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 monographs, memoirs and essays. It offers both highly accessible and more demanding historical works.

www.editions-perrin.fr

FOREIGN RIGHTS

Rights Director of Perrin
Rebecca Byers
rebecca.byers@placedesediteurs.com
+ 33 (0)1 44 16 08 90
# CONTENTS

## GENERAL HISTORY

5  *The Enigmas of World History*
   UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JEAN-CHRISTIAN PETITFIILS

6  *Franck Ferrand recounts*
   FRANCK FERRAND

7  *The Twelve Pillars of Israel*
   GEORGES AYACHE

8  *An Investigation of the French Nobility, Aristocratic Permanence*
   ERIC MENSION-RIGAU

## MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE HISTORY

10  *Medieval Empires*
    UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SYLVAIN GOUGENHEIM

11  *Héloïse, Abelard and Bernard, Reason, Passion & Religion in the Middle Ages*
    GEORGES MINOIS

12  *The Tudors: Excess and Glory*
    BERNARD COTTRET

## NAPOLEON

14  *15 August 1811: The Zenith of the Empire*
    CHARLES-ÉLOI VIAL

15  *Bonaparte is no more!*
    THIERRY LENTZ

## WORLD WAR II

17  *A New History of the Occupation*
    ERIC ALARY

18  *Being a Soldier of Hitler*
    BENOIT RONDEAU

19  *The Desert War*
    UNDER THE DIRECTION OF OLIVIER WIEVIORKA

20  *The Scientists’ War*
    JEAN-CHARLES FOUCRIER

21  *Hitler and the Sea*
    FRANÇOIS-EMMANUEL BREZET

## MILITARY HISTORY

23  *The Century of Flying Aces (1915-1988)*
    PIERRE RAZOUX

24  *They Led the Allies to Victory*
    DANIEL FELDMANN

## BIOGRAPHY

26  *Nero*
    CATHERINE SALLES

27  *Trajan, The Soldier Emperor*
    CHRISTOPHE BURGEON

28  *Saint Benedict*
    ODON HUREL

29  *Agatha Christie: A Mysterious Life*
    MARIE-HELENE BAYLAC

30  *Marlene Dietrich*
    JEAN-PAUL BLEDEL

## BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS
GENERAL HISTORY
Was Atlantis a land tossed to the middle of the Aegean Sea by a tsunami, or a Platonic metaphor? Many people believe that the Shroud of Turin was once wrapped around Christ’s body, while others are convinced it’s a hoax. Who sculpted and erected those monumental figures on an improbable island in the South Pacific? Did the Vikings sail across the Atlantic and settle on the American coast or not? The sudden disappearance of the Mayan civilization and its undecipherable writing poses questions that remain unanswerable at this time. Jack the Ripper has been identified repeatedly, but which identification is true? And who was that mysterious young person who accompanied Mao towards the end of his life, interpreting his final burbles?

People have been attempting – sometimes for centuries – to solve these enigmas. They may annoy us at times, but like family secrets they preserve their appealing mystery. Some of them have affected the fate of the world. Akhenaton’s monotheism, Alexander’s tomb, Shakespeare’s identity, the disappearance of Ambassador Benjamin Bathurst, Tsar Alexander’s second life, the Kennedy assassination, the attempted assassination of John-Paul II, the death of Lady Di… So many episodes that continue to fascinate and inspire.
Franck Ferrand recounts

Franck Ferrand

Twenty stories skillfully told by the best-selling author (his book on the French king François 1er sold 20,000 copies) and star host of history programs on French radio and television.

Franck Ferrand, whether in his writing, radio shows, theater appearances or on television, has become the voice and face of history at its most lively and fascinating. Following in the footsteps of the great masters of the historical narrative - G. Lenotre, André Castelot and Alain Decaux - he delivers remarkable and exciting stories that are a pleasure to read.

In partnership with the magazine Historia, for which Ferrand writes a spirited monthly column, Perrin is bringing out twenty of these accounts, including a previously unpublished one on Hitler:

- The Battle of Hastings. William conquers England (1066)
- Etienne Marcel. The first revolt (1358)
- The Battle of Castillon, pivotal point between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance (1453)
- Tears of blood in the last royal joust. The death of Henry II. (1559)
- The tragic destiny of Mary Stuart (1586)
- The assassination of Concini (1617)
- The siege of La Rochelle (1627)
- The King is not dead; long live the King! The illness of Louis XIV (1658)
- Cartouche, public enemy number one (1721)
- The Damiens attack (1757)
- Scandal aboard the Boudeuse (Bougainville and Tahiti) (1768)
- Varennes or the wild escapade (1791)
- Napoleon and Josephine. Divorce for reasons of state.
- The 1848 revolution as seen by Victor Hugo
- The Empress Eugenie’s incredible flight
- The Last Days of the Samurai
- Two Conquerors for one Pole. Perry versus Cook.
- The strangeabdication of Nicolas II (1917)
- Lawrence of Arabia’s dream
- Hitler’s private life
- Gandhi, the man behind the image (1948)
- The Bulgarian umbrella
Although it is a nation among many, it is a nation unlike any other. Perhaps because it marks the resurrection, unparalleled in world history, of a state that had disappeared two thousand years before. And because its first vocation was to be a final refuge for the Jewish people, who had been persecuted repeatedly during the centuries of their dispersion and exile. Israel is also the first modern state whose birth proceeded not from military might or arbitrary political power, but from the clearly expressed will of the international community.

According to Georges Ayache, twelve figures – such as Theodor Herzl, who reinvented Zionism, and Ben Gurion, who founded the Jewish state – literally “made” Israel, by empowering it first to emerge and then to survive. Cornerstones of the state of Israel, these twelve figures were able to impose themselves—with both the somewhat utopian ideals of trailblazers and the implacable determination of pioneers.

- Theodor Herzl, the visionary
- Chaim Weizmann, the initiator
- David Ben Gurion, the founder
- Vladimir Jabotinsky, the revisionist
- Menachem Begin, the rebel
- Golda Meir, the fortress
- Moshe Dayan, the legend
- Abba Eban, the diplomat
- Yitzhak Rabin, the righteous one
- Ariel Sharon, Israel’s Cesar
- Isser Harel, the man in the shadows
- Shimon Peres, the survivor

A former diplomat and academic, now a lawyer, GEORGES AYACHE has already written several well-received books, including, at Perrin: Kennedy, Nixon: les meilleurs ennemis (Kennedy-Nixon: Best Enemies), Les Présidents des Etats-Unis (The Presidents of the USA) and Joe Kennedy.
The heirs of the old aristocratic dynasties have understood today that their history must remain living in order to last – they learn to develop their assimilation skills, they become active and succeed in the business world. But they run a risk: that of being diluted in the anonymity of the “upper classes” by being less attached to the transmission of their family tradition, their rural roots and the forms of civility characteristic of their milieu.

The book presents a clear synthesis of the classification of the nobility, fruit of the diversity of its origins, as well as its legal contours imposed by the monarchy. Finally, it recounts the main stages of its history, from the builders of fortresses in the Middle Ages until the 21st century, and along the way the court of Louis XIV, the Salons of the Enlightenment, the Terror, the Napoleonic saga and the constitutional monarchy.

A historical, political and sociological work that explains definitively the vital role of the aristocracy in the France of yesterday…and of today.
MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE HISTORY
As a political, diplomatic, military and cultural construction at the crossroads of space and time, “empire” is a particularly relevant concept to describe and understand the world of the Middle Ages. An empire is an ensemble that cannot be integrated into any other; the emperor is the one who proclaims he has no human power above him, and proves it. Between the fifth and fifteenth centuries, such constructions rose and fell almost everywhere on the planet. Some were ephemeral, others of long duration. They clashed or were unaware of each other, left impressive traces or disappeared almost entirely. During the same period, institutions, religions, heroes, wars and myths animated societies that illuminate each other when we view them side by side, as they are presented in this ambitious and unparalleled collective work that combines clear purpose with flawless research.

A global Middle Ages thus appears, simultaneously Carolingian, Byzantine, Khmer, Serbian, Aztec, Mongol, Abbasid, Ottoman, Bulgarian, Venetian, Chinese, Japanese, Norman, German, Plantagenet and Malay. Each facet is described by a renowned specialist.
The teacher, Abelard, arrogant and seductive before his castration, was the first truly trendy intellectual. Admired by his students, he undertook a rationalization of faith and a dissipation of the mysteries through dialectics. His purpose was to understand, the better to believe.

The woman, Heloise, ardent and well-educated, literally worshipped her teacher and lover, both intellectually and carnally, demanded the right to enjoy love free of the chains of marriage. Forced into a convent, she brooded over her erotic dreams and feelings of guilt, while comporting herself as a perfectly pious abbess.

The monk, the future Saint Bernard, an ascetic who rose to become the highest moral and doctrinal authority of his time, defended a rigorous faith, founded exclusively on Scripture, hostile to any intrusion of reason or human passions... in the name of which he had Abelard punished and Heloise locked away.

The famous couple's liaison, too often reduced to nothing more than a dramatic love story, has ignored the intrusion of the monk, whose worrisome shadow was cast over his era, and who sought to snuff the emergence of the subversive demands of reason and carnal passion out of medieval religion.
1485-1603: In the space of four generations, England went from the flamboyant phase of the Middle Ages to the splendors of the Baroque period, from the War of the two Roses to the construction of a state. We are never far from the realm of legend in this incredible family saga. Once upon a time there was Henry VII, the founding father; his son Henry VIII, the Bluebeard, who was at odds with Francis I and Charles V; little Edward VI, scheming Queen Mary, and cantankerous Elizabeth, virgin queen. As archetypal characters they illustrate their century, this golden age of English culture that still dazzles us. The Tudors were winners. They displayed to the world their success and their wealth, only slightly tainted by a few severed heads, executed queens, disemboweled Catholics – we willingly forgive savage repression by sovereigns we love.

Dominated by the Fortuna of antiquity, in the throes of upheaval, the era of the Tudors represented par excellence a time of change: one never knew quite what distinguished a hero from a rogue. It was also during Tudor times that England embarked resolutely on an adventure of conquest that extended to the entire Atlantic region.
NAPOLEON
August 15, 1811: Saint Napoleon’s day, the national holiday of the Empire, is in full swing. In Paris, Milan and Amsterdam, fireworks and concerts celebrate the 42nd birthday of the master of Europe, who has just become father of the King of Rome, giving the first Empire a dynastic legitimacy it lacked hitherto. Yet the festivities sound strangely out of tune. The French are starving, suffering from the economic crisis and showing their disaffection. In Naples, Madrid and Stockholm, political crises are brewing, and Napoleon’s authority is openly contested. In London, Vienna and Berlin, the leaders are preparing for an impending war between France and Russia. Finally, at the Tuileries, Napoleon himself would spoil the party by publicly insulting the Tsar’s ambassador, Prince Kurakin. The news of this scandal spread like wildfire throughout Europe and triggered the preparations for the disastrous campaign of 1812.

A major turning point in the emperor’s reign, the date of 15 August would have a lasting impact on the world at that time. Napoleon had never been so powerful as on this day of celebration, which paradoxically marked the beginning of the end of his glorious destiny.
On May 5, 1821, “General Bonaparte” drew his last breath at Longwood, surrounded by his loyal companions. The classic scene has been represented numerous times. On the morning of 6 May, the HMS Heron, under the command of Captain Crokat, set sail for England, charged with bringing the extraordinary news to Europe. It docked at Portsmouth on 4 July. Thus – an unimaginable occurrence today – the world remained two months in ignorance of this crucial event. George IV, who was to be crowned on July 19, was informed by the cabinet at midday. The Tuileries received the news the next day in the early afternoon, by telegraph from Calais. However, contrary to traditional historiography, emotional reactions, real or affected, hardly went beyond the circle of loyal friends, mainly military, and the milieu of the publicists. True, dozens of pamphlets were hastily compiled, some accrediting rumors about the causes of death, and others even denying Napoleon had died, but their echo was weak. The Bonaparte family members themselves expressed only a minimum of sorrow. The news perturbed neither the government nor the parliament. It would be at least a decade before the giant emerged from the tomb of memory and was powerfully brought back to life in minds and hearts.

In 24 lively chapters, based on long-lost sources and unpublished information, Thierry Lentz gives us a masterful account of those few weeks that people thought would turn the world upside down, but which in fact were only the end of a distant and even partially forgotten episode.
WORLD WAR II
June 1940. In the course of a few days, millions of French people find themselves under the German yoke. In two-thirds of the country, towns and villages are occupied, submerged by the forces and symbols of Nazism. The rest of France remains “free”, supposedly. The occupants, however, are the masters of the country: they sleep and eat in the homes of the occupied and move freely around France.

In this new history of the Occupation, Eric Alary focuses on the neglected aspect of the daily life of the Germans. How did they plan, conceive and experience the French occupation? What were the ideological, historical, cultural and economic projections the Germans cast on France, following the defeat of 1918? How did the troops of the Third Reich arrive and settle in France? How did the Germans conceive of the occupation in 1940, and then over the years? How was this political and military occupation exercised in its police, judicial, economic and cultural dimensions?

By focusing on the everyday life of the occupant, interwoven with that of the French population, Eric Alary casts new light on the events of the period and, as usual, brings history to life by embodying it in individual biographies.
There has never been a book like this one before. As the subject of countless texts, the German Army's campaigns and battles during WWII are well known.

What remains to be studied is how the war was actually experienced by German soldiers, whichever corps they belonged to: what was their daily life, what were the conditions on the front lines or further back? Did they have an advantage over their adversaries? In a limpid writing style, the author examines the many and various situations experienced in all latitudes, from generals to Messerschmitt pilots, from administrators in Paris to Panzer tank crewmembers.

The question of dishonorable submission to the Nazi regime is the central one: did being a Wehrmacht or Waffen SS soldier at Hitler's service mean being a soldier like any other? This book focuses in particular on the army's degree of Nazification, the question of relations with civilian populations, and, consequently, on the crimes of the Third Reich.
The war waged in the desert from the spring of 1940 to the summer of 1943, from Libya to Egypt and from Morocco to Algeria and Tunisia, has long been reduced to the confrontation between Rommel and Montgomery, French heroism at Bir Hakeim and the Allied invasion in November 1942. As if, in fact, the victory of 1945 had been won only elsewhere, in the snows of Stalingrad and the Normandy countryside. For the first time, top international specialists, brought together by Olivier Wieviorka, examine this theater of operations, reintegrate it into the vast horizons of the Second World War and study everything that makes it unique. By considering the desert war in its plurality, they enter previously unexplored territory – encompassing logistics, the multinational composition of the troops engaged, and the complex relations between colonizers and colonized – and are quick to dispel certain myths, including that of the so-called “war without hate” conducted by the chivalrous “Desert Fox”.

This desert war, or “war of the sands”, is thus given the place it merits – one of the most important – in the historiography and the memory of the Second World War.
This book is an unprecedented in-depth exploration of one of the hidden facets of the Second World War: that of the academics, researchers and teachers who were involved, often clandestinely, in the cataclysm. Together they formed a genuine army of civilians lurking in the shadows, weighing decisively on the outcome of the conflict. Thanks to the author’s clear and learned presentation, we discover the secrets of radar, penicillin, the atomic bomb, Enigma decoding and many other decisive advances we owe to important personalities, most of them unjustly forgotten.
Hitler never cared for the sea, which he saw as a hostile element, a Heimlich. In his own words, “On solid ground, I’m a hero; at sea, a coward.” He was nonetheless interested in warships and even had fixed ideas about how they should be built.

When Hitler came to power, in 1933, the head of the Reichsmarine was a man with a strong personality who enjoyed tremendous prestige in the navy: Admiral Erich Raeder. The admiral insisted that Germany should have “equal rights” with the other major powers, which would allow it to overcome the limitations imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. Having proclaimed that equality as soon as he came to power, the Führer launched a major rearmament plan for the Army, in order to enable him to achieve his political goal of conquering Europe. The Navy’s development, on the other hand, was reined in by the Anglo-German naval agreement of 1935. Hitler was – wrongly – convinced that the agreement would provide him with Britain’s benevolent neutrality towards his European territorial conquests.

On September 1, 1939, when the war started, the Kriegsmarine was not nearly as developed as it was supposed to be. Convinced that he would overrun the entire continent swiftly, Hitler had not been counting on his Navy, until the need for a show of force in Norway imposed itself. Even when England became Germany’s only adversary, Hitler’s attitude towards his Navy hardly changed. The decision to invade the Soviet Union spurred him to refuse to consider the alternative Mediterranean strategy against England supported by both his own military high command. By the same token, he was inclined towards skepticism about the effectiveness of underwater warfare, and refused to increase the pace of submarine production. In 1943, Raeder’s successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, got him to change his mind, but it was too late.

On balance, Hitler’s decisions involving his Navy would be marked by continual equivocation, hesitation, and errors of appreciation, which explains its relative weakness compared to the other branches of the Wehrmacht.
MILITARY HISTORY
On July 25, 1988, Assadollah Adeli shot down an Iraqi MiG-29 near Kermanshah, Iran, from an F-14 Tomcat interceptor. Without realizing it, the Iranian pilot became aviation history’s final “Ace,” i.e. a fighter pilot credited with at least five ratified victories in aerial combat. Echoing the memory of the French pilot Adolphe Pégoud – the man who, in August, 1915, became the first to reach that magical number five – Adeli joined the ranks of a legendary legion of 8,000 exceptional pilots of some 40 different nationalities.

Thanks to his in-depth knowledge of the archives – which, for the most part, were previously unpublished and only recently opened – and to the numerous pilots he has interviewed, Pierre Razoux has written a precise, detailed account, which corrects misconceptions while bringing many forgotten aces back into the spotlight. Who knew, for example, that the Spaniards were real firecrackers during the Spanish Civil War, eclipsing their German, Italian, and Russian counterparts? Or that the Finnish came in top of the class during WWII – not counting the Germans and Austrians, with their absolutely amazing scores – ahead of the Japanese, the Soviets and the Allies? Who would have guessed that there were more Soviet than American aces during the Korean War, and three times more Vietnamese than Americans during the Vietnam War? And that, all told, half of all planes brought down in combat were notches in the belt of an ace?
Exactly what did leadership consist in for a general in 1944-1945 with tens of thousands of soldiers at his command against the German armies, who were losing ground by then? To answer that question, this book delves into the intimacy and the “operative arts” of five major Allied generals, from the well-known, like Patton and de Lattre, to the less so – but equally important – like the American Alexander Patch; the Canadian Harry Crerar; or Courtney Hodges, Bradley’s right-hand man, who particularly distinguished himself during the retaking of France and the Battle of the Ardennes.

A method of comparative analysis based on a single context – they were all fighting the German enemy on the Western front at the same time – that highlights the generals’ successes and failures.
Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus (December 15, 37 A.D., Antium – June 9, 68 A.D., Rome) Nero was the fifth and last Roman emperor in the Julio-Claudian dynasty. Endowed with remarkable aesthetic sensibility, he is known as a poet-prince who sang, composed music, and organized athletic and artistic celebrations. Yet that sensibility does nothing to erase his other side: a cruel despot who persecuted Christians and had his own mother, Agrippina, murdered in 59.

Seen by Christians as the anti-Christ, Nero has personified tyranny and perversity for centuries. Used and interpreted, the actions of this emperor continue to feed historic debate until the present day. As a specialist in Ancient Rome, Catherine Salles finally unravels the truth and falsehoods surrounding Nero. This biography paints an uncompromising portrait of an emperor who is in fact poorly known.
Trajan was rightly perceived as the restorer of the Augustan ideal, built around an enlightened autocracy. In addition to being assigned this title of optimus princeps (best emperor), he secured direct control of the Senate. Despite the choice of an absolutist policy, the emperor showed fairness and granted a certain importance to individual libertas, at the same time promoting humanitas. By means of the “alimenta”, a policy of social aid intended primarily for poor children and the struggling farmers of Italy, he improved the living conditions of the most disadvantaged. To this dimension of effective administrator, we must add that of eminent warlord.

His desire to strengthen the limes (fortifications) along the Rhine as soon as he took power is proof. In addition, he redrew the borders of the Empire along the Danube, while incorporating Dacia and then Arabia (around Petra). Trajan was particularly acclaimed for winning a definitive victory over the king of Dacia, Decebalus. His war in Parthia, on the other hand, inspired mostly by his quest for personal glory and prestige, weakened the Empire.

Finally, Trajan transformed the city of Rome, building the forum and the column that bears his name, among other additions. He embodies the Roman Empire at its peak.
Since the sixth century, hundreds of thousands of men and women, monks and nuns, have lived and still live according to the principles set out in a text of about ten pages. Its author was a monk from central Italy, born in about 480: Benedict of Nursia. We know very little about this key figure of Western Christianity, often represented wearing a black cowl, holding in one hand an abbot's crozier and in the other the book known as “The Rule of Saint Benedict”. The only source, the hagiographic text written by Pope Gregory the Great in about 593, describes a young man who became a hermit and later founded several monasteries, of which the best known is Monte Cassino, south of Rome.

Benedict’s long-lasting fame owes much to the successful transmission of his Rule. Supported by the papal authorities and the Carolingian Empire, then by the medieval elites, Benedictine monks and nuns spread throughout Europe – and then throughout the world – inspiring Pope Paul VI to designate Saint Benedict as patron of Europe in 1964.
As often happens with writers, the Queen of Crime’s life (1890-1976) was eclipsed by her books. Yet her personal story was just as exciting.

Little Agatha wrote her first detective novel after making a bet with her sister, then went on to become the most widely read English-language writer in her lifetime. As the young Mrs Miller, imaginative and romantic, she had only one aspiration, to live happily ever after with Prince Charming. The failure of her marriage to a dashing aviator affected her so deeply that in 1926 she disappeared for ten days under a false name, while all of England was on the lookout for her. The wound would never fully heal, but her indomitable will kept her moving forward. Her remarriage to an archaeologist 14 years her junior shaped her new life. She spent it going from excavations in Iraq and Syria to her houses in London and her native Devon, and of course writing a series of best-sellers. She became a genuine British institution, at the head of the world’s first multimedia empire. She generated a colossal fortune, most of which was lost to her, snatched away by the tax man or funneled into financial schemes that benefited those close to her more than herself. An eternal optimist, devoting more and more time to the theater – her true passion – and to a love of food that left her unattractively stout, she remained “the boss” in all circumstances.

Fascinated early on by the world of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, Marie-Hélène Baylac has realized a long-cherished project: recounting the life, shrouded in mystery, of the Queen of Crime, and deciphering the secrets behind the creation of an exceptional body of work, the matrix of all contemporary whodunit literature.
Nearly 30 years after her death, the Dietrich myth has not aged a day. Josef von Sternberg, with whom she made seven classic films from The Blue Angel to The Devil is a Woman, began to forge it in the early 1930s. A master of lighting, he stylized her beauty and created her femme fatale character, sensual and sophisticated. Following the lead of her Pygmalion, she applied her sense of perfectionism to enhancing her image. Making the most of her assets – face, eyes, body, voice – she turned herself into an icon, a timeless Venus defying the onslaughts of age.

Marlene Dietrich embodied the liberated woman as much in her style as in her way of life. A performer with androgynous tendencies, she had a taste for masculine clothes, such as the trousers she wears in Morocco and in Blonde Venus. She exercised that same freedom in her relationships to both the men – including Jean Gabin – and the women she encountered in her life.

Blonde Venus also represents a strong political symbol. Incarnation of the spirit of resistance to Nazism, Marlene had a troubled relationship with Germany, which took a long time to forgive her for wearing the American uniform during the war. Yet her attachment to Berlin remained intact. It was the place where she was born, spent her youth, started her career, found success and her first loves. She breathed the air of the great Berlin of the 1920s and personified its spirit and nostalgia. Wasn’t one of the songs from her repertoire entitled I still have a suitcase in Berlin?
BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS
This is an exceptional book, both in style and in substance. It is the first time that anyone has ever tried to re-interpret World War II with the tools offered by the latest in information technology and graphic design. Too often, the term “infographics” is misused, applied to what is little or nothing more than a computer-generated illustration of written commentary.

Edited by Jean Lopez – with the assistance of Nicolas Aubin and Vincent Bernard – and graphically conceived by Nicolas Guillerat, an amazing groundbreaker in data design, this book is the fruit of the joining of complementary talents. The mass of data available about WWII has never been as large as it is now, yet it has become extraordinarily complicated to interpret it in a meaningful way, and, more importantly, to share that analysis with the general public. So a new form had to be invented: one that would allow both for processing the data with the rigorous approach of a historian and for making it accessible to the largest possible number. The result is quite simply breathtaking, in terms of refreshing our knowledge and for “connecting the dots,” i.e. making it clear how various aspects of the conflict that had always been examined separately until now are actually interrelated.

In 4 parts (Mobilization, Production and resources; Arms and Armies; Battles and Campaigns; Assessment and Fractures) that englobe some sixty or more themes (the crude-oil equation, what is an infantry division?, Operation Barbarossa, Allied logistics in Europe, how America took back the Pacific, the Nazi concentration-camp system, the saga of the French resistance movement, German losses 1939-1945, the war in the desert, and many more), this truly is a totally new look at the whole of the Second World War.

Rights licensed:

WORLD ENGLISH RIGHTS (THAMES & HUDSON)  SPAIN (LATIN AMERICA)
CHINA (UNITED SKY)  HUNGARY (KOSSUTH)
TAIWAN (BUSINESS WEEKLY)  JAPAN (HARA SHOBO)
GERMANY (dtv Verlag)  THE NETHERLANDS (NIEUW AMSTERDAM)
ITALY (pre-empt) (IPPOCAMPO)  CZECH REPUBLIC (ALBATROS MEDIA)
A historian and journalist, **ERIC BRANCA** has written several successful books including the very well-received *L’ami américain: Washington contre de Gaulle (1940-1969)* (The American friend: Washington against de Gaulle) published by Perrin in 2017.

From his rise to political prominence in 1923 to the defeat of France in 1940, Hitler manipulated the democratic press as no other dictator had ever done before. To complete and often to counterbalance his innumerable speeches, he granted interviews to journalists in order to appease Western public opinion regarding the reality of his goals and the ruthless way they were being pursued.

Eric Branca has selected, introduced and annotated the 16 most significant interviews with French, American and British journalists. In addition, he has written an introductory chapter entitled “Hitler and the foreign press. A history of fascination”. It demonstrates what a hold Hitler had over the West as he rose to power.
As Napoleon once said, “From glory to downfall is but a step.” But the reverse is perhaps even truer, when we consider how the decline, defeat and death of illustrious men haunts the imagination and inspires posterity. When heroes are betrayed, murdered, doomed, their tragic end arouses curiosity and compassion. But then they become legends and their true stories are obscured.

This is why Jean-Christophe Buisson and Emmanuel Hecht have chosen thirteen great shattered destinies from antiquity to the twentieth century and researched them thoroughly. The authors explore these thirteen biographies of men and women who changed history and narrate them in their well-informed and lively style. Each profile is a separate chapter, rivalling with the best detective thrillers in drama and suspense.

Here is the list: Hannibal; Vercingetorigis; Cleopatra; Joan of Arc; Montezuma; Guise; Grand Condé; Charrette; Robert E. Lee; Trotsky; Chiang Kai Shek; Che Guevara; and Richard Nixon.

Rights licensed:
KOREA (CUM LIBRO)
A university professor, ALAIN BLONDY taught for more than thirty years at CELSA (Paris IV). He was a visiting professor in Tunis, Cyprus, and Moscow and taught at the University of Malta. He is considered one of today’s top experts on the Mediterranean world, about which he has written several books. Fruit of his many years of teaching, he published Nouvelle histoires des idées (A New History of Ideas) at Perrin in 2016.

Alain Blondy, displaying his mastery of the wide-ranging historical overview, retraces the past of the Mediterranean world from prehistory to the present day. This crucible of civilization witnessed the development of the ancient ideas that constituted philosophy, law and politics, followed by monotheism, which gave birth to the three religions of revelation: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Long the economic heart of the West, it was demoted by the discovery of the oceans to a more secondary role, before returning to the forefront of human endeavor through the expansion of nationalities, the triumph of the industrial revolution and the clash of empires.

By apprehending the Mediterranean world in a long-term perspective and by balancing the Western and Eastern points of view, Blondy highlights the erosion of empires, the issue of borders and recent political and religious tensions.
This city of Rome, demarcated very early on by ramparts, has once again been given crucial importance by current research, extending in all directions: topography; settlements long before the actual name of Rome emerged; the comparison of mythology and archeology; civil urban planning; the development of monuments and by the same token of religion and politics. New scientific knowledge has been accumulating, yet it remains almost inaccessible to even the most cultured public. It is to Alexander Grandazzi's great credit that he has brought together the latest findings, organized them and put them into perspective, describing the interaction of the city's inhabitants with their environment for more than two millennia.

Indeed, century after century, war after war, the Romans recorded their conquests within the space of their city, which thus became a memorial of stone. They could read their history in it and celebrate a collective identity based on both conquest and assimilation. This is the message the book endeavors to decipher, using all available resources. And the results are so abundant that it seemed reasonable to stop with the reign of Augustus, when the city had reached maturity in both its material structure and its glory.
If, today as yesterday, terrorism is in all the headlines, it remains a problematic subject whose very definition is the object of debate. Doubtless, legal experts, political scientists, sociologists, and even journalists have no difficulty describing it. But a historical approach has long been missing, for terrorism, indeed, has a history. Scattered among different groups, justified by any number of various ideologies, nonetheless, it cannot be reduced to a series of attacks and ensuing trials.

On the contrary, the intent of this first vast synthesis is to offer a global vision that allows the reader to understand the historical conditions in which violence appears and spreads in societies. It also defines the ties that are woven among different movements, but also between succeeding generations of terrorists. Beginning with the first appearance of the term « terrorism », in the late 18th century and in the context of the French Revolution, this work covers over two centuries of history, recalling the political violence that has struck the Western world as well as the East, both State-inspired and the tool of minorities, in order to evaluate the actual importance of this phenomenon in History.