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Fall 2023 Titles

1) Target Tehran: How Israel Is Using Sabotage, Cyberwarfare, Assassination—and Secret Diplomacy—to Stop A Nuclear Iran and Create a New Middle East

By Yonah Jeremy Bob and Ilan Evyatar (Simon & Schuster)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Target-Tehran-Cyberwarfare-Assassination-Diplomacy/dp/1668014564/ref=sr_1_1?crid=OSEDQ7KARSS1&keywords=target+tehran&qid=1696557479&sprefix=target+tehran%2Caps%2C70&sr=8-1

The remarkable story of how Israel used sabotage, assassination, cyberwar—and diplomacy—to thwart Iran’s development of nuclear weapons and, in the process, reshaped the Middle East.

Yonah Bob and Ilan Evyatar describe how Israel has used cyberwarfare, targeted assassinations, and sabotage of Iranian facilities to great effect, sometimes in cooperation with the United States. Even as it takes lethal action Israel has managed to alter the politics of the Middle East, culminating in the Abraham Accords of 2020. Arab states, such as Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, normalized relations with Israel while giving a faint nod to the Palestinian issue, and the holy grail of normalization with Saudi Arabia may be achieved in a way which will inject at least some new energy into improving Israeli-Palestinian relations. Now, they share Israel’s concern with Iran—even as they negotiate with Tehran—remaining silent while Israel undermines Iran’s nuclear program.

Bob and Evyatar reveal how Israel has used documents stolen from Tehran in a daring, secret Mossad raid to show the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency how Iran has repeatedly violated the 2015 JCPOA nuclear agreement and lied about its active nuclear weapons program. Drawing from interviews with top confidential Israeli and US sources, including from the Mossad and the CIA, the authors tell the inside story of the tumultuous, and often bloody, history of how Israel has managed to outmaneuver Iran—so far.

2) The Last Secret of the Secret Annex: The Untold Story of Anne Frank, Her Silent Protector and A Family Betrayal

By Joop van Wijk-Voskuil and Jereon de Bruyn (Simon & Schuster)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Last-Secret-Annex-Protector-Betrayal/dp/1982198214/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1696558342&sr=8-1

A riveting historical investigation and family memoir that intertwines the iconic narrative of Anne Frank with the untold story of Bep Voskuil, her protector and closest confidante in the

Annex, bringing us closer to understanding one of the great secrets of World War II.

Anne Frank's life has been studied by many scholars, but the story of Bep Voskuijl has remained untold, until now. As the youngest of the five Dutch people who hid the Frank family, Bep was Anne's closest confidante during the 761 excruciating days she spent hidden in the Secret Annex. Bep, who was just twenty-three when the Franks went into hiding, risked her life to protect them, plunging into Amsterdam's black market to source food and medicine for people who officially didn't exist under the noses of German soldiers and Dutch spies. In those cramped quarters, Bep and Anne's friendship bloomed through deep conversations, shared meals, and a youthful understanding.

Told by her own son, *The Last Secret of the Secret Annex* intertwines the story of Bep and her sister Nelly with Anne's iconic narrative. Nelly's name may have been scrubbed from Anne's published diary, but Joop van Wijk-Voskuijl and Jeroen De Bruyn expose details about her collaboration with the Nazis, a deeply held family secret. After the war, Bep tried to bury her memories just as the Secret Annex was becoming world famous as a symbol of resistance to the Nazi horrors. She never got over losing Anne nor could Bep put to rest the horrifying suspicion that those in the Annex had been betrayed by her own flesh and blood.

This is a story about those caught in between the Jewish victims and Nazi persecutors, and the moral ambiguities and hard choices faced by ordinary families like the Voskuijls, in which collaborators and resisters often lived under the same roof.

Beautifully written and unsettlingly suspenseful, *The Last Secret of the Secret Annex* will show us the Secret Annex as we've never seen it before. And it provides a powerful understanding of how historical trauma is inherited from one generation to the next and how sometimes keeping a secret hurts far more than revealing a shameful truth.

3) India is Broken: A People Betrayed, Independence to Today

By Ashoka Mody (Stanford University Press)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/India-Broken-People-Betrayed-Independence/dp/1503630056/ref=sr_1_1?crid=25H9855DKV1O8&keywords=India+is+Broken&qid=1696558490&srefix=india+is+broken%2Caps%2C87&sr=8-1

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.

When Indian leaders first took control of their government in 1947, they proclaimed the ideals of national unity and secular democracy. Through the first half century of nation-building, leaders could point to uneven but measurable progress on key goals, and after the mid-1980s, dire poverty declined for a few decades, inspiring declarations of victory. But today, a vast majority of Indians live in a state of underemployment and are one crisis away from despair. Public goods—health, education, cities, air and water, and the judiciary—are in woeful condition. And good jobs will remain scarce as long as that is the case. The lack of jobs will further undermine democracy, which will further undermine job creation. *India is Broken* provides the most persuasive account available of this economic catch-22.

Challenging prevailing narratives, Mody contends that successive post-independence leaders, starting with its first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, failed to confront India's true economic problems, seeking easy solutions instead. As a popular frustration grew, and corruption in politics became pervasive, India's economic growth relied increasingly on unregulated finance and

environmentally destructive construction. The rise of a violent Hindutva has buried all prior norms in civic life and public accountability.

Combining statistical data with creative media, such as literature and cinema, to create strong, accessible, people-driven narratives, 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.

4) Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters Separated by China's Civil War
by Zhuqing Li (Norton)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Daughters-Flower-Fragrant-Garden-Separated/dp/0393541770/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1696559056&sr=8-1

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

Jun and Hong were scions of a once great southern Chinese family. Each other's best friend, they grew up in the 1930s during the final days of Old China before the tumult of the twentieth century brought political revolution, violence, and a fractured national identity. By a quirk of timing, at the end of the Chinese Civil War, Jun ended up on an island under Nationalist control, and then settled in Taiwan, married a Nationalist general, and lived among fellow exiles at odds with everything the new Communist regime stood for on the mainland. Hong found herself an ocean away on the mainland, forced to publicly disavow both her own family background and her sister's decision to abandon the party. A doctor by training, to overcome the suspicion created by her family circumstances, Hong endured two waves of "re-education" and internal exile, forced to work in some of the most desperately poor, remote areas of the country.

Ambitious, determined, and resourceful, both women faced morally fraught decisions as they forged careers and families in the midst of political and social upheaval. Jun established one of U.S.-allied Taiwan's most important trading companies. Hong became one of the most celebrated doctors in China, appearing on national media and honored for her dedication to medicine. Niece to both sisters, linguist and East Asian scholar Zhuqing Li tells her aunts' story for the first time, honoring her family's history with sympathy and grace. *Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden* is a window into the lives of women in twentieth-century China, a time of traumatic change and unparalleled resilience. In this riveting and deeply personal account, Li confronts the bitter political rivals of mainland China and Taiwan with elegance and unique insight, while celebrating her aunts' remarkable legacies.

5) I Have No Enemies: The Life and Legacy of Liu Xiaobo
by Perry Link and Wu Dazhi (Columbia University Press)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Have-No-Enemies-Legacy-Xiaobo/dp/0231206348/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3S5HAS36Q8N1D&keywords=I+have+No+enemies+by+perry&qid=1696559584&srefix=i+have+no+enemies+by+perry%2Caps%2C78&sr=8-1

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.

I Have No Enemies emphasizes Liu's principled commitment to dissent and the significance of the example he set in China and around the world. Liu was a farsighted strategist whose ultimate goal was "to change a regime by changing a society." In Tiananmen Square, he showed others how to face down armed soldiers; in daily life, he looked for ways to build a more democratic culture. A powerful record of Liu's life and times, this book also tells the story of a generation of Chinese intellectuals who sought a better way forward.

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

by James Zimmerman (Public Affairs)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Peking-Express-Bandits-Stunned-Republic/dp/1541701704/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1696559305&sr=8-1

The thrilling true story of train-robbing revolutionaries and passengers who got more than they paid for in this *Murder on the Orient Express*–style adventure, set in China's republican era.

In May 1923, when Shanghai publisher and reporter John Benjamin Powell bought a first-class ticket for the Peking Express, he pictured an idyllic overnight journey on a brand-new train of unprecedented luxury—exactly what the advertisements promised. Seeing his fellow passengers, including mysterious Italian lawyer Giuseppe Musso, a confidante of Mussolini and lawyer for the opium trade, and American heiress Lucy Aldrich, sister-in-law of John D. Rockefeller Jr., he knew it would be an unforgettable trip.

Charismatic bandit leader and populist rabble rouser Sun Mei-yao had also taken notice of the new train from Shanghai to Peking. On the night of Powell's trip of a lifetime, Sun launched his plan to make a brazen political statement: he and a thousand fellow bandits descended on the train, capturing dozens of hostages.

Aided by local proxy authorities, the humiliated Peking government soon furiously gave chase. At the bandits' mountain stronghold, a five-week siege began.

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 it inspired several Hollywood movies—and set the course for China's two-decade civil war.

7) **Murder in Manchuria: The True Story of a Jewish Virtuoso, Russian Fascists, a French Diplomat, and a Japanese Spy in Occupied China**

by Scott Seligman (Potomac)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Murder-Manchuria-Virtuoso-Fascists-Diplomat/dp/1640125841/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1IUTWNAKQM4AI&keywords=Murder+in+Manchuria&qid=1696558604&srefix=murder+in+manchuria%2Caps%2C84&sr=8-1

In *Murder in Manchuria*, Scott D. Seligman explores an unsolved murder set amid the chaos that reigned in China in the run-up to World War II. The story unfolds against the backdrop of a three-country struggle for control of Manchuria—an area some called China’s “Wild East”—and an explosive mixture of nationalities, religions, and ideologies. Semyon Kaspé, a young Jewish musician, is kidnapped, tortured, and ultimately murdered by disaffected, antisemitic White Russians, secretly acting on the orders of Japanese military overlords who covet his father’s wealth. When local authorities deliberately slow-walk the search for the kidnappers, a young French diplomat takes over and launches his own investigation.

Part cold-case thriller and part social history, the true, tragic saga of Kaspé is told in the context of the larger, improbable story of the lives of the twenty thousand Jews who called Harbin home at the beginning of the twentieth century. Scott D. Seligman recounts the events that led to their arrival and their hasty exodus—and solves a crime that has puzzled historians for decades.

8) **The Disappeared: Remnants of a Dirty War** by Sam Ferguson (Potomac)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Disappeared-Remnants-Dirty-War/dp/1640121528/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1P9KGH0UWYYKN&keywords=the+disappeared+by+sam&qid=1696559916&srefix=the+disappeared+by+sam%2Caps%2C73&sr=8-1

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.”

Ferguson explores Argentina’s novel response to mass atrocity: the country’s remarkable and controversial decisions in 2003 to repeal a series of amnesty laws passed in the 1980s and to prosecute anew the perpetrators of the Dirty War a generation after the collapse of the country’s last dictatorship. As of 2022 more than one thousand aging military officers have been indicted for their involvement in the Dirty War and hundreds of trials have commenced in the country’s civilian courts.

Among the many facets of the book, Ferguson takes an in-depth look at allegations that Father Jorge Mario Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, was involved in the disappearance of two Jesuit priests under his supervision in 1976. Bergoglio was called to testify in a closed-chambers session. Ferguson reviewed those secret proceedings and uses them as a springboard to explore the Argentine Catholic Church and its broader role in the Dirty War.

The lingering but acute trauma of the victims who testified at the trial underscores the moral urgency of accountability. When a state strips its citizens of all their rights, the only response that approximates reparation is to restore the rule of law and punish the perpetrators. Yet the trial also revealed the limits of using criminal law to respond to mass atrocity. Justice demands a laser-like focus on evidence relevant to a crime, but atrocity begs for social understanding. Can the law ever bring full justice?

Backlist title:

Weapon Wizards: How Israel Became a High-Tech Military Superpower

by Yaakov Katz and Amir Bohbot ((St. Martin's Press)

Amazon link: https://www.amazon.com/Weapon-Wizards-High-Tech-Military-Superpower/dp/125008833X/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1696560089&sr=8-1

"A lively account of Israel's evolving military prowess...if *The Weapon Wizards* were a novel, it would be one written by Horatio Alger; if it were a biblical allegory, it would be the story of David and Goliath." —*The New York Times Book Review*

From drones to satellites, missile defense systems to cyber warfare, Israel is leading the world when it comes to new technology being deployed on the modern battlefield. *The Weapon Wizards* shows how this tiny nation of 8 million learned to adapt to the changes in warfare and in the defense industry and become the new prototype of a 21st century superpower, not in size, but rather in innovation and efficiency—and as a result of its long war experience.

Sitting on the front lines of how wars are fought in the 21st century, Israel has developed in its arms trade new weapons and retrofitted old ones so they remain effective, relevant, and deadly on a constantly-changing battlefield. While other countries begin to prepare for these challenges, they are looking to Israel—and specifically its weapons—for guidance. Israel is, in effect, a laboratory for the rest of the world.

How did Israel do it? And what are the military and geopolitical implications of these developments? These are some of the key questions Yaakov Katz and Amir Bohbot address. Drawing on a vast amount of research, and unparalleled access to the Israeli defense establishment, this book is a report directly from the front lines.

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