



Lionel Gelber Prize Announces 25th Anniversary Winner:

Serhii Plokhy to Deliver Free Public Lecture April 21st

For Immediate Release: March 30, 2015 (Toronto and Washington): **Patricia Rubin**, Chair of the Lionel Gelber Prize Board and niece of the late Lionel Gelber, today announced that the winner of the 25th annual Lionel Gelber Prize is **Serhii Plokhy** for *The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union* published by **Basic Books**.

The jury chose the book from a shortlist of five titles, which also included *The Good War: Why We Couldn't Win the War or the Peace in Afghanistan* by Jack Fairweather, also published by Basic Books; *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China*, by Evan Osnos, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux; *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, by Ari Shavit, published by Scribe Publications of Australia; and *Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David*, by Lawrence Wright, published by Alfred A. Knopf.

"Serhii Plokhy tells a compelling, revelatory story about the final months of the Soviet Union and the birth of a new regional order centred on Russia. Using newly available sources, Plokhy illuminates the role of the American White House in the defence of the Russian one, and the critical part played by Ukraine in defining the outcome. *The Last Empire* tells us a great deal about the dynamics at play in Russia and Ukraine today. A wonderful read," said **Jury Chair William Thorsell**.

Serhii Plokhy will accept his award and give a free public lecture at the Campbell Conference Facility, at the Munk School of Global Affairs, at the University of Toronto, on Tuesday, April 21, 2015.

The jury is composed of Jury Chair William Thorsell (Canada), **Anne Applebaum** (Warsaw, Poland), **Gary Bass** (Princeton, USA), **Matias Spektor** (Brazil), and **John Stackhouse** (Toronto, Canada).

About the Winner: Serhii Plokhy is the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History and director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. He is a leading authority on the region and author of several books including, *The Origins of the Slavic Nations* and *Yalta: The Price of Peace*, which was a finalist for the 2011 Lionel Gelber Prize. His winning book is nominated for the Pushkin House Prize in London, he is the recipient of the Early Slavic Studies Association Distinguished Scholarship Award and the Historia Nova Book Prize for *The Cossack Myth: History and Nationhood in the Age of Empires*, and he was recently named Walter Channing Cabot Fellow in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, for scholarly eminence in the field of history.

About the 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, the Lionel Gelber Prize was founded in 1989 by Canadian diplomat Lionel Gelber. 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. A cash prize of \$15,000 is awarded to the winner. Two thousand and fifteen marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Prize.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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