

# HARVARD

## ALUMNI TRAVELS



### READING GUIDE

## HARVARD RECOMMENDED READING

Here is a brief selection of favorite, new, and hard-to-find books, including recommendations from our Harvard study leaders. This list is not trip-specific and, instead, is intended as a general collection of readings for some of our most visited destinations. Hopefully this provides a helpful jumping-off-point for your travel preparations!

### CUBA

*Alejo Carpentier*

#### **Music in Cuba**

2003, PAPER, 302 PAGES

This extensive study of Cuban musical history, originally published in 1946, draws on primary documents to encompass European-style elite Cuban music as well as the popular rural Spanish folk and urban Afro-Cuban music.

*Carlos Frias*

#### **Take Me With You, A Memoir**

2009, PAPER, 291 PAGES

Journalist Carlos Frias, the American-born son of Cuban exiles, travels to Cuba in 2006 as power is being transferred from Fidel to Raul Castro. He shares his experiences in contemporary Cuban society while reflecting on the lives his parents lived in the country.

*Fiona McAuslan*

#### **The Rough Guide to Havana**

2010, PAPER, 248 PAGES

A comprehensive guide to Havana in the hip, literate and very informative Rough Guide style. It's divided cleanly between practical information and illuminating background on culture and history.

*Julia Sweig*

#### **Cuba, What Everyone Needs to Know**

2013, PAPER, 336 PAGES

Director for Latin America Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, Julia Sweig traces the geography, history and identity of Cuba in this admirably succinct portrait of the island nation and its role in world affairs.

*Daniel P. Erikson*

#### **The Cuba Wars, Fidel Castro, the United States, and the Next Revolution**

2008, PAPER, 368 PAGES

Worth Looking For

### CENTRAL AMERICA

*Clive Cussler*

#### **The Mayan Secrets**

2013, HARD COVER, 375 PAGES

Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo are in Mexico when they come upon a remarkable discovery – the skeleton of a man clutching an ancient sealed pot, and within the pot, a Mayan book, larger than anyone has ever seen. The book contains astonishing information about the Mayans, about their cities, and about mankind itself. An adventure set in Mexico from the master of the genre.

*John Lloyd Stephens*

#### **Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan: Volume Two**

1969, PAPER, 474 PAGES

Stephen's classic account of archaeological discovery, originally published in 1843. This second volume covers Stephens and Catherwood's further adventures, including the Yucatan and Palenque.

*Michael Coe*

#### **Breaking the Maya Code**

2012, PAPER, 304 PAGES

Mayan hieroglyphs were a linguistic puzzle until the 1952 breakthrough translation of a Mayan bark-paper text, as Coe explains in this classic tale, revised and updated for this third edition.

*Michael Coe*

### **The Maya**

2011, PAPER, 280 PAGES

The eighth edition of Coe's clear, concise, illustrated survey of the Maya.

## **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

*Michael A. Aung-Thwin*

### **A History of Myanmar Since Ancient Times, Traditions and Transformations**

2013, PAPER, 333 PAGES

Aung-Thwin takes us from the sacred stupas of the Bagan plains to the grand colonial-era British mansions in this tale of Burma's storied 3,000-year history and rich culture.

*George C. Herring*

### **America's Longest War, The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975**

2001, PAPER, 384 PAGES

This holistic history of the Vietnam War focuses on American involvement while remaining objectively non-partisan about the war and its outcomes. Herring is Alumni Professor of history at the University of Kentucky and former professor at West Point.

*Jean-Francois Hubert*

### **The Art of Champa**

2006, HARD COVER, 231 PAGES

The accompanying catalog to the landmark 2005 exhibition of stunning Cham sculpture at the Musee Guimet in Paris.

*George Orwell*

### **Burmese Days**

1989, PAPER, 287 PAGES

Orwell, a veteran of the colonial police force in Rangoon, writes with irony and insight in this sharp novel of politics, folly and the British.

*Michael W. Charney*

### **A History of Modern Burma**

2009, PAPER, 241 PAGES

Bookended with the annexation of Upper Burma by the British in 1886 and the devastating cyclone that ravaged the country in 2008, this brief history explores Burma's political division and monastic opposition to state control.

*Neil Sheehan*

### **A Bright Shining Lie, John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam**

2009, HARD COVER, 861 PAGES

Worth Looking For

## **FRANCE**

*Denis Diderot*

### **Rameau's Nephew and D'Alembert's Dream**

1976, PAPER, 240 PAGES

Diderot considers society, music, literature, politics, morality and philosophy in the Age of Enlightenment in these imagined – and hilarious – conversations.

*Alexis de Tocqueville*

### **The Ancient Regime and the French Revolution**

2008, PAPER, 373 PAGES

Gerald Bevan's translation of de Tocqueville's influential look at the origins of modern France.

*Robert Darnton*

### **The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History**

2009, PAPER, 298 PAGES

Professor of history and librarian at Harvard, Darnton looks at the city dwellers, towns, and countryside of 18<sup>th</sup>-century France in this classic look at the relation between culture and society in the Age of Enlightenment.

*Voltaire, John Butt (Translator)*

### **Candide**

1990, PAPER, 144 PAGES

The classic, satirical French novel and basis for the Bernstein opera.

*Honore de Balzac*

### **Lost Illusions**

2001, PAPER, 721 PAGES

A classic novel of life and ambition in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris, alive and with a vivid sense of the great city's places and personality.

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

*Jeffrey Quilter*

### **Treasures of the Incas: Nazca, Moche and the Pre-Colombian Civilisations of the Andes**

2011, PAPER, 224 PAGES

Fairly simple introduction to Peruvian archaeology, from first arrivals to Incas, with good chapters on the Moche, Lambayeque, and Chimu cultures.

*Richard L. Burger (Editor), Lucy C. Salazar (Editor)*

### **Machu Picchu, Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas**

2008, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Burger and Salazar vividly evoke the art, architecture, culture and society of Machu Picchu in this illustrated, up-to-date survey. With Hiram Bingham's original report, archival and modern photographs and excellent chapters on recent archaeology at the site.

*Adriana von Hagen, Craig Morris*

### **The Incas**

2012, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Morris and von Hagen trace the rise and rule of the Inca with authority in this region-by-region survey, reconstructing the finely built palaces and temples of Cusco and life at lavish royal estates like Chinchero and Machu Picchu. With 150 mostly black-and-white photographs and illustrations, including extensive site plans.

## GERMANY

*Kurt Vonnegut*

### **Slaughterhouse-Five: or The Children's Crusade**

1991, PAPER, 215 PAGES

Kurt Vonnegut's popular novel, set during the bombing of Dresden, in the United States and on the distant planet of Tralfamadore. Ranges from satiric absurdity to an extremely powerful account of the destruction of Dresden.

*Erich Maria Remarque*

### **All Quiet on the Western Front**

1996, PAPER, 295 PAGES

Written by a soldier in the Kaiser's army, this novel has been hailed as the greatest novel of World War I, and was later made into a memorable film.

*Anthea Bell (Translator), W. G. Sebald*

### **Austerlitz**

2012, PAPER, 298 PAGES

Sebald's haunting book, evocative of WWII Europe, travels from the magnificent railway station in Antwerp to London, Paris and the streets in Prague where the narrator Austerlitz was born and fled during the Nazi devastation. Tenth anniversary edition.

*Heinrich Von Kleist*

### **Michael Kohlhaas**

2005, PAPER, 133 PAGES

This stirring tale follows our honorable protagonist, Michael Kohlhaas, as he takes the law into his own hands and finds the body politic against him. Based on actual events, the story is considered a masterwork of German literature.

*Theodor Fontane*

### **Wanderungen durch die Mark Brandenburg (Walks Through Brandenburg)**

2001, PAPER, 396 PAGES

Worth Looking For

## ALASKA

*William L. Hensley*

### **Fifty Miles from Tomorrow, A Memoir of Alaska and the Real People**

2010, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Hensley writes across the arc of his remarkable life from growing up as a young man north of the Arctic Circle on

the shores of Kotzebue Sound to his work on the landmark Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to his time in the Alaska senate.

*Bob Reiss*

### **The Eskimo and the Oil Man**

2012, HARD COVER, 305 PAGES

This book documents the struggle between cheap gas and pristine wilderness that is tearing apart many American communities through the story of an Eskimo mayor and a Shell executive in Alaska.

*Stephen Haycox*

### **Alaska, An American Colony**

2006, PAPER, 372 PAGES

This engaging, scholarly history, divided between Russian exploration and the American period, offers a cultural, political and environmental overview of Alaska, also exploring the colonization and exploitation of its indigenous people and the power of myth in shaping our national perceptions of the region.

## AFRICA

*Nadine Gordimer*

### **None to Accompany Me**

1995, PAPER, 324 PAGES

With keen attention to character and racial politics, Nobel Prize-winner Gordimer traces the experiences of two families during turbulent, post-Apartheid South Africa.

*Nadine Gordimer*

### **The Conservationist**

1983, PAPER, 272 PAGES

Gordimer's subtle Booker Prize-winning novel portrays a wealthy South African industrialist who struggles to preserve his way of life, his power and his possessions in the face of massive injustice.

*Martin Meredith*

### **Diamonds, Gold, and War, The British, the Boers and the Making of South Africa**

2008, PAPER, 592 PAGES

This history makes palpable the cost of greed to Africa's native peoples and explains the rise of virulent Afrikaner nationalism.

*J.M. Coetzee*

### **Disgrace**

2000, PAPER, 224 PAGES

Set in Cape Town and on a remote farm in the Eastern Cape, Coetzee's searing novel explores the devastating realities of racial politics in post-apartheid South Africa.

*Mark Mathabane*

### **Kaffir Boy, The True Story a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa**

1998, PAPER, 368 PAGES

The affecting memoir of a young South African athlete under Apartheid. Mathabane escaped the fate of many

poor, black youth of the time through a tennis scholarship to an American university.

*Thomas Pakenham*

### **The Scramble for Africa**

1992, PAPER, 738 PAGES

Absorbing and meticulously researched, this in-depth history of the Victorian land grab in 19th century Africa includes excellent portraits of the egomaniacal personalities who overran the continent.

## NEW ZEALAND

*James Belich*

### **Paradise Reforged: A History of the New Zealanders From the 1880s to the Year 2000**

2002, HARD COVER, 606 PAGES

The continuation of Belich's *Making People* (NZL07), a lively, provocative history of New Zealand and its people, Maori and European. Organized chronologically, he addresses both economic and social history, looking at ties with Britain, reliance on sheep, the environment and other topics.

*Janet Frame*

### **Between My Father and the King, New and Uncollected Stories**

2013, HARD COVER, 256 PAGES

These 28 stories, none previously published in a collection, and more than half published for the first time, span New Zealander Frame's career.

*David Hackett Fischer*

### **Fairness and Freedom, A History of Two Open Societies, New Zealand and the United States**

2012, HARD COVER, 629 PAGES

Pulitzer Prize-winner Fischer compares the politics of America and New Zealand, posing the question: is it possible to be both fair and free? Despite its focus on politics and fairness, the book is thoroughly enjoyable and, in its own way, a travelogue.

*Fergus Barronmann (ed.)*

### **The Picador Book of Contemporary New Zealand Fiction**

1996, PAPER, 511 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Geoff Park*

### **Nga Uruora (The Groves of Life)**

1995, PAPER, 376 PAGES

Worth Looking For

## TURKEY

*Thomas Asbridge*

### **The Crusades**

2011, PAPER, 767 PAGES

Asbridge focuses on the Third Crusade and notable figures like Richard the Lionheart and Saladin in this epic history of the brutal struggle for the Holy Land in the Middle Ages.

*Trevor Bryce*

### **The Kingdom of the Hittites**

2006, PAPER, 576 PAGES

A scholarly, comprehensive history of the ancient Hittite kingdom, drawing from translations of original texts and recent archaeological discoveries.

*C.B.F. Walker*

### **Cuneiform (Reading the Past)**

1987, PAPER, 64 PAGES

Worth Looking For

## WORLD WAR I

*George Walter (Editor)*

### **The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry**

2007, PAPER, 383 PAGES

Arranged thematically, this rich selection ranges from the celebrated verse of Rupert Brooke, Siegfried Sassoon, and Wilfred Owen to poetry by women writing from the home front and song lyrics.

*Robert Graves*

### **Good-Bye to All That, An Autobiography**

1998, PAPER, 352 PAGES

Grave's bittersweet, influential and magnificently written memoir, two-thirds devoted to his experience in World War I. A reissue of the original 1929 version.

## SCANDINAVIA

*Peter Hoeg*

### **Smilla's Sense of Snow**

2012, PAPER, 448 PAGES

Set in Denmark and Greenland and aboard a secret ship, this page-turner, out in a 20th anniversary edition, includes an excellent portrait of modern day Copenhagen. Beneath its eerie surface, the novel wrestles with racism and the tangled relations between Denmark and Greenland.

*Terry G. Lacy*

### **Ring of Seasons, Iceland, Its Culture and History**

1998, PAPER, 332 PAGES

A longtime resident of Reykjavik, Lacy weaves tales of family life, anecdote, lore and history into this illuminating personal portrait of Iceland.

*Stefan Brink*

### **The Viking World**

2011, PAPER, 717 PAGES

This collection of scholarly articles offers the most comprehensive work of scholarship on the Viking world ever attempted. Written for an undergraduate audience, but also of interest to the educated public.

*Arnaldur Indridason*

**Silence of the Grave**

2007, PAPER, 288 PAGES

Reykjavik police inspector Erlendur Sveinsson uncovers an old skeleton and unsavory secrets in Indridason's excellent second crime novel translated into English. Winner of the 2005 Gold Dagger award.

*Jane Smiley (Editor), Robert Kellog (Introduction)*

**The Sagas of Icelanders**

2001, PAPER, 848 PAGES

Nine sagas and six tales composed between the years 1000 and 1500, including an account of Leif Eriksson's voyage to North America, all newly translated. With an introduction by Jane Smiley.

*John Haywood*

**Penguin Historical Atlas of the Vikings**

1995, PAPER, 144 PAGES

The history of the Vikings told through a series of innovative maps and excellent photographs. This book traces the routes of the ninth-century Viking merchants and explorers throughout Europe and onto the New World.

**ANTARCTICA**

*Edward Larson*

**An Empire of Ice**

2012, PAPER, 326 PAGES

Pulitzer Prize-winner Ed Larson restores the status of Scott and Shackleton and the grand expeditions of the heroic age as genuine scientific enterprises, drawing on both archival material and his own travels to the historic huts, South Pole and other iconic places of Antarctic exploration.

*Graham Collier & Patricia Graham Collier*

**Antarctic Odyssey**

1999, HARD COVER, 194 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Walter Dean Myers*

**Antarctica**

2004, HARD COVER, 144 PAGES

Worth Looking For

**CHINA, TIBET & INDIA**

*John Osburg*

**Anxious Wealth, Money and Morality Among China's New Rich**

2013, PAPER, 248 PAGES

An anthropologist with an interest in networking and deal-making, Osburg immersed himself in the social hangouts of China's rich – karaoke clubs, saunas and massage parlors that cater specifically to the wealthy and powerful.

*Tsering Wooser*

**Voices from Tibet, Selected Essays and Reportage**

2014, HARD COVER, 136 PAGES

These translations of essays by two leading advocates operating within China today for the human rights of the Tibetan people provide a vivid picture of the lives and struggles of contemporary Tibetans.

*Laurence Bergreen*

**Marco Polo, From Venice to Xanadu**

2008, PAPER, 432 PAGES

Bergreen brings to life ancient traders, despots, conquerors and, especially, the fabled lands of the Silk Road in this vivid tale, weaving his own adventures from Venice to Mongolia and on to China with those of the 13th-century Venetian merchant.

*Ezra F. Vogel*

**Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China**

2011, HARD COVER, 876 PAGES

Henry Ford II professor of the social sciences emeritus at Harvard, Vogel disentangles in this monumental new biography the contradictions, life and legacy of China's boldest strategist.

*Mehryn C. Goldstein*

**The Snow Lion and the Dragon, China, Tibet and the Dalai Lama**

1997, PAPER, 130 PAGES

A brief history of the relationship of China and Tibet in the 20th century. Goldstein, a professor of history and expert on the region, includes a call for the United States to take an active role in mediating a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

**GREECE**

*Richard Clogg*

**A Concise History of Greece**

2013, PAPER, 336 PAGES

An engaging and scholarly short history of Greece from the late 1700s to the present day.

*Edith Hamilton*

**Mythology**

1998, PAPER, 497 PAGES

The classic introduction to Greek and Roman mythology. From the Olympians to the Trojan War, Hamilton presents the myths and adventure stories of the ancient world. With 50 line drawings.

*Demetrios J. Constantelos*

**Understanding the Greek Orthodox Church**

1998, PAPER, 291 PAGES

An accessible presentation of the history and practices of the Greek Orthodox Church by the religion historian and scholar. Includes a study of Greek Orthodox practice in the U.K.

*E. R. Dodds*

### **The Greeks and the Irrational**

2004, PAPER, 327 PAGES, \$30.95

Originally published in 1951 as a part of the Sather Classical Lectures series, E.R. Dodds' landmark history challenges the common assumption that the ancient Greeks were immune from irrational thinking. (Item GRE536)

*Mark Mazower*

### **Inside Hitler's Greece, The Experience of Occupation, 1941-44**

2001, PAPER, 462 PAGES, \$24.00

Mazower's gripping and richly illustrated account of wartime Greece explores the impact of the Nazi occupation upon the lives and values of ordinary people—resistance fighters and black marketeers, German conscripts and Gestapo officers, Jews and starving villagers. (Item GRE379)

*Eric Voegelin*

### **Order and History, The World of the Polis**

2000, HARD COVER, 488 PAGES, \$65.00

Influential philosopher Voegelin (1901-1985) traces the evolution of the Greek city-state to its roots in Pre-Homeric symbolism and myth. A work of political science, mythology and history of most interest to students and scholars, this is the second volume of his magisterial work. (Item GRE537)

*Mary Lefkowitz*

### **Greek Gods, Human Lives: What We Can Learn from Myths**

2005, PAPER, 304 PAGES, \$32.00

Lefkowitz draws on the Iliad, Odyssey and other classic texts in this intriguing analysis of ancient gods and beliefs. (Item GRE239)

*Mary Pope Osborne*

### **Favorite Greek Myths**

1991, PAPER, 96 PAGES, \$21.99

Twelve classic Greek myths, including the stories of King Midas, Echo and Narcissus, and Cupid and Psyche, accessibly retold by Mary Osborne Pope, the prolific children's book author. Written for readers ages 11-13. (Item GRE535)

*Robert Graves*

### **Greek Gods and Heroes**

1965, PAPER, 224 PAGES, \$5.99

Graves recounts the glorious days when gods and goddesses who dwelt on Mount Olympus ruled over the mortal world below and fabled heroes performed mighty deeds of valor in this classic collection for young explorers and their families. (Item GRE361)

*Bernard Evslin*

### **Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths**

1984, PAPER, 224 PAGES, \$6.99

Artfully arranged in four sections, highlighting the Gods, Nature Myths, Demigods and Fables, these fantastic retellings capture the magic, mystery and timeless wisdom

of the original tales for grades six to eight. A classic, with teacher's guide. (Item GRE527)

*Rick Riordan*

### **Percy Jackson & the Olympians: Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan's Curse**

2008, PAPER, 1032 PAGES, \$19.99

Relive the adventures of Percy, son of Poseidon, and friends in this boxed set of the first three books in the blockbuster series for ages 10 and up. (Item GRE407)

## GREAT BRITAIN

*Raymond Williams*

### **Border Country**

2006, PAPER, 450 PAGES, \$14.95

When railway signalman Harry Price suddenly suffers a stroke, his son Matthew, a lecturer in London, makes a return to his home village. Matthew and Harry struggle with their memories of personal and social change. A novel with an evocative sense of place, set in rural South Wales. (Item GRB118)

*John Lister-Kaye*

### **Song of the Rolling Earth, A Highland Odyssey**

2005, PAPER, 352 PAGES, \$16.95

A celebration of the land, wildlife and human history of highland Scotland by the founder of the Aigas Field Centre. (Item SCT193)

*Rab Houston*

### **Scotland, A Very Short Introduction**

2009, PAPER, 176 PAGES, \$11.95

Covering everything from the Jacobites to the modern economy, this brisk account ranges over 1,000 years of society, culture, politics and religion. (Item SCT194)

*Ewen A. Cameron*

### **Impaled Upon a Thistle, Scotland Since 1880**

2010, PAPER, 433 PAGES, \$40.00

Ewen Cameron explores the political debate between unionism, liberalism, socialism and nationalism, and the changing political relationship between Scotland and the United Kingdom. (Item SCT196)

*John Bollard (trans.)*

### **The Mabinogi**

2006, HARD COVER, 160 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Hugh Cheape*

### **Bagpipes, A National Collection of a National Instrument**

2008, PAPER, 160 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Jan Morris*

### **The Matter of Wales, Epic Views of a Small Country**

1985, HARD COVER, 442 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*John Ballard*

**Companion Tales to the Mabingoi**

2007, HARD COVER, 160 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*R.S. Thomas*

**Collected Poems, 1945-1990**

2000, PAPER, 560 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Gwyn A. Williams*

**When Was Wales? A History of the Welsh**

1985, PAPER, 352 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Tony Conran (trans.)*

**Welsh Verse, Fourteen Centuries of Poetry**

2003, PAPER, 356 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Frank Fraser Darling*

**The Highlands and Islands**

1969, PAPER, 336 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Calum I. Maclean*

**The Highlands**

2006, PAPER, 240 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Hugh Cheape*

**Tartan, the Highland Habit**

2006, PAPER, 112 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*John Gifford, Colin McWilliam & David Walker*

**The Buildings of Scotland, Edinburgh**

1984, PAPER, 733 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Ewen Cameron*

**Land for the People?, The British Government and the Scottish Highlands**

1996, HARD COVER, 222 PAGES

Worth Looking For

*Collins Publishers*

**Edinburgh 2000 Visitors' Guide**

1999, HARD COVER, 112 PAGES

Worth Looking For

## ITALY

*Peter Murray*

**The Art of the Renaissance**

1992, PAPER, 286 PAGES

A classic, illustrated survey of the world of the Renaissance and its art. With chapters on Florence and its artists, the Netherlands, early illustrated books and many individual artists.

*Ernest Hemingway*

**A Farewell to Arms**

1995, PAPER, 332 PAGES

Set in snowy Switzerland and the rainy Italian Lake Country during World War I, this semi-autobiographical

novel chronicles the romance between a British nurse and an American ambulance driver.

*Elizabeth Adler*

**The House in Amalfi**

2006, PAPER, 384 PAGES

Master of suspense and romance, Adler deftly intertwines lush descriptions of place with fast-paced intrigue in her 16th novel.

*Harry Hearder*

**Italy, A Short History**

2001, PAPER, 294 PAGES

Worth Looking For

## RUSSIA

*Valerie A. Kivelson*

**Picturing Russia, Explorations in Visual Culture**

2010, PAPER, 284 PAGES

Richly illustrated with over one hundred images culled from all over Russia, this wide-sweeping book explores the various ways Russians have represented themselves visually across the centuries – from architectural monuments to popular prints.

*Eyewitness Guides*

**Eyewitness Guide Moscow**

2013, PAPER, 263 PAGES

This outstanding guide covers Moscow's culture, history and attractions with maps, site plans and hundreds of color photographs.

*Eyewitness Guides*

**Eyewitness Guide St. Petersburg**

2013, PAPER, 264 PAGES

With excellent local maps and site plans, this outstanding visual guide introduces the culture, history and attractions of St. Petersburg.

*Steven G. Marks*

**How Russia Shaped the Modern World: From Art to Anti-Semitism, Ballet to Bolshevism**

2004, PAPER, 408 PAGES

This wide-ranging book focuses on Russian contributions to art, literature, politics and ideas of 19th- and 20th-century Europe and America.

*Caroline Brooke*

**Moscow, A Cultural History**

2007, PAPER, 256 PAGES

Caroline Brooke explores the birth and various stages and reinventions of Moscow, from a 12th-century fortress to invasion by Napoleon in 1812 to the rise and fall of communism. Part of the Cityscapes series.

*Orlando Figes*

**Natasha's Dance, A Cultural History of Russia**

2003, PAPER, 768 PAGES

In this lively cultural history, Figes looks at both the great works by Russian masters and longstanding folk traditions. The title is drawn from a scene of Tolstoy's War and Peace in which a European-educated countess performs a peasant dance.

*Geoffrey Hosking*

**Russia, People and Empire, 1552-1917**

1998, PAPER, 548 PAGES

Historian Geoffrey Hosking writes elegantly and vehemently on the history of Russia under the czars. Hosking argues that Imperial Russia pursued empire building at the expense of national identity.

*Marshall T. Poe*

**The Russian Moment in World History**

2006, PAPER, 116 PAGES

This insightful short history explores the complexity of the Russian moment, from its first confrontations with Europe in the 15th century to the Soviet collapse in 1991.

*Solomon Volkov, Antonina Bouis*

**St. Petersburg, A Cultural History**

1995, PAPER, 598 PAGES

This wonderfully written summary of art, music, theater and literature, written by a Russian historian and musician, includes profiles of the city's artists and writers over the last 300 years.

**FROM AROUND  
HARVARD YARD**

*Gregory Nagy*

**The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours**

2013, HARD COVER, 727 PAGES

Popular Harvard professor Gregory Nagy explores the Greek conception of what it means to be a hero in 24 insightful installments, illuminating the stalwart figures of classic literature – such as Achilles, Odysseus and Oedipus – by placing them in their historical and religious contexts. Based on his online course.

*Scott Anderson*

**Lawrence in Arabia**

2013, HARD COVER, 577 PAGES

Set against the tumult of WWI, the four spies and adventurers starring in this captivating account – the British T.E. Lawrence, German archaeologist Curt Pruffer, the American oil agent William Yale and the Zionist agronomist and spy, Aaron Aaronsohn – played an outsized role in the making of the modern Middle East. A veteran war correspondent, Anderson brings a flair for storytelling, impressive research and on-the-ground knowledge of the region to this eye-opening tale of T.E. Lawrence and his role in the secret Great Game to control the Middle East.

*Jill Lepore*

**Book of Ages, The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin**

2013, HARD COVER, 464 PAGES

Lepore brings the reader into the life of Jane Franklin, Benjamin Franklin's younger sister and one of his closest confidants. Using newly-discovered documents, objects and portraits, she provides a wholly different account of the founding of the United States. Finalist for the National Book Award.

*Carolyn Abbate*

**A History of Opera**

2012, HARD COVER, 603 PAGES

This captivating celebration of opera history follows its development from the 17th century through the modern era and includes discussions on famous composers like Handel, Mozart, Wagner, Puccini and Strauss.

*Ann M. Blair*

**Too Much to Know, Managing Scholarly Information Before the Modern Age**

2011, PAPER, 416 PAGES

Blair's history of reference books, information management and the long struggle to master "information overload" produces a well-connected argument and raises questions for scholars of all stripes.

*Steven Pinker*

**The Better Angels of Our Nature, Why Violence Has Declined**

2012, PAPER, 802 PAGES

Believe it or not, today we may be living in the most peaceful moment in our species' existence. Pinker shows that, despite the ceaseless news about war, crime and terrorism, violence has actually been in decline over long stretches of history.

*Clayton M. Christensen*

**How Will You Measure Your Life?**

2012, HARD COVER, 240 PAGES

Inspirational and wise, this self-help meditation is designed to help people at all stages of life put their integrity, happiness and relationships into perspective.

*Caroline Elkins*

**Imperial Reckoning, The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya**

2005, PAPER, 475 PAGES

An exhaustively researched presentation of the atrocities Britain committed in post-WWII Kenya, the prisons, work camps and campaigns of terror.

*Noah Feldman*

**Cool War, The Future of Global Competition**

2013, HARD COVER, 201 PAGES

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*Stephen Greenblatt*

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*Stephen Greenblatt*

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Winner of the 2011 National Book Award for non-fiction. The always interesting Stephen Greenblatt (*Will in the World*) paints an engrossing portrait of Renaissance life and culture in this latest book, variously taking in remote monasteries, burgeoning cities, book-hunting and the re-discovery of ancient manuscripts. Even if you've never given a thought to the startling Roman philosophical epic, *On the Nature of Things* by Lucretius, you'll appreciate Greenblatt's insight and verve. He sees it as a key to understanding the times.

*David Gergen*

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*Jeffrey A. Frieden*

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*Hubert Dreyfus*

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*David S. Landes*

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*Daniel E. Lieberman*

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*Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen*

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