

Shortlist Announced for the 2017 Lionel Gelber Prize

For Immediate Release: January 31, 2017 (Toronto and Washington): **Jury Chair John Stackhouse** announces five finalists for the 2017 Lionel Gelber Prize:

- **Rosa Brooks** (Washington, DC) author of *How Everything Became War and the Military Became Everything: Tales from the Pentagon* published by Simon & Schuster
- **Shadi Hamid** (Washington, DC) author of *Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle Over Islam Is Reshaping the World*, published by St. Martin's Press
- **Arkady Ostrovsky** (London, England) author of *The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev's Freedom to Putin's War*, published by Viking
- **Laura Secor** (Brooklyn, NY) author of *Children of Paradise: The Struggle for the Soul of Iran*, published by Allen Lane Canada/Penguin Canada, a division of Penguin Random House
- **Robert F. Worth** (Washington, DC) author of *A Rage for Order: The Middle East in Turmoil, from Tahrir Square to ISIS* published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

The 2017 Jury members are John Stackhouse, Chair, (Toronto, Canada); 2016 Lionel Gelber Prize winner and journalist Scott Shane (Maryland, USA), Professor Allison Stanger (Vermont, USA), Dr. Astrid Tuminez (Singapore), and Professor Antje Wiener (Hamburg, Germany).

About the shortlisted books, the jury notes:

In the afterglow of America's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, **Rosa Brooks** journeys to the heart of a post-9/11 military to discover a resilience that spells anything but retreat. In *How Everything Became War and the Military Became Everything: Tales from the Pentagon*, Brooks documents a Pentagon that now oversees the most pervasive military the world has ever seen. She tracks pirate hunters in the Arabian Sea, advisers in the Persian Gulf, and cyber warriors on American soil to lucidly explain the militarization of pax Americana—and how it is shaping the early decades of the 21st century.

In *Islamic Exceptionalism: How the Struggle Over Islam Is Reshaping the World*, **Shadi Hamid** has dared to go where few scholars have ventured, as he courageously examines the political nature and history of Islam. The enduring conflicts of the Middle East, the social cleavages of the Persian Gulf, even the constrictive rule of Central Asia and the Indus Valley can find their roots, Hamid argues, in the nature of Islam itself. In every state that has tried to infuse Islam in its secular laws, an inevitable and perhaps irresolvable tension has emerged between divine inspiration and constitutional liberalism. Hamid shines a light on how fundamentally challenged the universal ideals of the 20th century may be in the Islamic world today.

The fall of the Soviet Union took with it one of history's greatest propaganda machines. Or so we thought. From the front lines of a nation's political death and rebirth, **Arkady Ostrovsky** documents a relationship between Russian media and the Kremlin that helps explain the rise of Boris Yeltsin, Vladimir Putin, and the oligarchs who backed them. The imperial President. The grand Olympics. The expansionist military. So much of what we are seeing of Russia today has been shaped and informed by the 21st century propagandists who walk the halls of the Kremlin and the corridors of media.

Laura Secor takes us deep into an Iran that few of us know. With stunning revelations and evocative writing, her ambitious work, *Children of Paradise: The Struggle for the Soul of Iran*, portrays a post-revolutionary generation of reformers whose vision of a modern Islamic state continues to meet frustration. In the book Secor explores the prisons and torture chambers, the political salons and influential mosques, the restless campuses and exiled dreamers, to introduce us to some of the people fighting for Iran's soul. She reveals a nation that has been at war with itself since 1979, and shows few signs of finding the balance it surely needs to thrive in the 21st century.

The Arab Spring's abrupt failure may be the decade's seminal event, a political repudiation that cast millions of Arabs to a new redoubt of despair. **Robert F. Worth** travels across the world's most volatile region to explain why the hopes for a more liberal order collapsed so quickly, only to cede the revolutionary square to the monstrosities of the Islamic State. *A Rage for Order: The Middle East in Turmoil, from Tahrir Square to ISIS* argues that one of the great convulsions of our time is the product of countless Arab lives caught between entrenched regimes, liberating technologies, human ambition and a new revolutionary force that has replaced memories of the Arab spring with fears of a political winter.

The **Lionel Gelber Prize Podcast series** presents fascinating interviews with all five of this year's finalists in conversation with Professor Robert Steiner, founder of the Fellowships in Global Journalism at the Munk School of Global Affairs. Special thanks to funding media partner **Focus Asset Management** for their support of these podcasts. The series is posted at our website and on iTunes.

Key Dates:

The winner will be announced on February 28 and invited to speak at a free public event at Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs on March 29, 2017.

About the Prize:

The Lionel Gelber Prize, 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, 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.

To arrange interviews with the finalists, jurors, and presenting partners, please contact: June Dickenson | junedickenson@cogeco.ca | (647) 477-6000.

For further information visit: <http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/gelber/> | @gelberprize