Adam Tooze Wins the 2019 Lionel Gelber Prize for
Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World

For Immediate Release: February 26, 2019 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada): Patricia Rubin, Chair of the Lionel Gelber Prize Board has announced that the winner of the 29th annual Lionel Gelber Prize for the best book written in English on Foreign Affairs is Adam Tooze for his book Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House. He will visit Toronto on April 17 to accept his award, present a public lecture at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, and meet with media.

“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. “ said Jury Chair Janice Stein.

Adam Tooze is the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of History at Columbia University where he directs the European Institute. Having received his BA in Economics from King’s College Cambridge, he had the good fortune to witness the end of the Cold War in Berlin, where he began his postgraduate studies. He went on to take his PhD from the London School of Economics. He taught at the University of Cambridge (1996 – 2009) where he was Reader in Modern History and Gurnee Hart fellow in History at Jesus College. He was appointed to the Barton M. Biggs Professorship at Yale University, where he succeeded Paul Kennedy as the Director of International Security Studies. He is also 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 writes for the Financial Times, the Guardian and the Wall Street Journal and has written and reviewed for the Sunday Telegraph, the Time Literary Supplement, the London Review of Books, the New left Review, the New Statesman, the New York Times, the New York Review of books, Dissent, Die Zeit, Spiegel, TAZ and the Sueddeutsche Zeitung.


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).

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. The Prize was founded in 1989 by Canadian diplomat Lionel Gelber. A cash prize of $15,000 is awarded to the winner. The Lionel Gelber Foundation presents the Lionel Gelber Prize in partnership with Foreign Policy magazine and the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

Don’t miss the Lionel Gelber Prize podcasts, featuring conversations with Adam Tooze and this year’s 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, found on the Lionel Gelber Prize website and available on iTunes.

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