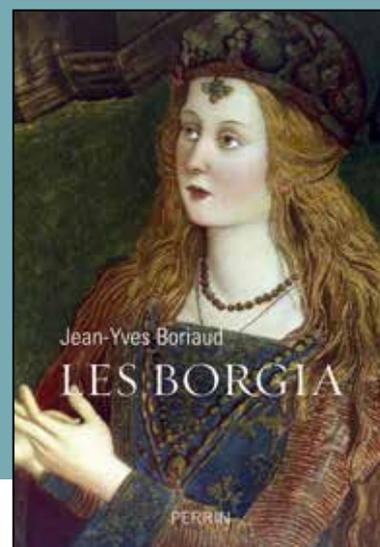
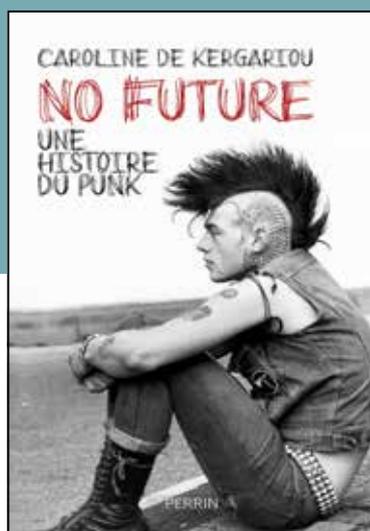
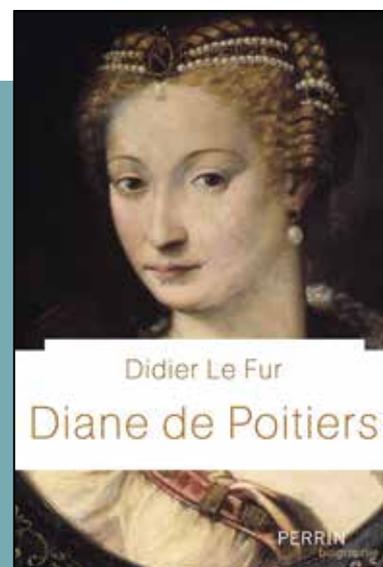
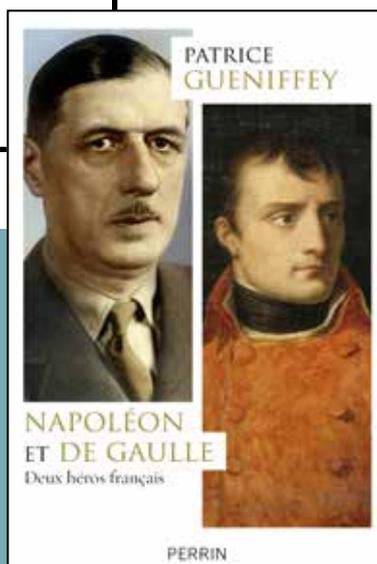
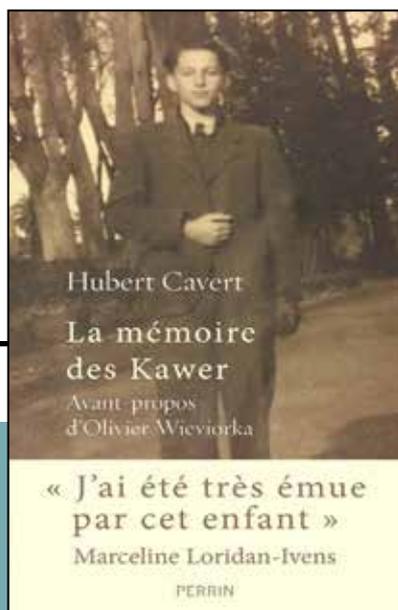


PERRIN

LONDON - PARIS

2017



PERRIN

Created in 1827, Editions Perrin has, from its beginnings, catered to a readership of history lovers, researchers and teachers. An initial specialty was the publication of the speeches of the Académie Française and early works included those of: Tolstoy, Augustin Thierry, François Mauriac and René Grousset.

Today, Perrin is the leading history publisher in France – with a catalogue featuring chronicles and biographies, general syntheses and monographies, memoirs and essays. It offers both highly accessible and more demanding historical works.

The paperback collection « Tempus » was created in 2002 and counts more than 500 titles, it is a rich illustration of Perrin's editorial span and can be said to constitute the history lover's ideal library.

www.editions-perrin.fr

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Rebecca Byers
rebecca.byers@edi8.fr
+ 33 (0)1 44 16 08 90

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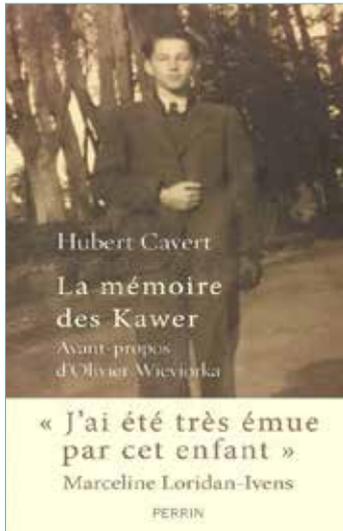
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THE SECOND WORLD WAR





The Memory of the Kawer Family

Hubert Cavert

Foreword by Olivier Wieviorka

The testimony of an orphan caught up in the turmoil of
World War II.

Second | February 2017
World War | 240 pages

"This child has greatly moved me."

Marceline Lodiran-Ivens (author of *But You Did Not Come Back*, (Atlantic Monthly Press 2016)

Original French publisher: Grasset, 2015.

HUBERT CAVERT (born Herbert Kawer) is neither a writer nor a historian. At the end of the war, he had no family left in Austria. He acquired French citizenship and began his secondary education at the Lycée Pierre de Fermat in Toulouse before taking up engineering in Nancy. He went on to hold various posts at the Radio-technique Francaise, Honeywell and Banexi, a subsidiary of the BNP bank. Father of three children, he never told them his story but left this manuscript, the only trace of their past, as their legacy.

An incredibly powerful story, in which history is mixed inextricably with personal anecdote. It answers the judicious question Olivier Wieviorka asks in his foreword: "Are men the actors or victims of history – of their own history?"

Herbert Kawer was 11 years old when he left Vienna by train, alone, to join his father in Bordeaux. His father, a Jew, had taken refuge in France after the Anschluss and would eventually be deported. Little Herbert would never see him again, or his mother, who had gone to start a new life in England. Escaping capture by chance, Herbert was taken in by the headmaster of his school and then by a resistance network. He was put in the care of Marinette Brugat (called Marraine) and Palmire, a Spanish refugee with whom she lived. Herbert, now named Hubert, thus began his new life in Pia, in the Pyrénées-Orientales region of southern France.

Hubert Cavert had never told his story or his family's. It was only "on the eve" of his death that he entrusted a manuscript to his children. Going beyond his personal journey, it traces the history of the Kawer (Cavert) family from 1866 – hallowed period when Joseph II had made Jews and Christians equal citizens – until 1945. We see customs and traditions change, with time. We follow the course of history through this little boy who carries with him his inheritance. As an adult, his message is simple: "As you know, I married Edith on April 15, 1958. We started a family of which we are proud. Foolishly proud. We are happy. Be happy too."

"LA MÉMOIRE DES KAWER embraces the universal without ever abandoning a truly singular voice." | Livres Hebdo



History of the Resistance in Western Europe 1940 - 1945

Olivier Wieviorka

For the first time, a trans-national history of the Resistance, by the best historian on the subject.

Second World War | January 2017
480 pages

A member of the *Institut universitaire de France* and a professor at the *Ecole Normale Supérieure* in Cachan, **OLIVIER WIEVIORKA** is a recognized specialist on the Resistance and World War II. He has devoted several books to these subjects, including a definitive *Histoire du Débarquement* (History of D-Day, Seuil, 2007) and *Histoire de la Résistance* (A History of the Resistance, Perrin, 2013 - rights sold to Harvard University Press).

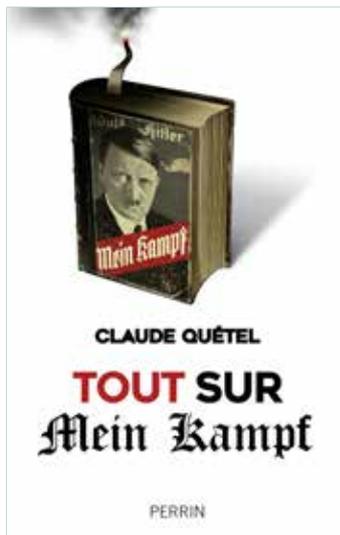
Licensed in Italy to Einaudi.

The Resistance in Western Europe has long been considered a national phenomenon that provided a significant contribution, both politically and militarily, to the Nazi defeat. But the “army of shadows” could never have risen without the support of London, first, and then of Washington. National factors thus played a pre-eminent part in the birth of the Resistance, while the British and the Americans determined its growth. The time has come to broaden our perspective beyond the limits of borders to construct a trans-European history of the Resistance.

This is the book’s goal. It aims to understand better the action of the clandestine forces in **Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, France** and **Italy** between 1940 and 1945, analyzing their interactions and inserting the history of the “shadow soldiers” in the grand scheme of Anglo-American strategy.

This book, based on English, Italian, Belgian and other archives, is certain to become a classic. Olivier Wieviorka gives us a new, in-depth perception of the place and the role of the national resistance movements. He illuminates the policies of governments in exile and unveils the importance of finance, logistics, and British and American planning. Along the way, he describes the uniqueness of each country, while establishing the first trans-national history of the Resistance. The book represents a welcome renewal for a historiography always in need of fresh perspective.

“Olivier Wieviorka, whose works have greatly contributed to the renewal of our understanding of the French Resistance, has wished to enlarge our perspective by dispensing with borders in order to construct a European history of the ‘shadow armies’... The interest of the book lies in its global reevaluation of the role of the resistance forces in the liberation of Western European countries.” | [Le Monde](#)



All You Need to Know About Mein Kampf

Claude Quétel

The definitive work on the black Bible of Nazism.

Second | January 2017
World War | 240 pages

CLAUDE QUÉTEL is the former director of the Caen Memorial and has published several important books on World War II, including *La Seconde Guerre mondiale* (World War II, Perrin, 2015) and *L'impardonnable défaite* (The Unforgivable Defeat, Jean-Claude Lattès, 2010). He also edited, with Franz-Olivier Giesbert, the collective work *Une journée avec* (A Day in the Life of...), which achieved major public and critical success.

Much has been said about *Mein Kampf* but how many people really know the book? Perhaps we thought the Bible of Nazism had been consigned to oblivion by now, but a fierce controversy arose in the Autumn of 2015 over the possibility of reissuing it. Many people are against the idea, claiming it would give immoral publicity to Adolf Hitler's poisonous theories. Others, however, find it absurd to want to prohibit a "first-rate document for understanding World War II."

This heated debate – coinciding with the infamous work's entry into the public domain – warranted a historian's investigation. It covers the genesis and content of the book, as well as its real historical impact and its publishing history, full of twists and turns – and evidently continuing today, as *Mein Kampf* is still selling (quite well) all around the world.

Claude Quétel conducts his inquiry by asking ten key questions:

- 1) Who was Hitler before *Mein Kampf*?
- 2) Under what circumstances did *Mein Kampf* come out?
- 3) What does *Mein Kampf* say?
- 4) Does *Mein Kampf* announce the future crimes of Nazism?
- 5) Is *Mein Kampf* the only book written by Hitler?
- 6) How widely distributed was *Mein Kampf* in Germany?
- 7) Did France ignore *Mein Kampf*?
- 8) What other countries published *Mein Kampf*?
- 9) Was *Mein Kampf* called into question after the war?
- 10) What has become of *Mein Kampf* until today?

"Naturally Quétel examines the content of **MEIN KAMPE**, its premonitory (or not) character and the conditions of its distribution – yesterday and today -, but his reflection is more deeply rooted in showing clearly who Hitler was before writing the bible of Nazism." | [Le Figaro Littéraire](#)

GENERAL HISTORY





A History of Wine

Didier Nourrisson

Wine and its history reveals both a society and its time. In this overview, Didier Nourrisson retraces the history of wine by taking the consumer as his reference point rather than the producer.

General | **April 2017**
 History | 350 pages

A professor of history (University of Lyon 1, School of Pedagogy and Education), **DIDIER NOURRISSON** continues his research on dietary behaviors and health policies (20 books in 30 years). His latest books on the subject: *Crus et cuites. Histoire du buveur* (A History of the drinker, Perrin, 2013); *Au péché mignon. Histoire des femmes qui consomment jusqu'à l'excès* (Guilty pleasure. A History of women who consume to excess, Payot, 2013); and with Stéphane Frioux, *Propre et sain. Un siècle d'hygiène à l'école* (Clean and healthy. A century of hygiene at school, Armand Colin, 2015).

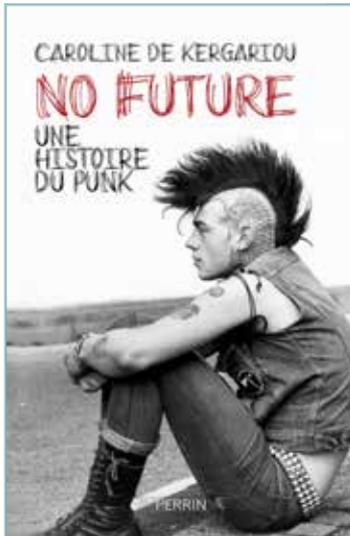
In a sweeping overview that extends from ancient times to the present, Didier Nourrisson, a historian specializing in food and gastronomy, draws up a lively and colorful history of wine. More than just a fermented product derived from grapes, wine is a revealer of a society and its time. It forges links among people and constitutes a social marker as well as an economic, cultural and, more recently, a public health issue.

Using an approach based on the consumer's viewpoint rather than the producer's – the latter is the more traditional perspective – Nourrisson investigates the evolution of customs and the modifications of wine itself. And indeed, the wine of antiquity and the way it was consumed have nothing to do with modern wine. With his history of wine, Didier Nourrisson has illuminated, with verve, a still undeveloped historiographical field.

Introduction:

Wine, Our Grandfather

- | | |
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No Future - A History Of Punk

Caroline de Kergariou

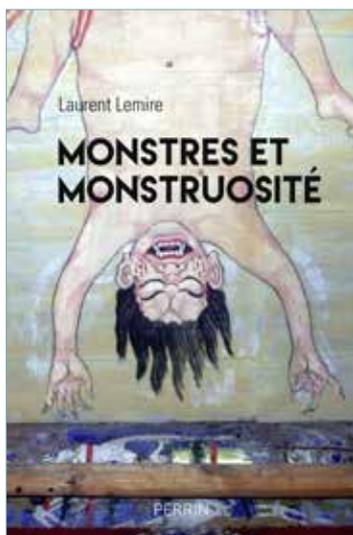
A global synthesis of the Punk movement, from the music that originated in London to New York art schools and the Parisian graphics art scene.

General | **June 2017**
History | 450 pages

CAROLINE DE KERGARIOU was rock critic for the magazine *Rock 'n' roll musique* during the 70's, the punk years. A specialist of this movement, she went on to write for *Music Scène*, *Rock Hebdo* and *Rock en Stock*.

No one questions today the huge importance of May '68 as a social, cultural and political divide. The conclusions drawn about May '68 can be restated: the arrival of the punk movement was taken for the umpteenth adolescent agitation, incomprehensible because it sang the praises of ugliness, but without any more impact than pop music. Yet 1977 represented a fracture as important as 1968: the world had changed, young people too. They had always known television and abundance, but this abundance was revealed to be tainted, with carcinogenic chemical dyes and hormone-fed veal. Well concealed behind its love of provocation, punk was much more serious than it seemed: it was one generation's answer to a worn-out world, whose arrogant economic model had been shattered by the 1974 oil crisis, in which even the counter-cultural values no longer made any sense to the young. This generation was the Blank Generation, the empty generation.

But while the word punk refers first of all to music, it fed other artistic forms, such as graphic design. It also affected lifestyles, aesthetics, philosophy and politics. These words would have seemed pretentious to the adults who in 1977 were confronted by surly youths with torn clothes and spiky red and green hair. Four decades later, it is possible to look back on this era more impartially and to trace the fruitful developments of a fascinating movement.



Monsters & Monstrosity

Laurent Lemire

In his skillful and lively account of how the monster evolved into the monstrous, Laurent Lemire traces the link that leads from the marvelous to the horrifying.

General | **May 2017**
History | *216 pages*

LAURENT LEMIRE is a journalist at the magazine *Nouvel Observateur*.

He has written biographies in which he combines history, culture and popular science: *Marie Curie* (Perrin, 2001) *Le siècle d'Albert Einstein* (*Albert Einstein's century*, Perrin, 2008), *Alan Turing* (Fayard, 2012) and *Ces savants qui ont eu raison trop tôt* (*The scholars who were right too soon*, Tallandier 2013).

Starting with ancient mythological hybrids such as the bird-headed man with bison depicted in the Lascaux cave, going on to real monsters like the Jurassic's giant headless mollusks, and without neglecting demons and vampires, Laurent Lemire draws up a select bestiary of these creatures. But venturing beyond mere appearance, the author also focuses on the monstrosity of the human mind (Jack the Ripper) and society's ostracized the mirror of its aberrations.

Reflecting our fears, the monster is the one who reveals and warns. He thus holds a special place, indicating the limits of human nature. Infiltrating every field – literary, artistic, scientific and religious – the monster fascinates and can be an object for study or a freak show attraction.



Extraordinary Stories

Alain Decaux

General | **June 2017**
History | *384 pages*

ALAIN DECAUX, was a member of the *Académie Française*, and was famous for his talent in bringing historical characters and events to life in his books, on television and in the theater. He also held various governmental responsibilities. He passed away in 2016.

Dracula, Lawrence of Arabia, Champollion, Heydrich -- Alain Decaux narrates, with his usual maestria, ten personal destinies with a shattering impact on world history.

The book's table of contents lists ten extraordinary stories. Alain Decaux shares his unfailingly original and striking insights into characters as diverse as Mandrin, Louis II of Bavaria, Mermoz, Lawrence of Arabia and Ben Gurion. And into the murder of Reinhard Heydrich, who was seen by some as Hitler's successor.

The author relies here on a wealth of information, the fruit of more than twenty years of research, only partially used in his famous television programs *Alain Decaux raconte* (Alain Decaux narrates).

- 1) Dracula, from the Impaler to the Vampire
- 2) Mandrin versus Louis XV
- 3) Champollion, the man who gave Ancient Egypt a voice
- 4) Ludwig II, the mad king of Bavaria
- 5) Lawrence the Great of Arabia
- 6) Mermoz the Conqueror
- 7) Puyi, the last emperor of China
- 8) The tragedy of the King of Kings
- 9) Reinhard Heydrich's death in Prague
- 10) Ben-Gurion or the birth of a nation

The best-selling *Histoires extraordinaires* (Extraordinary Stories) and *Nouvelles Histoires extraordinaires* (New Extraordinary Stories), of which this book contains the best chapters, were hailed by the press when they appeared in the 1990's:

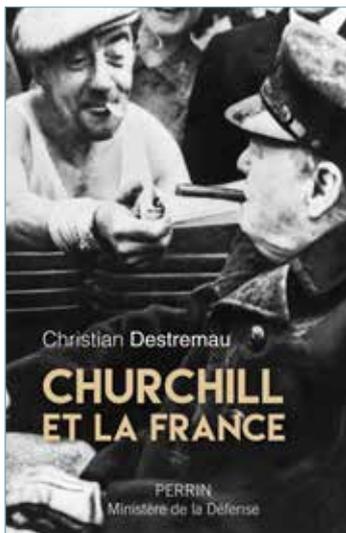
"Alain Decaux at his best." | [Le Point](#)

"An extraordinarily lively staging of each piece of the past."

| [Le Monde](#)

"There is no one like Alain Decaux for telling a story clearly in 30 pages that others take 600 pages to make confusing."

| [Le Figaro Magazine](#)



Churchill and France

Christian Destremau

Winston Churchill's wonderful but complex relationship with France, recounted for the first time.

General
History

January 2017
576 pages

CHRISTIAN DESTREMAU is bicultural, French and English. He was hailed by critics for the pertinent tone and insight of his book *Le Moyen-Orient pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale (The Middle East during the Second World War, Perrin, 2011)* while his *Ce que savaient les Alliés (What the Allies knew, Perrin, 2009)* met with great success. But it is especially his masterful biography of Lawrence of Arabia (Perrin, 2014) that has earned him unanimous praise from the press.

Winston Churchill was undoubtedly the most Francophile of all the foreign leaders of the Second World War. We must remember that the relationship between the Churchill family and France had deep roots: in Winston's genealogy there are French ancestors on both the father's and the mother's side. Winston Churchill's maternal grandmother was an American socialite who lived in Paris from 1867 to 1873, which explains why he, like his mother, spoke French at an early age, although as he would admit with very poor pronunciation.

Later it was through his political and military activities that he continued to maintain special ties with France, until his historic meeting with de Gaulle. Finally, it was his personal interests that prompted him to come to France and return frequently, admiring its different culture and way of life, and gratified, above all, by the beauty of the place.

Putting together British and French sources, Christian Destremau provides a thoughtful account of this unique and fruitful relationship. The Churchill he depicts possesses exceptional human qualities, at a time when France still looked at the other side of the Channel with admiration.

“The historian shows remarkably clearly the complex relationship between a man and a nation that was not his own. One discovers facts and circumstances until now unknown and Christian Destremau knows how to recite, in great detail, a story that contributed to bringing together two peoples that so much kept apart.” | [Culture-Chronique](#)



The Russian Civil War

Alexander Jevakhoff

For the first time, a comprehensive summary of the Civil War (1917-1922) that not only examines the actions of the Communists but investigates the roles of all the players in this Russian tragedy (Reds, Whites and Greens)..

General | **January 2017**
History | *816 pages*

A historian and French senior civil servant, graduate of the *École nationale d'administration*, **ALEXANDER JEVAKHOFF** chairs the Circle of the Imperial Russian Navy and is a member of the Union of the Russian nobility. He is the author of several books, including *Les Russes blancs* (*The White Russians*, Tallandier, 2007) and most recently *Le Roman des Russes à Paris* (*The story of the Russians in Paris*, Les Editions du Rocher, 2014).

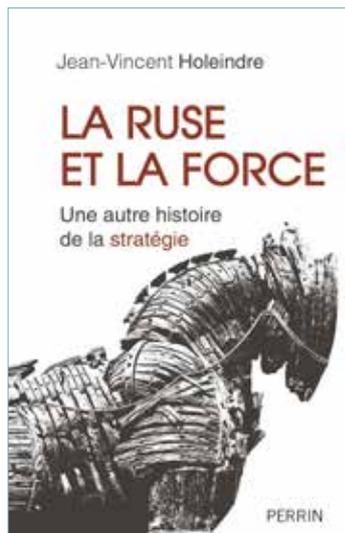
Nearly a hundred years ago, in the wake of the Russian Revolution of October 1917, the Civil War encompassed all the events that tore apart the former Russian Empire for more than five years. It cannot be reduced simply to how the Bolsheviks seized power, or to the opposition between the revolutionary «Reds» and the «Whites» who supported the return of the Tsarist regime. The ruinous violence of the conflict was not due solely to the impact of terrors decided from above: essentially the civil war was indescribable and a vicious mayhem, in which the state and Russian society disintegrated under the pressure of multiple centrifugal forces.

To understand the profound implications of this complex event, we needed Alexander Jevakhoff with his intimate knowledge of the Russian soul and his exceptional writing talent. The author's long-term research has yielded outstanding results: he delivers a comprehensive and dispassionate study of this crucial moment in the history of the twentieth century.

“Nothing of the chaos [of the Civil War] has escaped Alexandre Jevkhakoff, based on impressive research his great work masterfully enlightens us on the complexity of a conflict that ended in 10 million deaths.” | [Le Figaro Histoire](#)

“To better understand the deep implications of this complex event, and to tell it, there was a need for the intimate knowledge of the Russian soul possessed by Alexandre Jevakhoff, as well as his writing. The result of this long-term project is exceptional. The author has delivered a complete and dispassionate study of this essential period of 20th century history.”

| [La Marche de l'Histoire](#)



Ruse and Force

An alternative history of strategy
Jean-Vincent Holeindre

Calling into question the “Western model of war”, this book seeks to illustrate how much strategy in the Western world owes to ruse, identifying the key moments in its history, from the ancient Greeks to terrorist movements of the 21st century.

General
History

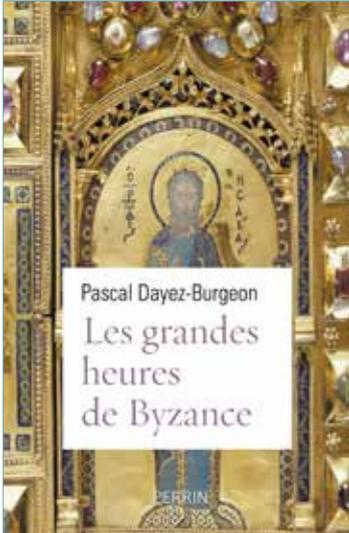
February 2017
528 pages

A specialist in the history of strategy and war with advanced degrees in political science, **JEAN VINCENT HOLEINDRE** is a professor at the University of Poitiers where he teaches political philosophy and international relations. He also teaches at *Sciences Po Paris* and is an associate member of the *Institut Michel Villey*. With Jean Baechler, he edited the collective books *Penseurs de la stratégie* (*Thinkers of Strategy*, Hermann, 2014) and *Guerre et politique* (*War and Politics*, Hermann, 2014).

A long history of strategy thus unfolds, which stages, for the first time and in a systematic way, the uninterrupted dialogue between cunning and strength.

In the eighth century BC, Homer gave us a striking account of the duality that underlies strategy. In the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the Greek poet dramatizes war through two leading figures. Achilles, the hero of strength, is a warrior: his honor is paramount. Ulysses, the hero of cunning, is a strategist: winning is all that counts.

This combination of force and ruse seems to structure the history of strategy in the West from the outset. Yet it is force that has attracted more attention from historians. In Victor Davis Hanson’s *The Western Way of War*, ruse never appears as a major element of strategy. On the contrary, it is a foil. This military and strategic “Orientalism” is obviously not acceptable, because it simply does not reflect the historical reality and it echoes an ideological discourse.



Byzantium's Greatest Hours

Pascal Dayez-Burgeon

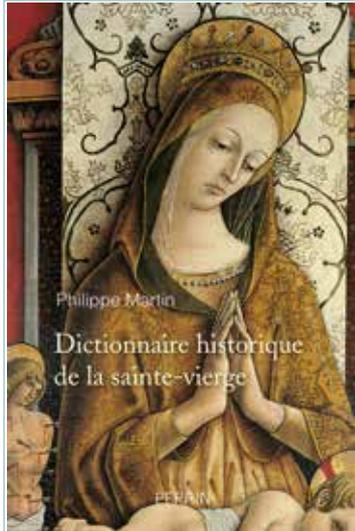
The author shows us why the Byzantine Empire is not
“incredibly complicated and boring”.

General
History

May 2017
250 pages

PASCAL DAYEZ-BURGEON is a history scholar and a graduate of the prestigious *Ecole Nationale d'Administration*. He is a specialist on the two Koreas, about which he has written several books including, for Perrin, *La Dynastie rouge* (*The Red Dynasty*), as well as *Secrets de la Belgique* (*Secrets of Belgium*). He has also published a historical novel about Byzantium, *La Relique impériale* (*The Imperial Relic*, Hatier, 1990).

According to the *Desencylopédie* (“Disencyclopedia”), a humorous online parody of Wikipedia, «The Byzantine Empire is something nobody understands or cares about, whose main characteristic is to be incredibly complicated and boring.” Though obviously a joke, this does correspond to what many people think but wouldn’t dare admit. This book sets out to contradict this depiction without writing another summary of Byzantine history or a new panegyric on Byzantium: there are enough of those already and some are excellent. Instead, the idea is to highlight the modernity of Byzantium, which confronted challenges we still face today: despotism, fanaticism, a complex relationship with the East. With an exhaustive treatment out of the question, the author has chosen to concentrate on the crucial moments. His eighteen instructive chapters are resolutely anti-cliché: no, Istanbul is not the Turkish name for Constantinople; Theodora did not perform with a dancing bear; and Byzantium isn’t necessarily synonymous with gaudy decadence and political scheming.



A Historical Dictionary of the Virgin Mary

*Sanctuaries and devotions from
the 15th to the 21st century*

Philippe Martin & Fabienne Henryot

Marian devotion is one of the essential forms of contemporary religiosity, extending beyond the Christian world.

General | **April 2017**
History | 576 pages

PHILIPPE MARTIN, a professor of modern history at Lyon 2 University, is a director at ISERL (Higher institute for the study of religions and secularism).

FABIENNE HENRYOT, curator at the Lausanne Cantonal Library (in charge of the theological and religious sciences collections) and associate professor at ENSSIB (higher institute of information and library sciences).

They have brought together nearly 40 scholars (including historians, theologians, politicians, philosophers, literary scholars and anthropologists) who have combined their recent or older work to develop this ensemble, which is certain to become the definitive reference on the subject.

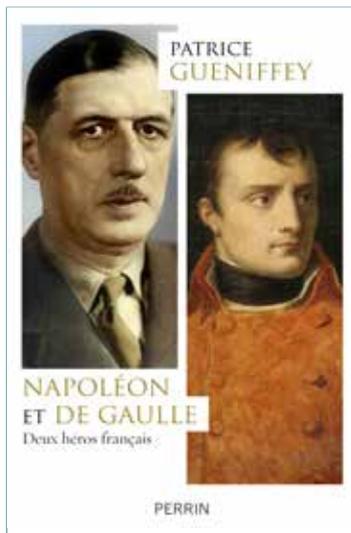
The cult of the Virgin is flourishing as much today as it ever has in the past, and the value of this unique dictionary is to show its richness and multiple facets.

She has been the object of prayers for centuries. The faithful pray to her, but so do football players and sailors. Every month, 19,000 objects and ex-votos are deposited before Our Lady of Aparecida. It is in her name that the Night Wolves travel the roads of Russia and Central Europe on their motorcycles; when Filipinos rose up against their dictatorship, they appealed to her, rosary in hand. To describe the innumerable forms of the cult of Our Lady, this dictionary containing 150 entries is divided into four sections. The first consists of general articles, summaries of already well-documented topics (Apparitions, Immaculate Conception, Mariolatry, etc.). The second takes on the devotees, official religious congregations (Orthodox, Protestants, etc.) and more unusual social groupings (Bikers, Soccer players, Sailors, etc.). The third visits sanctuaries (Aparecida, Fatima, Guadalupe, Lourdes, etc.). Finally, the fourth brings together critiques and challenges.

The whole book outlines a historical narrative formed around three high points: the beginning of the sixteenth century, when the Marian figure was held up as a banner against Protestantism and personal and collective devotions were thus amplified; the mid-nineteenth century, marked by the emergence of new cult sites and the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception; and the middle of the twentieth century, when the Second Vatican Council recalibrated Marian piety, which some considered invasive.

BIOGRAPHY





Napoleon and de Gaulle

Two French Heroes

Patrice Gueniffey

The two leading figures in the history of France seen from the perspective of one of France's major historians.

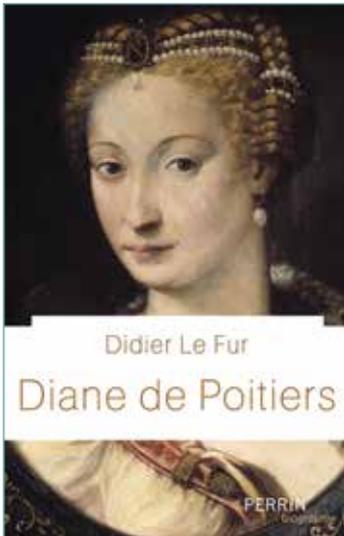
Biography | February 2017
448 pages

Professor at the EHESS (School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences) in Paris, **PATRICE GUENIFFEY** has published, among other books, *La Politique de la Terreur* (The Politics of the Terror, Fayard, 2000). His recent biography of Napoleon Bonaparte (Gallimard, 2013) was hailed by critics. He has since directed the best historians in the collective work *Les derniers jours des rois* (The Last Days of the Kings, Perrin 2014), attracting 25,000 readers; he has also written, with Thierry Lentz, *La fin des Empires* (The End of Empires, Perrin 2016), which has sold 14,000 copies to date).

Napoleon Bonaparte and Charles De Gaulle are the two favorite historical figures of the French – the two emblematic heads of state of modern France. Combining his subtlety as an analyst, his vision as a historian and his masterful writing skills, Patrice Gueniffey gives us an authoritative, ground-breaking essay that compares and contrasts the careers and personalities of the two giants, within the framework of a reflection on the figure of the French savior.

Sharing the same military background, both men took advantage of the chaos of a dying regime (the Directoire, the Fourth Republic) to seize power and create a system based on executive primacy and centralized administration. Their two consulates are viewed today with universal admiration – served of course by their genius for propaganda (Napoleon's Grande Armée bulletins and proclamations, the General's press conferences) in the service of a unifying cause and the same quest for greatness. These two great politicians were also bona fide writers (The Memorial of St. Helena and the Complete War Memoirs can both be found in the distinguished *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade* collection), who became living legends after a reign of similar duration (1799-1815; 1944-46 and 1958-69). The tragedy of their fall and the solitude of their end conspired to create their brilliant myth, which continues to outshine their successors.

But they were also profoundly different. Imperial excesses, for instance, contrasted with the Gaullist pragmatism that could give up the Empire for the Europe the Napoleonic eagle had torn apart. On all these issues, and numerous others, the author provides a fresh outlook.



Diane de Poitiers

Didier Le Fur

Beyond the myths, this is the first historical biography of THE royal mistress of the Renaissance, by the top authority on 16th century France.

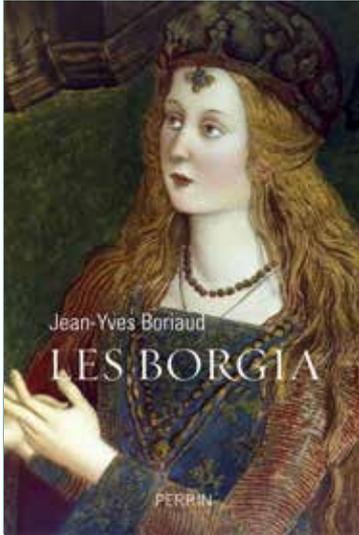
Biography | **February 2017**
240 pages

A renowned modernist, **DIDIER LE FUR** is a top expert on the 16th century and the Renaissance, having published *Le Royaume de France en 1500* (France in 1500) (RMN, 2010) and *Marignan 1515* (Perrin, 2004). A distinguished biographer, he wrote *François I^{er}* (Perrin, 2015), the portrait of a king and of a key period in French history that was the culmination of fifteen years of scholarship. It was a success with both readers and critics.

Conventional history tells us that Diane de Poitiers (1500-1566) was the mistress of two kings of France, François I and his son Henry II, and paints a portrait of her using all the clichés about feminine wiles. Motivated by her greed for financial gain, according to the myth, she used her physical charms to exert a strong influence on Henry II, who loved her to distraction – to his great misfortune, of course.

Didier Le Fur knows all about historiographical invention. He explains, simply and with style, what we actually do know about her, her behavior and her character. He then shows how her image was fabricated, by whom and for what purposes (mostly to disparage the Valois dynasty and its founder Francis I). The woman Le Fur reveals was certainly close to power, but never exercised it herself. She was able nonetheless to find a place for herself in a world dominated by men. The woman in this innovative, rich and colorful portrait is finally real, and she is fascinating.

“Didier le Fur explains simply, and with style, what we really know of [Diane de Poitiers], her actions and her character. Then he shows how her image was created, by whom and with what intentions...A woman close to power is revealed, although she never exercised it herself, she managed to find a place in a world dominated by men.” | [La Marche de l’Histoire](#)



The Borgias

Jean-Yves Boriaud

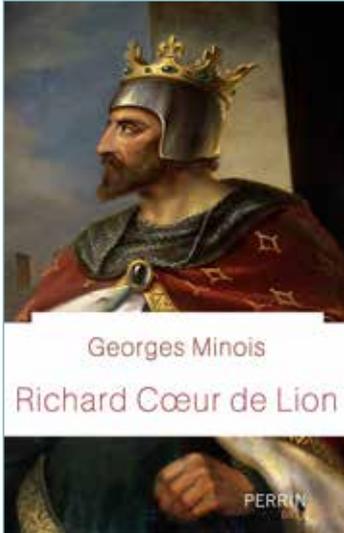
The history of one of the most fascinating families of the Renaissance, from the founder Alonso to the redeemer Francesco. Jean-Yves Boriaud has us discover a more nuanced portrait of this notorious dynasty.

Biography | **April 2017**
300 pages

JEAN-YVES BORIAUD, professor of language and Latin literature at the University of Nantes, specializing in Renaissance Rome, has published a biography of Galileo and translated great humanist texts, including *Petrarch's Letters of Old Age* (Perrin, 2013) and Machiavelli's *The Prince* and *L'art de la guerre* (*The Art of War*, Perrin, 2011). In 2015, he received the French national medieval book prize for his biography of Machiavelli.

Because he was more skilled than others at making his way through the political and historical imbroglio generated by the exile of the papacy in Avignon, Alonso, the first bishop of the Borja family, succeeded, with the support of the Spanish crown he had served so shrewdly, to become the first Borja pope, taking the name of Calixtus III. A soldier at heart, obsessed by the rise of the Turkish peril, he is known to posterity mainly for his efforts to launch the sovereigns of Europe into the crusade expected by the West.

Two generations later appeared the “Borgias”, a hydra with three heads (Alexander, Caesar, and Lucretia), which legend soon united in disgrace. Concocted deliberately, this dark reputation has erased their place in history: for Alexander, it was that of a great Renaissance pope, anxious to give the papacy its temporal foundations but entangled in damaging amorous intrigues; for Caesar, that of a hidalgo lost in the Church, which had become the armed faction of the paternal Caesarean Papism; and for Lucretia, married off to advance family ambitions, that of one of the great ladies who were the pride of the Italian Renaissance. This lineage, before being washed away in the tide of a formidable literary myth, was finally crowned by the accession to sainthood of the next generation's Francesco Borgia, a Jesuit tormented by his unfulfilled desire to redeem the faults attributed to his forerunners.



Richard The Lion Heart

Georges Minois

This legendary character of the Middle Ages remains in the collective memory as the invincible paladin. Sir Walter Scott turned him into a romantic hero, which, in fact he was not.

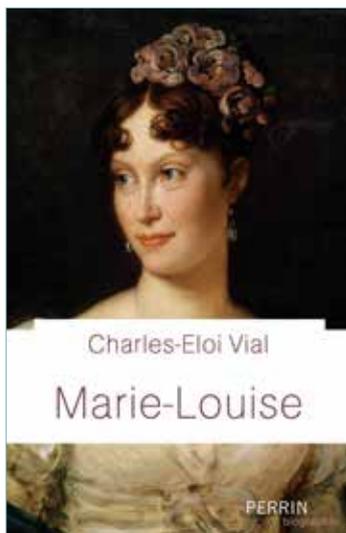
Biography | **February 2017**
600 pages

GEORGES MINOIS has published with Perrin numerous biographies of great medieval figures such as Charlemagne, Philippe le Bel and Charles the Bold. His latest book is a vast overview of the history of the Middle Ages.

Richard the Lionheart, born in 1153, was the least English of the kings of England, where he lived only six months. He reigned over immense territories ranging from Scotland to the Pyrenees, and spent his life defending them. The favorite son of his mother Eleanor of Aquitaine, he was the most admired and dreaded ruler of his time, an embodiment of the values and excesses of medieval chivalry.

Educated in the midst of Aquitaine troubadours, he was capable of composing verses, but it was at war that he forged his reputation. War against his father, Henry II Plantagenet; against his brother, John Lackland; against the king of France, Philippe Auguste, and against the Poitevin barons. And especially holy war, against Saladin, in the epic of the third crusade (1190-1194), during which he proved to be a military mastermind. Scourge of the Muslims, whose respect he earned, he was betrayed by the Christian sovereigns, who were jealous of his exploits.

Kept a prisoner in Austria, then released for ransom, he defeated Philippe Auguste, built Château-Gaillard in two years (1196-1198), and was killed by an arrow from a crossbow at the siege of Chalus, Limousin, in 1199.



Marie-Louise

Charles-Eloi Vial

The true portrait of the least known and most despised sovereign in the history of France – the niece of Marie-Antoinette and second wife of Napoleon.

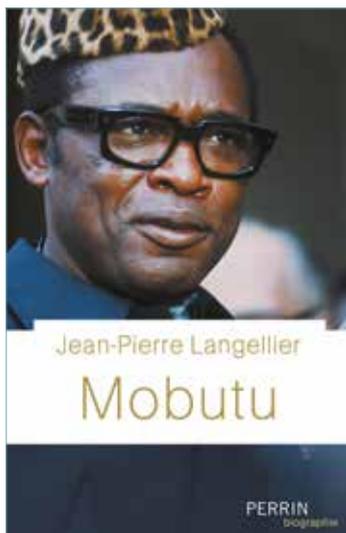
Biography | **May 2017**
432 pages

A librarian and archival paleographer, **CHARLES-ÉLOI VIAL** obtained his doctorate in history from Paris-Sorbonne University. He is a curator at the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*, where he is responsible for modern and contemporary manuscripts. He is notably the author, for Perrin, of the well-received *Les derniers feux de la monarchie* (*The Last Fires of the Monarchy*).

Marie-Louise (1791-1847), Archduchess of Austria, Empress of France (1810-1814), Queen of Italy then Duchess of Parma, second wife of Napoleon and mother of the King of Rome, is one of the most vilified characters in the history of France. Known for having betrayed the emperor and abandoned her son, accused of adultery, she has always been overshadowed in the collective memory by the Empress Josephine.

Because of the dark legend swirling around her, Marie Antoinette's niece has never been the subject of any serious study: the last sourced biography written about her dates back to 1936. Her archives have therefore never been read, and worse still, no historian has ever quoted her: yet her letters, notebooks and diaries are moving, revealing a woman both strong and fragile, who was initiated at a very young age into the secrets of power. After the Congress of Vienna, she became conscious of the major role she had to play on the European diplomatic chessboard; she even became one of the main supporters of Metternich's policies. Her life reflected her time; periods of calm alternated with a constant whirlwind of wars, dramas and revolutions.

The author gives us, in fligree, the portrait of Napoleon as husband and father. Having come as close as possible to the original source, he finally answers the question: «Why did Marie-Louise abandon Napoleon?»



Mobutu

Jean-Pierre Langellier

The biography of one of the most famous dictators of Africa, the “King of Zaire”.

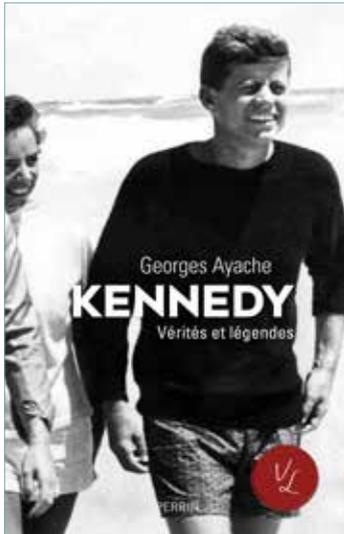
Biography | **March 2017**
450 pages

JEAN-PIERRE LANGELLIER is a journalist who worked for thirty-five years at the daily *Le Monde*, during half of which he was a foreign correspondent. He is the author of several books, including *Les Héros de l'An mil* (*The Heroes of the Year 1000*, Le Seuil, 2000).

For thirty-two years (1965-1997), Mobutu reigned with an iron hand over the Congo/Zaire – an often vicious dictatorship combining bloody crimes, material and moral corruption and the shameless plunder of national wealth. The verdict of history regarding Mobutu is damning. The man with the leopard-skin hat was no vulgar tyrant, however: he was a friend of the West who played a key strategic role during the Cold War, promoting his country as a «bulwark against communism» in Africa.

Having come to power in the wake of a ruthless civil war, he constantly maintained the often threatened unity of the Congo/Zaire, an immense ethnic puzzle with some four hundred tribes. But he wanted to do more: to endow his people with a national consciousness by exalting their identity, roots and traditions. This was the campaign for “authenticity”, a singular operation, intended to bring about psychological reconciliation.

This cultural revolution was accompanied, to an extravagant degree, by a glorification of the “Supreme Guide”. The vagaries of the world economy aggravated by catastrophic state management plunged the Zairian people into poverty and forced Mobutu to regretfully “democratize” his regime. He clung to his throne for a long time, until illness and a foreign invasion compelled him to flee his country ignominiously and he died in exile. It happened only twenty years ago.



JFK Truths and Myths

Georges Ayache

It is hard to imagine John Fitzgerald Kennedy at the age of 100. Yet this is how old he would have become on May 29, 2017, if fate had taken a different turn. The time has come to distinguish between the myth of the flamboyant young president (46 years old), and the dark myth of the debauched scion of a privileged family, backed by the Mafia.

Biography | **March 2017**
210 pages

A former diplomat with an academic background in history, **GEORGES AYACHE** is a specialist in international relations. Now a lawyer, he has devoted several books to the United States, including, for Perrin, *Kennedy-Nixon, les meilleurs ennemis* (*Kennedy-Nixon, best enemies*, 2012); *Frank Sinatra* (2014), and *Les Présidents des Etats-Unis. Histoire et portraits* (*Presidents of the United States. History and portraits*, 2016).

JFK had only just been murdered by an assassin's bullets in Dallas on November 22, 1963 when he went down in history as a legendary character. Until the revelations about the turpitude of the family clan, the amateurism of the presidential team, their sexual escapades, darkened the mythical image. Was JFK a hero of the Pacific War? Did he enter the political arena by default? Did this sailing enthusiast conceal his health problems? What roles did his father Joe and the Mafia play in his career? How can we assess his actions towards the USSR, Cuba and Vietnam? Or concerning the civil rights of African-Americans? Was he the target of a plot?

This didactic book draws from the best sources to answer all of these crucial questions. It succeeds in painting an objective picture of the 1,000 days JFK spent as the 35th leader of the free world while portraying him dispassionately as a man with two faces and a playboy.

BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS

Ask to see these recent 2016 successes!



LES SECRETS DU KREMLIN by Bernard Lecomte

So much drama, so many secrets that deserved further investigation. And for such an endeavor prominent Kremlinologist Bernard Lecomte has no equal.

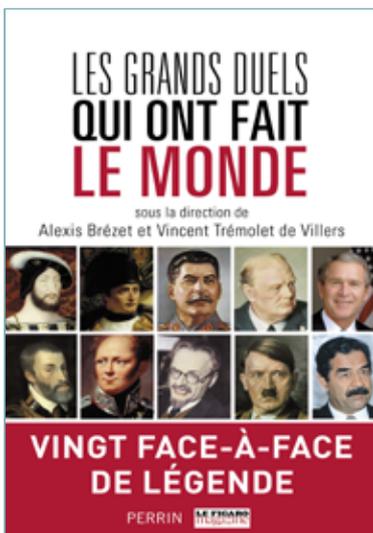
Instead of a chronological or linear narrative, the author has decided to tell sixteen sensational and classic episodes of this century of fire and blood, combining tragedy and romance.

Publication date : October 2016

Rights sold in:

Latin America - Spanish (El Ateneo)

Poland (Bellona)



LES GRANDS DUELS QUI ONT FAIT LE MONDE edited by Alexis Brézet & Vincent Trémolet de Villers

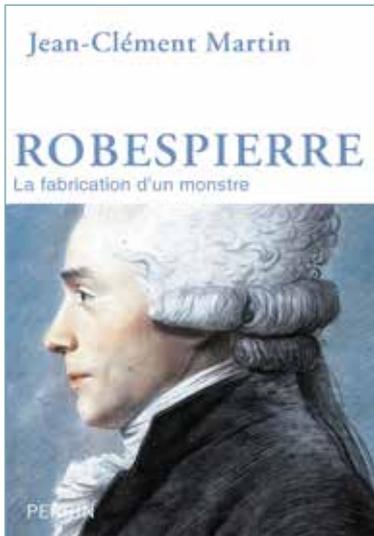
History, essentially tragic, is often embodied in the clash of two titans: their personal rivalries, running deep and escalating to hatred, are superimposed on their country's power struggles. Under the direction of Alexis Brézet and Vincent Trémolet de Villers, prominent historians and journalists from Le Figaro pool their resources to tell twenty stories that changed history, from ancient times to today, such as: Darius vs. Alexander; Hannibal vs. Scipio; Augustus vs. Cleopatra; Philip Augustus vs. John Lackland; Saladin vs. Baudouin; Gregory VII vs. Henry IV; Charles V vs. Francis I; Henry VIII vs. Thomas More; Philip II vs. Elizabeth I; Louis XIV vs. William of Orange; Frederic II vs. Marie-Theresa; Napoleon vs. Alexander I; Bismark vs. Napoleon III; William II vs. Nicolas II; Stalin vs. Trotsky; Churchill vs. Hitler; Stalin vs. Tito; Kennedy vs. Khrushchev; Bush vs. Saddam Hussein; Gorbachev vs. Yeltsin.

Publication date : October 2016

Rights sold in Latin America - Spanish (El Ateneo)

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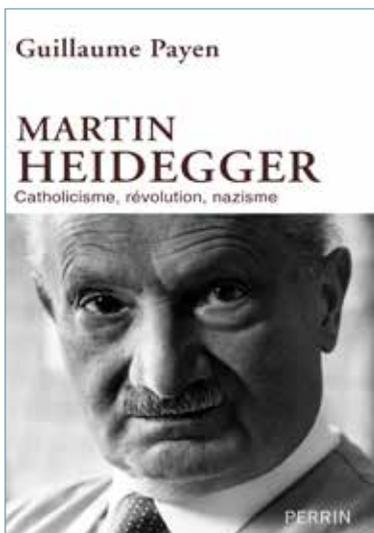


ROBESPIERRE by Jean-Clément Martin

A new portrait of the revolutionary figure nicknamed the « Incorruptible » – it tells the story of how a monster was created. For the author, the man Robespierre is neither an enigma nor the leader of a sect, but simply one of those young men who become actors in historical events that transcend them and leave them frozen into caricatures for eternity.

Publication date : January 2016

Rights sold in Italy (Salerno)



HEIDEGGER by Guillaume Payen

A uniquely historical biography. The result of 12 years of research, based on a thorough reading of Heidegger's works, including the controversial Black Notebooks, Guillaume Payen looks at Heidegger's life from the point of view of an historian.

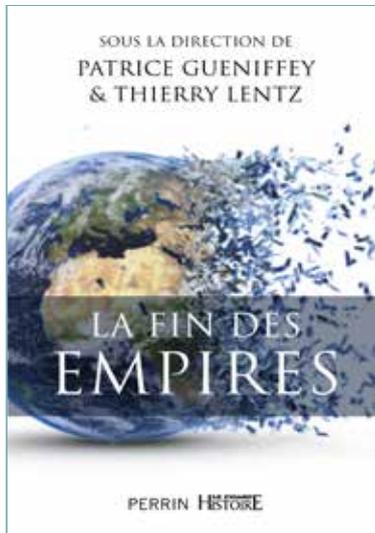
Publication date : January 2016

Received the prestigious *Prix Maurice Baumont de l'Académie des sciences morales et politiques* for an outstanding title on German history.

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LA FIN DES EMPIRES

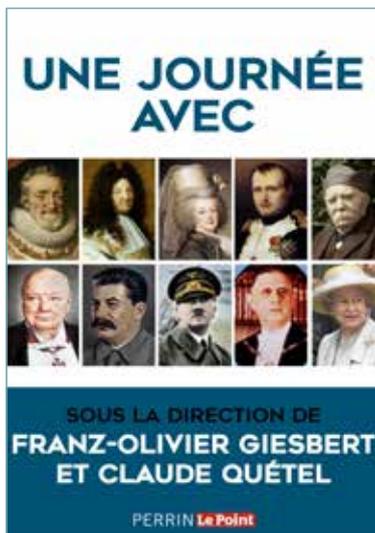
edited by Patrice Gueniffey et Thierry Lentz

Is history doomed to repeat itself? This familiar question is well worth asking when we consider the rise and fall of empires such as: Alexander the Great's ; Rome; Persia ; the Carolingian empire; the Arab caliphates ; the Mongols ; the Byzantine ; the Aztec ; the Holy Roman Empire ; the Spanish empire ; Napoleon; the Chinese ; Austria-Hungary ; the Ottoman empire ; the Third Reich; the Japanese; the British ; the French ; the Soviet ; the American.

Publication date : January 2016

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UNE JOURNÉE AVEC

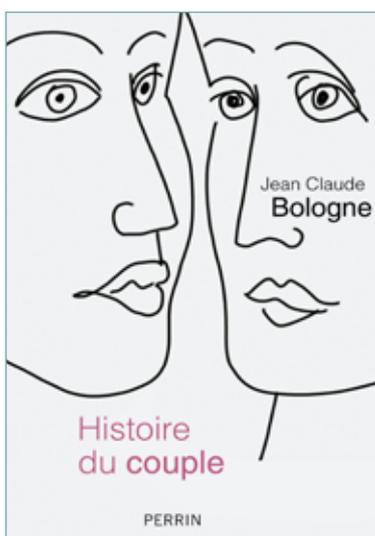
edited by Franz-Olivier Giesbert and Claude Quétel

The "ordinary" life of extraordinary characters – for example: what did Louis XIV do when he woke up in the morning ? As well as a day in the life of Charlemagne, Francis I, Henri IV, Madame de Pompadour, Marie-Antoinette, Robespierre, Napoleon, Nicolas II, Clemenceau, Churchill, Stalin, Hitler, Pétain, Mao, Charles de Gaulle, JFK, Khrushchev, Mitterand and Queen Elizabeth II.

Publication date : May 2016

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HISTOIRE DU COUPLE

by Jean-Claude Bologne

Jean-Claude Bologne retraces the evolution of the couple from antiquity to the present. Concise and clear-sighted, this major synthesis expands the field of reflection on this timely subject.

Publication date : March 2016

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Rights Manager
Rebecca Byers
rebecca.byers@edi8.fr