



Announcing the 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize Shortlist:

Five Books in Contention for the 30th Awarding of the Prestigious Global Prize

For Immediate Release: February 11, 2020 (Toronto and Washington): Sara Charney, Chair of the Lionel Gelber Prize Board, announces the shortlist for the 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize as follows:

- ***The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*** by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson
- ***Power to the People: How Open Technological Innovation is Arming Tomorrow's Terrorists*** by Audrey Kurth Cronin
- ***The Unsettling of Europe: How Migration Reshaped a Continent*** by Peter Gatrell
- ***Roller-Coaster: Europe 1950 – 2017*** by Ian Kershaw
- ***The Light that Failed: A Reckoning*** by Ivan Krastev and Stephen Holmes

"Covering a range of essential global topics—from examinations of the fragile nature of liberty and democracy, to the dark side of technological innovation, and comprehensive works of European history—these five superb books deserve to be read closely for the deep insights they provide. Thank you to our esteemed jurors for their insightful selections, which we are privileged to present, in collaboration with our partners," said Sara Charney, Chair of the Lionel Gelber Prize Board.

This year's shortlist was selected by Jury Chair **Janice Gross Stein** (Toronto) in collaboration with Jurors **Cameron Abadi** (Berlin), **Sir Lawrence Freedman** (London), **Margaret MacMillan** (Toronto and Oxford), **Kishore Mahbubani** (Singapore), and **Jeffrey Simpson** (Ottawa).

The winner of the 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize will be announced on Tuesday, March 10 and give a public lecture in Toronto at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy on Monday, March 30, 2020.

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of 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. 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/> Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @gelberprize

Jury Comments, Author Biographies and Publisher Information

The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty by **Daron Acemoglu** and **James A. Robinson**, published by Penguin Press/Penguin Random House Canada

Jury Comment: “With a magisterial sweep through history, Acemoglu and Robinson tell the story of the struggle to establish a narrow corridor between despotism and anarchy, where liberty can thrive. For liberty to emerge and flourish, both state and society must be strong. They emphasize that preserving liberty is an ongoing struggle that never finishes. Today, it is struggling even in the mature democracies, where the response to new challenges, they warn, is closer to Weimar’s Germany than to postwar Sweden’s. Liberty is clearly at peril. In a compelling and important book, they explain why.” —The 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize Jury



Daron Acemoglu (Boston) is an Institute Professor at MIT. In 2005 he received the John Bates Clark Medal, given to economists under age forty judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge; in 2012 he was awarded the Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics for work of lasting significance; and in 2016 he received the BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Economics, Finance, and Management for his lifetime contributions. (Photo credit: Peter Tenzer)



James A. Robinson (Chicago), a political scientist and economist, is one of nine University Professors at the University of Chicago. Focused on Latin America and Africa, he is currently conducting research in Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Haiti, and Columbia, where he has taught for many years during the summer at the University of the Andes in Bogotá. (Photo credit: Nancy Wong)



***Power to the People: How Open Technological Innovation is Arming Tomorrow's Terrorists* by Audrey Kurth Cronin, published by Oxford University Press**

Jury Comment: “That digital technologies are disruptive has become commonplace. Audrey Kurth Cronin meticulously shows how digital technologies like the Internet, smartphones, and artificial intelligence—as did earlier innovations like dynamite and the Kalashnikov rifle—have expanded the reach and force of malicious non-state actors. The book’s greatest virtue may be its calm voice. Cronin shows that the destructive potential of digital technologies is a predictable result of market forces—and that governments can, and should, use regulation to curb those dangers without blocking innovation that enriches lives around the world.” —The 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize Jury



Audrey Kurth Cronin (Washington, DC), one of the world's leading experts on security and terrorism, is currently Professor of International Security and the Founding Director of the Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology at American University. Previously, she worked as a Specialist in Terrorism at the Congressional Research Service, advising Members of Congress in the aftermath of 9/11. She also held a number of positions in the executive branch, including in the office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Office of the Secretary of the Navy. She is the author of several books, including *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns*. (Photo credit: Alexis Glenn)



****The Unsettling of Europe: How Migration Reshaped a Continent* by Peter Gatrell, published by Basic Books/Hachette**

Jury Comment: “Since World War Two, migration of people within countries, from one country to another, and from outside Europe to the continent has been the rule rather than the exception. Peter Gatrell has produced a sweeping and engrossing history of these migrations: why they occurred, how host countries saw and see them, and why governments often found themselves caught between welcoming new arrivals that will stimulate economic activity and facing the hostility of voters. Given the reaction against newcomers in various European countries today, *The Unsettling of Europe* is a compelling, important, and timely read.” —The 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize Jury



Peter Gatrell (Manchester) is a renowned historian of modern migration and professor of economic history at the University of Manchester. He is the author of several previous books on migration history and modern European history. (Photo credit: Andrew Winstone)

*This book is also published as *The Unsettling of Europe: The Great Migration, 1945 to the Present* by Allen Lane, an imprint of Penguin Random House UK.



****Roller-Coaster: Europe 1950 – 2017* by Ian Kershaw**, published by Viking/Penguin Random House Canada

Jury Comment: “In this second volume of his masterly history of 20th century Europe, the distinguished historian Ian Kershaw looks at the continent from 1950 to the present. As Europe struggles to recover from the ravages of the Second World War, it is also divided by the deepening Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. Kershaw shows how the division affected peoples from the Atlantic to the Urals but also illuminates how economic progress and ideas of liberty bridged that divide. With his acute eye for the telling detail and a sure grasp on the great sweep of history, his telling of the latest chapter in the long history of a continent that is no longer at the centre of the world is a fascinating and engrossing read.” —The 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize Jury



Sir Ian Kershaw (Manchester) is a British historian of twentieth-century Germany who is noted for his monumental biographies of Adolf Hitler. In 2002, he received his knighthood for services to history. He is a fellow of the British Academy, the Royal Historical Society, the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, and the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung in Bonn, Germany. The first volume in his history of modern Europe is *To Hell and Back*. His other famous books include *Hitler*, *Fateful Choices* and *The End*. (Photo credit: University of Sheffield)

*This book is also published as *The Global Age: Europe 1950-2017*, by Viking an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

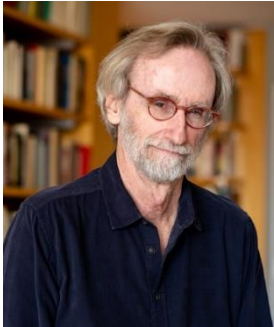


***The Light That Failed: A Reckoning* by Ivan Krastev and Stephen Holmes**, published by Allen Lane/Penguin Random House Canada

Jury Comment: “This book, full of sparkling insight and subtle analysis, explains why liberal democracy failed to become a universal ideology despite its victory over communism. The authors show how Western triumphalism of the 1990s failed to take into account the distinctive history and culture of states that were seeking to imitate and embed democracy. Although the peoples of former communist countries joined the EU and NATO and signed up to liberal values and the rule of law, they became alienated by the corruption and inequality that followed. The analysis of politics and culture in the former Eastern Europe is original and riveting. Krastev and Holmes show how Russia and China learned from a West that betrayed its own values and broke its own rules. This account of how liberalism lost its way is candid and incisive but it is not pessimistic. There is no reason why illiberalism and nativism should continue if ‘chastised’ liberals learn from their mistakes and *The Light that Failed* will surely help them do so. An original and important book for our times.” —The 2020 Lionel Gelber Prize Jury



Ivan Krastev is a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna and the chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia. A contributing opinion writer for the *International New York Times*, he is a founding board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and author of the widely acclaimed *After Europe*.



Stephen Holmes is Professor of Law at NYU School of Law and the author of many books on liberalism, including *The Anatomy of Antiliberalism*. His work focuses on the history of liberalism, the disappointments of democratization after communism, and the challenge of managing globalized threats within the framework of constitutionalism.

