



TOMORROW'S IDEAS - TODAY.

JANUARY – JUNE
2023 TITLES

Contents

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Truth and Repair
- 04** Queens of a Fallen World
- 06** Elixir
- 08** Power and Progress
- 10** 1923
- 12** Credible
- 14** Paperback highlights

Contact

All authors are available for events and interviews on publication. Please email:

Publicity Assistant

Xanthe Rendall

xanthe.rendall@johnmurraypress.co.uk

Tomorrow's ideas – today.

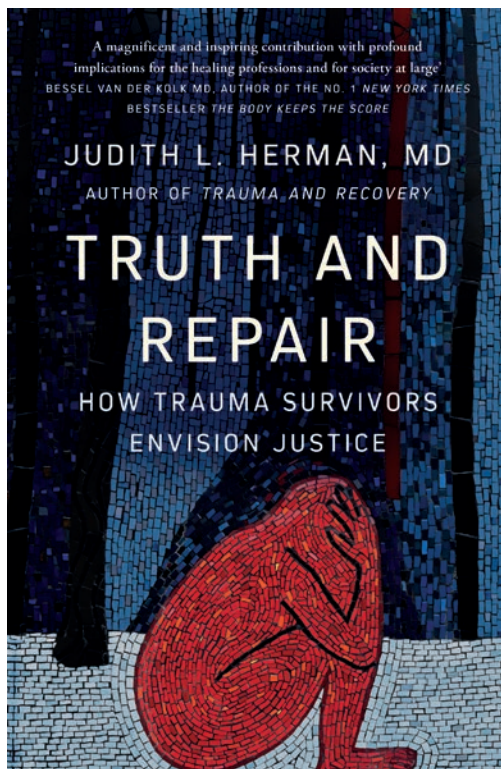
As the first snowdrops bravely break through the hard, cold ground with a promise that Spring is on its way, our new list of Basic Books for the first half of 2023 will also, I hope, bring a smile to your face with a promise of good things to come.

The new list not only brings Judith Herman, one of the world's foremost experts on psychological trauma, to a UK audience for the first time in *Truth and Repair* but also heralds the return of two of the most influential voices in modern economics today. Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson's *Power and Progress* is set to be one of the most talked about books of the year as they tackle the vexed problem of how to make technology benefit us all, and not just the few.

Mark Jones's *1923* is a fascinating if stark reminder of what can go wrong when we don't address poverty and inequality, while *Queens of a Fallen World* provides an equally vivid and moving insight into a different world, that of Augustine and the women who shaped his life and as a result the future of Christianity. Also drawing on the past to illuminate the present, *Elixir* is an utterly engrossing story of scientific discovery and the very building blocks of life told through a cast of characters that includes the great figures of 18th and 19th century science as well as the washer women of Paris and the eau de cologne obsessed Napoleon Bonaparte. Finally in *Credible*, leadership expert Amanda Goodall makes a powerful case for the central importance of expertise and expert leaders in every aspect of our lives, building on many years of research across sport, education, health and business.

And that's not to mention a cluster of new paperbacks covering everything from the future of the planet to free speech. Enjoy!

Sarah Caro
Publishing Director
Basic Books UK



16th March 2023

9781529395006

HB £20

‘Three decades after the publication of her foundational *Trauma and Recovery*, Judith Herman brilliantly confronts us with another vital, but much ignored, aspect of recovery: Social Justice. Justice is an essential component for healing the godforsaken sense of humiliation and abandonment so central in traumatizing experiences. When justice is denied, trauma’s imprint is likely to fester in the form of helpless rage. A magnificent and inspiring contribution with profound implications for the healing professions and for society at large’

Bessel van der Kolk MD, author of the No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Body Keeps the Score*

Truth and Repair

How Trauma Survivors Envision Justice

Judith Herman MD

A powerful manifesto for reimagining justice, based on the testimony of trauma survivors.

The #MeToo movement brought worldwide attention to sexual violence, but while the media focused on the fates of a few notorious predators who were put on trial, we heard far less about the outcomes of those trials for the survivors of their abuse.

The conventional retributive process fails to serve most survivors because it was never designed for them. Renowned trauma expert Judith L. Herman argues that the first step toward a better form of justice is simply to ask survivors what would make things as right as possible for them. In *Truth and Repair*, she commits the radical act of listening to survivors. Recounting their stories, she offers an alternative vision of justice as healing for survivors and their communities.

Deeply researched and compassionately told, *Truth and Repair* envisions a new path to justice for all.

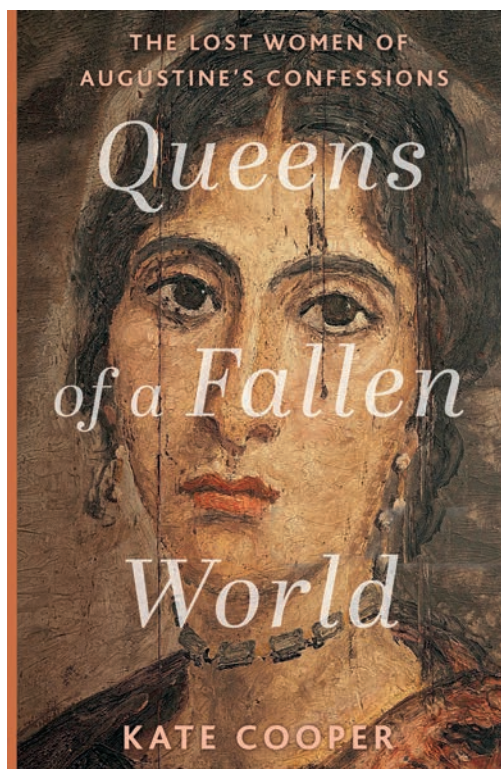


Judith Herman MD is a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, and co-founder of the Victims of Violence Program at The Cambridge Hospital, MA. She is the author of two award-winning books: *Father-Daughter Incest* (Harvard

University Press, 1981) and *Trauma and Recovery* (Basic Books, 1992) which have been translated into numerous languages and reprinted editions. Considered one of the world’s leading experts in the field of psychological trauma, Herman has lectured widely on the subject of sexual and domestic violence. She has received numerous awards including: a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and the Woman in Science Award from the American Medical Women’s Association. In 2007 she was named a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

One of the survivors who spoke with me is a young woman named Sarah Super, a community organizer living in Minneapolis. Her story illustrates both the best that the conventional justice system offers and also a vision of justice that goes far beyond it. Sarah first got in touch with me a few years ago to invite me to a groundbreaking ceremony for a memorial for sexual assault survivors. She had read *Trauma and Recovery* and was inspired by a chapter in which I compared rape and combat as violent initiation rites for young men and women. I wrote about the importance of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC, as a place of public recognition, pilgrimage, and healing for Vietnam veterans and contrasted this with the fact that there was no memorial anywhere for rape victims. Sarah decided that she wanted to get her city to build one. And she did. Sarah had endured a terrifying assault by an ex-boyfriend, who broke into her apartment at night and raped her at knifepoint. Afterward, she managed to flee, screamed, and was taken in by neighbors. In this rare instance, the justice system functioned exactly the way it is supposed to do. "The police were there within minutes," she said. "I was treated really well. I lived on a beautiful street, very white, very affluent. I was the perfect victim." Alec, the rapist, fled and was arrested after a highway chase. "He was also treated really well," Sarah reflected. "I often thought of how they took him into custody without harm." She wondered what would have happened to him if he were Black. Alec eventually pled guilty and was sentenced to twelve years in prison. Sarah felt that the severity of the sentence validated the severity of the crime because he had threatened her life and also because she believed he was still dangerous and she was still afraid of him: "He may want to punish me for holding him accountable," she said, "since he punished me for breaking up with him." She felt well supported by her victim advocate and the district attorney who prosecuted her case, and at the sentencing, she had a chance to tell her story, and she felt heard: "When I read my victim impact statement," Sarah reported, "[the judge] took her glasses off and really listened." What, then, was missing? What else was needed for justice to be done? For Sarah, one of the most hurtful parts of the whole experience was the way that the rape divided the supposedly liberal community to which both she and Alec belonged. His parents, who had often welcomed her into their home, apparently considered Alec to be the real victim since he was facing criminal charges, and they started a "Care Hub" to organize community support for him, including money for his defense and a letter-writing campaign testifying to his "good character." Meantime, Sarah heard nothing from them. She felt erased. A few weeks after the rape, Sarah chose to identify herself in the Minneapolis press as the victim of his crime. She was hurt once again by how few

people she knew said anything to her in response. "I felt the silence that surrounds sexual violence," she said. "I saw how that silence isolates survivors, protects perpetrators, and allows for the community to support rape culture as ignorant, passive bystanders." This is what happens with crimes of sexual violence. They divide communities as they lay bare the underlying power dynamics of dominance and subordination. In the aftermath of the rape, Sarah said, everyday sexism became intolerable to her. But when she began dating again, she could see how deeply ingrained it was in the culture. She talked with the men she dated about their sexual attitudes and experiences. All of them had been to bachelor parties at strip clubs and had used pornography as a regular part of their lives. She was the first person who ever asked them about some of the ways they participated in rape culture, she said. They had never thought about it before. They didn't see any need to think about it. "Justice involves cultural change," she said. "Healing would depend on a world where initiation rites for young men don't involve degrading women." Though Sarah had not heard from many friends and colleagues whom she had expected to be supportive, she had heard from many, many strangers who shared their stories. "I learned I had been surrounded by survivors of sexual violence without knowing it," she said. This is ultimately what made her determined to create a memorial where the reality of sexual violence could be publicly recognized. Sarah recounts, "I wrote to my city council member (for the first time ever), who pointed me to my Park Board Commissioner (whom I didn't know), who invited me to speak for three minutes during an upcoming Park Board Meeting." As a skillful organizer, Sarah invited the many survivors who had written to her to join her as she read her three-minute statement to the Park Board. As a result of her leadership and the outpouring of stories that occurred at a moment of societal reckoning about sexual abuses of power, the Memorial to Survivors of Sexual Violence has now been built in a Minneapolis park. It was dedicated on October 10, 2020.



Queens of a Fallen World

The Lost Women of Augustine's Confessions

Kate Cooper

The powerful and surprising story of the four remarkable women who changed Augustine's life – and history – forever.

While many know of St Augustine and his *Confessions*, few know of the women whose hopes and dreams shaped his early life: his mother, Monica of Thagaste; his lover; his fiancée; and Justina, the troubled empress of ancient Rome. Historian Kate Cooper skilfully reconstructs their lives against the backdrop of the late Roman Empire to paint a vivid portrait of the turbulent society they and Augustine moved through and shows how despite their often-precarious position, these women tried in their different ways to influence the world around them. Reading between the lines of the *Confessions*, Cooper argues that Augustine did not end his engagement because he was called to celibacy, but because he began to see his arranged marriage as an unforgiveable betrayal of love for the sake of ambition.

Vividly written and drawing on extensive new research, *Queens of a Fallen World* is essential reading for those looking for a new understanding not only of Augustine, but also of the women who shaped his life – with consequences that were to change Christianity for centuries to come.



Kate Cooper is Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London. Born in Washington, DC, she was educated at Wesleyan University, with post-graduate studies at Harvard Divinity School and Princeton University. Kate regularly

appears on radio and television to help bring early Christianity and ancient family life alive for modern audiences. Her previous books include *Band of Angels: The Forgotten World of Early Christian Women* (Atlantic Books).

30th March 2023

9781399807968

HB £20

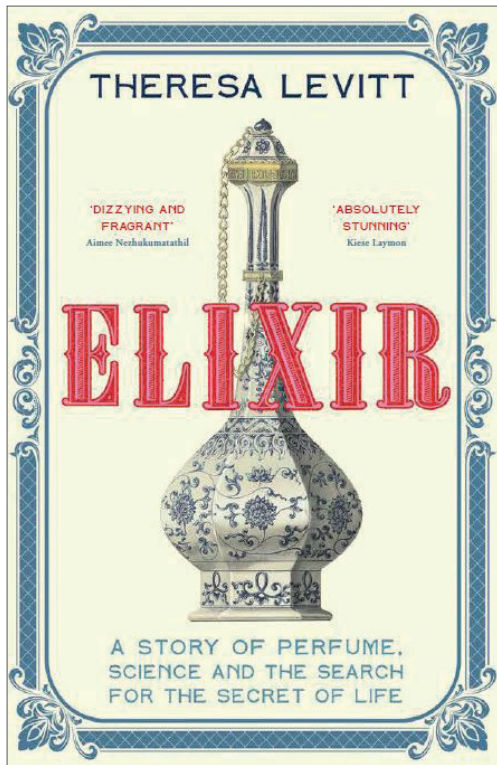
'Fascinating and well-written, *Queens of a Fallen World* raises vital questions about the role of women in the founding centuries of Christianity, piecing together a rich backdrop to Augustine's life that has rarely emerged before. Cooper convinces us that these women can be recovered, and that through his words and thoughts, their lives shaped the future of a fledgling religion. A brilliant new take'

Janina Ramirez, author of *Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages, Through the Women Written Out of It*

In Roman Africa, during the last years of Emperor Constantine the Great's long reign, a slave spoke up to criticize her master's daughter. The speaker was not the kind of person who is normally noticed by history, since she had neither wealth, nor power, nor legendary beauty. We know very little about her, only that she was a child. We do not know whether she survived to adulthood. She may have been one of the many Roman children who did not live to see their tenth birthday. This was common in the Roman world, especially, but not only, among slaves and the poor. We do not know what she was called. The one source that remembers her does so only as *ancilla*—the Latin for a handmaid or female slave— or *illa*, which simply means “she.” We will meet her more than once in what follows, and we will speak of her as “Illa,” letting the unfamiliar Latin form become something like a name. In the normal way of things, Illa would have been one of the forgotten people of history. But another child noticed her defiant act of truth telling and grew up to speak of what she learned from her . . .

We are used to thinking of the women of the past as silent, since few sources have survived to preserve their voices. But Augustine is not a writer who expects women to be silent. He often found them memorable precisely for what they said. He recalls, for example, his concubine's desperate vow when he ended their relationship and sent her away. Equally unforgettable are his mother's prayers, her cajoling, and her conversations with bishops in her quest for advice on how to shape her errant son into a good Christian. Even the slaves and children in the house where Monnica grew up played a part: one thinks of the elderly nurse who took care of Monnica when she was a child and of Illa, the playmate who challenged her and changed the way she thought about herself. It should not be surprising, then, that in the *Confessions* enslaved women consistently come across as honest and reliable people capable of speaking truth to power. Augustine was fascinated by the idea that God distributes the ability to do good in the world evenhandedly and that human beings are just as likely to hear his voice speaking through women, slaves, and children as through powerful men. If the *Confessions* is partly a story about women struggling to make a difference, it is also a story about Augustine's own effort to understand those women. He needs to make sense of his relationships with them partly because he knows that those relationships are part of his path toward God.

Four women stand at the center of Augustine's story: an empress testing the limits of her power, an heiress preparing for an arranged marriage, a mother devoted to her son's career, and a woman of humble origins who became the love of Augustine's life. Two shared Augustine's origins in Roman Numidia; two, whom he knew less well, lived out their lives at the imperial court in Italy, where he played a small role during a few heady years in the 380s. Each of the women contributed to shaping Augustine's world and his worldview, along with the legacy he left to history.



27th April 2023

9781399803243

HB £20

'Dizzying and fragrant, elegant and riveting . . . truly a captivating achievement!'

Aimee Nezhukumatathil

'If you read this book you will be changed . . . this book feels like an actual elixir. Absolutely stunning'

Kiese Laymon

Elixir

A Story of Perfume, Science and the Search for the Secret of Life

Theresa Levitt

Outcast by the scientific establishment, two friends in a Paris perfume shop make a discovery that will transform our understanding of the world and the origins of life on Earth forever.

Set amidst the unforgettable sights and smells of 18th- and 19th-century Paris, *Elixir* tells the story of Edouard Laugier and Auguste Laurent, the son of a perfumer and a fellow aspiring chemist, who met on the Left Bank while pursuing their passion for science. Spurned by the scientific establishment, the pair ended up working out of Edouard's family perfume shop, Laugier Père et Fils. By day they prepared the revitalizing elixirs and rejuvenating eaux it was famous for, but by night using the ingredients of the perfumery and the principles of alchemy, they pursued the secret of life itself.

Elixir reads like a novel, brimming with eccentric characters, experimental daring, and the romance of the Bohemian salon. It is the story of a long-standing scientific puzzle and the struggle to gain acceptance for a new way of thinking about the building blocks of living matter long after those who discovered it were both dead. Yet this is also a story of hope and determination. For while the scientific establishment ridiculed their work at the time, teenage lab assistant Louis Pasteur took it seriously and over the course of an exceptional career, was able to show that their work pointed to a deep, inexplicable asymmetry in the molecular arrangement of living things – an unexplained asymmetry which remains one of science's great mysteries.



Theresa Levitt is Professor of History at the University of Mississippi, where she specialises in the history of science and French cultural history. She received a BS in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an MA in history from Iowa State University, and a PhD in the history of science from Harvard University.

A visit to Laugier's shop on the rue Bourg-l'Abbé involved running the gauntlet of the most distinctive odors Paris had to offer. Coming from the Left Bank, you crossed over the Seine at the Pont au Change to arrive at what Paris's most exacting chronicler, Louis-Sebastien Mercier, called "by far the worst smelling place in the world": the rue du Pied-de-Boeuf. Packed into a small square were a crowded prison, a storehouse for keeping dead corpses, a butcher, a slaughterhouse, and a filthy fish market. An open channel of human effluvia met up with a stream of blood from the slaughterhouse, where they combined to flow into the Seine, the primary source of drinking water for Paris.

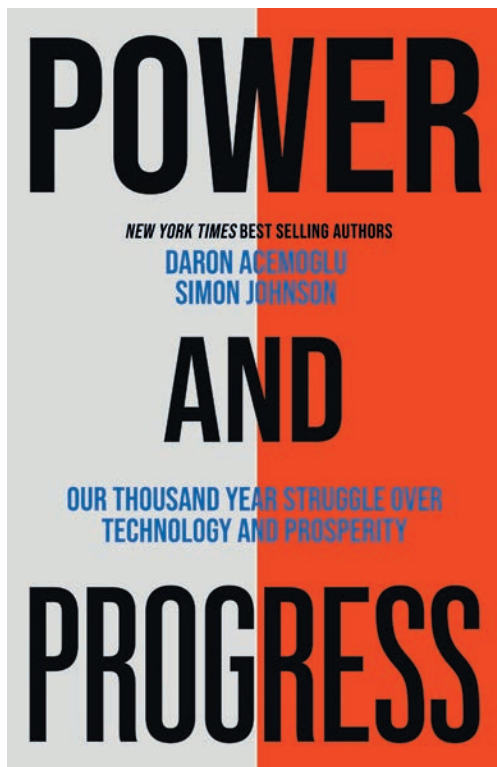
Stepping over the stream, your path continued up the rue Saint-Denis, past the Holy Innocents Cemetery, whose fetid air was already causing an outcry by the 1770s. Paris had buried the destitute here since the twelfth century, often in mass graves and covered only with shrouds. By the eighteenth century, shifting foundations had begun exposing the half-decomposed contents, with neighbors complaining of body parts breaking through their cellar walls. The stench of death permeated everything, and the air of certain cellars was so thickly mephitic you could suffocate on entering them.

Next came Les Halles, an open food market where each stall bore its own olfactory signature. Walking north on the rue Saint-Denis brought you first past the rue aux Fers, specializing in the sale of hay, then the rue de la Cossonerie, specializing in poultry. The sellers of cheese and fish were not far off, unmistakable even at considerable distance. The sensorium of Paris changed with each corner turned. The Russian poet Nikolay Karamzin noted as much when visiting in the 1780s. In one moment, he said, "filth is everywhere and even blood is streaming from the butchers' stalls. You must hold your nose and close your eyes." But you only had to take one step farther, "and suddenly the fragrance of happy Arabia or at least Provence's flowering meadows, is wafted to you, for you have come to one of the many shops where perfume and pomades are sold."

If you turned away from the open markets onto the rue aux Ours, you would soon come to the opening of the rue Bourg-l'Abbé, lined on both sides with shops catering to a rising bourgeois clientele. The street ran parallel and in between the rue Saint-Denis and the rue Saint-Martin, the two main north-south thoroughfares of central Paris. These two streets had distinct reputations: Saint-Denis was known (then as now) for its prostitutes and nightlife, and Saint-Martin for its churches and decorum. Bourg-

l'Abbé, tucked between them, bridged this range of human activity. Its shops offered the respectable middle class all the wares needed for a well-organized household while also catering to the deepest impulses of luxury and desire.

Laugier's shop at number 30 was about two-thirds of the way up the street. Nestled between a florist and a shop selling scented fans, it marked a rare respite from the crushing stench of city life. Its windows looked across to the dark, narrow passageways of rue du Grand-Hurleur, notorious as a place where the world's oldest profession was plied. Yet even where the light was good, the profusion of shops gave the impression that anything could be bought with enough money. Merchandise both fashionable and fanciful filled the shops that lined the street, much of it the products of highly specialized crafts created in line with strict guild statutes. There were individual shops devoted to ribbons, paper, bonnets, jewelry, lace, instrument strings, playing cards, and more. There was one shop for suspenders and one across the street for belts. If you continued north along the street, you would reach the abbey of Saint-Martin-des-Champs, which gave the street its name. Both the abbey and the street date to at least the Carolingian period, when they were outside the stone walls that once encircled Paris. The abbey built its own protective walls, and the street found itself within the walled enclosure, or *bourg*, of the abbey. Although an expansion of the Paris city walls in the twelfth century came to include it, the name remained, its medieval roots belying the fact that the area had become a thriving, bustling commercial center. It was here that Blaise Laugier set up shop, advertising as "the store of Provence and of Montpellier." Other perfumers from the south of France would follow his path to Paris in the following decades, including such storied names as Jean-François Houbigant and Jean-Louis Fargeon. But while they both chose fashionable addresses near the Tuileries and catered to the royal court, Laugier reigned over the middle-class market of central Paris, bringing to the shadowed corners of its narrow streets the sunsoaked floral bounty of his former hometown, Grasse.



11th May 2023

9781399804455

HB £25

Power and Progress

Our Thousand-Year Struggle Over Technology and Prosperity

Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson

A bold new interpretation of economics, history and our relationship to technology which will transform how you see the world forever.

A thousand years of history and contemporary evidence make one thing clear. Progress is not automatic but depends on the choices we make about technology. Much of the wealth generated by agricultural advances during the Middle Ages was captured by the Church and used to build grand cathedrals while the peasants starved. The first hundred years of industrialization in England delivered stagnant incomes for workers, while making a few people very rich. And throughout the world today, digital technologies and artificial intelligence increase inequality and undermine democracy through excessive automation, massive data collection, and intrusive surveillance.

It doesn't have to be this way. *Power and Progress* demonstrates that the path of technology was once – and can again be – brought under control. The tremendous computing advances of the last half-century can become empowering and democratizing tools, but not if all major decisions remain in the hands of a few hubristic tech leaders striving to build a society that elevates their own power and prestige. With their breakthrough economic theory and manifesto for a better society, Acemoglu and Johnson provide the understanding and the vision to reshape how we innovate and ensure technological advances create real prosperity for all.



Simon Johnson is the Ronald A. Kurtz Professor of Entrepreneurship in the Sloan School at MIT. Previously chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, he is the co-author (with James Kwak) of the *New York Times* bestseller *13 Bankers*.

Daron Acemoglu is Professor of Economics at MIT. He is the co-author (with James Robinson) of *The Narrow Corridor* and the *New York Times* bestseller *Why Nations Fail*.

Since its first version in 1927, *Time's* annual Man of the Year had almost always been a single person, typically a political leader of global significance or a US captain of industry. For 1960, the magazine chose instead a set of brilliant people: American scientists. Fifteen men (unfortunately, no women) were singled out for their remarkable achievements across a range of fields. According to *Time*, science and technology had finally triumphed.

The word technology comes from the Greek *tekhnē* (skilled craft) and *logia* (speaking or telling), implying systematic study of a technique. Technology is not simply the application of new methods to the production of material goods. Much more broadly, it concerns everything we do to shape our surroundings and organize production. Technology is the way collective human knowledge is used to improve nutrition, comfort, and health, but often for other purposes, too, such as surveillance, war, or even genocide.

Time was honoring scientists in 1960 because unprecedented advances in knowledge had, through new practical applications, transformed everything about human existence. The potential for further progress appeared unbounded.

This was a victory lap for the English philosopher Francis Bacon. In *Novum Organum*, published in 1620, Bacon had argued that scientific knowledge would enable nothing less than human control over nature. For centuries, Bacon's writings seemed no more than aspirational, as the world struggled with natural disasters, epidemics, and widespread poverty. By 1960, however, his vision was no longer fantastical because, as *Time's* editors wrote, "The 340 years that have passed since *Novum Organum* have seen far more scientific change than all the previous 5,000 years."

As President Kennedy put it to the National Academy of Sciences in 1963,

"I can imagine no period in the long history of the world where it would be more exciting and rewarding than in the field today of scientific exploration. I recognize with each door that we unlock we see perhaps 10 doors that we never dreamed existed and, therefore, we have to keep working forward."

Abundance was now woven into the fabric of life for many people in the United States and Western Europe, with great expectations for what would come next both for those countries and the rest of the world.

This upbeat assessment was based on real achievement. Productivity in industrial countries had surged during the preceding decades, so that every American, German, or Japanese worker was now producing on average a lot more than just 20 years ago. New consumer goods, including automobiles, refrigerators, microwave ovens, televisions, and telephones, were increasingly affordable. Antibiotics had tamed deadly diseases, such as

tuberculosis, pneumonia, and typhus. Americans had built nuclear-powered submarines and were getting ready to go to the moon. All thanks to breakthroughs in technology. Many recognized that such advances could bring ills as well as comforts. Machines turning against humans has been a staple of science fiction at least since Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. More practically but no less ominously, pollution and habitat destruction wrought by industrial production were increasingly prominent, and so was the threat of nuclear war — itself a result of astonishing developments in applied physics. Nevertheless, the burdens of knowledge were not seen as insurmountable by a generation becoming confident that technology could solve all problems. Humanity was wise enough to control the use of its knowledge, and if there were social costs of being so innovative, the solution was to invent even more useful things . . .

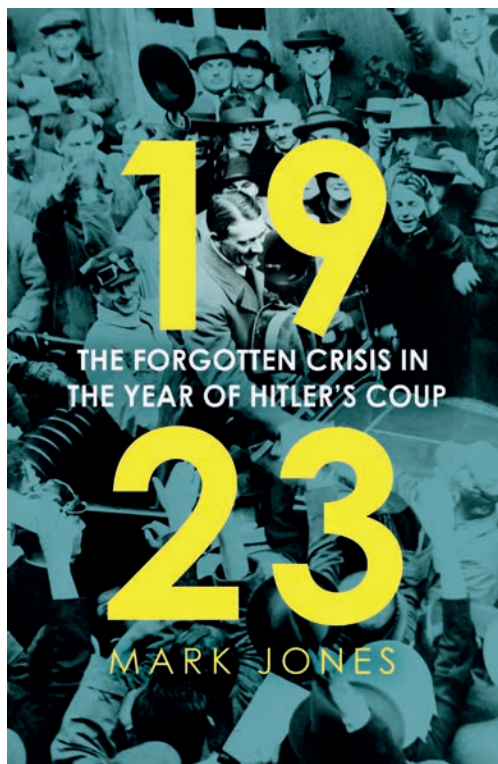
In fact, both *Time* magazine's upbeat assessment in 1960 and the pervasive techno-optimism of more recent decades were not just exaggerated; they missed entirely what happened to most people in the United States.

In the 1960s, only about 6 percent of American men aged between 25 and 54 were out of the labor market, meaning they were long-term unemployed or not seeking a job. Today that number is around 12 percent...American workers, both with and without college education, used to have access to "good jobs", which, in addition to paying decent wages, provided job security and career-building opportunities. Such jobs have largely disappeared for workers without a college degree. These changes have disrupted and damaged the economic prospects for millions of Americans . . .

The inequality implications of new technologies reach far beyond these numbers. With the demise of good jobs available to most workers and rapid growth in the incomes of a small fraction of the population trained as computer scientists, engineers, and financiers, we are on our way to a truly two-tiered society, in which workers and those commanding the economic means and social recognition live separately, and that separation grows daily.

This is not just a problem in the United States. Because of better protection for low-paid workers, collective bargaining, and decent minimum wages, workers with relatively low education levels in Scandinavia, France, or Canada have not suffered wage declines like their American counterparts. All the same, inequality has risen and good jobs for people without college degrees have become scarce in these countries as well . . .

A thousand years of history and contemporary evidence make one thing abundantly clear: there is nothing automatic about new technologies bringing widespread prosperity. Whether they do or not is an economic, social, and political choice.



1923

The Forgotten Crisis in the Year of Hitler's Coup

Mark Jones

The astonishing year when German democracy faced crisis and near destruction.

1923 was one of the most remarkable years of modern European history. In January, France and Belgium militarily occupied Germany's economic heartland, the Ruhr, triggering a series of crises that almost spiralled out of control. Hyperinflation plunged millions into poverty. The search for scapegoats empowered political extremes. Hitler's populism ascended to national prominence. Communists, Nazis, separatists all thought that they could use the crises to destroy democracy.

None succeeded. 1923 was the year of Hitler's first victory – and his first defeat. Fanning the flames of instability, anti-government and antisemitic sentiment, the Nazis abortive yet pivotal putsch in a Munich beer hall failed when they were abandoned by their likeminded conservative allies.

Drawing on previously unseen sources, Mark Jones weaves together a thrilling and resonant narrative of German lives in this turbulent time. Tracing Hitler's rise, we see how political pragmatism and international cooperation eventually steered the nation away from total insurrection. A decade later, when Weimar democracy eventually succumbed to tyranny, the warnings from 1923 – rising of nationalist rhetoric, fragile European consensus, and underestimation of the enemies of liberalism – became only too apparent.

This account of the republic's convulsions and survival offer a gripping image of a modern society in extreme crisis.



Mark William Jones is Assistant Professor in History at University College Dublin. He was educated at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Tübingen, and Cambridge University. He holds a PhD from the European University Institute

in Florence and has held visiting fellowships at the Free University of Berlin and Bielefeld University. He is among the leading English language historians of modern Germany and a recognized authority on the history of the Weimar Republic.

25th May 2023

9781529360721

HB £25

'Deftly written and lucid . . .
a masterful interpretation of
a fateful year'

Robert Kershaw

Praise for Mark Jones:

'Based on meticulous archival
research and written by one of
the most promising young
historians of modern Germany'

Robert Gerwarth

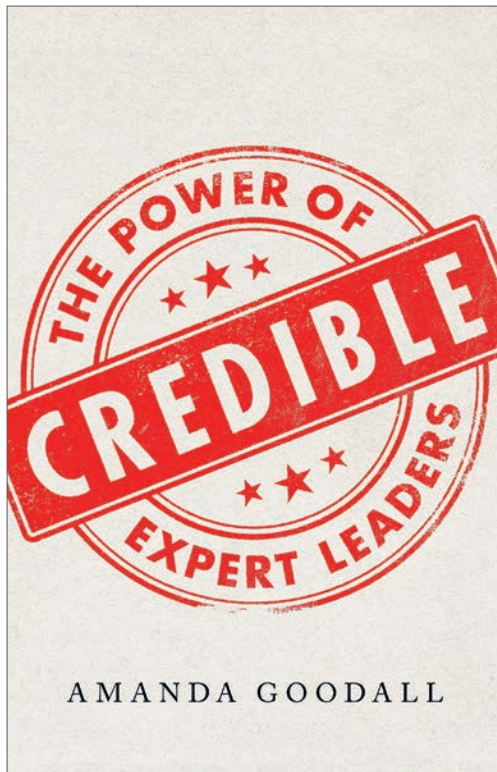
Taking its place in the large body of historical work about the Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism, this book lowers the microscope to examine individual conflicts and to ask how they relate to the bigger developments taking place at the national and international levels. The individual acts of violence that it analyses are not anecdotal; they are the heart of what made the overlapping crises of 1923 so powerful. The killing of civilians or the rape of German women by French and Belgian soldiers, the anger caused by foreign bayonets being on show in public spaces, the appeals to nationalism, the feeling that a neighbour or relative was profiteering from the collapse of the currency while one's own family suffered, the radical language of Hitler and the antisemitic violence of his followers and sympathizers: these were issues that powered the crisis year. They are what made political mobilization in Germany in 1923 the source of so much anger and emotion. If we do not understand that anger and emotion, we will never understand what mobilizes people to support extremes in times of crisis . . .

The nurse Helene Kaiser was the first person to reach them. She had been waiting at a tram stop on her way to work at Berlin's Charité hospital, when instinctively she had thrown herself to the ground, startled by a quick succession of sounds that were out of place in the Grunewald, one of the city's quietest and most expensive suburbs: the roar of a car engine, the screeching of tyres and then what sounded, implausibly, like a short burst of machine-gun fire and the dull thud of a grenade. As she lay on the ground listening, she heard one car accelerate away, while another rolled to a stop, and then silence. She had seen little, and said later that she had thought that a gunman had hidden himself in the bushes opposite the car.

Whether there was a gunman or not, she was compelled to help, to try to save lives, even if it meant risking her own. She got up and ran towards the car, an expensive NAG cabriolet with red wheels. Its top was down and a small fire burned in the back. In the driver's seat, a man, Josef Prozeller, sat uninjured but shaken. Behind him another man was lying on his side. He had been shot. There was so much blood flowing from his face and limbs that a pool was forming.

First, Nurse Kaiser put out the fire that had been caused by the grenade. Then she took the injured man in her arms and held him tightly, trying to stop his bleeding while screaming at Prozeller, 'Quick, quick, get us to a doctor.' But it was too late. The injured man died in her arms as Prozeller drove. He had been hit a total of five times. The autopsy revealed that the first shot had already been enough to kill him.

The date was 24 June 1922 and the dead man was Walther Rathenau, Germany's fifty-five-year-old foreign minister. He had been shot dead by a former naval officer and student named Erwin Kern. Kern's friend Hermann Fischer had thrown the grenade. Their car was driven by Ernst Werner Techow. Between them, they had just carried out one of the most important political assassinations of the decade in Europe. Eight years earlier, in July 1914, assassins had shot dead Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, triggering a chain of events that plunged the continent into war. In June 1922, Kern and Fischer were part of a plan to achieve something similar: by assassinating the foreign minister, they hoped to stir up a crisis that would end with the collapse of the republic itself.



22nd June 2023

9781529365191

HB £20

Credible

The Power of Expert Leaders

Amanda Goodall

What makes a leader credible?

Who would be an expert in a world where expertise is under siege? Hard-won know-how and experience seem to count for nothing in the eyes of everyone from high-profile business leaders to populist politicians.

But what evidence do we have that this perception is right?

Amanda Goodall has been asking this question for the last twenty years. Her research has taken her from boardrooms and F1 race tracks to hospitals and higher education. She has proven time and again that, when it comes to top performance, we need people – especially bosses – with the expertise that only comes from a deep understanding of the worlds in which they operate. That's what makes the people around them feel happier, better appreciated and more productive.

In *Credible*, Goodall identifies the key characteristics of expert leaders and provides a model for career development and success based on going deep into a business, working hard and knowing your stuff.

We all want to be led by people we can relate to and trust, people who have the credibility to make us want to follow them. When it comes to credible leadership, expertise really matters.



Amanda Goodall is Professor of Leadership at Bayes Business School (formerly Cass), City, University of London, where she specialises in how leaders and managers influence performance.

Dr Goodall has been a visiting scholar at Cornell University, the University of Zurich, and Yale University, and she publishes widely in academic journals, practitioner publications and general media. Her first book *Socrates in the Boardroom* was published by Princeton University Press in 2009. She is a committed environmentalist. You can find out more about Amanda's work at www.amandagoodall.com

Another more recent example of the disastrous consequences of having non-experts in leadership positions occurred as I was completing the book. On 6 September 2022, Elizabeth Truss won the competition to become leader of the Conservative Party after Boris Johnson was forced to step down. As a result, she became the next prime minister of the United Kingdom and immediately appointed her close political ally Kwasi Kwarteng Chancellor of the Exchequer ('Finance Minister' in other countries' terminology). Due to the peculiarities of the British political system, a tiny proportion of the British electorate had put them in charge of the United Kingdom's economy and society. It was to prove an extraordinary natural experiment vividly demonstrating what happens when leaders not only lack expertise themselves, but also ignore the deep expertise available to them. Forty-eight hours after taking office, on 8 September, Truss and Kwarteng sacked the most senior civil servant in the Treasury (the nation's finance department). They then refused to listen to, or co-operate with the Office of Budgetary Responsibility, a publicly funded body expressly created to provide independent analysis and advice on the public finances. For months before her election, Truss had derided what she called Treasury economic orthodoxy, and she and Kwarteng had hatched a radical plan to transform the nation's finances, informed not by any real knowledge of economics, but by ideology. Truss had studied politics, philosophy, and economics (PPE) at Oxford and Kwarteng studied classics and history at Cambridge, eventually completing a PhD on the Great Recoinage of 1696. As one UK economics professor I spoke to, who preferred to be anonymous, said, 'If you take the most generous possible view, they have between them approximately one half of an economics undergraduate degree. It's like somebody taking a few hours of training in a prop plane and thinking they can now fly a Jumbo Jet. It's ridiculous.'

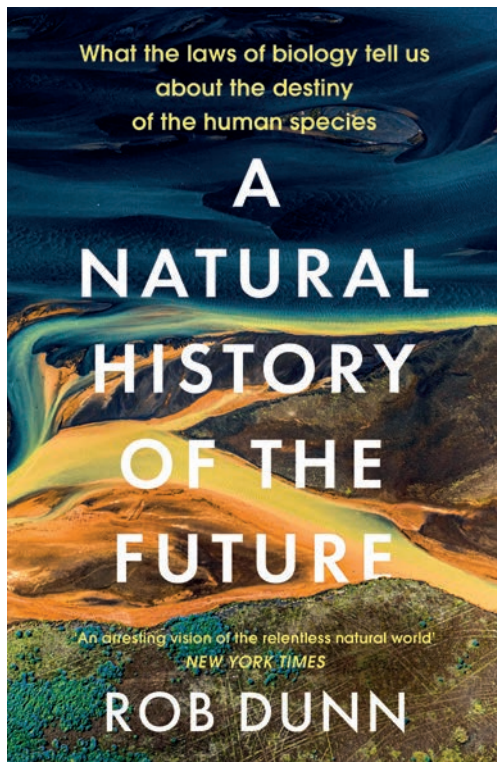
What Truss and Kwarteng did have, however, was huge self-belief. On 23 September 2022, Kwarteng rushed to announce a set of historically extraordinary tax cuts in a mini-budget. These cuts were huge and un-costed, in the sense that no indication was given as to how the cuts would ever be funded. A financial hole of more than £45 billion suddenly appeared in the UK national accounts. Chaos then set in. It started even before Kwarteng had finished speaking in the UK Parliament. Money-market managers around the world had been listening to the speech. Almost instantly the value of sterling fell to its lowest-ever level against the US dollar. UK government bonds were heavily sold off in international markets. The financial markets were making it clear by their action that they no longer had confidence in the people in charge of the UK economy.

Kwarteng was sacked as Chancellor on 14 October after thirty-eight days, making him the second-shortest-serving post-war Chancellor, and Truss announced her resignation a few days later on 20 October, after only forty-four days in office.

In that time, lasting harm had been done to the economy, and arguably the international reputation, of the UK. In the world's money markets, a damaging premium was quickly added by investors to UK borrowing costs in the form of higher interest rates offered on government bonds to make them still attractive to international investors and pension funds, despite Truss's perceived fiscal recklessness. This premium was dubbed the 'moron premium'. It did not just affect how easily the UK government could service its national debt, it also led to significantly raised mortgage payments for millions of ordinary citizens who were already struggling with high inflation and rising energy bills.

The moron premium is a good term. It gives an evocative sense of how costly it is when non-experts are in charge of something that they simply do not understand. And this is the point of the book. Would you like the school that educates your child to be led by a former retailer or an outstanding schoolteacher who understands children and schooling? Would you rather fly in a commercial aircraft commanded by a pilot who until recently had operated only gliders, or by someone who had spent two decades flying Airbus A320s or jumbo jets? Would you want your federal court case decided by a judge with zero courtroom experience, or by someone who had clerked for a Supreme Court justice and then spent her entire career trying similar cases as an attorney? In any area of endeavour, intelligence is no substitute for technical expertise or experience. To think otherwise is to leave your organization vulnerable to mediocre performance – or worse. Leaders must be credible. Is this idea really a surprise? Imagine trying to coach a team or come up with new plays when you have never actually played the sport in question. Or imagine conducting an orchestra if you can't read or play music. Or starting Microsoft or Apple if you had never written computer code.

Paperback Highlights



A Natural History of the Future

What the Laws of Biology Tell Us About the Destiny of the Human Species

Rob Dunn

'This is the fascinating and sobering ecology of the Anthropocene'

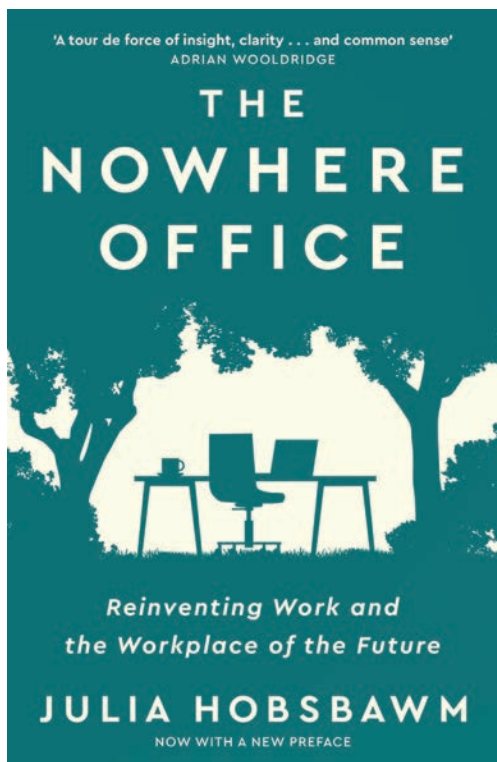
Rebecca Wragg Sykes, author of *Kindred*

'A helpful crash course in ecology and, as the title implies, an augur of sorts'

The New York Times Review

A leading ecologist argues that if humankind is to survive on a fragile planet, we must understand and obey its iron laws.

2nd February 2023 9781399800136 PB £12.99



The Nowhere Office

Reinventing Work and the Workplace of the Future

Julia Hobsbawm

'Julia Hobsbawm is brilliant at seeing tomorrow's ideas today'

Jo Lo Dico, *Financial Times*

'Every manager or leader who is wondering what to do next about their offices and people needs to read *The Nowhere Office*'

Ben Page, Global CEO of Ipsos

A radical new proposal for creating community and purpose in the post-pandemic workplace from one of the foremost thinkers in business and organisations.

16th February 2023 9781529396560 PB £10.99

The Ceiling Outside

The Science and Experience of the Disrupted Mind

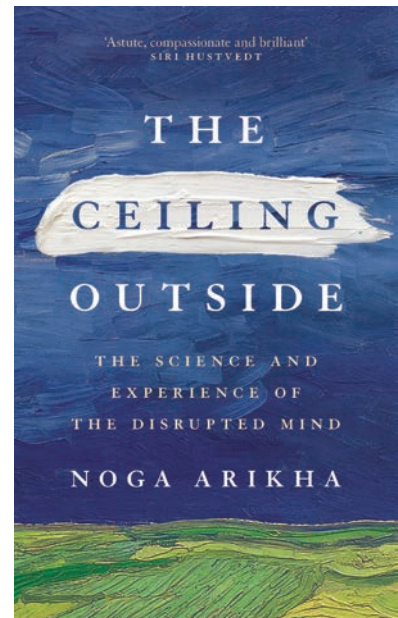
Noga Arikha

'Noga Arikha is that rare author whose deep knowledge of philosophy, science, and the arts allows her to move deftly from the quandaries of medical diagnosis and the scientific ideas that inform them to the intimate narratives of people afflicted with illnesses that threaten the coherence of that mysterious thing we call "a self"'

Siri Hustvedt

As her mother slips into the fog of dementia, a philosopher grapples with the unbreakable links between our bodies and our sense of self.

13th April 2023 9781529385489 PB £10.99



Free Speech

A Global History from Socrates to Social Media

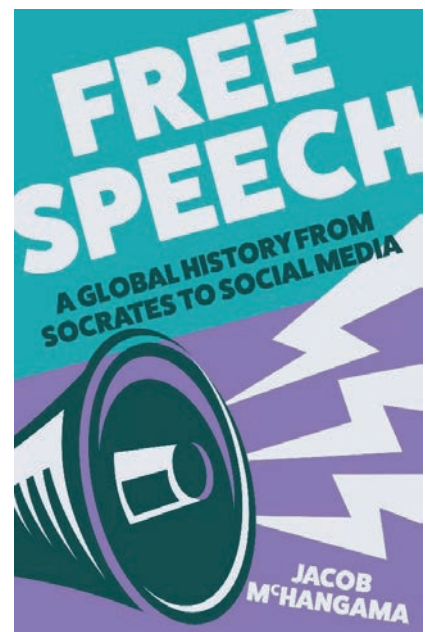
Jacob Mchangama

'This outstanding book gets it in one: free speech, as that right and privilege has been fought for and exercised as a key component of our always fragile democracies, is currently experiencing the greatest threat imaginable'

Paul Cartledge, A.G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture, emeritus, University of Cambridge

The first global history of free speech shows we need to understand the past to address the challenges of the future.

11th May 2023 9781529382211 PB £12.99



Before We Were Trans

A New History of Gender

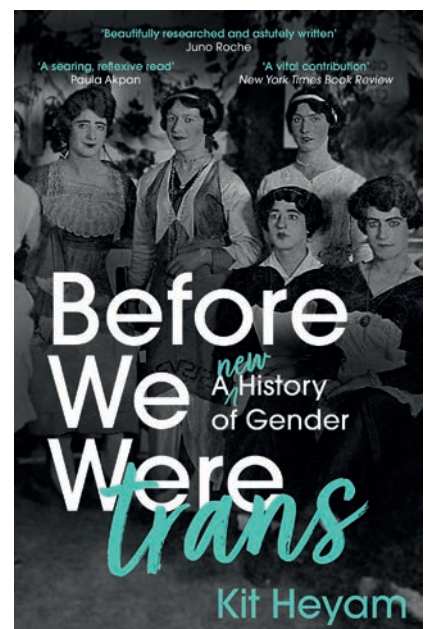
Dr Kit Heyam

'A beautiful, brilliant, lively book that weaves together fascinating and moving examples with thoughtful analysis. Both heartfelt and rigorous, entertaining and scholarly, *Before We Were Trans* invites us to expand our sense of communities – past and present – in welcoming ways, rather than contracting them and policing their borders'

Meg-John Barker, author of *Gender: A Graphic Guide*

A globe-spanning, different and vital new history of gender.

25th May 2023 9781529377767 PB £10.99





LONDON

 @BasicBooksUK

Basic Books, Carmelite House,
50 Victoria Embankment,
London, EC4Y 0DZ