
Monsters Simon Sebag Montefiore

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What Is History, Now? Weidenfeld & Nicolson
On today's world stage, there is one leader who stands apart from the rest. Queen Elizabeth II has seen more of the planet and its people than any other head of state and has engaged with the world like no other monarch in modern history. The iconic monarch never ventured further than the Isle of Wight until the age of 20 but since then has now visited over 130 countries across the globe in the line of duty, acting as diplomat, hostess and dignitary as the world stage as changed beyond recognition. It is a story full of drama, intrigue, exotic and sometimes dangerous destinations, heroes, rogues, pomp and glamour, but at the heart of it all a woman who's won the hearts of the world.

Monsters Routledge

Leni Riefenstahl, the woman known as

“ Hitler ’ s filmmaker, ” made some of the greatest and most innovative documentaries ever made. They are also insidious glorifications of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich. Now, Steven Bach reveals the truths and lies behind Riefenstahl ’ s lifelong self-vindication as an apolitical artist who claimed to know nothing of the Holocaust and denied her complicity with the criminal regime she both used and sanctified. A riveting and illuminating biography of one of the most fascinating and controversial personalities of the twentieth century.

Titans Vol. 3: A Judas Among

Us (Rebirth) Macmillan

From the New York Times

bestselling author of The

Romanov Sisters, Caught in

the Revolution is Helen

Rappaport's masterful telling windows. Among this disparate of the outbreak of the Russian group were journalists, Revolution through eye-witness diplomats, businessmen, accounts left by foreign bankers, governesses, nationals who saw the drama unfold. Between the first volunteer nurses and revolution in February 1917 expatriate socialites. Many and Lenin's Bolshevik coup in home: from an English nurse kept diaries and wrote letters October, Petrograd (the former who had already survived the St Petersburg) was in turmoil sinking of the Titanic; to the - felt nowhere more keenly black valet of the US than on the fashionable Nevsky Ambassador, far from his Prospekt. There, the foreign native Deep South; to visitors who filled hotels, suffragette leader Emmeline clubs, offices and embassies Pankhurst, who had come to were acutely aware of the Petrograd to inspect the chaos breaking out on their indomitable Women's Death doorsteps and beneath their Battalion led by Maria

Bochkareva. Helen Rappaport draws upon this rich trove of material, much of it previously unpublished, to carry us right up to the action - to see, feel and hear the Revolution as it happened to an assortment of individuals who suddenly felt themselves trapped in a "red madhouse."

Russia After Lenin National Geographic Books

A prize-winning historian reveals how Stalin—not Hitler—was the animating force of World War II in this major new history. World War II endures in the popular imagination as a heroic struggle between

good and evil, with villainous Hitler driving its events. But Hitler was not in power when the conflict erupted in Asia—and he was certainly dead before it ended. His armies did not fight in multiple theaters, his empire did not span the Eurasian continent, and he did not inherit any of the spoils of war. That central role belonged to Joseph Stalin. The Second World War was not Hitler's war; it was Stalin's war. Drawing on ambitious new research in Soviet, European, and US archives, Stalin's War revolutionizes our understanding of this global conflict by moving its epicenter to the east. Hitler's genocidal ambition may have helped unleash Armageddon, but as McMeekin shows, the war which emerged in Europe in September 1939 was the one Stalin wanted, not Hitler. So, too, did the Pacific

war of 1941–1945 fulfill Stalin’s goal of unleashing a devastating war of attrition between Japan and the “Anglo-Saxon” capitalist powers he viewed as his ultimate adversary. McMeekin also reveals the extent to which Soviet Communism was rescued by the US and Britain’s self-defeating strategic moves, beginning with Lend-Lease aid, as American and British supply boards agreed almost blindly to every Soviet demand. Stalin’s war machine, McMeekin shows, was substantially reliant on American matériel from warplanes, tanks, trucks, jeeps, motorcycles, fuel, ammunition, and explosives, to industrial inputs and technology transfer, to the foodstuffs which fed the Red Army. This unreciprocated American generosity gave Stalin’s armies

the mobile striking power to conquer most of Eurasia, from Berlin to Beijing, for Communism. A groundbreaking reassessment of the Second World War, Stalin’s War is essential reading for anyone looking to understand the current world order.

Was Mao Really a Monster? Quercus Books

The seats of Stalinist power -- The bulwarks of Stalin's power -- A world of reading and contemplation -- Trepidation in the inner circle -- Patient number 1 -- Family -- The dictatorship collapses -- The funeral.

The Great Stink Penguin UK

WINNER OF THE WOLFSON HISTORY PRIZE 2020 A SUNDAY TIMES, FINANCIAL TIMES, THE TIMES AND BBC HISTORY MAGAZINE BOOK OF THE YEAR For most of human history, the

seas and oceans have been the main means of western Pacific and linking half the world long-distance trade and communication through the international spice trade. In the Atlantic, centuries before the little kingdom of Portugal carved out its powerful, between peoples - for the spread of ideas and religion as well as commerce. This book of Portugal carved out its powerful, traces the history of human movement and seaborne empire, many peoples sought new interaction around and across the world's lands across the sea - the Bretons, the greatest bodies of water, charting our Frisians and, most notably, the Vikings, now relationship with the oceans from the time of known to be the first Europeans to reach the first voyagers. David Abulafia begins North America. As Portuguese supremacy with the earliest of seafaring societies - the dwindled in the late sixteenth century, the Polynesians of the Pacific, the possessors of Spanish, the Dutch and then the British each intuitive navigational skills long before the successively ruled the waves. Following the invention of the compass, who by the first merchants, explorers, pirates, cartographers century were trading between their far-flung and travellers in their quests for spices, gold, ivory, slaves, lands for settlement and islands. By the seventh century, trading knowledge of what lay beyond, Abulafia has routes stretched from the coasts of Arabia created an extraordinary narrative of and Africa to southern China and Japan, humanity and the oceans. From the earliest bringing together the Indian Ocean and the

forays of peoples in hand-hewn canoes through uncharted waters to the routes now taken daily by supertankers in their thousands, *The Boundless Sea* shows how maritime networks came to form a continuum of interaction and interconnection across the globe: 90 per cent of global trade is still conducted by sea. This is history of the grandest scale and scope, and from a bracingly different perspective - not, as in most global histories, from the land, but from the boundless seas.

Hitler's Hangman Pan Macmillan

Lenin's politics still reverberate around the world even after the death of the USSR. His name elicits revulsion and reverence. Yet Lenin the man remains largely a mystery. This biography reveals Lenin in his full

complexity as a revolutionary, political leader, thinker, and private person. 50 halftones. 3 maps.

Leni Random House

"This biography of the young Stalin is more than the story of how a revolutionary was made: it is the first serious investigation, using the full range of Russian and Georgian archives, to explain Stalin's evolution from a romantic and idealistic youth into a hardened political operative. Suny takes seriously the first half of Stalin's life: his intellectual development, his views on issue of nationalities and nationalism, and his role in the Social Democratic debates of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This book narrates an almost tragic downfall; we see Stalin transform from a poor provincial seminarian, who wrote romantic nationalist poetry, into a fearsome and

brutal ruler. Many biographers of Stalin turn to shallow psychological analysis in seeking to explain his embrace of revolution, focusing on the beatings he suffered at the hands of his father or his hero-worship of Lenins, or sensationalizing Stalin's involvement in violent activity. Suny seeks to show Stalin in the complex context of the oppressive tsarist police-state in which he lived and debates and party politics that animated the revolutionary circles in which he moved. Though working from fragmentary evidence from disparate sources, Suny is able to place Stalin in his intellectual and political context and reveal, not only a different analysis of the man's psychological and intellectual transformation, but a revisionist history of the revolutionary movements themselves before 1917"--

Lenin John Wiley & Sons

Mao: The Unknown Story by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday was published in 2005 to great fanfare. This book demonstrates that their portrayal of Maobook is selective and inaccurate, and that although Mao did have many faults and was responsible for some disastrous policies, a much more balanced picture is needed.

Jerusalem Belknap Press

The inside story of what really happened at Lehman Brothers and why it failed In **The Devil's Casino: Friendship, Betrayal, and the High Stakes Games Played Inside Lehman Brothers**, investigative writer and Vanity Fair contributing editor Vicky Ward takes readers inside Lehman's highly charged offices. What Ward uncovers is a much bigger story than Lehman losing at the risky game of collateralized debt obligations, swaps, and leverage. A can't put it down page turner that opens the world of Wall Street to view unlike any book

since *Bonfire of the Vanities*, except that *The Devil's Casino* isn't fiction. Details what went on behind-the-scenes the weekend Lehman Brothers failed, as well as inside Lehman during the twenty years preceding it. Describes the feudal culture that proved both Lehman's strength and its Achilles' heel. Written by Vicky Ward, one of today's most connected business and finance writers. On Wall Street, Lehman Brothers was cheekily known as "the cat with nine lives." But as *The Devil's Casino* documents, this cat pushed its luck too far and died—the victim of men and women blinded by arrogance.

The Moscow Trilogy Jonathan Cape

Stalin did not act alone. The mass executions, the mock trials, the betrayals and purges, the jailings and secret torture that ravaged the Soviet Union during the three decades of Stalin's dictatorship, were the result of a tight network of trusted henchmen (and women), spies, psychopaths, and thugs. At the top of this pyramid of terror sat five

indispensable hangmen who presided over the lives, the minds, the twisted careers, and the unpunished crimes of Stalin's loyal assassins. Founded by Feliks Dzierzynski, the Cheka—the Extraordinary Commission—came to life in the first years of the Russian Revolution. Spreading fear in a time of chaos, the Cheka proved a perfect instrument for Stalin's ruthless consolidation of power. But brutal as it was, the Cheka under Dzierzynski was amateurish compared to the well-oiled killing machines that succeeded it. Genrikh Iagoda's OGPU specialized in political assassination, propaganda, and the manipulation of foreign intellectuals. Later, the NKVD recruited a new generation of torturers. Starting in 1938, terror mastermind Lavrenti Beria brought violent repression to a new height of ingenuity and sadism. As Rayfield shows, Stalin and his henchmen worked relentlessly to coerce and suborn leading

Soviet intellectuals, artists, writers, lawyers, and scientists. Maxim Gorky, Aleksandr Fadeev, Alexei Tolstoi, Isaak Babel, and Osip Mandelstam were all caught in Stalin's web—courted, toyed with, betrayed, and then ruthlessly destroyed. In bringing to light the careers, personalities, relationships, and “accomplishments” of Stalin's key henchmen and their most prominent victims, Rayfield creates a chilling drama of the intersection of political fanaticism, personal vulnerability, and blind lust for power spanning half a century. Though Beria lost his power—and his life—after Stalin's death in 1953, the fundamental methods of the hangmen maintained their grip into the second half of the twentieth century. Indeed, Rayfield argues, the tradition of terror, far from disappearing, has emerged with renewed vitality under Vladimir Putin. Written with grace, passion, and a dazzling command of the intricacies of Soviet politics and society, *Stalin and the Hangmen* is a devastating indictment of the individuals and ideology that kept Stalin in power.

Stalin and His Hangmen Harvard University Press
A magnificent new biography that revolutionizes our understanding of Stalin and his world The product of a decade of intrepid research, *Stalin* is a landmark achievement. Stephen Kotkin offers a biography that, at long last, is equal to this shrewd, sociopathic, charismatic dictator in all his dimensions. We see a man inclined to despotism who could be utterly charming; a pragmatic ideologue; a leader who obsessed over slights yet was a precocious geostrategic thinker—unique among Bolsheviks—and yet who made egregious strategic blunders. Through it all, we see Stalin's unflinching persistence, his sheer force of will—perhaps the ultimate key to understanding his indelible mark on history. Drawing on Kotkin's exhaustive study of Soviet archival materials as well as vast scholarly literature, *Stalin* recasts the way we think about the Soviet Union, revolution, dictatorship, the twentieth century, and indeed the

art of history itself.

Stalin's Secret War Arcturus Publishing
Revolutionary practitioner, theorist, factional chief, sparkling writer, 'ladies' man' (e.g., his affair with Frieda Kahlo), icon of the Revolution, anti-Jewish Jew, philosopher of everyday life, grand seigneur of his household, father and hunted victim, Trotsky lived a brilliant life in extraordinary times. Robert Service draws on hitherto unexamined archives and on his profound understanding of Russian history to draw a portrait of the man and his legacy, revealing that though his followers have represented Trotsky as a pure revolutionary soul and a powerful intellect unjustly hounded into exile by Stalin and his henchmen. The reality is very different, as this masterful and compelling biography reveals.
Stalin Basic Books

“The truly magnetic power” of this thriller is “the stirring of our deepest fears and their unexpected resolution—at this, Montefiore is the master” (Washington Post). Inspired by a true story, prize-winning historian and acclaimed novelist Simon Sebag Montefiore explores the consequences of forbidden love in this heartbreaking epic that unfolds in Stalin’s Moscow. As Soviet Russia celebrates the motherland’s glorious victory over the Nazis, shots ring out on the crowded streets. On a nearby bridge, a teenage boy and girl lie dead. But this is no ordinary tragedy, because these are no ordinary teenagers. As the son and daughter of high-ranking Soviet officials, they attend the most elite school in Moscow. Was it an accident, or murder? Is it a conspiracy

against Stalin, or one of his own terrifying intrigues? On Stalin's instructions, a ruthless investigation begins that becomes known as the Children's Case. Youth across the city are arrested and forced to testify against their friends and their parents. As families are ripped apart, secrets come spilling out. Trapped at the center of this witch-hunt are two pairs of illicit lovers, who learn that matters of the heart exact a terrible price. By turns a darkly sophisticated political thriller, a rich historical saga, and a deeply human love story, Montefiore's masterful novel powerfully portrays the terror and drama of Stalin's Russia. "In a league of its own." —Wall Street Journal "A darkly enjoyable read." —The Guardian, London "Gripping."

—Steve Emmett, New York Journal of Books
"A kind of Virgin Suicides for the Soviet set, speaking to much that's dark in the human soul—but to what can redeem it, too."
—Kirkus Reviews

The Devil's Casino Hachette UK

A book about losing a place, finding a purpose, and immersing in a community. Welch and her husband had always dreamed of owning a bookstore. When the opportunity to run a struggling Virginia coal mining town presented itself, they took it. And took the plunge into starting their dream as well.

Monsters Encounter Books

The preferred method of torture of Vlad Dracul, 15th-century prince of Wallachia, was to attach a horse to each of the victim's legs as

a sharpened stake was gradually forced into his body; Vlad also enjoyed scalping, skinning and boiling alive. The 14th-century Mongol warlord Tamerlane once ordered the building of a pyramid of 70,000 human skulls from those that his army had beheaded... In 101 World Heroes Simon Sebag Montefiore selected his ultimate heroes and heroines. Now he offers his readers the other - darker - side of the coin. Monsters presents, in chronological order, grimly fascinating profiles of 101 notorious and profoundly sinister individuals whose actions have one thing in common - they have had a baleful and blood-soaked impact on the annals of world history. From Attila the Hun to Basil the Bulgar Slayer, from Pedro the Cruel to Ivan the Terrible, and from Richard III to Saddam Hussein, Monsters is a devilishly compelling gallery of history's greatest ghouls, including:

Caligula, Richard III, Adolf Eichmann, Joseph Stalin, Pol Pot, Charles Manson, Herman Cortes, Adolf Hitler, Al Capone, Laventi Beria, Lucrezia Borgia, Nicolae Ceausescu, Vlad the Impaler, Saddam Hussein, Simon de Montfort, Pablo Escobar, Ivan the Terrible, Genghis Khan, Idi Amin, Attila, Josef Mengele, Heinrich Himmler, Mao Zedong, Osama bin Laden, Kim Il Sung, Slobodan Milosevic, Empress Cixi, Tomas de Torquemada.

Caught in the Revolution Vintage

Imprisoned in the Gulags for a crime he did not commit, Benya Golden joins a penal battalion made up of Cossacks and convicts to fight the Nazis. He enrolls in the Russian cavalry, and on a hot summer day in July 1942, he and his band of brothers are sent on a suicide mission behind enemy lines—but is there a traitor among them? The only thing Benya can truly trust is

his horse, Silver Socks, and that he will find no mercy in onslaught of Hitler's troops as they push East. Spanning ten epic days, between Benya's war on the grasslands of southern Russia and Stalin's intrigues in the Kremlin, between Benya's intense affair with an Italian nurse and a romance between Stalin's daughter and a war correspondent, this is a sweeping story of passion, bravery, and survival—where betrayal is a constant companion, death just a heartbeat away, and love, however fleeting, offers a glimmer of redemption.

Stalin Princeton University Press

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Romanovs*—and one of our pre-eminent historians—comes “a meticulously researched, authoritative biography” (*The New York Times*), the companion volume to the prize-winning *Stalin*, and essential reading for

anyone interested in Russian history. This revelatory account unveils how Stalin became Stalin, examining his shadowy journey from obscurity to power—from master historian Simon Sebag Montefiore. Based on ten years of research, *Young Stalin* is a brilliant prehistory of the USSR, a chronicle of the Revolution, and an intimate biography. Montefiore tells the story of a charismatic, darkly turbulent boy born into poverty, scarred by his upbringing but possessed of unusual talents. Admired as a romantic poet and trained as a priest, he found his true mission as a murderous revolutionary. Here is the dramatic story of his friendships and hatreds, his many love affairs, his complicated relationship with the Tsarist secret police, and how he became the merciless politician who shaped the Soviet Empire in his own brutal image.

The Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap Random House

What's it like to be the son or daughter of a dictator? A monster on the Stalin level? What's it like to bear a name synonymous with oppression, terror, and evil? Jay Nordlinger set out to answer that question, and does so in this book. He surveys 20 dictators in all. They are the worst of the worst: Stalin, Mao, Idi Amin, Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein, and so on. The book is not about them, really, though of course they figure in it. It's about their children. Some of them are absolute loyalists. They admire, revere, or worship their father. Some of them actually succeed their father as dictator—as in North Korea, Syria, and Haiti. Some of them have doubts. A couple of them become full-blown dissenters, even defectors. A few of the daughters have the experience of having their husband killed by their father. Most of these children are rocked by war, prison, exile, or other upheaval. Obviously, the children have things in common. But they are

also individuals, making of life what they can. The main thing they have in common is this: They have been dealt a very, very unusual hand. What would you do, if you were the offspring of an infamous dictator, who lords it over your country? An early reader of this book said, “There’s an opera on every page”: a drama, a tragedy (or even a comedy). Another reader said he had read the chapter on Bokassa “with my eyes on stalks.” Meet these characters for yourself. Marvel, shudder, and ponder.

The Boundless Sea Yale University Press
FULLY REVISED AND UPDATED FOR
2024 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A
NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK •
JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL BOOK OF
THE YEAR "Spectacular. [Montefiore]
really tells you what the life of the city has
been like and why it means so much. You

fall in love with the city. It's a treasure. It's a wonderful book." —Bill Clinton

"Impossible to put down. . . . Vastly enjoyable." —The New York Times Book Review

The history of Jerusalem is the story of the world: Jerusalem is the universal city, the capital of two peoples, the shrine of three faiths. The Holy City and Holy Land are the battlefields for today's multifaceted conflicts and, for believers, the setting for Judgment Day and the Apocalypse. How did this small, remote town become the Holy City, the "center of the world" and now the key to peace in the Middle East? Why is the Holy Land so important not just to the region and its many new players, but to the wider world too? Drawing on new archives and a lifetime's study, Montefiore reveals this ever-changing city and turbulent region through the wars, love affairs and revelations of the kings, empresses, amirs, sultans, caliphs, presidents, autocrats, imperialists and warlords, poets, prophets, saints and rabbis who created, destroyed, chronicled, and believed in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. A classic of modern literature, this is not only the epic story of 3,000 years of faith, slaughter, fanaticism, co-existence, power and myth, but also a freshly updated, carefully balanced history of the Middle East, from King David to the new powers of the twenty-first century, from the birth of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to the Israel-Palestine conflict. This is how today's Middle East was forged, how the Holy Land became sacred and how

Jerusalem became Jerusalem—the only city
that exists twice—in heaven and on earth.
“Magnificent. . . Montefiore barely misses
a trick or a character intaking us through the
city’s story with compelling, breathless
tension.” —The Wall Street Journal