

# ON THE BACK OF AN ENVELOPE

*A Life in Writing*

Peter Hennessy  
with Polly Coupar-Hennessy

£30.00  
7 November 2024  
Memoir | Politics  
Royal Hardback | 320 pages  
20 Illustrations  
978-1-913368-85-2

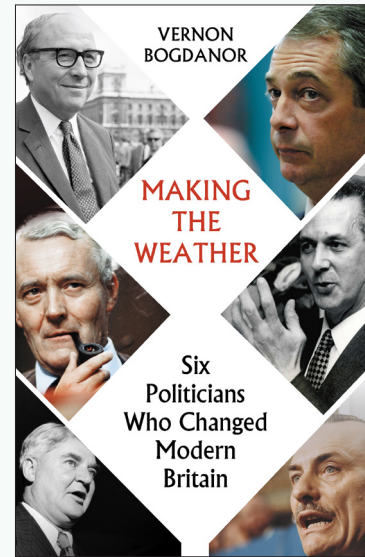
'One of the country's finest contemporary historians' —*Financial Times*

As one of Britain's foremost constitutional experts and contemporary historians, Peter Hennessy has spent his professional life unpicking the arcane world of Whitehall and Westminster. Developing a network of insider contacts, he has shone light on some of the dustiest corners of the British establishment. As a journalist, prize-winning contemporary historian, and political commentator he has chronicled the workings of the British state with wit, affection, and a healthy sense of the absurd for over five decades.

In this new volume, he brings together selected journalism, unpublished lectures, and new writing alongside personal recollections and reflections on his time observing post-war Britain, how it is governed, and those who do the governing. He reflects on the making and unmaking of prime ministers from Attlee to Truss, life in the House of Lords, and the changing constitutional landscape in the wake of Brexit and in the midst of uncertainty about the Union.

**Peter Hennessy's** books have won multiple prizes, including the NCR, the Duff Cooper Prizes, and the Orwell Prize. They include the bestselling *The Prime Minister*, *The Secret State*, and, most recently, *A Duty of Care*. He was professor of contemporary British history at Queen Mary University of London, and in 2010 he was made an independent Crossbench Life Peer.

» NEW



# MAKING THE WEATHER

*Six Politicians who Changed Modern Britain*

Vernon Bogdanor

£22.00  
5 September 2024  
British Political History | Biography  
Royal Hardback | 368 pp  
978-1-914979-08-8

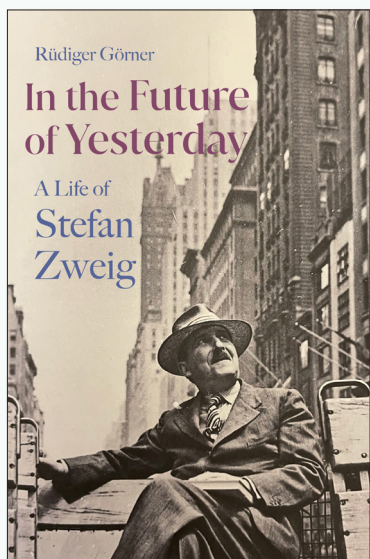
'This book is a masterclass in how the power to shape ideas and lead debate is entirely different from the holding of political office - and how its effect is dramatically more far-reaching' —*William Hague*

*Making the Weather* is a fascinating study of six politicians who 'made the weather' in post-war British politics and deeply influenced all our lives without achieving the highest office: an influence greater than that of most prime ministers. Vernon Bogdanor's cast includes three from the political Left – Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, Roy Jenkins, and Tony Benn – and three from the Right – Enoch Powell, Keith Joseph, and Nigel Farage. Each study is a fascinating analysis that examines how these men achieved such prominence and influence and how, though very different figures in many ways, they came to dominate the political landscape, often for a period of years.

Each of the six made fundamental contributions to the debate about Britain's future and to the vibrancy of our democracy. From immigration to Europe, from the NHS to devolution, the issues and causes that brought these men to prominence are still of considerable contemporary relevance.

**Vernon Bogdanor** is professor of government at the Institute of Contemporary British History, King's College London. He has written a number of books on constitutional and political history, including *Beyond Brexit* and *The Strange Survival of Liberal Britain*.

NEW «



## IN THE FUTURE OF YESTERDAY

*A Life of Stefan Zweig*

Rüdiger Görner

£25.00

10 October 2024

Biography | Literature

Royal Hardback | 420 pp

20 Illustrations

978-1-914979-10-1

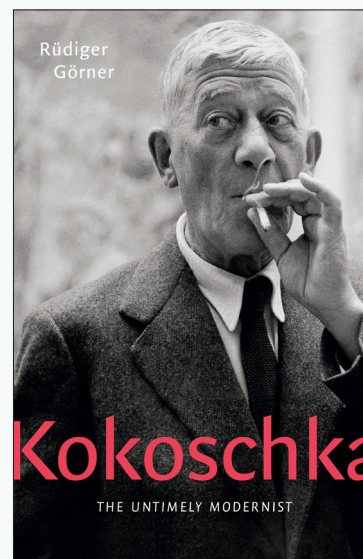
**Stefan Zweig was one of Europe's most popular writers of the early twentieth century, his work translated into over thirty languages.**

*In the Future of Yesterday* offers a refreshing approach to the life and work of Austrian writer Stefan Zweig and delves into his considerable contribution to world literature, rooted in the Austro-Jewish tradition. A world traveller from the outset, he liked to uproot himself – but whether he stayed in London, New York or, eventually, Brazil, his literary baggage continued to contain the flair of fin de siècle Vienna.

This biography re-examines Zweig's influential time in England and offers new insights into his final years in the United States and Brazil; it discusses some of his prolific literary output in relation to his life; and takes his political views on Europe, Zionism, and the world order in greater depth than previous appraisals of Zweig's life. Most importantly though, *In the Future of Yesterday* presents Zweig as a towering figure of a form of writing that was bursting with 'life' and was written in the knowledge that there can only be a future if we remain conscious of the past.

**Rüdiger Görner** was professor of German with comparative literature at Queen Mary University of London. The founding director of the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations, his books include biographies of Rainer Maria Rilke, Georg Trakl and Oskar Kokoschka.

» NEW



## KOKOSCHKA

*The Untimely Modernist*

Rüdiger Görner

£14.99

14 November 2024

Biography | Art

B-Format Paperback | 366 pp

978-1-914979-14-9

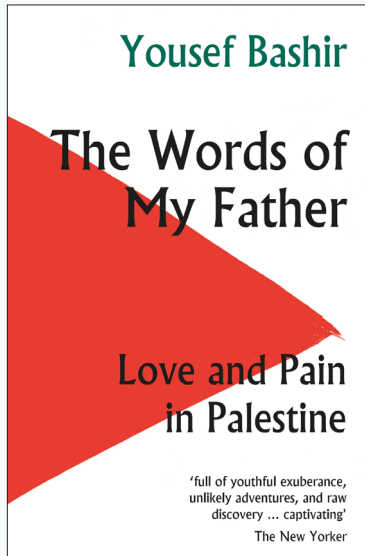
'[A] rich literary study of a major cultural figure' —*Art History*

Oskar Kokoschka (1886-1980) was an artist of his time, but he also stood out among his peers – not just because of his towering physical height but for his artistic range: he wrote plays and stories as well as essays on art and politics. Using both brush and pen to work against the tide, he played a major role in shaping European art in the twentieth century.

A rebel of the art world, he was used to controversy, and Rüdiger Görner's accomplished biography weaves the dark, unsettling aspects of Kokoschka's life among his more celebrated achievements: from the eerie doll he had made in the image of a former lover to the unconventional art school he founded in Salzburg in 1953. Taking us from his birthplace of Pöchlarn across Europe and to the United Kingdom, where he became a naturalised British citizen in 1947, this first English-language biography does more than show Kokoschka as a maverick artist; it is the definitive interpretation of an extraordinary life.

**Rüdiger Görner** was professor of German with comparative literature at Queen Mary University of London. The founding director of the Centre for Anglo-German Cultural Relations, his books include biographies of Rainer Maria Rilke, Georg Trakl and Stefan Zweig.

NEW IN PAPERBACK «



# THE WORDS OF MY FATHER

*Love and Pain in Palestine*

Yousef Bashir

£11.99

18 July 2024

Memoir | Palestine | Israel-Palestine War

B-Format Paperback | 228 pages

978-1-912208-80-7

WITH A NEW AFTERWORD

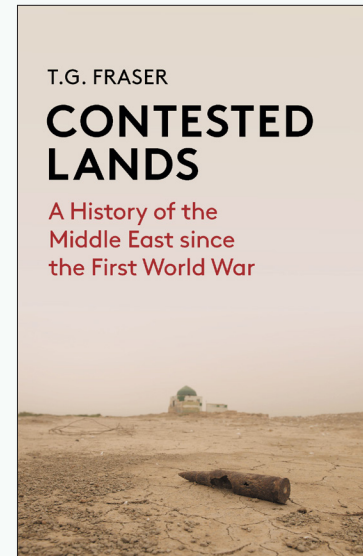
**'[A] remarkable new memoir ... full of youthful exuberance, unlikely adventures, and raw discovery ... captivating'** —*Robin Wright, The New Yorker*

In the Gaza Strip, growing up on land owned by his family for centuries, eleven-year-old Yousef is preoccupied by video games, school pranks, and meeting his father's impossibly high standards. Everything changes when the Second Intifada erupts, and soldiers occupy the family home. Shot by an Israeli sniper at the age of fifteen, and taken to hospital in Tel Aviv, Yousef slowly and painstakingly confronts the paralysis of his lower body. Under the care of Israeli medical professionals, he gains a new perspective on the value of co-existence. These transformative experiences set Yousef on a difficult new path that leads him to learn to embody his father's philosophy and spread a message of co-existence in a world of deep-set sectarianism.

*The Words of My Father* is a moving, candid, and transformative coming-of-age memoir about survival, tolerance, and hope that reminds us of the importance of looking beyond prejudice, anger, and fear.

**Yousef Bashir** is a Palestinian from the Gaza Strip, the son of a respected educator. Now living in Washington, DC, Bashir is an author and a peace advocate. He currently works for the Palestinian Diplomatic Delegation to the United States.

» NEW IN PAPERBACK



# CONTESTED LANDS

*A History of the Middle East since the First World War*

T.G. Fraser

£12.99

11 September 2024

History | Middle East

B-Format Paperback | 280 pages

2 Maps | 7 Illustrations

978-1-914979-07-1

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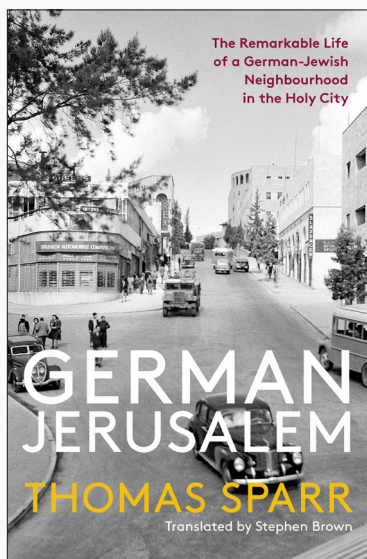
**'A thorough and riveting account of the major historical developments in the Middle East following World War I'** —*Oxford Middle East Review*

In an accessible survey of the last century, *Contested Lands* tells the story of the Middle East since the First World War: what happened, why, and what it all means today. With a focus on the many conflicts in the region over the last one hundred years, T. G. Fraser analyses the faultlines of the tension: the damaging legacies of imperialism; the creation of the State of Israel; the competition between secular, autocratic rulers and emerging democratic and theocratic forces; and the rise – and fall – of Arab nationalism in the face of fraying regional alliances and the Islamic revival. Against this backdrop comes the twenty-first century, marked first by the tragedy of 9/11, then the Arab Spring, Syria's civil war and now the Israel-Palestine conflict. And in the midst of it all, complex social and economic change has transformed the region. In *Contested Lands*, T. G. Fraser untangles the threads of history in the Middle East and, in doing so, weaves a detailed and insightful picture of a troubled region and why its heritage remains important today.

**T.G. Fraser** is emeritus professor at Ulster University and the author of *Chaim Weizmann: The Zionist Dream* (2009) and, with Andrew Mango and Robert McNamara, *The Makers of the Modern Middle East* (2015).

NEW IN PAPERBACK «





# GERMAN JERUSALEM

*The Remarkable Life of a German-Jewish  
Neighbourhood in the Holy City*

Thomas Sparr

Translated by Stephen Brown

£11.99

18 July 2024

Jewish History | History of Palestine

B-Format Paperback | 1 Map | 207 pp

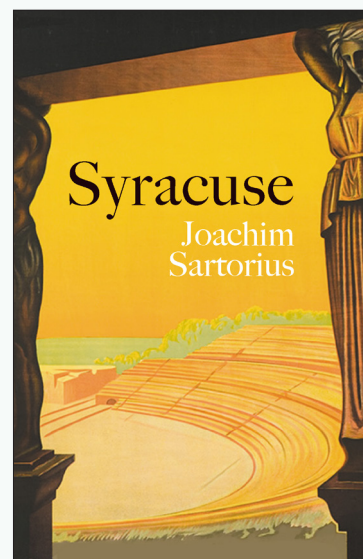
978-1-914979-04-0

**‘Sparr is an engaging guide, with a fine eye for detail. Aply translated by Stephen Brown, he walks us through apartments, schools and cafes and takes us into the lives of Rehavia’s former luminaries and visitors. *German Jerusalem* is a sparkling introduction with a dazzling cast’ —*Times Literary Supplement***

Planned at the beginning of the 1920s as a garden city on the fringes of Jerusalem, the suburbs of Talbiyeh and Rehavia became a centre of emigration for German Jews from 1933 onwards. The neighbourhood became a vibrant German–Jewish microcosm with residents including the poet and playwright Else Lasker-Schüler, the historian Gershom Scholem, and the philosopher and scholar Martin Buber. It was an idyllic setting, but life was also tough and could be unforgiving; the city had long been divided, and the residents of Talbiyeh and Rehavia found themselves caught up in the conflict. After the war, the recent history of the Shoah weighed heavily on the neighbourhood’s inhabitants, but it also became a place of German-Israeli rapprochement. *German Jerusalem* is a story of a culturally distinctive community, and a fascinating biography of those who lived and worked there.

**Thomas Sparr** worked at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem’s Leo Baeck Institute from 1986 to 1989. Today he lives in Berlin, where he works as an editor-at-large for Suhrkamp and as an independent writer and scholar.

» NEW IN PAPERBACK



# SYRACUSE

*Sicily's City of Stories*

Joachim Sartorius

Translated by Stephen Brown

£14.99

3 October 2024

Travel | Italy

B-Format Hardback | 156 pp

978-1-914982-12-5

2,500 years ago, the city of Syracuse on the eastern coast of Sicily was, for the Ancient Greeks, one of the centres of the classical world. It was in Syracuse that Aeschylus premiered his plays, and to Syracuse that Plato would visit from Athens, where the tyrant Dionysius bought Euripides's lyre at an auction, and the languishing nymph Arethusa hid in the papyrus grove.

Living in the city, the poet Joachim Sartorius learned that this history and myth is still present today. At Sartorius's side we walk with nymphs and cyclops through the old town of Ortigia, and meet the people of the city; its notables, police officers, artists, and barbers. Unravelling the depths of Sicilian history and bringing the juxtaposition, superimposition, and commingling of cultures, styles, and attitudes to life, Sartorius shows a city of ancient luminosity, bringing us, through the baroque, to the contemporary world.

**Joachim Sartorius** is a poet, translator, and cultural critic. He grew up in Tunis and spent twenty years in the German diplomatic service in New York, Istanbul, and Nicosia. He was secretary general of the Goethe Institut until 2000, and from 2001–2011 he was director of the Berlin Festival. He is the author of *My Cyprus* and *The Princes' Islands*.

NEW «



# THE KINGFISHER'S WINGS

*Glimpsing the British  
Constitution in the 2020s*

Peter Hennessy and Andrew Blick

£16.99

14 November 2024

Politics

Trade Paperback | 220 pp

978-1-914979-12-5

Co-published with The Constitution Society

In *The Kingfisher's Wings* contemporary historians Peter Hennessy and Andrew Blick trace the constitutional developments and tensions that have beset and shaken the UK in the decade since the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.

In this short, engaging study, the authors discuss what is foreseeable about the near- and medium-term future, before proposing an array of improvements and modifications that might preserve and enhance the nature of the British constitution. Hennessy and Blick believe that breaking the current cycle of decline before it plunges us into an even more dangerous politics of fatalism is a first order question for the United Kingdom of the mid-2020s.

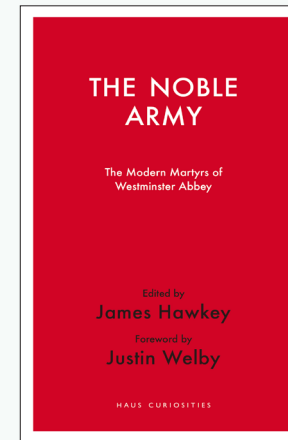
Whoever occupies No.10 Downing Street after the forthcoming General Election will face a range of constitutional challenges and opportunities. The authors offer a briefing on what will lie before them, and how they might respond to it.

**Peter Hennessy** is one of the UK's leading contemporary historians and is Atlee Professor of Contemporary British History at Queen Mary University of London.

**Andrew Blick** is Professor of Politics and Contemporary History, and Head of the Department of Political Economy at King's College London.

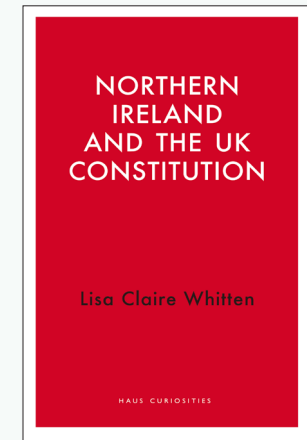
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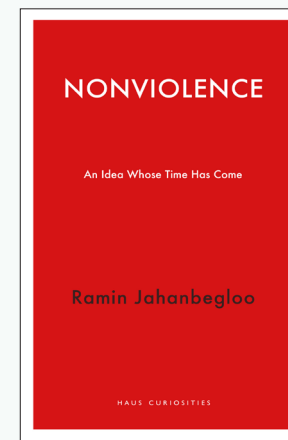
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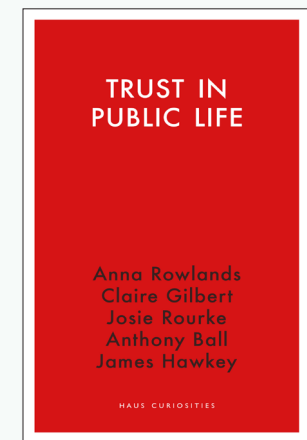
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