

# The Age of Hitler and How We Will Survive It

Alec Ryrie

‘A brilliant exposition of Hitler’s role as the embodiment of evil in the collective imagination of the West – and of what may happen as it starts to fade.’ – Tom Holland, author of *Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind*

‘Offers a wealth of reflections . . . Ryrie is to be commended for encouraging dialogue between progressive secularists and conservative traditionalists.’ – *Los Angeles Review of Books*

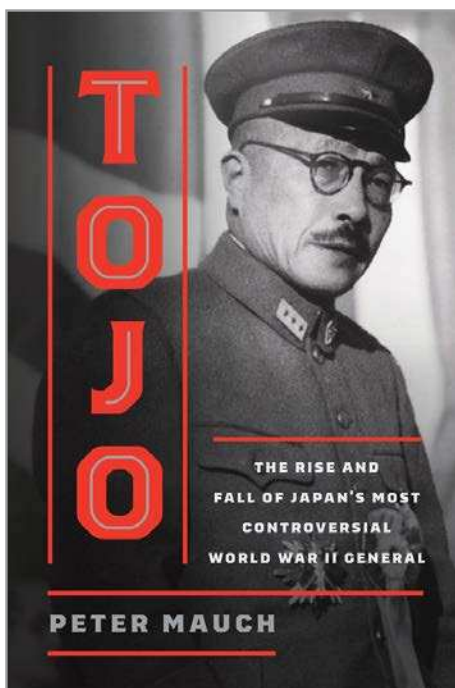
We live in an age where Hitler and the Nazis dominate our cultural imagination, shaping values once defined by religion. Historian Alec Ryrie explores why society remains captivated by this struggle, exploring history and fiction as well as modern myths such as *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter*. He examines the costs of our Nazi obsession and questions what will come as our anti-Nazi moral consensus frays. With a fresh take on modern history and pop culture, *The Age of Hitler and How We Will Survive It* offers a thought-provoking look at the culture wars and our shifting political crises, challenging assumptions on both the Left and the Right and asking what a new moral vision might look like.

Alec Ryrie is Professor of the History of Christianity at Durham University and a Fellow of the British Academy.



An examination of our Nazi fixation and the unravelling of post-war moral consensus today

October 2026 • History  
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Biography · History

27 photos, 3 illus., 3 maps

9780674495197

Belknap Press

## Tojo

The Rise and Fall of Japan's Most Controversial World War II General

Peter Mauch

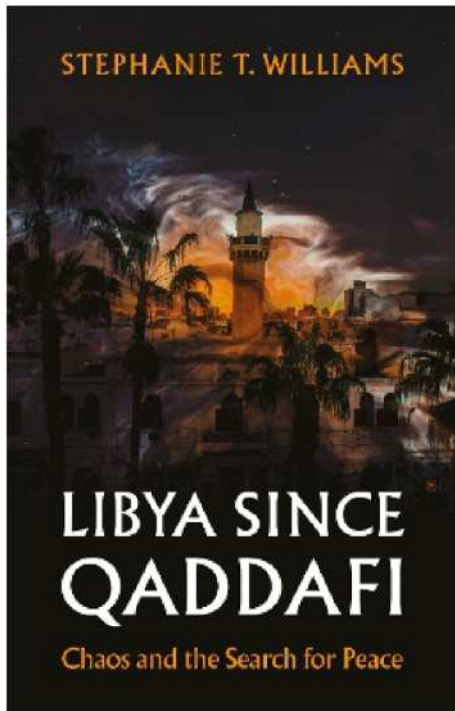
The definitive biography of Hideki Tojo, the controversial general who redefined military leadership in Shōwa-era Japan before his downfall during World War II.

The military general who became Emperor Hirohito's prime minister, Hideki Tojo is most often remembered as an iron-fisted leader who dragged Japan into World War II and—after spectacular losses—was eventually executed as a war criminal. Yet Tojo was far more than his ignominious end. In fact, as Peter Mauch argues, he was one of the twentieth century's most accomplished military statesmen.

Over a career of some forty years, Tojo successfully launched himself into the highest echelons of political power. He was not only a tactical genius, Mauch shows, but also a savvy administrator, a fierce imperialist, and a deeply loyal advisor to the emperor. Tojo's career took off with the notorious Kwantung Army in Manchuria, where he played a key role in escalating the Sino-Japanese War during the 1930s. As he rose through the ranks, becoming minister of war and then army chief of staff, he honed the efficiency of the Imperial Army and enhanced its influence within the emperor's court. All the while, he deftly negotiated the fractious military rivalries that arose wherever he went. Brilliant, ambitious, and often ruthless, Tojo reached political heights that were perhaps matched only by his precipitous fall in the final months of World War II.

Layered and evocative, *Tojo* is at once a riveting military history of Shōwa-era Japan and a nuanced portrait of the relentless personality at its center.

**PETER MAUCH** lectures in Asian History at Western Sydney University in Australia. He is the author of *Sailor Diplomat: Nomura Kichisaburō and the Japanese-American War*.



9781911723806

Hardback | 320 pages | £45.00

## United Nations & UN agencies African history

**Stephanie T. Williams** is an experienced international mediator serving with the UN in Libya, where she produced a nation-wide ceasefire agreement and a political agreement, using hybrid technologies to build a more inclusive process. A former US diplomat, Williams has an extensive background in the Middle East and North Africa region.

## Libya Since Qaddafi

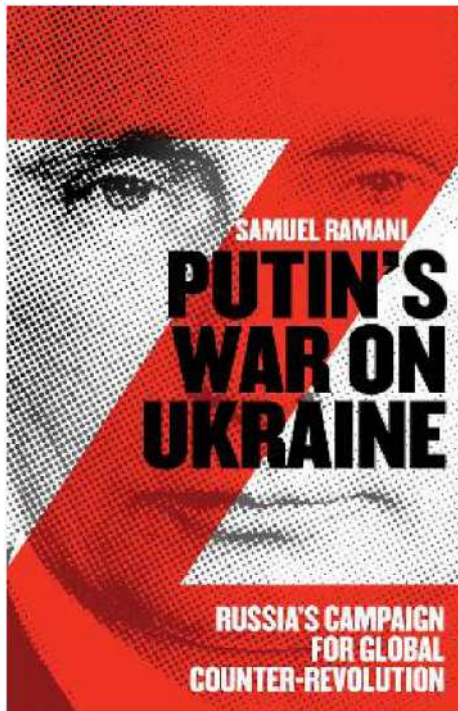
### Chaos and the Search for Peace

C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd (Macmillan Distribution (MDL))

17 April 2025

*An inside account of conflict, collapse and innovative approaches to reconstruction in Libya's challenging post-2011 landscape.*

Drawing on her experience as a United Nations mediator and a senior American diplomat, Stephanie T. Williams provides a first-hand examination of post-Qaddafi Libya. Using concrete examples from her experience in the country, Williams analyses the underlying drivers of the Libyan conflict, as well as the motivations of the international actors and the various Libyan protagonists. She bears witness to the horrific effect of General Haftar's attack on Tripoli in 2019, how it tore apart a UN peace process, and how she worked alongside UN envoy Ghassan Salamé to reassemble some semblance of an international consensus under the Berlin Process and accompanying intra-Libyan tracks: military, economic and political. Williams recounts her leadership of the UN mediation during the Covid pandemic, adopting new technologies and blending hybrid and physical meetings to produce the October 2020 ceasefire agreement, as well as progress on the economic track and an inclusive political agreement. She also lays out the pernicious effect of new media on peacemaking, and how disinformation and hate speech have exacerbated Libya's fragmentation. Finally, Williams offers ideas on how to break Libya's cycle of division and dysfunction to meet the longstanding aspirations of the people to live in peace and dignity.



9781805260158

Paperback | 624 pages | £17.99

## Warfare & defence

**Samuel Ramani** is Associate Fellow at London's Royal United Services Institute. The author of *Russia in Africa* and *Rudderless Superpower* (both published by Hurst), Samuel regularly advises the US and UK governments on international security issues, and contributes to *Foreign Policy*, *CNN* and the *BBC*.

## Putin's War on Ukraine

### Russia's Campaign for Global Counter-Revolution

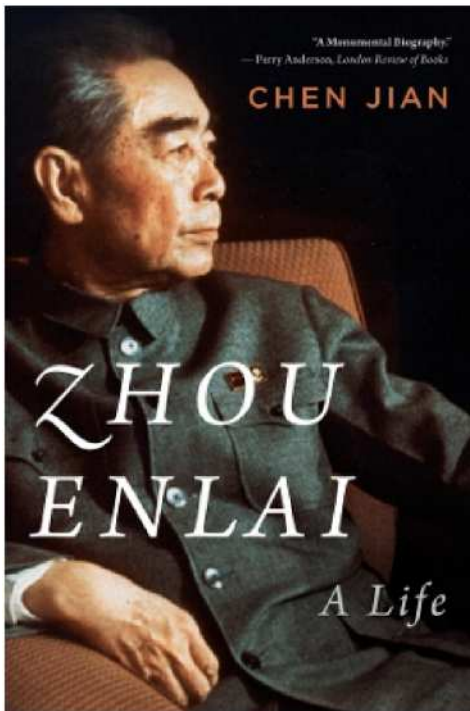
C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd (Macmillan Distribution (MDL))

24 October 2024

#### *Why did Putin invade Ukraine?*

Eight years after annexing Crimea, Russia embarked on a full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine in February 2022. For Vladimir Putin, this was a legacy-defining mission—to restore Russia's sphere of influence and undo Ukraine's surprisingly resilient democratic experiment. Yet Putin's aspirations were swiftly eviscerated, as the conflict degenerated into a bloody war of attrition and the Russian economy faced crippling sanctions. How can we make sense of his decision to invade? This book argues that Putin's policy of global counter-revolution is driven not by systemic factors, such as preventing NATO expansion, but domestic ones: the desire to unite Russians around common principles and consolidate his personal brand of authoritarianism. This objective has inspired military interventions in Crimea, Donbas and Syria, and now all-out war against Kyiv. Samuel Ramani explores why Putin opted for regime change in Ukraine, rather than a smaller-scale intervention in Donbas, and considers the impact on his own regime's legitimacy. How has Russia's long-term political and foreign policy trajectory shifted? And how will the international response reshape the world order?





9780674303492

Paperback | 840 pages | £24.95

3 Maps

Asian history

Biography: historical, political  
& military

Political leaders & leadership

**A leading** scholar of the Cold War and the history of modern China, Chen Jian is Distinguished Global Network Professor of History at New York University and NYU Shanghai; Hu Shih Professor of History Emeritus at Cornell University; and Zijiang Distinguished Visiting Professor at East China Normal University.

## Zhou Enlai

### A Life

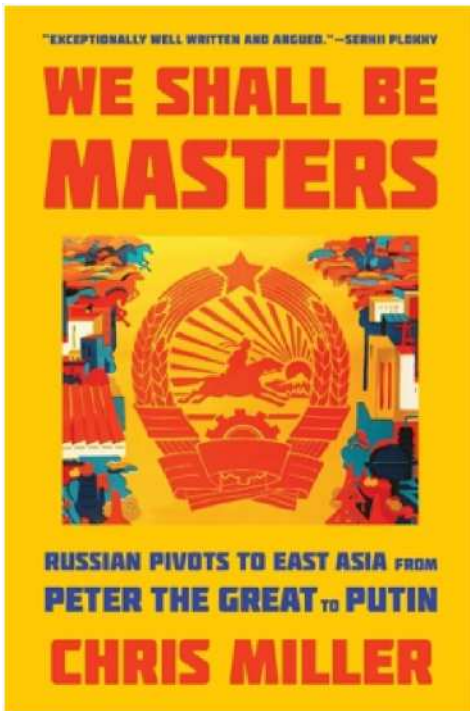
Harvard University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

13 January 2026

*Zhou Enlai, China's first premier, is overshadowed by Mao, but Zhou's influence in his own time and since has been vast. Chen Jian shows Zhou using his political and bureaucratic skills and centralism to mitigate the damage caused by Mao's radicalism and argues that Zhou created conditions for the post-Mao reforms that have made China a superpower.*

A Financial Times Best Book of the Year The definitive biography of Zhou Enlai, the first premier and preeminent diplomat of the People's Republic of China, who protected his country against the excesses of his boss—Chairman Mao. Zhou Enlai spent twenty-seven years as premier of the People's Republic of China and ten as its foreign minister. He was also its legendary spymaster. Richard Nixon proclaimed him “the greatest statesman of our era.” Yet Zhou has always been overshadowed by Chairman Mao. Chen Jian brings Zhou into the light, offering a nuanced portrait of a revolutionary and master diplomat whose vision shaped China and the broader world. Born to a declining mandarin family in 1898, Zhou received a classical education and as a teenager spent time in modernizing Japan. Zhou embraced communist revolution as a vehicle for China's own development, yet Zhou was never a committed Maoist. While he worked closely with the chairman, he used his extraordinary political and bureaucratic skill to mitigate the damage caused by Mao's radicalism and maintain China's international standing. When Zhou died in 1976, the China we know today was not yet visible on the horizon. He never saw a glistening Shanghai skyline or the emergence of Chinese capitalism. But the Chinese influence now felt in every corner of the globe rests on Zhou's work.





9780674292147

Paperback | 384 pages | £16.95

7 Maps

European history

Asian history

Diplomacy

**Chris Miller** is the author of *Putinomics: Power and Money in Resurgent Russia* and *The Struggle to Save the Soviet Economy*. An Associate Professor of International History at Tufts University, he writes for the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*.

## We Shall Be Masters

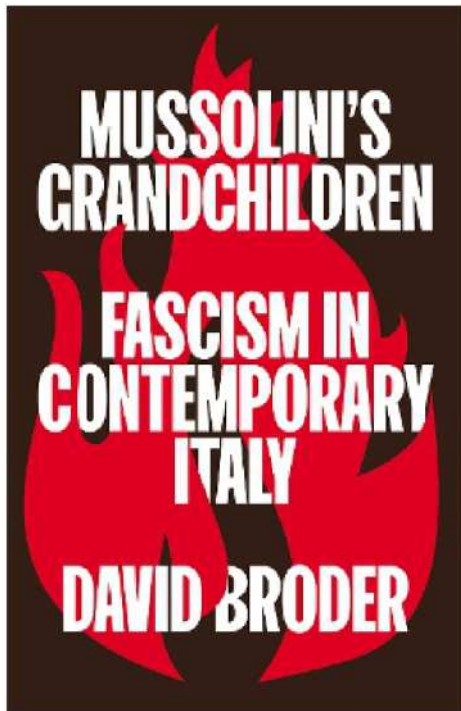
### Russian Pivots to East Asia from Peter the Great to Putin

Harvard University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

07 March 2023

*Generations of Russians have pursued wealth and power in the East, colonizing Pacific regions and spreading political influence into Asia. Why have these efforts largely failed? Chris Miller argues that Russian citizens and leaders, concentrated in the European borderlands, have always struggled to maintain faith and interest in eastward expansion.*

“Miller’s terrific book reminds that Russia made moves toward the East five hundred years ago, and explains why ignoring the Russian factor in Asian geopolitics today would be a big mistake.” —Michael McFaul, author of *From Cold War to Hot Peace* “Miller presents a Russia little known in the West: a Eurasian power that treats its eastern calling as seriously as it does its western one. Exceptionally well written and argued, *We Shall Be Masters* helps us understand Russia on its own terms and offers historical insight into the future of its relations with China, its main rival and occasional ally.” —Serhii Plokhy, author of *The Gates of Europe* “Challenges the conventional view that [Russia] has enduring interests in the Far East...For Russia, Miller argues, Asia has been a land of unfulfilled promises.” —*Foreign Affairs* “Captures the immensity, complexity, and importance of Russia’s eastern borderlands through the eyes of its explorers...Comprehensive and fluidly written.” —*Publishers Weekly* Ever since Peter the Great, Russian leaders have been lured by the promise of the East. But from the tsars to Stalin and beyond, Russia’s ambitions have repeatedly outstripped its capacity. In *We Shall Be Masters*, Chris Miller explores why these expansionist dreams so often ended in disappointment. With the heart of the nation in the European borderlands, Russia’s would-be pioneers struggled to maintain public interest in their far-flung pursuits. But its leaders never stopped setting their sights on the riches of the East. Today, as Vladimir Putin seeks to cement his strategic partnership with Xi Jinping’s China, the East remains as elusive and attractive to Russia as ever—and is likely to be as unattainable.



9780745348025

Paperback | 240 pages | £17.99

Fascism & Nazism  
Political parties  
Political parties

**David Broder** is a historian of the Italian far-right. He is a regular contributor to the New Statesman and Internazionale, writing about Italian politics, as well as an editor for Jacobin. His writing has also appeared in New York Times, Guardian, and Independent. He is the author of *Mussolini's Grandchildren: Fascism in Contemporary Italy*.

## Mussolini's Grandchildren

Fascism in Contemporary Italy

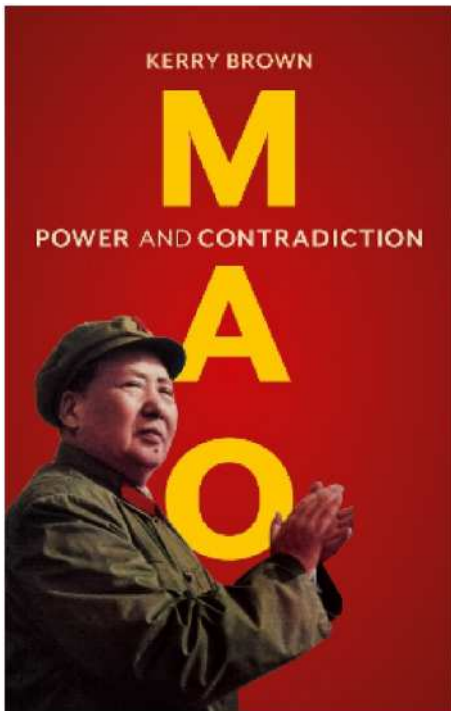
Pluto Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

20 March 2023

*The fascinating story behind Italy's lurch towards fascism*

'Fascinating and trenchant, this account of contemporary Italian neo-fascism is both original and shocking' - John Foot, historian  
The dominant force in Italian politics is Giorgia Meloni's Fratelli d'Italia — a party with a direct genealogy from Mussolini's regime. Surging to prominence in recent years, it has waged a fierce culture war around national identity, polarised political debate around World War II, and secured the largest vote share in Italy's 2022 general election. Eighty years after the fall of Mussolini, his heirs and admirers are again in power. So how exactly has this situation come about? *Mussolini's Grandchildren* delves into Italy's self-styled 'post-fascist' movements - rooted in historical fascism yet claiming to have 'transcended' it. David Broder highlights the reinventions of far-right politics since the Second World War, and examines the interplay between a parliamentary face aimed at integrating fascists into the mainstream, and militant fringe groups which, despite their extremism, play an important role in nurturing the broader far right. Fratelli d'Italia has retained its hegemony over fascist subcultures whilst embracing a raft of more pragmatic policy positions, fusing harsh Islamophobia and anti-communism with support for the European Union and NATO. As countervailing anti-fascist forces in Italian society wane, the far-right party's mission to redeem historical fascism, legitimise its political heirs and shift the terrain of mainstream politics is proving alarmingly successful.





9781836391913

Hardback | 272 pages | £20.00

1 illustration

Asian history

**Kerry Brown** is Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute at King's College London. He is the author of 24 books on modern China, including *The Taiwan Story* (2024).

## Mao

### Power and Contradiction

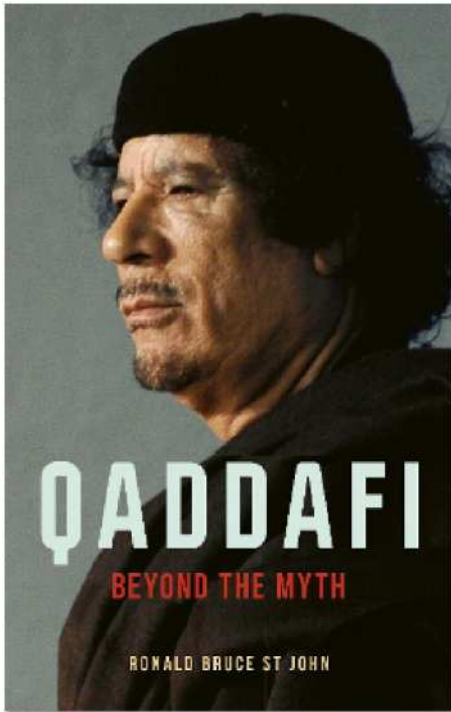
Reaktion Books (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

01 May 2026

*Chairman Mao's extraordinary life and complex legacy laid bare.*

Mao Zedong lived one of the most epic and influential lives of the twentieth century. His impact on the People's Republic of China was vast. Half a century after his passing, he remains a divisive and controversial figure. This book gives an accessible narrative of his life, from the fall of the Qing dynasty in the early part of the twentieth century to the long years in which he struggled not only to ensure the Communist Party of China survived but that it then came to power after a civil war with the nationalists. Mao's tragic failures as ruler were some of the worst to ever befall a modern society, while his personal life remains a source of intense interest. Clear-eyed and non-partisan, this is the first accessible biography of Mao to appear in English for some time.





## Qaddafi

### Beyond the Myth

Reaktion Books (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

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01 April 2026

*The dramatic life and death of Libya's eccentric leader.*

This book explores the life of Muammar al-Qaddafi, the enigmatic Libyan leader, from his birth to his assassination in a drainage ditch outside the city of Sirte in October 2011. The first authoritative biography of Qaddafi, it aims to make sense of his remarkable life and times. Known for his idiosyncratic ideas and flamboyant dress, his persona was also a cloak he used to obscure his personal and professional life. Qaddafi created a repressive political system, supported terrorist movements abroad and suppressed basic human rights at home, while abusing hundreds of women. Qaddafi: Beyond the Myth provides a comprehensive look at the forces that shaped Qaddafi and enabled him to become the world's longest-ruling head of state. It also provides essential information for anyone attempting to understand the division, confusion and chaos that has dominated post-Qaddafi Libya.

9781836391869

Hardback | 288 pages | £20.00

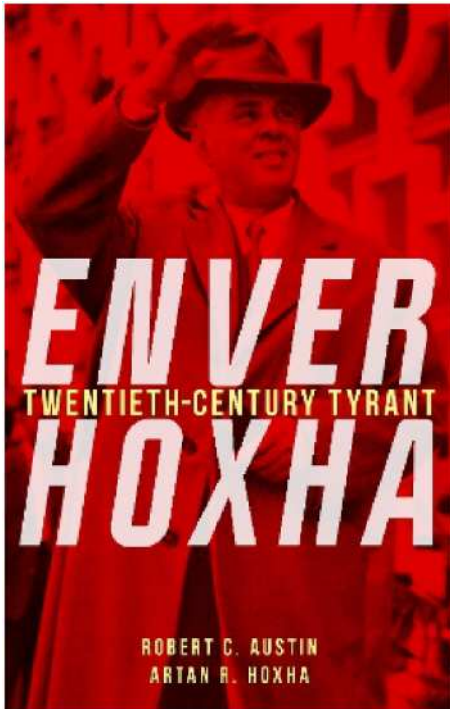
20 illustrations

Biography: historical, political  
& military

Political leaders & leadership

African history

**Ronald Bruce** St John is an expert on Libya and has written five books about the country, including *Libya: From Colony to Revolution* (3rd edn, 2017). He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



9781836391661

Hardback | 336 pages | £20.00

20 illustrations

European history

Political structures:

totalitarianism & dictatorship

Biography: historical, political  
& military

**Robert C. Austin** (Author) Robert C. Austin is a professor at the University of Toronto and the author of many books on the Balkans. **Artan R. Hoxha** (Author) Artan R. Hoxha is a historian of southeastern Europe based in Tirana, Albania.

## Enver Hoxha

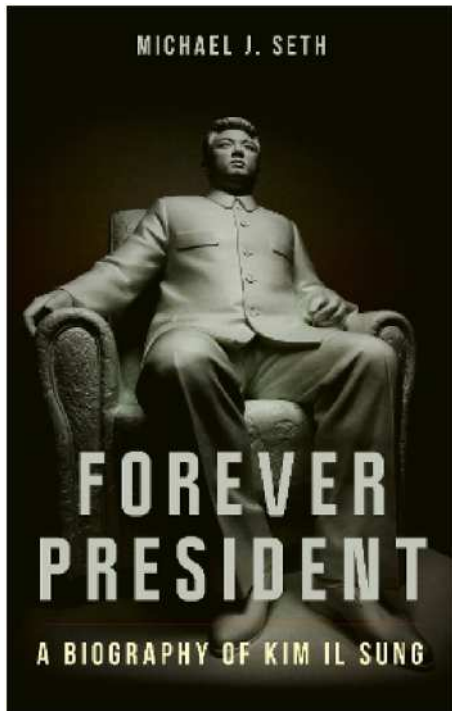
### Twentieth-Century Tyrant

Reaktion Books (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

01 March 2026

*The extraordinary story of Europe's longest-ruling communist dictator.*

Featured in New Statesman's Culture Preview 2026: The best non-fiction to read this year Enver Hoxha, one of the most fanatical communist leaders of the twentieth century, ruled Albania for forty years. He was a Stalinist modernizer who sought to pull his country out of its peripheral status through rapid industrialization and diplomatic cunning. Albania transitioned from one ideological alliance to another, breaking first with Tito's Yugoslavia, then Khrushchev's USSR and lastly post-Maoist China. Masterfully exploiting rivalries within the communist bloc, Hoxha was able to ensure his regime's survival and play an outsized role in the ideological clashes that riddled the communist world during the second half of the twentieth century. Meanwhile, at home he built a cult of personality and maintained his grip over power by ruthless coercion. ??????Enver Hoxha: Twentieth-Century Tyrant paints a nuanced picture of Hoxha's psychological, ideological and political worlds, illuminating a lesser-known story of the Cold War, and enriching our understanding of the nature of authoritarianism and dictatorship.



9781836391043

Hardback | 288 pages | £20.00

Biography: historical, political  
& military

Asian history

Asian history

**Michael J. Seth** is a historian at James Madison University and one of the foremost experts on the history of Korea. His many books include *Korea: A Very Short Introduction* (2020) and *Korea at War* (2023).

## Forever President

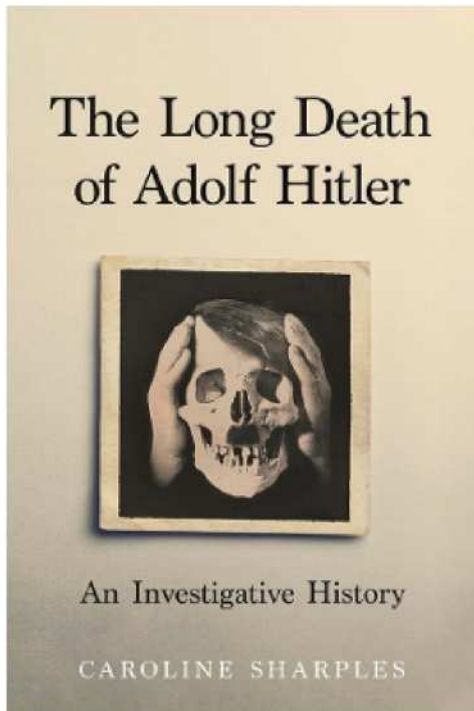
### A Biography of Kim Il Sung

Reaktion Books (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

01 September 2025

*Pieces together the rise, achievements, and failures of North Korean dictator Kim Il Sung.*

Kim Il Sung ruled his country, North Korea, for longer and shaped it more profoundly than almost any other modern leader. He created a unique and seemingly bizarre and menacing political and social system, establishing a dynasty that has maintained it for two more generations. Yet he remains a curiously inaccessible, little understood figure, partly due to the closed and secretive nature of the state he founded. Michael J. Seth puts together what we know of Kim's life from all available sources and places it in the context of Korean and modern world history to make both Kim and North Korea comprehensible. He looks at the unusual circumstances that contributed to Kim's rise to power and at the early experiences that help to explain the directions he took his country. Seth examines his impressive early achievements and his later failures, which left North Korea the isolated, impoverished half of a divided nation. Kim was a charismatic and resourceful leader determined to reunify and modernize his country. But he pursued these aims with ruthlessness, egotism and extreme narrow-mindedness. Ultimately, his political inflexibility led to disaster.



9780300284911

Hardback | 336 pages | £25.00

25 b-w illus, 2 figs + 3 maps

European history  
Social & cultural history  
Second World War

**Caroline Sharples** is senior lecturer in history at the University of Roehampton. She is the author of *West Germans and the Nazi Legacy* and *Postwar Germany and the Holocaust*, the latter of which was nominated for the 2017 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Studies.

## The Long Death of Adolf Hitler

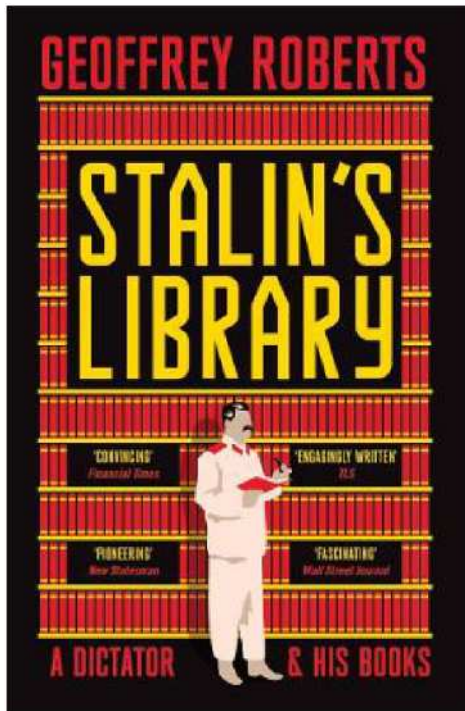
### An Investigative History

Yale University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

10 March 2026

*A celebration of the beguiling power of literature, from one of the world's greatest storytellers*

A fascinating exploration of why Hitler's death was only confirmed in 2018 Adolf Hitler has taken a long time to die, despite the lethal efficiency of the gun he put to his head in April 1945. Although eagerly anticipated around the world, there were no available witnesses to his suicide—and his corpse was not put on display. This created the perfect vacuum for myth and survival legends, while rival intelligence agencies and propaganda further confounded the investigations of successive historians. Caroline Sharples explores the aftermath of events at the Führerbunker in the first cultural account of this decisive yet elusive moment. Hitler's death was widely anticipated, and the news elicited a huge range of emotions as governments and secret services scrambled to verify what they heard. The search for proof of death led to an outpouring of conspiratorial thinking, and the final moments of Hitler's life have been reimagined ever since. This is an intriguing, unsettling account of a historical event we all think we know—and a sophisticated examination of how history is written.



## Stalin's Library

### A Dictator and his Books

Yale University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

10 June 2025

*A compelling intellectual biography of Stalin told through his personal library*

A compelling intellectual biography of Stalin told through his personal library “[A] fascinating new study.”—Michael O’Donnell, Wall Street Journal In this engaging life of the twentieth century’s most self-consciously learned dictator, Geoffrey Roberts explores the books Stalin read, how he read them, and what they taught him. Stalin firmly believed in the transformative potential of words, and his voracious appetite for reading guided him throughout his years. A biography as well as an intellectual portrait, this book explores all aspects of Stalin’s tumultuous life and politics. Stalin, an avid reader from an early age, amassed a surprisingly diverse personal collection of thousands of books, many of which he marked and annotated, revealing his intimate thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. Based on his wide-ranging research in Russian archives, Roberts tells the story of the creation, fragmentation, and resurrection of Stalin’s personal library. As a true believer in communist ideology, Stalin was a fanatical idealist who hated his enemies—the bourgeoisie, kulaks, capitalists, imperialists, reactionaries, counter-revolutionaries, traitors—but detested their ideas even more.

9780300281132

Paperback | 288 pages | £11.99

14 b-w illus.

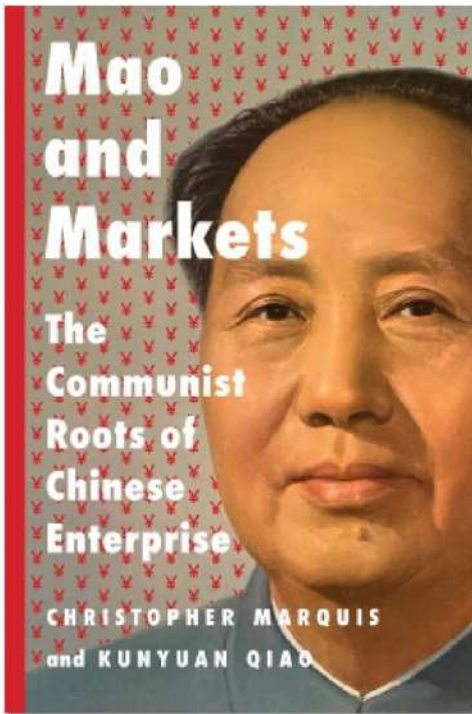
History of other lands

Literature: history & criticism

Biography: historical, political  
& military

**Geoffrey Roberts** is emeritus professor of history at University College Cork and a member of the Royal Irish Academy. A leading Soviet history expert, his many books include an award-winning biography of Zhukov, Stalin’s general, and the acclaimed Stalin’s Wars: From World War to Cold War.





## Mao and Markets

### The Communist Roots of Chinese Enterprise

Yale University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

10 January 2023

*A thoroughly researched assessment of how China's economic success continues to be shaped by the communist ideology of Chairman Mao*

A thoroughly researched assessment of how China's economic success continues to be shaped by the communist ideology of Chairman Mao. A Financial Times "Best Book of 2022" Tied for the 2023 Axiom Gold Medal, sponsored by Axiom Business Book Awards. It was long assumed that as China embraced open markets and private enterprise, its state-controlled economy would fall by the wayside, that free markets would inevitably lead to a more liberal society. Instead, China's growth over the past four decades has positioned state capitalism as a durable foil to the orthodoxy of free markets, to the confusion of many in the West. Christopher Marquis and Kunyuan Qiao argue that China's economic success is based on—not in spite of—the continuing influence of Communist leader Mao Zedong. They illustrate how Mao's ideological principles, mass campaigns, and socialist institutions have enduringly influenced Chinese entrepreneurs' business strategies and the management of their ventures. Grounded in case studies and quantitative analyses, this book shows that while private enterprise is the engine of China's growth, Chinese companies see no contradictions between commercial drive and a dedication to Maoist ideology.

9780300263381

Hardback | 384 pages | £25.00

43 b-w illus.

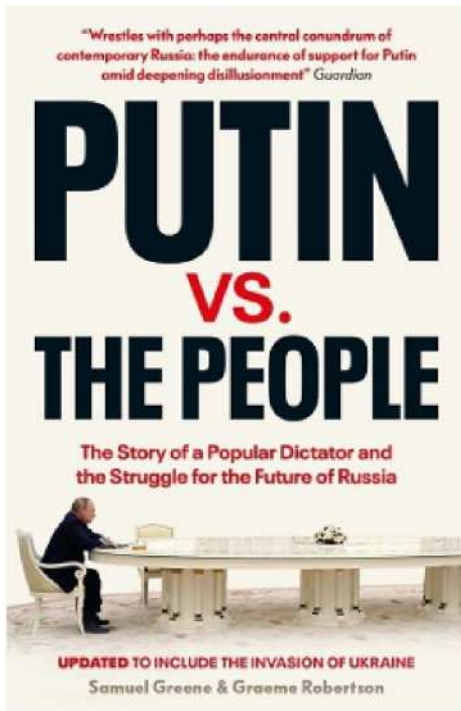
Economic history

Asian history

Central government policies

**Christopher Marquis** is Sinyi Professor of Chinese Management at Cambridge Judge Business School and author of *Better Business: How the B Corp Movement Is Remaking Capitalism*. **Kunyuan Qiao** is a faculty member at Georgetown McDonough School of Business.





9780300268362

Paperback | 288 pages | £12.99

Politics & government  
General & world history  
History of other lands

**Sam Greene** is reader in Russian politics and director of the Russia Institute at King's College London. **Graeme Robertson** is professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies.

## Putin vs. the People

### The Perilous Politics of a Divided Russia

Yale University Press (John Wiley & Sons Ltd)

09 August 2022

*A bottom-up exploration of contemporary Russian politics that sheds new light on Putin's grip on power—updated to include the Russian invasion of Ukraine*

A fascinating, bottom-up exploration of contemporary Russian politics that sheds new light on why Putin's grip on power is more fragile than we think. "Putin v. the People wrestles with perhaps the central conundrum of contemporary Russia: the endurance of support for Putin amid deepening disillusionment with the present and pessimism about the future."—Daniel Beer, *The Guardian* What do ordinary Russians think of Putin? Who are his supporters? And why might their support now be faltering? Alive with the voices and experiences of ordinary Russians and elites alike, Sam Greene and Graeme Robertson craft a compellingly original account of contemporary Russian politics. Telling the story of Putin's rule through pivotal episodes such as the aftermath of the "For Fair Elections" protests, the annexation of Crimea, and the War in Eastern Ukraine, Greene and Robertson draw on interviews, surveys, social media data, and leaked documents to reveal how hard Putin has to work to maintain broad popular support, while exposing the changing tactics that the Kremlin has used to bolster his popularity. Unearthing the ambitions, emotions, and divisions that fuel Russian politics, this book illuminates the crossroads to which Putin has led his country and shows why his rule is more fragile than it appears.

