

Twelve Books That Will Change the Way You Think About International Affairs: The Lionel Gelber Prize Longlist

For Immediate Release: February 4, 2013 (Toronto and Washington) – Jury Chair William Thorsell has announced a dozen books on a wide range of foreign affairs subjects that comprise the 2013 Lionel Gelber Prize longlist, as follows:

- *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* by Daron Acemoglu (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and James A. Robinson (Cambridge, Massachusetts), published by Random House
- *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-1956* by Anne Applebaum (Washington, DC and Poland), published by Signal Editions
- *The Second Nuclear Age: Strategy, Danger, and the New Power Politics* by Paul Bracken (Connecticut), published by Times Books
- *The Twilight War: The Secret History of America's Thirty-Year Conflict with Iran* by David Crist (Potomac, Maryland), published by The Penguin Press
- *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else* by Chrystia Freeland (New York, New York), published by Doubleday Canada and The Penguin Press
- *The Endgame: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Iraq, from George W. Bush to Barack Obama* by Michael R. Gordon (Washington, DC) and General Bernard E. Trainor (Potomac Falls, Virginia), published by Pantheon Books
- *Ghosts of Empire: Britain's Legacies in the Modern World* by Kwasi Kwarteng (London, England), published by Public Affairs
- *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam* by Fredrik Logevall (Ithaca, NY), published by Random House
- *From the Ruins of Empire: The Intellectuals Who Remade Asia* by Pankaj Mishra (London, England), published by Doubleday Canada and Farrar, Straus & Giroux
- *Soldaten: On Fighting, Killing and Dying* by Sonke Neitzel (London, England) and Harald Welzer (Germany), published by Signal Editions
- *The Wars For Asia: 1911-1949* by S.C.M. Paine (Newport, Rhode Island), published by Cambridge University Press
- *Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy* by Andrew Preston (Cambridge, England), published by Knopf Canada and Alfred A. Knopf

From these twelve vital and compelling books, the jury will choose a shortlist of five titles, announced February 19th, and the winner on March 25th, via press release. The winner will be invited to accept their award and deliver a free public lecture on Monday, April 15th at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Jury Citations: Citations of all twelve longlisted books, written by Jury Chair William Thorsell, are included at the end of this release and on the prize website.

About the Jury: The jury is composed of Jury Chair William Thorsell (Toronto, Canada), Daniel W. Drezner (Medford, USA), Gaynor Lilian Johnson, Ph. D. (Manchester, UK), Walter Russell Mead (Annandale-on-Hudson, USA), and Margaret Wentz (Toronto, Canada).

Longlist Author Interview Podcasts: For the second year in a row, journalist Robert Steiner, director of the Fellowships in Global Journalism at the Munk School of Global Affairs, shares interviews that he has conducted with each of the longlisted authors. Find these interviews at the prize website and on iTunes under Podcasts.

About the Lionel Gelber Prize: The Lionel Gelber Prize is a literary award for the world's best non-fiction book in English on foreign affairs that seeks to deepen public debate on significant international issues. It was founded in 1989 in memory of Canadian diplomat Lionel Gelber (1907–1989). A prize of \$15,000 is awarded to the winner. The award is presented annually by The Lionel Gelber Foundation, in partnership with *Foreign Policy* Magazine and the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. Ezra F. Vogel was the 2012 prize winner for his book *Deng Xiao Ping and the Transformation of China*, published by the Belknap Press/Harvard University Press.

Author Interviews and High-Res Images: Click [here](#) to listen to interviews with each of the longlisted authors and to obtain high-res images of the authors and book covers.

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Prize Website: <http://www.utoronto.ca/munk/gelber/>

Jury Citations and Publisher Links:

Jury Citation: “*Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson brings a classically liberal perspective to the diverging fates of societies of similar potential over time. Ranging broadly in historic circumstance to illustrate their argument against the ‘extractive state’, the authors bring fresh information and new analytical tools to bear on the dynamics of national development. The regressive role of colonial regimes competes with local values and ideologies for the black ribbon in this stimulating thesis.” ***Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*** by Daron Acemoglu (Cambridge Massachusetts) and James A. Robinson (Cambridge, Massachusetts), published by Random House – link: <http://www.randomhouse.com/book/205014/why-nations-fail-by-daron-acemoglu-and-james-robinson>

Jury Citation: "In *Iron Curtain*, Anne Applebaum captures the demeaning claustrophobia of Soviet-dominated regimes in Central Europe after 1945. With devastating precision, Applebaum documents the subordination of every autonomous social force in these countries by a paranoid and greedy power. Rarely has the fragility of liberalism been more deftly portrayed."

Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-1956 by Anne Applebaum (Washington, DC and Poland), published by Signal Editions – link:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/book/4477/iron-curtain-by-anne-applebaum>

Jury Citation: "*The Second Nuclear Age: Strategy, Danger and the New Power Politics* by Paul Bracken urges an end to complacency about nuclear strategy post-Cold War. With deep personal experience in the field, Bracken examines regional nuclear theatres that barely existed under the 20th Century's duopoly, and makes the case for new paradigms of conflict management in a far more volatile nuclear game. This is a cautionary treatise of profound potential significance in a newly multilateral world."

The Second Nuclear Age: Strategy, Danger, and the New Power Politics by Paul Bracken (Connecticut), published by Times Books – link:

<http://us.macmillan.com/thesecondnuclearage/PaulBracken>

Jury Citation: "The extent of 'war' between Iran and the United States for more than 30 years is captured with authority and intensity by David Crist. This is a story of chronic intrigue and occasional hope amounting to little more than deepening animosity and higher stakes. From the Iran-Contra scandal to Stuxnet, the 'Twilight War' between the United States and Iran speaks to the tenacity of history and ideology in the face of human agency – a whodunit with the answer known before the story begins."

The Twilight War: The Secret History of America's Thirty-Year Conflict with Iran by David Crist (Potomac, Maryland), published by The Penguin Press – link:

<http://www.us.penguin.com/nf/Book/BookDisplay/0,,9781594203411,00.html>

Jury Citation: "In *Plutocrats*, Chrystia Freeland describes the evolution of a new global elite of unprecedented economic, social and political power. This mobile, denaturalized community affects the lives of billions as its wealth and values distance it from even the wealthiest of societies. Freeland explores consequent issues of equity and accountability with fluency and intimacy, capturing the human dimension of a powerful and disturbing phenomenon."

Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else by Chrystia Freeland (New York, NY), published by Doubleday Canada and The Penguin Press – link:

<http://www.randomhouse.ca/books/202849/plutocrats-by-chrystia-freeland>

Jury Citation: "The nature of Barack Obama's thought-process and leadership is well illuminated in *The Endgame* by Michael R. Gordon and General Bernard E. Trainor. This is the tale of a delicate dance out of Iraq by American forces, beginning with George W. Bush's support of a 'surge' of U.S. forces into a growing civil war, and the decision by Barack Obama to leave but a skeleton of U.S. forces behind. In between, the authors document the many shifts in policy and people on the American side, even as Iraq's government teeters between uneasy compromise and incipient collapse. The relevance of this book to events in Afghanistan today is striking."

The Endgame: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Iraq, from George W. Bush to Barack Obama by Michael R. Gordon (Washington, DC) and General Bernard E. Trainor (Potomac Falls, VA) Published by Pantheon Books –link:

<http://www.randomhouse.ca/books/69618/the-endgame-by-michael-r-gordon-and-general-bernard-e-trainor>

Jury Citation: “In *Ghosts of Empire: Britain's Legacies in the Modern World*, Kwasi Kwarteng dispels the myth of full intent and central purpose in the evolution of the British Empire. Contingency, serendipity and personality emerge in a patchwork of regimes and purposes sharing primarily the British sense of class rather than coherent strategy. Kwarteng ties the British Empire's denouement to current trends with wit and a wisely warning eye.”

Ghosts of Empire: Britain's Legacies in the Modern World by Kwasi Kwarteng (London, England), published by Public Affairs – link:

<http://www.publicaffairsbooks.com/publicaffairsbooks-cgi-bin/display?book=9781610391207>

Jury Citation: “In *Embers of War*, Fredrik Logevall describes the tragedy of Vietnam in the 20th Century, from its invisibility at the 1919 Paris peace conference to its recapture by the French after 1945, and ultimately its sacrifice on the altar of the Cold War in the 1960s. This is an epic tale of missed opportunity, egotism and waste that makes the case for the role of dumbheadedness, more than evil, in the course of human affairs. Deeply detailed and dramatically powerful, *Embers of War* is a potent cautionary tale.” ***Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*** by Fredrik Logevall (Ithaca, NY), published by Random House – link: <http://www.randomhouse.com/book/103225/embers-of-war-by-fredrik-logevall>

Jury Citation: “*From the Ruins of Empire* departs radically from the dominant narrative of the 20th Century as one of European and Cold Wars, to explore the emancipation of a majority of the world's peoples from Western colonial domination. With striking originality, Pankaj Mishra employs the biographies of prescient intellectuals to foretell the titanic struggles that refashioned the modern world. This is a bracing intellectual shower from a passionate and precocious writer who brings neglected information to bear in compelling, intriguing ways.”

From the Ruins of Empire: The Intellectuals Who Remade Asia by Pankaj Mishra (London, England), published by Doubleday Canada and Farrar, Straus & Giroux – link:

<http://www.randomhouse.ca/books/213500/from-the-ruins-of-empire-by-pankaj-mishra>

Jury Citation: “*Soldaten*, in translation from the German by Sonke Neitzel and Harald Welzer, provides a compelling window into the views and psychology primarily of German prisoners of war held in American and British camps during the Second World War. Taken from secretly recorded transcripts of conversations among POWs, the book offers verbatim evidence of the horrors of combat and genocide, casually described soldier to soldier in yet more evidence for the banality of evil. The transcripts also provide insight into the culture of war itself, and the relationship of German soldiers to the Nazi leadership and regime. A memorable, disturbing chronicle.” ***Soldaten: On Fighting, Killing and Dying*** by Sonke Neitzel (London, England) and Harald Welzer (Germany), published by Signal Editions – link:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/book/216113/soldaten-by-sonke-neitzel-and-harald-welzer>

Jury Citation: “*The Wars for Asia: 1911 – 1949* brings a valuable sense of proportion to our understanding of the defining conflicts of the period, including Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour and the ultimate victory of Mao Tse Tung in China in 1949. S. C. M. Paine pulls our gaze away from the European theatre to the intense and extensive wars on the Chinese mainland which set the stage for Japan's entry into the Second World War, bringing the United States to the fronts,

and creating the conditions for Mao's success. The 'logic' of Japanese imperialism is deftly documented, and its consequence for the outcome of the Second World War itself clearly illuminated with sobering implications." **The Wars For Asia: 1911-1949** by S.C.M. Paine (Newport, Rhode Island), published by Cambridge University Press – link: http://www.cambridge.org/us/knowledge/isbn/item6818690/The-Wars-for-Asia,-1911-1949/?site_locale=en_US

Jury Citation: “*Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith* follows the remarkable influence of Christian and then Jewish religious belief on the conduct of American foreign policy through the formation of the American colonies to present times. Andrew Preston delivers a richly documented and often surprising portrait of ‘God's hand’ on the tiller of U.S. initiatives from the Middle East to the Philippines, from Lincoln to George W. Bush. The formal separation of church and state in the United States belies their union in the men and women who govern it.” ***Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy*** by Andrew Preston (Cambridge, England), published by Knopf Canada and Alfred A. Knopf – link: <http://www.randomhouse.com/book/133770/sword-of-the-spirit-shield-of-faith-by-andrew-preston>

Juror Biographies:

William Thorsell, Jury Chair, is currently Associate Senior Fellow, Massey College, University of Toronto, and Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. After more than 10 years as editor-in-chief of *The Globe and Mail* in Toronto, Mr. Thorsell was appointed Director and CEO of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto in August, 2000. He was invested into the Order of Ontario in January of 2008 and also invested as Chevalier, Order of Arts and Letters, in France in 2010.

Daniel W. Drezner is professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a contributing editor at *Foreign Policy*. Prior to Fletcher, he taught at the University of Chicago and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has previously held positions with Civic Education Project, the RAND Corporation and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He is an editorial board member of *Perspectives on Politics*.

Gaynor Lilian Johnson, Ph. D. is currently Reader in International History and Member of the University of Salford's European Security Research Centre. A specialist in the history of the British Foreign Office, she is a member of the editorial board of *Diplomacy and Statecraft* and book reviews editor of *The International History Review*.

Walter Russell Mead is professor of Foreign Affairs and the Humanities at Bard College, the Henry A. Kissinger senior fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), and one of the country's leading students of American foreign policy. His book, *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*, was widely hailed as an important study that will change the way Americans and others think about American foreign policy. *Special Providence* was awarded the Lionel Gelber Prize in 2002. Mr. Mead writes regularly on international affairs for the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*,

International Herald Tribune, Washington Post, Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, New Yorker, Atlantic, Harper's and Esquire.

Margaret Wente is among the best-read columnists in Canada. She writes on a range of subjects, from social policy to politics, the changing roles of men and women, the future of higher education, and the evolution of the post-welfare state. Prior to becoming a full-time columnist with The Globe and Mail in 1999, she was the editor of several leading business publications, including the Globe's Report on Business. She has won a variety of journalism awards, and is the author of two books, *An Accidental Canadian* and *You Can't Say That in Canada*. She has a BA in English from the University of Michigan, and an MA from the University of Toronto. She is a deep admirer and frequent critic of both countries.