains playful, from the curlicue tails of the speech balloons to Ai's own irreverent expressions that often break the fourth wall. It is not strict biography but rather a vivid journey touching on some of the central philosophies that drive him, along with memorable moments in his life. . . . The pages become windowpanes, casual glimpses into Ai's daily life. His universe is delightful, filled with honest and heartfelt conversations, and imbued with kindness in spades."

—*The Los Angeles Review of Books*

"This inventive graphic memoir follows Ai throughout his life, exploring how he found his own voice and mission in a country where bucking the government's approved modes of expression could be life-ruining."

—*BookRiot*

"The internationally renowned Chinese artist recalls a life of resistance and oppression . . . A welcome introduction to the life and work of an exemplary artist."—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

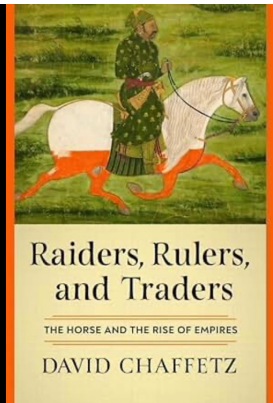
"Poignant, meditative . . . This is a sage and inventive embroidery of philosophy, family memoir, and cultural history."—*Publishers Weekly*

Raiders, Traders and Rulers

by David Chaffetz

Norton

July 30, 2024



A captivating history of civilization that reveals the central role of the horse in culture, commerce, and conquest.

No animal is so entangled in human history as the horse. The thread starts in prehistory, with a small, shy animal, hunted for food. Over time, the domestication of horses, followed by the advent of riding, powered mighty empires: Persian, Mongol, Mughal. For more than two millennia, from Iran and Afghanistan to China, India, and, later, Russia, the deep and ancient bond between humans and their horses connected a vast continent, forged trade routes, linked cultures, and fueled war machines.

Scholar of Asian history David Chaffetz tells the story of the steppe raiders, rulers, and traders who amassed power and wealth on horseback from the Bronze Age through the twentieth century. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources—in Persian, Turkish, Russian, and Chinese—Chaffetz presents a groundbreaking new view of what has been known as the “Silk Road,” and a lively history of the great horse empires that shaped civilization.

Rights sold: World (Norton)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/raiders-rulers-and-traders-by-david-chaffetz/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Raiders-Rulers-Traders-Horse%20Empires/dp/1324051469/ref>

"Fascinating, compelling, and scholarly history of horses, raiders, and rulers that brings the great horse-powered empires of Central Asia to life, and places the horse at the center of world history where it belongs."

— **Simon Sebag Montefiore, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The World: A Family History of Humanity***

"A dog may be humanity's best friend, but the horse is certainly the greatest ally. With the strength of horses added to their own modest physical abilities, humans radically changed everything from agriculture and transportation to sports and warfare. From milking to marauding, David Chaffetz's *Raiders, Rulers, and Traders* takes the reader on a well-paced ride through the history of this revolutionary and emotional alliance of human and animal."

— **Jack Weatherford, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World***

The Cycle: Confronting the Pain of Periods and PMDD

by Shalene Gupta

Flatiron

February 27, 2024

Confronting the Pain of
Periods and PMDD

The
CYCLE

Shalene Gupta

A groundbreaking exploration of a debilitating disorder that's underdiagnosed and misunderstood.

Most days, Shalene Gupta was the person she'd always aspired to be. She was hardworking, excelled at work, and had a long-term boyfriend whom she desperately loved.

Then, every month, like clockwork, it all came crashing down in fits of rage and inconsolable sorrow. Work became meaningless, and she struggled to get through the day. The lows were subterranean.

After years of struggling to get an answer from doctors, Shalene learned she was one of millions who live with premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), a severe form of PMS. The physical and mental effects of this disorder are undeniable, but for decades, some doctors didn't even consider PMDD a real condition. How could so many people be suffering at the hands of a chronic condition that doesn't even exist?

Rights sold: World (Flatiron)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/the-cycle-confronting-the-pain-of-periods-and-pmdd-by-shalene-gupta/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Cycle-Confronting-Pain-Periods-PMDD/dp/1250882893/ref>

"Shalene Gupta deftly blends her own personal experiences with a meticulously researched history of how the medical establishment has understood (or failed to understand) PMDD through the years. An unflinching exploration of the stigma surrounding periods and mental health, and how we need far more support, research, and treatment options for conditions like PMDD that affect both."

—**Karen Tang, MD, MPH, author of *It's Not Hysteria***

"As someone who also suffers from PMDD, I found that Gupta offers crucial information on this too often misunderstood and misdiagnosed medical condition. *The Cycle* reaffirms how critical it is to believe women and center the stories of women of color. Her book gives us permission to talk about having PMDD and the pain in our lives."

—**Anushay Hossain, author of *The Pain Gap***

"A brilliant, deeply researched book about living with premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD) — something that too often is experienced as a shaming, quiet, and personal mystery in a society that is uncomfortable discussing periods or validating their significant medical and mental health impact. Gupta combines memoir and research flawlessly so that readers understand the profound personal impact of PMDD as well as the financial, interpersonal, and societal consequences. This is a critical addition to books about medical issues that are too often under-researched, undiagnosed, and stigmatizing to those who are suffering."

—**Michelle Bowdler, author of *Is Rape a Crime?***

The Catalyst: RNA and the Quest to Unlock Life's Deepest Secrets

by Tom Cech

Norton

June 4, 2024



One of Literary Hub's Most Anticipated Books of 2024

Written by one of our foremost scientists, *The Catalyst* is a must-read guide to the present and future of biology and medicine. Exploring the most transformative breakthroughs in biology since the discovery of the double helix, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist unveils the RNA age.

For over half a century, DNA has dominated science and the popular imagination as the “secret of life.” But over the last several decades, a quiet revolution has taken place. In a series of breathtaking discoveries, the biochemist Thomas R. Cech and a diverse cast of brilliant scientists have revealed that RNA—long overlooked as the passive servant of DNA—sits at the center of biology’s greatest mysteries: How did life begin? What makes us human? Why do we get sick and grow old? In *The Catalyst*, Cech finally brings together years of research to demonstrate that RNA is the true key to understanding life on Earth, from its very origins to our future.

A gripping journey of discovery, *The Catalyst* moves from the early experiments that first hinted at RNA’s spectacular powers, to Cech’s own paradigm-shifting finding that it can catalyze cellular reactions, to the cutting-edge biotechnologies poised to reshape our health. We learn how RNA—once thought merely to transmit DNA’s genetic instructions to the cell’s protein-making machinery—may have jump-started life, and how it can cut our lives short through viral diseases and cancer. We see how RNA is implicated in the aging process and explore the darker depths of the supposed fountain of youth, telomerase. We catch a glimpse into how RNA-powered therapies—from CRISPR, the revolutionary tool that uses RNA to rewrite the code of life, to the groundbreaking mRNA vaccines that have saved millions during the pandemic, and more—may enable us to improve and even extend life beyond nature’s current limits.

Rights sold: World (Norton)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/the-catalyst-by-thomas-r-cech/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Catalyst-Quest-Unlock-Deepest-Secrets/dp/1324050683/ref>

“Cech is a lucid prose stylist, vividly communicating his and his colleagues’ excitement as they have unraveled RNA’s secrets. . . . An expert update on the hottest topics in biology.”

—*Kirkus*

“Thomas Cech led the way into what will be known as the age of RNA. When others were focused on DNA, Cech probed the mysteries of the then lesser-known, but wondrous molecule that creates the stuff of life and is a key to life’s origins. *The Catalyst* vividly describes the marvels of RNA and the discoveries—from vaccines to gene-editing tools—that will shape our future. I am so glad Cech wrote this book.”

—**Walter Isaacson, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *Elon Musk* and *The Code Breaker***

“Nobel laureate Thomas Cech takes us into the world of RNA with a story that’s as enlightening as it is fascinating. It’s a must read for anyone interested in the molecule that has shaped life itself and is driving the future of science and medicine.”

—**Jennifer Doudna, Nobel laureate, co-inventor of CRISPR gene editing, and founder of the Innovative Genomics Institute**

“A series of dogma-smashing and Nobel-winning discoveries about RNA has transformed our understanding of how life works and given birth to exquisite, life-saving technologies. Thomas Cech’s *The Catalyst* is a masterful account of the RNA revolution in biology and medicine by one of its brilliant pioneers.”

—**Sean B. Carroll, author of *The Serengeti Rules* and *A Series of Fortunate Events***

“An absorbing account of the scientific journey that led to the development of crucial RNA-based vaccine technologies and other important medical breakthroughs. Readers will come away from this fascinating book feeling more knowledgeable and empowered to make decisions about their own health.”

—**Kenneth Frazier, retired CEO of Merck & Co.**

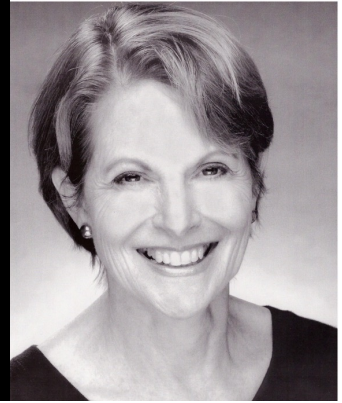
“For brains of a mortal frequency, RNA may have only popped into consciousness with the groundbreaking introduction of COVID-targeting mRNA vaccines and CRISPR therapies. In the telling of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Tom Cech, RNA was long the sidelined brother of DNA, with its showy double helix. Thanks to work by Cech and others, the power of RNA to impact aging and catalyze biochemical reactions is made apparent.”

—*Literary Hub*

90 Seconds to Minute

by Charlotte Jacobs

Rowman & Littlefield
Summer 2025



The gripping story of Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Nakamura Thurlow, now 85, and her lifelong struggle to abolish nuclear weapons, waged against the most powerful countries of the world, and culminating in her being one of the winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Born into a family of samurai origin, Setsuko saw her privileged life change forever with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, followed by four years of devastating war, culminating in the annihilation of Hiroshima by the first atomic bomb. She lost almost everything except her indomitable will. "Never again" she vowed to her slaughtered family and classmates as she embarked on her improbable, remarkable quest. It was a long road, and the odds were against her.

In the wake of the bombing, she endured hunger, radiation sickness, and near drowning from a deadly typhoon. Her emotional pain proved even more overwhelming: nightmares of scattered body parts and the screams of friends being incinerated. How could she rise above that trauma? How could she reconcile a loving God in whom she believed with the massacre of so many innocents in such an inhumane way by a Christian nation? Where was God on August 6, 1945? she asked. To be published on the 80th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan.

Rights sold: North American (Rowman & Littlefield); Australia-New Zealand (University of Melbourne Press)

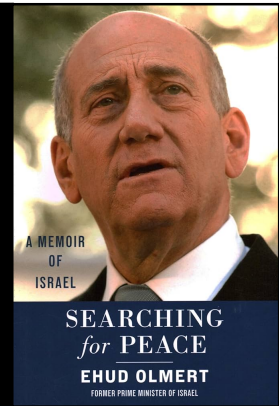
"Charlotte Jacobs has a most compelling story to tell—the biography of Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor of Hiroshima. Only biography has the power to convey what happened at the dawn of the nuclear age."

—Kai Bird, co-author of *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

Searching for Peace: A Memoir of Israel

by Ehud Olmert

Brookings Institute Press
Coming in Paperback Fall 2024



With a new forward on the Gaza War and the future of the Middle East

The compelling memoir of former Israeli prime minister Olmert who almost made peace with the Palestinians. The book offers a riveting political story and an unparalleled window into Israeli history, peacemaking, politics, U.S.-Israel relations, and the future of the Middle East.

The child of parents who were members of the Irgun, the paramilitary group that fought for the establishment of Israel, Olmert became the youngest member of the Israeli Knesset in 1973, serving in the right-wing Likud party. He rose quickly in the party, serving in national government before being elected mayor of Jerusalem in 1993. As mayor he overcame decades of municipal malaise, inertia, and waves of terror attacks to bring huge improvements in the city's infrastructure, education, and welfare. Although a child of the Israeli right, it was during his mayoralty that he realized the inevitability of compromise and the need to divide the city in any future peace agreement with the Palestinians.

Olmert rejoined the national government in 2003 as a top aide to then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. After Sharon suffered a debilitating stroke in 2006, Olmert took over as acting prime minister, then led Sharon's new centrist party Kadima to victory in elections. Heading a coalition government, Olmert led Israel through the war with Lebanon in July 2006 and approved the dramatic strike on Syria's nuclear reactor the following year.

From late 2006 through 2008, Olmert engaged in some three dozen negotiations with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. The talks, Olmert says, came "within a hair's breadth" of reaching a comprehensive peace deal.

At the same time, Olmert was fighting allegations that he had illegally accepted large sums of money from a well-connected American businessman. He was acquitted of all but a minor charge against him, but in 2014 he was convicted on charges of taking \$15,000 in bribes involving the construction of an industrial park while he served as Minister of Industry and Trade. He served 16 months in prison, using his time to write these memoirs.

Olmert wrote the book almost entirely from inside a prison cell after being convicted of bribery charges in 2014.

Rights sold: World English (Rowman & Littlefield/Brookings)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/searching-for-peace-a-memoir-of-israel-by-ehud-olmert>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Searching-Peace-Memoir-Ehud-Olmert/dp/0815738927>

THE GAZA WAR: THE INSIDE STORY

by Yaakov Katz and Amir Bobhot

St. Martin's Press
Coming 2025

Authors of THE WEAPON WIZARDS, former editor of The Jerusalem Post Yaakov Katz and senior defense analyst for Walla Dr. Amir Bobhot's inside narrative account of how Israel fought the war after the massacres of October 7.

Rights sold: World English (St. Martin's Press)

Arcangela

by Meredith Ray and Lynn Lara Westwater

Bloomsbury
Coming 2026

National Endowment for the Humanities fellows Meredith K. Ray and Lynn Lara Westwater's ARCANGELA, a biography of Renaissance feminist, Italian nun Arcangela Tarabotti, revealing how her groundbreaking and long-suppressed writings defied cloistered silence and antagonized the Church, and offering a portrait of convent life and 17th-century Venice for publication in 2026.

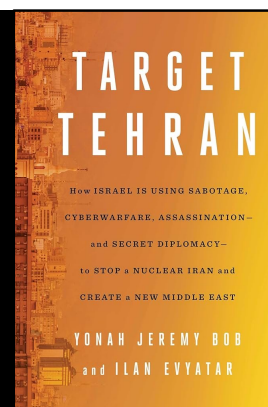
Rights sold: World English (Bloomsbury)

Target Tehran

by Yonah Jeremy Bob and Ilan Evyatar

Simon & Schuster

September 2023



How Israel Is Using Sabotage, Cyberwarfare, Assassination, and Secret Diplomacy to Stop a Nuclear Iran and Create a New Middle East

The remarkable story of how Israel used sabotage, assassination, cyberwar—and diplomacy—to thwart Iran's development of nuclear weapons, in the process forging a new Middle East by uniting with Sunni Arab nations to stop their common enemy.

Rights sold: World English (Simon & Schuster); Yediot Books (Israel)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/target-tehran-by-yonah-jeremy-bob-and-ilan-evyatar/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Target-Tehran-Cyberwarfare-Assassination-Diplomacy/dp/B0BWSDY73T>

"*Target Tehran* is replete with anti-Iran cyber-warfare and sabotage successes. . . . Bob and Evyatar reveal, basically for the first time, how Mossad's work helped create the environment culminating in the Abraham Accords." — **John Bolton** — *The Wall Street Journal*

"*Target Tehran* is more than a thrilling tale that combines intelligence operations, diplomacy, and espionage. It is a story that sheds fresh light and understanding on the threat from Iran and why is vitally important to ensure that the theocratic dictatorship in Tehran does not gain access to the most destructive weapons on earth." — **Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster (USA-Ret.), former U.S. National Security Advisor and author of *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World***

"The book contains some fascinating descriptions of Israeli intelligence activities. . . . A valuable contribution to our understanding of Israel's extraordinary intelligence and diplomatic efforts." — **Todd Kushner** — *Washington Independent Review of Books*

"Bob and Evyatar, both contributors to the *Jerusalem Post*, have deep connections to Israel's security agencies and government processes. . . . Throughout this remarkable narrative, the authors provide valuable context to the new Middle East picture. Built on meticulous, diligent research, this book is key reading for those interested in geopolitical issues." — **Kirkus Reviews**

"One of the most accurate and fascinating books so far about the secret war waged by Israel and her allies against the Iranian nuclear project. In a fast, riveting style, Bob and Evyatar describe this secret war that will have a tremendous impact on world history. But it leaves open one cardinal question: will Iran become a nuclear power? Or will Israel, the US and their allies be ready to use all possible means, including the military option, in order to prevent the ayatollahs from achieving their dark goals?" — **Micael Bar Zohar, author of *Mossad: The Greatest Missions of the Israeli Secret Service* and *The Mossad Amazons: The Amazing Women in the Israeli Secret Service***

"Drawing on interviews with Mossad officials, the authors' well-paced narrative steepens readers in intricate spy craft and high-wire diplomacy, making these events feel like a true-life James Bond mission that's carefully calibrated to shape American foreign policy and Middle East geopolitics. The result is an engrossing look at one of the most effective covert-ops projects of recent times." — **Publishers Weekly**

"A remarkable story about the war against Iran's attempts to achieve military nuclear capability. While I cannot confirm the details presented in the book, it is no secret that Israel and its allies are engaged in a relentless fight to stop Iran, and the authors relate this struggle in a thrilling fashion, as well as discussing the important moves to develop relations with Muslim countries afraid of an Iranian bomb." — **Danny Yatom, former Mossad chief and Member of Knesset (Labor)**

"When I served as the head of Israeli military intelligence in 1995, the Israeli intelligence community estimated that if Iran moved forward with a success-oriented process toward a nuclear weapon, Iran would obtain the bomb within a decade. The campaign which has been carried out since the 1990s to prevent the Iranian regime from gaining a military nuclear capability has been mostly clandestine, chapters and individual episodes of which are described in *Target Tehran*." — **Moshe Ya'alon, former Israeli defense minister and military chief**

"Israel's covert campaign against Iran's nuclear program has gone on for nearly three decades. Drawing from a wealth of reliable sources, including esteemed intelligence officers, this compelling narrative offers a meticulously updated chronicle of Mossad's audacious undertakings aimed at impeding Iran's pursuit of nuclear weaponry." — **Uri Bar-Joseph, author of *The Angel: The Egyptian Spy Who Saved Israel***

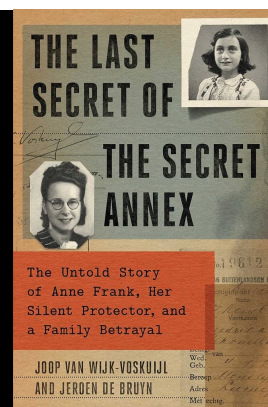
"A must-read for fans of international affairs, espionage, and drama. Based on hard facts and intelligent commentary, the writers expose clandestine details about the most dangerous threat to humanity of our time: The relentless efforts of the clerical regime in Iran to develop and possess nuclear weapons in order to fulfill their radical Shia Islamist apocalyptic vision. A riveting page-turner that is both scary and hopeful at the same time." — **Danny Ayalon, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.**

The Last Secret of the Secret Annex

by Joop van-Wyck-Voskuijl and Jeroen De Bruyn

Simon & Schuster

May 2023



The Untold Story of Anne Frank, Her Silent Protector and a Family Betrayal

A riveting historical investigation and family memoir that intertwines the iconic narrative of Anne Frank with the untold story of Bep Voskuijl, her protector and closest confidante in the Annex, bringing us closer to understanding one of the great secrets of World War II.

Rights sold to date: World English (S&S); Portugal (Planeta Manuscrito (Grupo Planeta); Brazil (Editora Planeta do Brasil Ltda); France (Editions Michel Lafon); Poland (Znak); Italy (Newton Compton Editori); Hungary (Európa Könyvkiadó Kft); Spain (Newton Compton Editores).

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/the-last-secret-of-the-secret-annex-by-joop-van-wijk-voskuijl-and-jeroen-de-bruyn/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Last-Secret-Annex-Protector-Betrayal/dp/1982198214>

"Part biography and part whodunit, *The Last Secret of the Secret Annex* is, above all, a bereaved son's *cri de coeur*, simultaneously mourning and celebrating the mother he lost even before she died."

—**Wall Street Journal**

"An important contribution to the literature on Anne Frank."

—**Kirkus Reviews**

[A] superbly well-written, intimate, engrossing, and heartrending reckoning with the endless damage done by genocide.

—**Booklist (Starred)**

"The unspeakable tragedy of Anne Frank will never lose its haunting power over successive generations. This gripping account adds a missing human dimension to the story of the young girl hidden in an attic during the Nazi occupation of Holland—and those who helped and those who betrayed her. I read it in one gulp—as will you."

—**KATI MARTON**, author of *The Chancellor*

"This book, as much a work of painful family therapy as painstaking historical analysis, throws unexpected light on the people who protected Anne Frank and perhaps on the one who betrayed her. A riveting read."—**PETER HAYES**, author of *Why? Explaining the Holocaust*

"It took a network of courageous helpers to allow Anne Frank and her family to hide for as long as they did from the Nazis. It only took one person to betray them. This is a book that not only offers tantalizing new clues about their betrayer; it also sheds new light on the least known helper in a saga that encapsulates the tragedy of the Holocaust."—**ANDREW NAGORSKI**, author of *Saving Freud: The Rescuers Who Brought Him to Freedom*

"This powerful story brings to life Bep's heroism and illuminates generations of a Dutch family, its secrets, and the trauma the Nazi occupation bequeathed to the future."

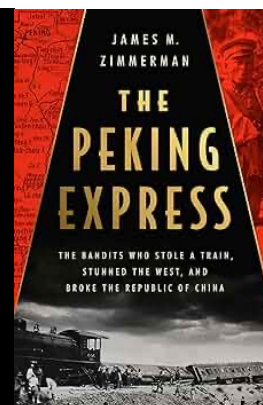
PAMELA S. NADELL, author of *America's Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*

"For long, the story of Bep Voskuijl, one of Anne Frank's courageous helpers, has been mostly kept in the dark. This captivating book tells her moving and tragic story, her wartime assistance in the Secret Annex, and the long shadows of the war on her life and her family's. The book distinguishes clearly between facts and possible interpretations."—**DR. BART WALLET**, professor of early modern and modern Jewish history at the University of Amsterdam

The Peking Express: The Bandits Who Stole a Train, Stunned the West and Broke the Republic of China

by James M. Zimmerman

Public Affairs
April 2023



A Murder on the Orient Express-style adventure, set in China's republican era.

Brilliantly written, with new and original research, *The Peking Express* tells the incredible true story of a clash that shocked the world—becoming so celebrated that it inspired several Hollywood movies—and set the course for China's two-decade civil war.

Publicity and reviews to date: PW and Kirkus reviews, Financial Times, NY Times, Wall Street Journal and AP forthcoming.

Rights sold: World English (Public Affairs, Hachette). Simplified Chinese (Ginko). Japan (Asia-Paific)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/the-peking-express-by-james-m-zimmerman>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Peking-Express-Bandits-Stunned-Republic/dp/1541701704>

"Excellent...One of the salutary features of this book is Zimmerman's use of quoted speech, all of it sourced from memoirs and newspaper reports, so the human voice is heard often and to good effect."
—**Paul Theroux, *The New York Times***

"Mr. Zimmerman peppers his fast-moving narrative with colorful details and memorable characters among both the hostages and their captors."—***The Wall Street Journal***

"*The Peking Express* is a vivid, exhilarating account of China's greatest train robbery of the early twentieth century. A true story about bandits, kidnapping, forced marches across the countryside, a pursuing Chinese army, diplomatic intrigue, and a cast of rather unique characters in 1923 China—what's not to love???"—**Paul French, author of *Midnight in Peking* and *City of Devils***

"[A] gripping debut history... Zimmerman weaves in snapshots of a country in turmoil, contrasting walled cities and starving villagers caught in the cross fire between bandits and warlords with thriving metropolises built by foreign interests. Dramatic and meticulously researched, it's an immersive look at a forgotten chapter of Chinese history."—***Publishers Weekly***

"*The Peking Express* is a fascinating story, and the author has done an amazing amount of research. It's really an intriguing, impressive work."—**Ian Johnson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *The Souls of China***

"After a diet of turgid perorations by Xi Jinping, a reader needs relief. Zimmerman's tale of the 1923 hijacking of the *Peking Express* is just such an antidote. Not only has he done his research, but he spins a helluva good yarn!"—**Orville Schell, author of *My Old Home***

"Vividly characterized... Tremendous insight into little-remembered yet crucial events at the beginning of the formation of modern China."—***Kirkus Reviews***

"*The Peking Express* is a dramatic story of survival, heroism, and political intrigue. It takes the reader from the bustling cosmopolitan city of Shanghai to the impoverished, rural landscape of the mysterious and breathtakingly beautiful mountains of southern Shandong. Zimmerman delivers a gripping account that captivates the reader from beginning to end—an ending that is both climatic and riveting in its description of the horrors and excesses of China's Warlord Era. This is a book that readers will never forget!"—**Lingling Wei, award-winning journalist; chief China correspondent, the *Wall Street Journal*; and coauthor of *Superpower Showdown***

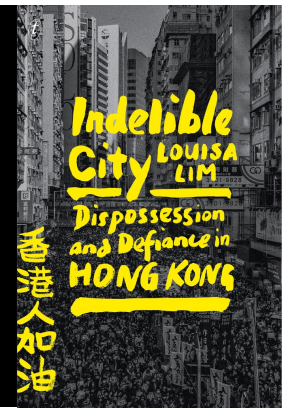
"James Zimmerman, a Beijing-based lawyer who has lived in China for more than 25 years, has achieved a modern rarity. He has written a gripping new book on China that has nothing to do with how US-China rivalry is plunging the world into instability or whether Beijing is getting too close to Moscow...So extraordinary are the events recounted in *The Peking Express* that it reads like fantasy....Aside from yielding a captivating story of robbery, murder, hostages and intrigue, *The Peking Express* should also appeal to students of Chinese history."—***Financial Times***

"'The Peking Express: The Bandits Who Stole a Train, Stunned the West, and Broke the Republic of China' takes mountains of research and boils it down to a digestible telling of the 1923 train derailment that, despite having considerable political and personal consequences, had been largely forgotten. Aided by pictures and quotes — some directly from the bandits, hostages and other players involved in the so-called Lincheng Outrage — the lawyer takes on a surprisingly engaging voice as a historical author, cutting between people and scenes like a movie.... If you like historically accurate retellings of niche events, you'll be pleased...if you're willing to go along for the ride you'll find transportive moments and highlights of intrigue." —***The Associated Press***

Indelible City: Dispossession and Defiance in Honk Kong

by Lousia Lim

Riverhead
April 2022



An award-winning journalist and longtime Hong Konger indelibly captures the place, its people, and the untold history they are claiming, just as it is being erased.

Named on the New York Times 100 Notable Books List of 2022. Shortlisted for a Walkley Award. A most anticipated book of 2022 by NEWSWEEK, LITERARY HUB and COSMOPOLITAN.

Rights sold: World English (Riverhead, PRH); Italy (ADD Editore)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/indelible-city-dispossession-and-defiance-in-hong-kong-by-lousia-lim>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Indelible-City-Dispossession-Defiance-Hong/dp/0593191811>

"Riveting...a vivid and vital contribution to postcolonial history." —**Publishers Weekly, STARRED review**

"Arriving at the exact right moment, *Indelible City* charts the course of the region by digging deeply into its history. Lim deftly weaves her way through the ages, arriving at our current time, all the while capturing Hong Kong's soul inside the book's pages." —**Newsweek**

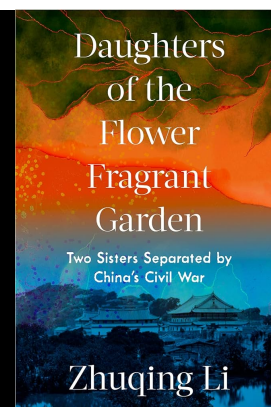
"Lim's outstanding history of Hong Kong is an epic must-read...From the first page, the importance of language and the voices of Hong Kongers are central themes. Yet *Indelible City* captures much more as it records the struggle of people oppressed by British colonialism and suppressed by communist China yet determined in their pursuit of freedom and cultural identity." —**Booklist, STARRED review**

"Throughout this smooth mixture of reportage and memoir, Lim ably captures the increasingly malignant actions by the Communist Party, which have become more alarming by the day. An affecting portrayal of the spirited nature of Hong Kong and the many challenges it faces." —**Kirkus Reviews**

Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters Separated by China's Civil War

by Zhuqing Li

Norton
June 2022



Sisters separated by war forge new identities as they are forced to choose between family, nation, and their own independence.

Rights sold: World English (Norton); Complex Chinese (Commercial Press)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/daughters-of-the-flower-fragrant-garden-by-zhuqing-li/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Daughters-Flower-Fragrant-Garden-Separated/dp/0393541770>

"Exceptional...*Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden* is not a history of Taiwan-China relations, but in telling this gripping narrative of one family divided by the 'bamboo curtain,' Li sheds light on how Taiwan came to be — and why China might one day risk everything to take it."

— **Deirdre Mask, *New York Times***

"[Li] recounts this real-life saga of rupture and reunion in propulsive, poignant detail. The book's gripping narrative reveals the devastating human cost of the Chinese Revolution and will resonate, in particular, with anyone whose family has been severed by political events... The author's perspective, from having lived both inside and outside the People's Republic of China, yields exceptional insight into her aunts' personal histories and the constantly shifting political vicissitudes they endured. She unspools the unexpected, accidental swerves each life took with spellbinding grace. Here, in the pages of her book, she has knit together the family story as it was lived in both Chinas."

— **Diane Cole, *Wall Street Journal***

"At last, a profoundly human story that illuminates the staggering personal consequences of China and Taiwan's historic split—from both sides. Rare is the author who can portray war and its aftermath so evenhandedly. This powerful page-turner of a family torn apart—and surviving—is as unforgettable as it is important."

— **Nicole Mones, author of *The Last Chinese Chef***

"With sensitivity and sincerity, *Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden* takes readers through the most complicated, difficult, sorrowful, and indecipherable years in China's modern history."
— **Ai Wei Wei, author of *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows***

"A heartrending story, beautifully told, about the struggles and triumphs of two sisters separated by the Taiwan Strait, but united in their determination to pursue meaningful lives amid political upheaval. I couldn't stop reading it."
— **Amy Stanley, author of *Stranger in the Shogun's City***

"In gorgeous prose, Zhuqing Li tells a story that is at once distinctive and familiar, of Chinese families of a certain generation that lived through wars, revolutions, separations, and reunions. I couldn't put it down. A lovely book."
— **Mae Ngai, author of *The Chinese Question***

"Beginning in war-torn China, *Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden* tells a compelling story about diaspora, root-seeking, and the triumph of familial love and human perseverance."
— **David Wang, author of *The Lyrical in Epic Time***

"Zhuqing Li has captured the agonizing struggle of late-twentieth-century Chinese history within the microcosm of her own extraordinary family. This is a tale of accidental exile, capitalism and communism, medicine and mercantilism, lifelong nostalgia and willful forgetting, and the breathtaking resilience of two sisters, Li's indomitable aunts. How lucky we are that their niece has the skill and devotion to tell their story so well."
— **Janice Nimura, author of *The Doctors Blackwell***

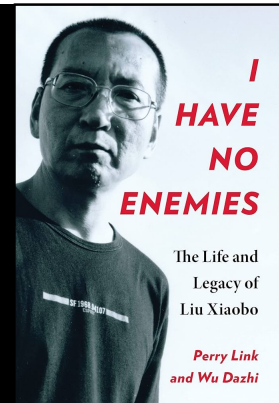
"Beautifully woven family memories coalesce into a vivid history of two very different Chinas."
— **Kirkus Reviews**

"A very personal story informed by a scholarly set of interests...a memoir and family history, driven by the author's interest in figuring out the things that the family didn't talk about."
— **Jeffrey Wasserstrom, *Fivebooks.com***

I Have No Enemies: The Life and Legacy of Liu Xiaobo

by Perry Link and Wu Dazhi (Anonymous)

Columbia University Press
June 2023



The definitive biography of Liu Xiaobo, offering a meticulously researched account of the twists and turns of a remarkable life.

Late one night in December 2008, police arrived at the home of Liu Xiaobo—China's leading dissident, a key figure in the prodemocracy manifesto Charter 08—and took him away. When Liu won the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize as a political prisoner, the award was bestowed on an empty chair. Inside China, the regime sought to erase every trace of his existence. Liu died of liver cancer in 2017 without ever having been allowed to return home.

I Have No Enemies is the definitive biography of Liu Xiaobo, offering a meticulously researched account of the twists and turns of a remarkable life. Perry Link and Wu Dazhi explore Liu's upbringing, immersion in classical Chinese poetry and philosophy, bold challenges to literary conformity, and involvement in democratic movements. They trace the lifelong evolution of his thinking and chronicle his persecution, incarceration, and death.

Rights sold: World English, Japanese, Korean (Columbia U Press); Complex Chinese (INK Publishing)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/i-have-no-enemies-by-perry-link-and-wu-dazhi>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Have-No-Enemies-Legacy-Xiaobo-ebook/dp/B0BKTTTSY2>

Meticulously researched and wonderfully crafted...
—**Yang Su** — *Foreign Affairs*

The best biography ever written on the Nobel Peace Prize laureate...an absolute must-read... —**Jean-Philippe Béja**
— *The China Quarterly*

I Have No Enemies is a moving biography of the courageous Liu Xiaobo. Told with affection, insight, and rich details, it shows how a restless boy gradually grew into a man who firmly believed in benevolence and love, "because love produces strength by binding people together." The fluid, exuberant, and well-textured prose make this book a pure pleasure to read. —**Ha Jin, author of *A Song Everlasting***

This is an extraordinary work: a meticulous portrait of Liu Xiaobo, his intellectual and activist community, and a eriod in recent Chinese history notoriously hard to rpesearch. It is moving—and essential—reading, reflecting people's incredible tenacity in pursuing their rights and freedoms even in the face of unyielding repression. —**Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch and author of *China, Cambodia, and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence***

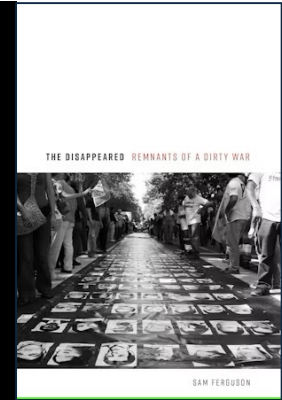
This is sure to be the work of reference on Liu Xiaobo for many years to come. It is meticulously researched, drawing on unequaled access to sources close to Liu Xiaobo as well as a vast body of references that derive from deep familiarity with China's intellectual scene over the last fifty years. —**Sebastian Veg, author of *Minjian: The Rise of China's Grassroots Intellectuals***

A moving and well researched biography... meticulously covers an incredible amount of extremely sensitive topics which range from corrupt officials, discrimination against various groups and heavy matters related to human trafficking and police brutality. —**East West Notes**

The Disappeared: Remnants of a Dirty War

by Sam Ferguson

Potomac Books
July 2023



The Disappeared tells the extraordinary saga of Argentina's attempt to right the wrongs of an unspeakably dark past.

Using a recent human rights trial as his lens, Sam Ferguson addresses two central questions of our age: How is mass atrocity possible, and What should be done in its wake?

From 1976 to 1983 thousands of people were the victims of state terrorism during Argentina's so-called Dirty War. Ferguson recounts a twenty-two-month trial of the most notorious perpetrators of this atrocity, who ran a secret prison from the Naval Mechanics School in Buenos Aires.

The navy executed as many as five thousand political "subversives," most of whom were sedated and thrown alive out of airplanes into the South Atlantic. The victims of these secret death flights and others who went missing during the regime are known as los desaparecidos—"the disappeared."

Rights sold: World English (Potomac Books)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/the-disappeared-by-sam-ferguson/>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Disappeared-Remnants-Dirty-War/dp/1640121528>

"In *The Disappeared*, Sam Ferguson asks an urgent moral question: what does justice look like in the aftermath of atrocity? If that question remains an abstraction in too many places around the world, Ferguson addresses it concretely—and unforgettably—in this riveting new account. . . . In Ferguson's hands you'll feel as if you, too, are sitting in the repurposed movie theater with the faded pink drapes in 2009, watching an important political spectacle commence. But *The Disappeared* also offers a clear-eyed assessment of the limits of the law and the kinds of collective heartbreak it is not equipped to heal."—**Sarah Stillman, staff writer for the *New Yorker***

"With the eye of a novelist and the brilliance of a lawyer, Sam Ferguson has given us a gripping and world-illuminating account of Argentina's relentless and almost heroic attempt to confront the horrors of its past."

—**Owen Fiss, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Law, Yale Law School**

"Sam Ferguson's book tells the remarkable saga of this twenty-two-month trial and the larger story of how and why Argentina is prosecuting its aging Dirty Warriors. It wrestles with the deepest questions of whether law can do justice for the past. This is an important and timely book that should be read by all of those who are interested in fostering international human rights and promoting democracy—and a reminder that societies never really turn the page on the past."—**Tina Rosenberg, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author of *The Haunted: Facing Europe's Ghosts after Communism***

"The true birth of the contemporary human rights movement can be traced not to Nuremberg or even to Auschwitz but to the dark recesses of the Naval Mechanics School in Buenos Aires. . . . [*The Disappeared*] is a gripping narrative; Sam Ferguson has written a fascinating, painstaking, and necessary book. Anyone who cares about human rights—or indeed the human condition—must read it."—**Mark Danner, author of *The Massacre at El Mozote***

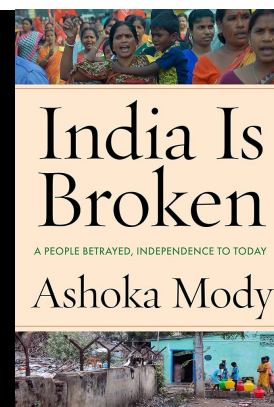
"Can there ever be justice for Latin America's disappeared? This remarkable book analyzes the question through the prism of Argentina's contemporary crimes against humanity trials for atrocities committed during its so-called 'Dirty War' of the 1970s and the possibility of delayed justice. As a lawyer and observer, Ferguson presents a keen understanding in this nuanced and highly readable account. . . . Through [Ferguson's] interviews, comprehensive research, and first-hand observations, a lucid narrative emerges here: Argentina has imagined and created a better future through the trials by opening up its dark past. Argentina has achieved a level of self-reflection and judgment that tragically remains largely exceptional among nations. Given the rise of authoritarianism around the world, this is hugely necessary and riveting reading for students, academics, and political analysts alike."—**Ruti G. Teitel, Ernst C. Stiefel Professor of Comparative Law at New York Law School, author of *Globalizing Transitional Justice***

India is Broken: A People Betrayed, Independence to Today

by Ashoka Mody

Stanford University Press

February 2023



A provocative new account of how India moved relentlessly from its hope-filled founding in 1947 to the dramatic economic and democratic breakdowns of today.

Rights sold: World English (excluding India) Stanford U Press; India (Juggernaut, by author); Chinese (simplified) (Folio); Germany (Campus)

<https://bernsteinliteraryagency.com/blog/india-is-broken-by-ashoka-mody>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/India-Broken-People-Betrayed-Independence/dp/1503630056>

"Mody's moral and intellectual courage is extraordinary. Not for him is the notion that India, now the world's most populous country, is on the path to shared prosperity and stable democracy. Instead, he sees a distorted economy and a failing polity. 'The grim reality,' he asserts, 'is that to employ all working-age Indians, the economy needs to create 200mn jobs over the next decade, an impossible order after the past decade of declining employment numbers.' This book is a valuable corrective." —**Martin Wolf, Financial Times**

"A powerful and exhaustively argued antidote to the magical thinking about India's economic potential that is so much in vogue." —**John Reed, Financial Times**

"This book is the most sustained, accessible, and trenchantly argued alternative account of India's political economy and democratic crisis that I have seen in many years. Engaging and well written, it tells a striking and disturbing story. A major achievement." —**Thomas Blom Hansen, Stanford University**

"A compellingly readable history of Indian politics and economics since independence: Nehru's early mistakes—especially his tragic lack of attention to health, education, and jobs—multiplied into performative and destructive politics in the hands of his heirs. This is a profound account of how any democracy, even the world's largest, can be destroyed from within. Great storytelling. Hard to put down!" —**Angus Deaton, Nobel Laureate in Economics**

"Combining statistical data with creative media, such as literature and cinema, to create strong, accessible, people-driven narrative, this book is a meditation on the interplay between democracy and economic progress, with lessons extending far beyond India. Mody proposes a path forward that is fraught with its own peril, but which nevertheless offers something resembling hope." —**Discovery: Research at Princeton**

"*India is Broken* is a masterful, wonderfully readable but searing indictment of the failures of Indian economic policy since Independence. Brilliantly weaving into his account, a history of the key political events of the era, Mody chronicles how a dismal catalogue of flawed economic strategies and a dysfunctional political system have led to a country that is unable to produce enough jobs, where religious divisions keep growing, and inequality is relentlessly rising. An indispensable book for anyone trying to understand this complicated country." —**Liaquat Ahamed, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Lords of Finance***

"A magisterial political and economic history of post-colonial India, written with extraordinary eloquence and passion. Mody argues that successive leaders have failed the country's hundreds of millions of poor and borderline poor on its path from nascent democracy to mature authoritarian state. All too often the IMF, the World Bank, and other donors were willing to sign off on economic policies that had little chance of success. *India is Broken* will be a touchstone in policy debates for years to come." —**Kenneth Rogoff, Harvard University, and coauthor of *This Time is Different***

"A detailed and richly researched study of India's economy from independence to the present day, *India Is Broken* delves into many of the critical yet overlooked aspects of India's political and economic history. While I cannot endorse everything he writes, Mody's highly-readable account lays bare the deception and failure of the last several years, while maintaining a focus on the important details of economic policy." —**Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament and author of *The Struggle for India's Soul***

"This is a well-documented readable history of the major economic and social policy strategies of Indian governments, from Nehru to Modi.... [Mody] makes a powerful case to the effect that education outcomes cannot be separated from politics." —**John Richards, International Journal of Educational Development**

"Fundamentally, Mody's claim is right. India is broken. It offers a poor deal to its working-age population, few good jobs and little welfare. A humanitarian crisis for migrant workers shortly after COVID-19 broke out was a brutal reminder of the condition. The book's message is stark and demands attention. That it is a highly readable account of India's development enhances the appeal." —**Tirthankar Roy, The Developing Economies**

"This book asks a straightforward question: has Indian democracy, as practiced since independence in 1947, improved the lives of people in general? The answer, contends Mody, is no. To substantiate this distressing yet sobering response, Mody conducts an expansive analysis of leaders and policy making in modern India.... Recommended." —**A. A. Batabyal, CHOICE**