



Announcing the 2019 Lionel Gelber Prize Shortlist: Exploring Our World Now

For Immediate Release: January 29, 2019 (Toronto and Washington): Patricia Rubin, Chair of The Lionel Gelber Prize Board, announces the following five books which comprise the 2019 Lionel Gelber Prize shortlist:

- ***No Turning Back: Life, Loss, and Hope in Wartime Syria*** by **Rania Abouzeid**, published by W.W. Norton & Company
- ***The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*** by **Elizabeth C. Economy**, published by Oxford University Press
- ***How Democracies Die*** by **Steven Levitsky** and **Daniel Ziblatt**, published by Crown, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House
- ***The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America*** by **Timothy Snyder**, published by Tim Duggan Books, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House
- ***Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World*** by **Adam Tooze**, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

“Thank you to our esteemed jurors for these inspired selections—books which explore the deep break in the global system that is happening now: the end of post-war democracy, the revolutionary creation of a new China, the manipulative goals of Putin achieved with Western connivance, the complete destruction of one of the Middle East’s most ancient countries, and a new look at the 2008 economic crisis and its aftermath. It is a privilege to present these important titles in collaboration with our partners,” said Mrs. Rubin, Chair of The Lionel Gelber Prize Board.

The 2019 **Lionel Gelber Prize Jurors** are Janice Stein, Jury Chair (Toronto, Canada), Anne Applebaum (Warsaw, Poland and London, England), Sir Lawrence Freedman (London, England), Shalini Randeria (Vienna, Austria and Geneva, Switzerland), and Frank E. Sysyn (Toronto, Canada).

Finalists’ Podcasts: Don’t miss the Lionel Gelber Prize podcasts, featuring five conversations with the 2019 Prize finalists in conversation with expert interviewer Robert Steiner, Director of the Fellowships in Global Journalism at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. Special thanks to Funding Media Partner Focus Asset Management for their support of these podcasts, available on iTunes.

Key Dates: The winner of the 29th annual Lionel Gelber Prize will be announced on Tuesday, February 26. He or she will give a public lecture in Toronto at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

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, the **Lionel Gelber Prize** was founded in 1989 by Canadian diplomat Lionel Gelber. A cash 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 and Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

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Lionel Gelber Prize website: <https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/gelber/>
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Jury Comments and Finalists' Biographies:



No Turning Back: Life, Loss, and Hope in Wartime Syria by Rania Abouzeid, published by W.W. Norton & Company

Jury Comments: Abouzeid's remarkable book is a powerful account of the everyday lives of Syrian protestors, killers and their victims. She draws on five years of clandestine reporting from Assad's prisons, ISIS strongholds and rebel meetings. A deeply moving personal narrative, it highlights the dilemmas of different actors caught in a spiral of violence. *No Turning Back* deserves a wide readership for the skill and sensitivity with which it renders intelligible the most shocking tragedy and humanitarian disaster of our times.

Rania Abouzeid has won the Michael Kelly Award and George Polk Award for foreign reporting, among many other prizes for international journalism. She has written for *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Politico*, the *Guardian*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. A former New America Fellow, she lives in Beirut, Lebanon.



The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State by Elizabeth C. Economy, published by Oxford University Press

Jury Comments: The Chinese state is back, if it ever went away. In her incisive examination of the changes that Xi Jinping has made to the way the Chinese state functions, Elizabeth C. Economy traces the impact on Chinese domestic markets and on foreign policy. This is a compelling analysis of a new China that is asserting itself in its neighborhood and exercising far greater control of China's economy and society. The effects of the third revolution in China will ripple around the world.

Elizabeth C. Economy is the C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. She is an award-winning author and internationally recognized authority on Chinese domestic and foreign policy, writing on topics ranging from China's environmental challenges to its role in global governance. She is also a frequent guest on nationally broadcast television and radio programs and regularly consults for U.S. government agencies and corporations.



How Democracies Die by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, published by Crown, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House

Jury Comments: This courageous book questions the state of American liberal democracy. Putting democracies that failed or survived under the microscope, Levitsky and Ziblatt then apply their analysis to the contemporary United States. Looking at how democracy is endangered, they provide a road map for how the United States can be truly exceptional as a multiracial democracy. Their concise and thoughtful monograph speaks not only to Americans but also to an international community troubled by the current state of U.S. democracy.

Steven Levitsky and **Daniel Ziblatt** are professors of government at Harvard University. Levitsky's research focuses on Latin America and the developing world. He is the author of *Competitive Authoritarianism* and is the recipient of numerous teaching awards. Ziblatt studies Europe from the nineteenth century to the present. He is the author of, most recently, *Conservative Parties and the Birth of Democracy*. Both Levitsky and Ziblatt have written for *Vox* and the *New York Times*, among other publications.

Jury Comments and Finalists' Biographies:



The Road to Unfreedom: Russia, Europe, America by **Timothy Snyder**, published by Tim Duggan Books, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House

Jury Comments: The sinister philosophy underlying Russian authoritarianism, the torturous drive for freedom in Ukraine, and the manipulation of U.S. elections are the subjects of this brilliant and original book that combines history, philosophy and astute contemporary political analysis. Snyder has connected the dots, explaining how Russian goals—the undermining of the European Union and NATO, the discrediting of democracy—were achieved with Western connivance. This book will not only help Western readers understand the motivations of a dictatorial Russian leader, it will force them to look harder at the flaws in their own societies too.

Timothy Snyder is the Levin Professor of History at Yale University and the author of *On Tyranny*, *Black Earth*, and *Bloodlands*. His work has received the literature award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Hannah Arendt Prize, and the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding.



Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World by **Adam Tooze**, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House

Jury Comments: The global financial crisis of 2007 – 2009 undermined global capitalism, exposed the failures of banks to manage their risks, almost broke the Eurozone and played a role in the Ukrainian conflict, Brexit and the election of Donald Trump. In a bold work of extraordinary range and ambition, Adam Tooze has written the standard work on the crisis and its aftermath. This is a big picture book, covering developments in the United States, China and Europe, but Tooze never loses sight of the role of key individuals and the political context in which vital economic decisions were taken.

Adam Tooze is the author of *The Deluge* (winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize) and *The Wages of Destruction* (winner of the Wolfson History and Longman-History Today prizes). He is the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of History at Columbia University where he directs the European Institute. He previously taught at Yale University and the University of Cambridge. He writes for the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian* and the *Wall Street Journal*.