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VIVIENNE WESTWOOD

Manchester unspun by Andy Spinoza

'Every great city needs a great chronicler. We are lucky to have Andy. Read on.'

LEMN SISSAY

The art of darkness by John Robb

Brilliantly illuminates the realm of imagination and dark beauty. Enter the other side of love. The kingdom of goth is within you.

JOHNNY MARR

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ALICE ROBERTS

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ZOE WILLIAMS

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ANNE APPLEBAUM

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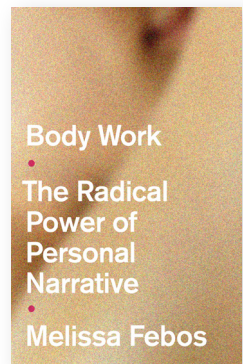
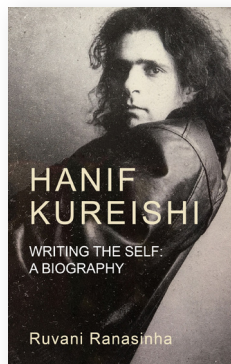
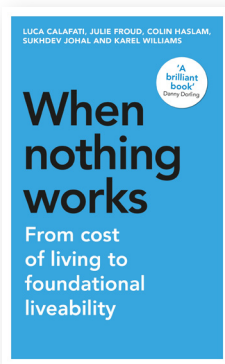
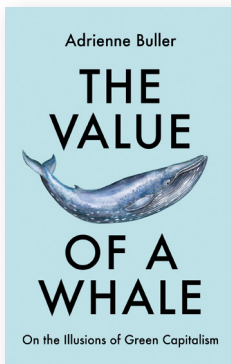
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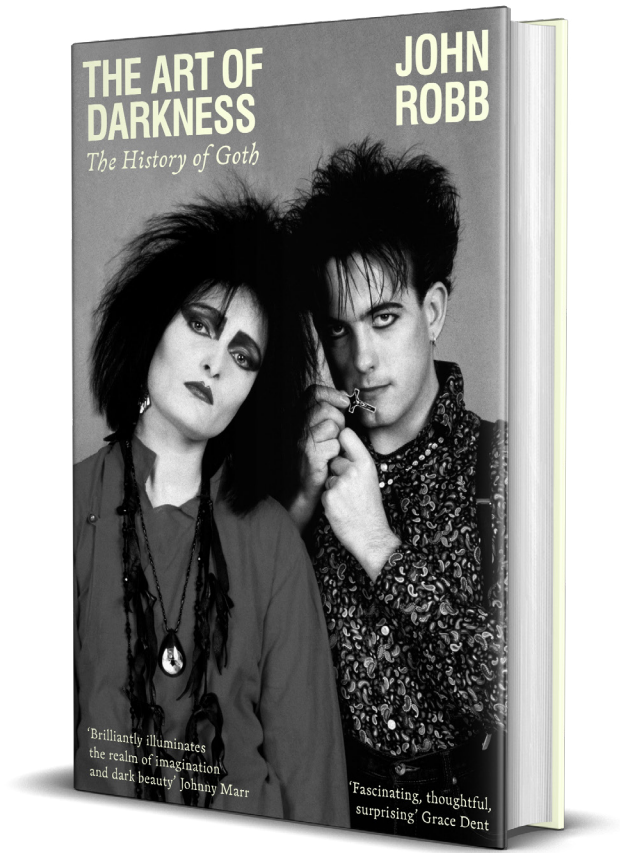


The art of darkness: *The history of goth*

John Robb

'John Robb brilliantly illuminates the realm of imagination and dark beauty. Enter the other side of love. The kingdom of goth is within you.'

Johnny Marr



This is the first comprehensive history of goth music and culture. Across more than 500 pages, John Robb explores the origins and legacy of this enduring scene, which has its roots in the post-punk era.

Drawing on his own experience as a musician and journalist, Robb covers the style, the music and the clubs that spawned the culture, alongside the political and social context. He also reaches back further to key historical events and movements that frame the ideas of goth, from the fall of Rome to Lord Byron and the Romantic poets, European folk tales, Gothic art and the occult. Finally, he considers the current mainstream goth of Instagram influencers, film, literature and music.

The art of darkness features interviews with Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Cure, The Damned, Nick Cave, Southern Death Cult, Einstürzende Neubauten, Bauhaus, Killing Joke, Throbbing Gristle, Danielle Dax, Lydia Lunch and many more. It offers a first-hand account of being there at the gigs and clubs that made the scene happen.

John Robb is a journalist, broadcaster and musician. He is the author of *Punk Rock: An Oral History* (2006) and the founder of culture website louderthanwar.com. Key linchpin in the history of British music. He plays bass in the post-punk band The Membranes.

- 📷 [johnrobb77](#)
- 🐦 [@johnrobb77](#)
- 📘 John Robb

- The first major book on goth culture
- John Robb is a well-known media figure who has been active in music for decades
- Goth is a timeless topic, with each new generation returning to the style and bringing its own elements

An extract from *The art of darkness*

Mad, bad and dangerous to know, the art of darkness has been with us for centuries because every generation has got to deal with its blues. What was once expressed in art, architecture, Romantic literature and painting was, in the post-punk wars, a cimmerian alternative culture creating its own dark narrative whilst accelerating away from the Big Bang of punk.

It was a thrilling time when music soundtracked the style, and a culture coalesced from a bricolage of black.

What was then called ‘goth’, after the fact, was defined by those unholy twin trinities of British pop culture: music, clothes and the dance floor with an added twist of stygian sex, style and subversion. Of course, none of the bands were ‘goth’, and of course, everyone hated the term because it compressed a nuanced and fascinating journey full of groundbreaking musical and stylistic ideas into a simple cliché that this book will unpack. Yet there was a definable culture with a shadowy sartorial style, and a soundtrack to match, that was reacting to those dystopian post-industrial times. The disparate bands that were painting it black had a melancholy, a sense of theatre and an artful sensuality to their styles. They somehow married those moods to a post-punk skreegh and to the pulsating dance floor, embracing funk, disco and dub. They were the true answer to punk’s questions, and many have become twenty-first-century legends whilst others are highly influential footnotes. We celebrate them all, here, in their own chapters, like a playlist from a trad goth club dance floor from the scene’s glorious tenebrous birth.

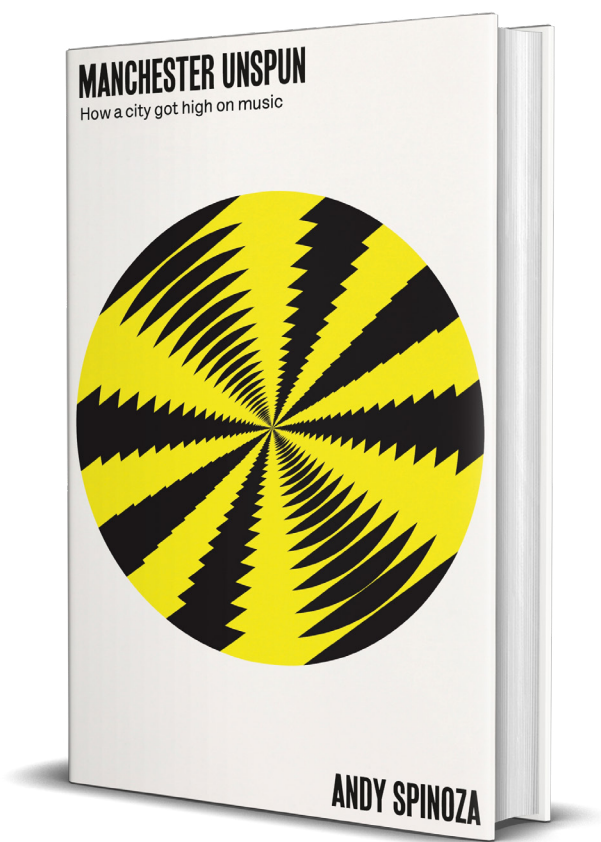
Manchester unspun:

How a city got high on music

Andy Spinoza

‘Every great city needs a great chronicler. We are lucky to have Andy. Read on.’

Lemn Sissay





At the end of the 1970s, Manchester seemed to be sliding into the dustbin of history. Today the city is an international destination for culture and sport, and one of the fastest-growing urban regions in Europe. This book offers a first-hand account of what happened in between.

Arriving in Manchester as a wide-eyed student in 1979, Andy Spinoza went on to establish the arts magazine *City Life* before working for the *Manchester Evening News* and creating his own PR firm. In a forty-year career he has encountered a who's who of Manchester personalities, from cultural icons such as Tony Wilson to Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and influential council leaders Sir Richard Leese and Sir Howard Bernstein.

His remarkable account traces Manchester's gradual emergence from its post-industrial malaise, centring on the legendary nightclub the Hacienda and the cultural renaissance it inspired.

Andy Spinoza moved to Manchester from London at eighteen and never looked back. An early member of the Hacienda, he reported on the city's music scene for the *NME* and *The Face*. He founded alternative magazine *City Life* in 1983 and spent ten years as a gossip columnist for the *Manchester Evening News*.

 @andyspin

 Andy Spinoza

- Features a who's who of Mancunians, from Morrissey to Bernard Manning, Shaun Ryder to Peter Saville, Kevin Cummins to Andy Burnham, Mark Kermode to Dame Nancy Rothwell, Peter Hook to James Anderton, Frank Sidebottom to Dave Haslam, with walk-on parts for Shania Twain, Muhammad Ali, George Foreman and Jonathan Ross
- Uses elements of autobiography to shine a light on how Manchester has remade itself since 1979, through the efforts of developers, restaurateurs, local and national government and remarkable figures from pop, politics, PR and property

An extract from Manchester unspun

The city's leaders, looking back on what they have achieved, believe they have nothing to apologise for. They have laid down a drumbeat of growth, a policy of 'build, build, build' since the early 1980s, all against a soundtrack of world-beating Manchester music. The city's urban revival has made it the envy of its peers and rivals, and its music has swept the world, too.

'No Hacienda, no new Manchester' sounds outlandish, but my own forty-year span in the city's media reveals the links, the people and the processes behind the cause and effect of cultural forces on economic and planning changes.

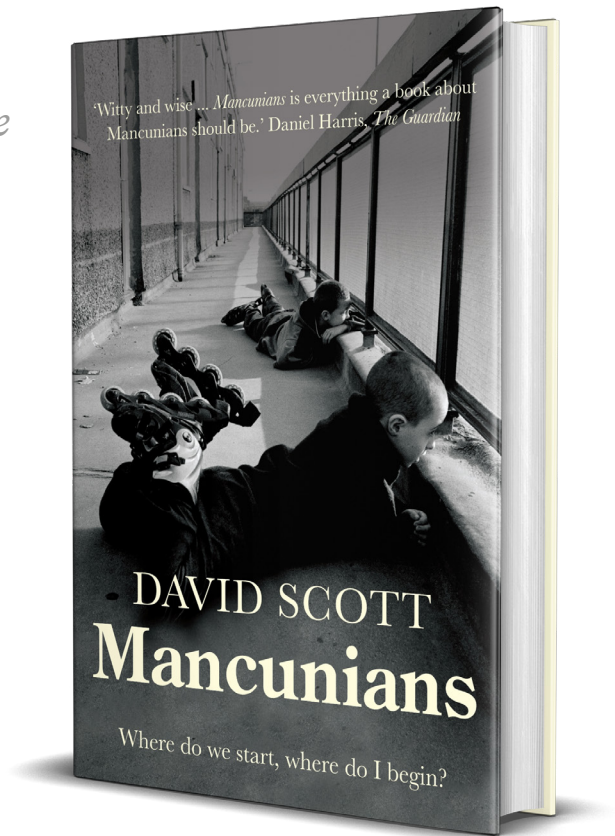
To understand how the North's skyscraper city has come to be, and how the changes have been definitively shaped by the music, I have picked out the key players, pivotal projects and critical events across a forty-year timeframe. It all could never, of course, begin with just one eccentric and experimental building. And yet it did. The skyrocketing city of today began with a bunch of squabbling hedonists, anarchists, musicians and intellectuals opening a ridiculously outsize New York-style nightclub, for an audience that did not yet exist.

Mancunians: *Where do we start, where do I begin?*

David Scott

‘Witty and wise ... *Mancunians* is everything a book about Mancunians should be.’

Daniel Harris, *The Guardian*



In the late 1990s, Manchester was a city in upheaval. The devastation of the IRA bomb and the closure of the infamous Hacienda nightclub were seismic events that rocked the city's confidence at a time when identikit bands were flooding its clubs and bars, fuelled by anthemic guitar rock and swagger. Stereotypes were everywhere, while the spirit of Manchester was silently suffocating.

Mancunians: Where do we start, where do I begin? is the story of those who didn't fit the typecast: the musicians of colour, the football fans alienated by rampant commercialism, frustrated public figures, optimistic developers, and ambitious artists.

Through a mixture of memoir and interviews with well-known Mancunians such as Guy Garvey, Tunde Babalola, Sylvia Tella, Badly Drawn Boy, and Stan Chow, David Scott portrays the city at the turn of the century in a way never seen before.

David Scott is a father, author, poet, musician, and BBC presenter. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, and *Politiken*. He was born, raised, and lives in Manchester.

📷 arghkid
🐦 @arghkid
📘 Argh kid

- Provides a missing chapter in the history of modern Manchester
- Wide appeal to readers interested in Manchester culture, sport, music and nightlife
- High-profile interviewees from Manchester
- The only book to discuss this period of Manchester history from lived experience

An extract from *Mancunians*

There are countless great books on Manchester, but few first-hand accounts of what it was like living here at the turn of the millennium, and none that did what I wanted to attempt: take a story told in broad strokes and rewrite it with a fine paintbrush, held by multiple people. What was it like to be a musician trying to do something different to the mainstream? Did the IRA bomb kickstart the regeneration? How was Manchester's nightlife after the Hacienda? Why did Manchester seem to be the home of the binge drinkers of the country? What was it like to be involved in gang wars? How did the city's school system fail its youth? What is a Mancunian, if not the stereotype? These were questions that I wanted to find answers to. In total I interviewed 106 people for this book, a mixture of names you will know and some that you won't; people who didn't want their names printing and names that have been changed for legal purposes. There are names that didn't make the final cut, a decision based on editorial reasoning, but their input still had an influence, their voices just as authentic, and many opened new lines of questioning as the contributors grew.

Collating the stories of other Mancunians has opened my eyes beyond what I knew of my city.

We shared the city simultaneously; we may have shared similar experiences, but how we receive them is always in isolation.

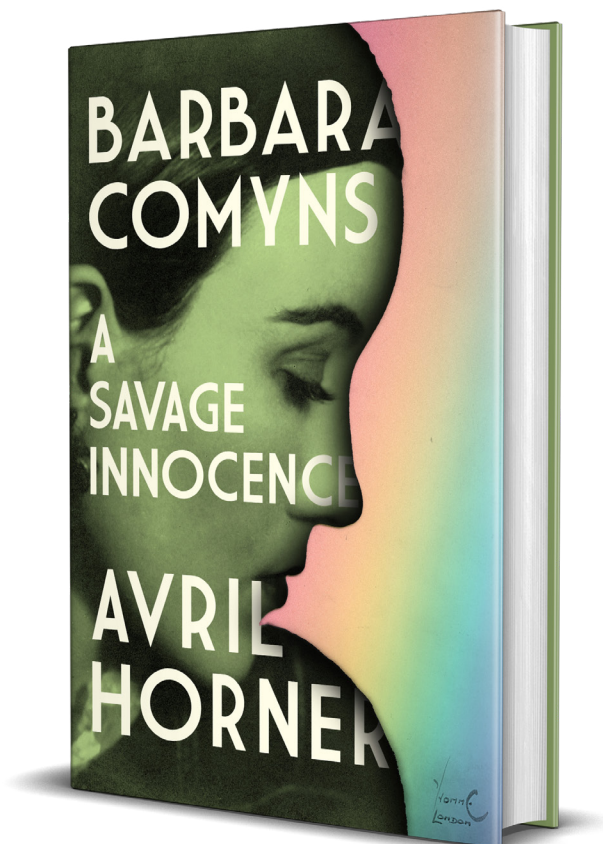
Barbara Comyns: *A savage innocence*

Avril Horner

The original Angela Carter

‘Here is the book fans of Barbara Comyns have been waiting for.’

Emily Gould, author of *Perfect Tunes and Friendship*



The extraordinary twentieth-century writer Barbara Comyns led a life as captivating as the narratives she spun. This pioneering biography reveals the journey of a woman who experienced hardship and single motherhood before the age of thirty but went on to publish a sequence of novels that are unique in the English language.

Comyns turned her hand to many jobs in order to survive, from artist's model to piano restorer. Hundreds of unpublished letters reveal an occasionally desperate but resourceful and witty woman whose complicated life ranged from enduring poverty when young to mixing with spivs, spies and high society. While working as a housekeeper in her mid-thirties, Comyns began transforming the bleak episodes of her life into compelling fictions streaked with surrealism and deadpan humour. *The Vet's Daughter* (1959), championed by Graham Greene, brought her fame, although her use of the gothic and macabre divided readers and reviewers.

This biography not only excavates Comyns's life but also reclaims her fiction, providing a timely reassessment of her literary contribution. It sheds new light on a remarkable author who deftly captured the complexities of human life.

Avril Horner is an Emeritus Professor of English at Kingston University. She is the author or editor of numerous books, most recently *Women and the Gothic* with Sue Zlosnik (2016) and *Living on Paper: Letters from Iris Murdoch 1934–95* with Anne Rowe (2015).

 @avrilhorner1

 Avril Horner

- The first and official biography of Barbara Comyns
- Draws on many interviews and includes unpublished letters and unseen photographs
- Timely because her books are now being reissued and her reputation reassessed
- Although based on thorough research, the book is accessible and should interest a wide variety of readers

Praise for Barbara Comyns

‘A neglected genius.’

Observer

‘Everyone should read Barbara Comyns...
There is no one to beat her when it comes
to the uncanny.’

Guardian

‘You never quite know where you are with
Comyns – which is what makes her novels
so intriguing.’

Telegraph

‘Quite simply, Comyns writes like no one
else.’

Maggie O’Farrell

‘Strange and unsettling.’

Margaret Drabble

‘Comyns’s own witchy way of looking at
the world arises from her resourceful craft
– her wordsmithery – which like a spell or
a charm gives her fiction a unique flavour.’

Marina Warner

The medium of Leonora Carrington: *A feminist haunting in the contemporary arts*

Catriona McAra

‘For a long-standing fan of
Leonora Carrington’s art and
writing, this book provides
essential reading.’

Rochelle Roberts, writer and editor



Before her death, the artist and writer Leonora Carrington (1917–2011) had already garnered a cult following, with numerous creative people making the pilgrimage to meet her at her home in Mexico City. Since then, her fame has only increased.

Thinking across contemporary art media, this book demonstrates how Carrington has posthumously become a medium in her own right, critically haunting the creative intellectuals who met or knew her. It explores the work of a remarkable variety of individuals and organisations, including the artists Lucy Skaer, Samantha Sweeting and Lynn Lu, the actress Tilda Swinton, the novelists Chloe Aridjis and Heidi Sopinka and the ensemble Double Edge Theatre.

This long-awaited study provides essential reading for both new and established members of the burgeoning Carrington fan club.

Catriona McAra is Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art History at the University of Aberdeen.

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🐦 [@CatrionaMcAra](#)



Leonora Carrington, *The Artist Travelling Incognito*, 1949. Oil on canvas.
© Estate of Leonora Carrington ARS, NY and DACS, London 2023.

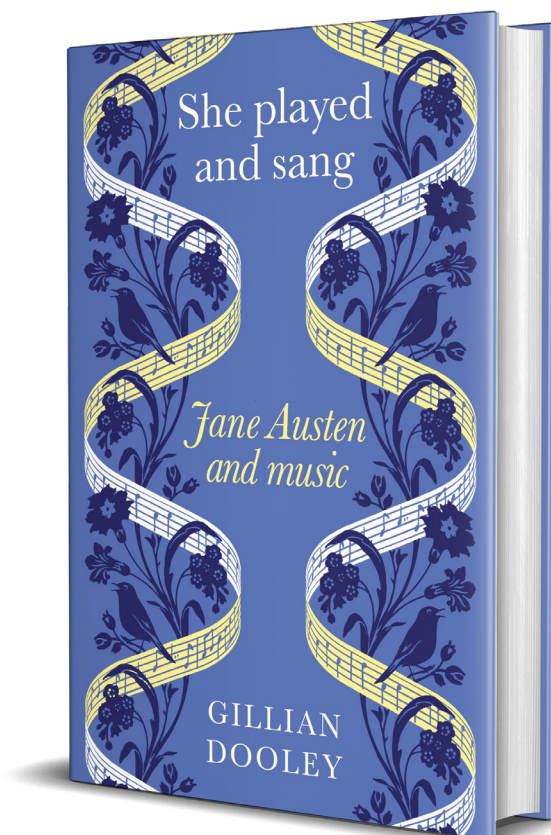
She played and sang:

Jane Austen and music

Gillian Dooley

‘A beautifully detailed account of the importance of music, and especially of song, to Jane Austen.’

John Mullan, author of *What Matters in Jane Austen?*




Like her much-loved heroine Emma Woodhouse, Jane Austen ‘played and sang’. Music occupied a central role in her life, and she made brilliant use of it in her books to illuminate characters’ personalities and highlight the contrasts between them.

Until recently, our knowledge of Austen’s musical inclinations was limited to the recollections of relatives who were still in their youth when she died. But with the digitisation of music books from her immediate family circle, a treasure trove of evidence has emerged. Delving into these books, alongside letters and other familial records, *She played and sang* unveils a previously unknown facet of Austen’s world.

This insightful work not only uncovers the music closely associated with Austen, but also unravels her musical connections with family and friends, revealing the intricate ties between her fiction and the melodies she performed. With these revelations, Austen’s musical legacy comes to life, granting us a deeper understanding of her artistic prowess and the influences that shaped her literary masterpieces.

Gillian Dooley is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in English at Flinders University. She has published and presented internationally on Jane Austen, and as a singer she has curated programmes of music from Austen’s personal collection since 2007. She has appeared on Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s *The Book Show* and *The Minefield* as an expert on Austen. Her most recent books are *Matthew Flinders: The Man behind the Map* and *Listening to Iris Murdoch: Music, Sounds, and Silences* (both 2022).

 @GillianMaryAdel

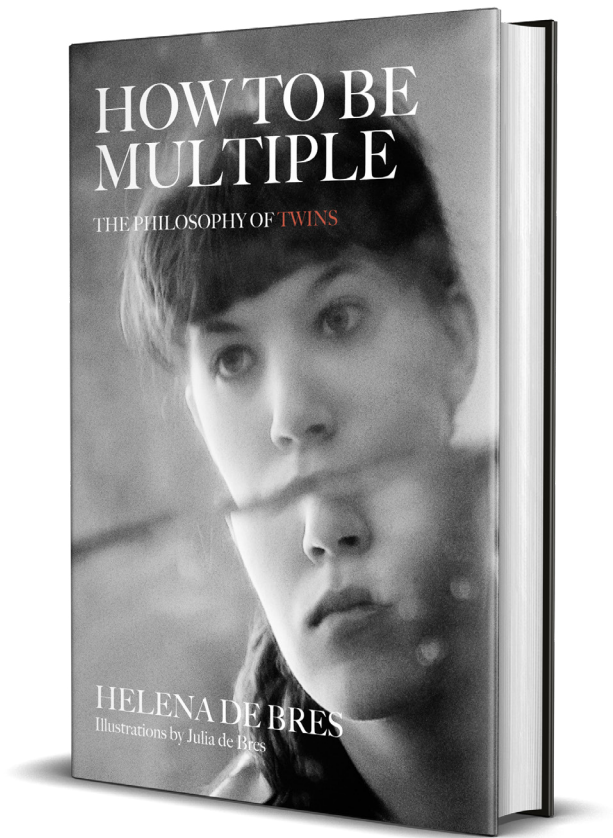
 Gillian Dooley

How to be multiple: *The philosophy of twins*

Helena de Bres

Illustrations by Julia de Bres

This illuminating, entertaining book offers philosophical and personal reflections on twinhood and how it can help us imagine the possibility of a more interconnected human future.



In *How to be multiple*, Helena de Bres – a twin herself – shows that twinhood is a unique lens through which to consider our place in the world and how we relate to other people. The way we think about twins offers fundamental insight into questions such as: what is a person? How should we treat one another?

Deftly weaving together literary and cultural history, philosophical inquiry and personal experience, Helena de Bres examines such thorny issues as binary thinking, objectification, romantic love and friendship, revealing the limits of our individualistic – singleton – perspective.

In this illuminating, entertaining book, wittily illustrated by her twin sister Julia, Helena de Bres ultimately suggests that to consider twinhood is to imagine the possibility of a more interconnected, capacious human future.

Helena de Bres is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wellesley College, where she researches and teaches ethics, philosophy of literature and political theory. She is the author of *Artful Truths: The Philosophy of Memoir* (2021) and has published essays in the *New York Times*, *The Point*, *Aeon*, *Psyche*, *Brevity*, the *Los Angeles Review* and *Another Chicago Magazine*.

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Disrupting White Mindfulness: *Race and Racism in the Wellbeing Industry*

Cathy-Mae Karelse

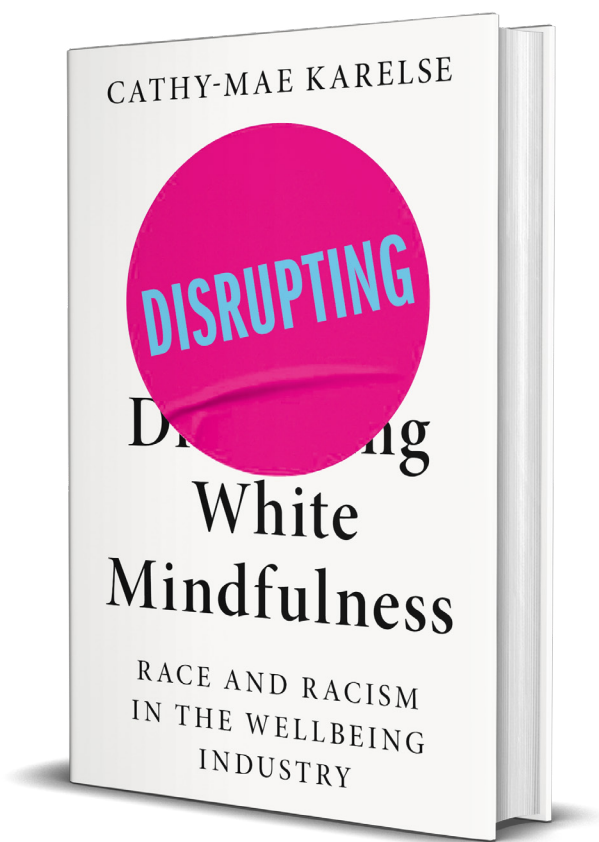
'Karelse delivers a cracking Black Feminist call to decolonise "Wellbeing" with her forensic exposé of the darkside of the White Mindfulness industry and its colonial co-option of Eastern teachings for Western gain.'

Heidi Safia Mirza, author of *Race, Gender and Educational Desire*


Disrupting White Mindfulness presents a thought-provoking critique of the prevailing narratives that shape the mindfulness industry, namely whiteness, postracialism and neoliberalism.

The industry presents itself as 'apolitical', but this only serves to create institutions that fit comfortably into our increasingly divided societies. The White, middle-class profile of decision-makers, educators and staff is mirrored in its audiences, and the industry's whiteness is endlessly recycled through corporate pedagogies, edicts of authority, disengagement with difference and inappropriate uses of mindfulness that distance People of the Global Majority.

At the same time, an emergent movement focused on a justice-infused mindfulness and liberatory wellbeing is decolonising mindfulness and decentring whiteness. Rooted in indigenous, global South, queer knowledges, this movement leverages difference to produce new possibilities for liberation. As this book shows, there is room for White Mindfulness to change.



Cathy-Mae Karelse is a scholar-practitioner, changemaker and public speaker on issues of race, difference and belonging. She received a PhD from SOAS in 2019. Her work addresses all landscapes: the inner, outer and in-between. She is currently the DEI Lead at The Mindfulness Initiative and holds the position of Systems Change Lead at Resilience Capital Ventures

 Cathy-Mae Karelse

- Provides a timely critique of Mindfulness and whiteness in the West and a vision of embodied justice
- Contributes to an understanding of how Mindfulness can become more relevant in a fast-changing world concerned with justice and liberation
- Considers dominant narratives and social norms that engulf Mindfulness in whiteness and postracial neoliberalism
- Uses evidence-based research to demonstrate the racialised nature of the mindfulness industry

Q & A with Cathy-Mae Karelse

What motivated you to write the book?

I was deeply interested in understanding how the practice of a liberatory mindfulness became part of the messy problem of societies built on marginalisation, elitism, injustices and inequalities. Was there a way to disrupt and redirect the course of White mindfulness?

On entering the world of Westernised mindfulness, I was taken in by the essence of the teachings even though they were veiled in secularism. These early settings linked contemplative practice to structural transformation and queried the very shaping of our ideas and realities. However, time in the corridors of a rapidly growing field revealed an underbelly that was fast becoming its entire form. Institutionalised forms of a commodified mindfulness mirrored the fractured societies in which it was flourishing. Neoliberal and postracial ideas of universalism sought to spread a Westernised version of mindfulness as a medicine across the world. Rather than fulfilling the wish to transform societies from the inside-out, an emergent White mindfulness became reduced to a set of coping strategies designed to survive an unjust world. In other words, White mindfulness became something of a sedative, leaving systems of oppression unchallenged and unchanged.

Who is the book written for?

People interested in intersectionality or immersed in contemplative traditions. This book gives a voice to experiences of marginalisation, subtle and structural acts of exclusion, noting how practices that ought to support us make us ill. It is also written for the many people involved in the field of White mindfulness who are looking for change. It prompts an unlearning of old methods that repeat divide-and-rule strategies, albeit unwittingly, and invites collaborative co-creation of approaches that blend the inner, outer and in-between landscapes of our communal lives. Among these, global South, Indigenous and queer knowledges, still commonly repressed by global North narratives, are foregrounded as embodied traditions that lead collectively.

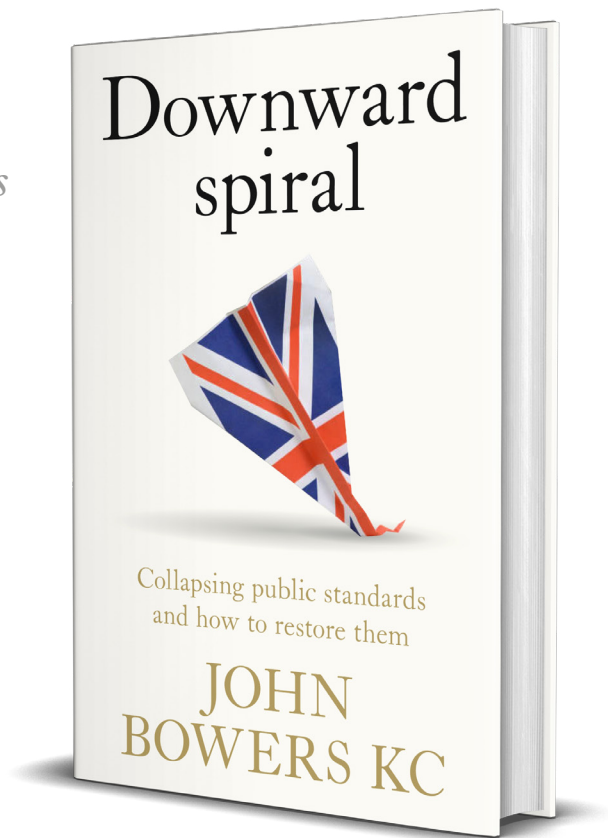
Downward spiral:

Collapsing public standards and how to restore them

John Bowers KC

‘This sadly much needed book tells a shocking tale of the undermining of parliament, the civil service, ethical codes and good governance. It should be a go-to text for anyone who cares about restoring government’s ethical behaviour.’

Baroness Hayter



The Johnson era will be remembered for a series of scandals that severely eroded trust in the British government. From questionable PPE tenders and public appointments to the ‘partygate’ fiasco, every aspect of public life seemed tainted. How did this downward spiral begin, and what can be done to reverse it?

In this eye-opening book, veteran KC John Bowers presents a fearless examination of the decline in ethical standards before, during and after the Johnson government. He focuses on the institutions responsible for holding the government accountable, exposing how they have been bypassed by prime ministers determined to impose their agenda. Through interviews with political insiders, Bowers provides analysis of scandals such as partygate, Greensill and the revolving door with the private sector. He shines a light on a culture of favouritism, where standards are upheld based on little more than the assumption that those in power can be trusted to behave.

Rishi Sunak entered Number 10 on the promise of restoring integrity, but it is clear that major problems remain. *Downward spiral* presents concrete proposals for creating an alternative system that is more transparent and accountable.

John Bowers KC is Principal of Brasenose College, University of Oxford. He was called to the Bar in 1979 and took silk in 1998. Described as ‘an employment law rock star’, he is the author of fifteen books, including *Bowers on Employment Law*, *The Law of Industrial Action* and *Trade Union Recognition and Whistleblowing*.

- Scandals in British public life and declining ethical standards are hot topics that show little sign of going away
- Written by a highly regarded KC, known as ‘the rock star of employment law’
- Draws on original interviews with political insiders such as Tony Blair
- The first book to consider a range of ethical regulators and rate their effectiveness

Q & A with John Bowers

What made you decide to write this book?

I became more and more concerned about the decline in public standards during the Johnson government. This was especially sparked by Johnson’s refusal to accept the advice of his Independent Adviser on Members’ Interests about the conduct of the home secretary, Priti Patel (now ennobled as a dame), towards her civil servants. On the day the Independent Adviser’s report was released, Johnson told Conservative MPs on a WhatsApp group to ‘form a square around the Prittster’. At Prime Minister’s Questions he denounced the bullying allegations as ‘mere trivia’. The important Seven Nolan Principles of Public Life were being run on concerned that the rule of law itself was at stake.

I wanted to delve into the extent to which public standards really had declined and what the ethical regulators were doing and not doing. Was the ‘good chaps theory’ of government, which relies on people in power abiding by conventions of proper behaviour, valid or a pipe dream? I also wanted to chart whether the Johnson government was significantly different to previous administrations.

What gives you hope for the future of British politics?

Just as it seemed the ‘good chaps’ had departed the stage and there was going to be a downward spiral in public standards, they re-emerged and the ethics system reasserted itself. The Commons Privileges Committee declared that the prime minister had misled parliament. A new Independent Adviser on Ministerial Interests has regained the initiative and delivered sensible reports in short order. Nadhim Zahawi, Dominic Raab and others have left. Rishi Sunak declared as he took office that he would put trust and integrity at the heart of his programme (although his record has been patchy).

The other hope is that a future government will look carefully at the ethical regulators and follow the principles set out in this book, in particular introducing a new Commission on Integrity that brings together the different regulators and gives them more powerful tools.

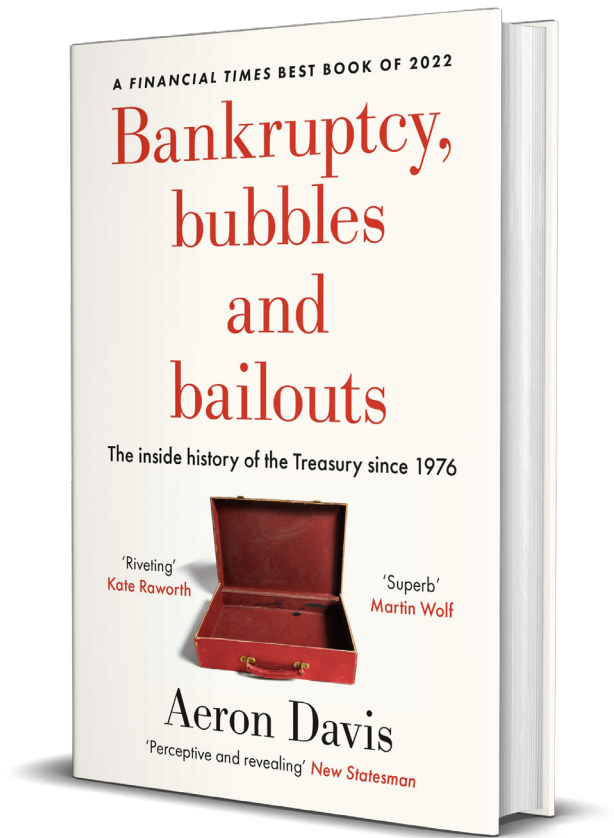
Bankruptcy, bubbles and bailouts: *The inside history of the Treasury since 1976*

Aeron Davis

A Financial Times Best Book of 2022

‘An essential read.’

Ann Pettifor, author of *The Production of Money*



The Treasury is one of Britain’s oldest, most powerful and most secretive institutions. It has played a central role in shaping the country’s economic system, yet all too often it has escaped public scrutiny.

The Treasury is often presented as a bedrock in times of crisis, rescuing the nation’s finances from posturing politicians and the combustions of world financial markets. However, there is another side to the story. Between the highs there have been many lows, from botched privatisations to dubious private finance initiatives, from failing to spot the great financial crisis to facilitating ever-growing inequalities.

Going behind the scenes, this book offers an inside history of the Treasury, in the words of chancellors, advisors and civil servants themselves. It shows the shortcomings as well as the successes, the personalities and the ideas that have shaped Britain’s economy since the mid-1970s. Based on interviews with over fifty key figures, it offers a fascinating, alternative insight on how and why the UK economy came to function as it does today, and why reform is long overdue.

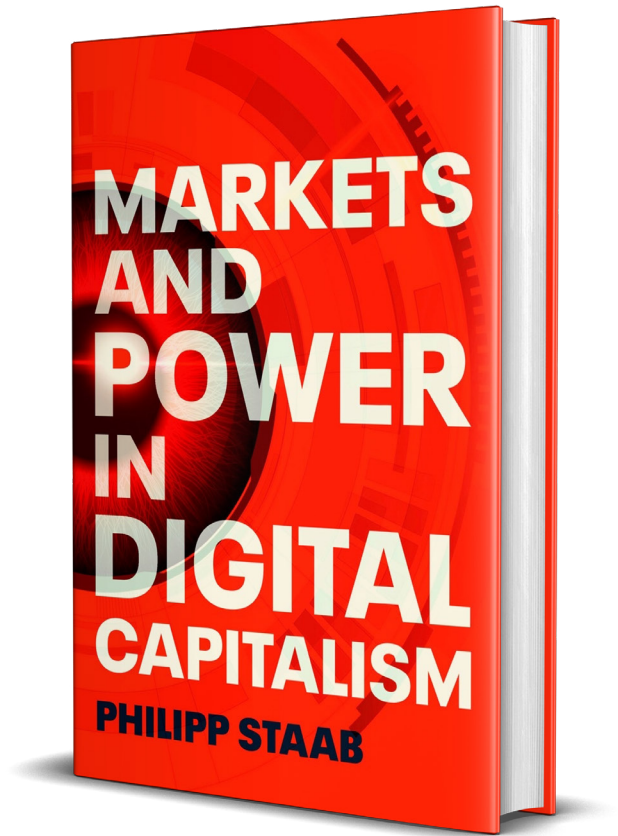
Aeron Davis is Professor of Political Communication at Victoria University of Wellington. He is the author of seven previous books, including *Reckless Opportunists: Elites at the End of the Establishment* (2018). His work has appeared in the *Financial Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, *Times Higher Education*, the *New Statesman*, the *Guardian* and elsewhere.

 @AeronDavis1

Markets and power in digital capitalism

Philipp Staab

For readers of Shoshana Zuboff's *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* and Thomas Piketty's *Capital*



Markets and power in digital capitalism delves into the complex world of modern capitalism, where technology giants reign supreme. From Google and Apple to Amazon and Tencent, these internet behemoths have reshaped the economic landscape, transforming capitalism as we know it.

Philipp Staab takes readers on a thought-provoking journey through the virtual realm, exploring how digital surveillance and evaluation practices have infiltrated every aspect of our lives. What sets digital capitalism apart, he argues, is the rise of 'proprietary markets'. No longer focused on producing goods and selling them for profit, today's meta-platforms thrive by owning and controlling the very markets in which they operate. This raises important questions about power dynamics, market monopolies and the future of economic systems.

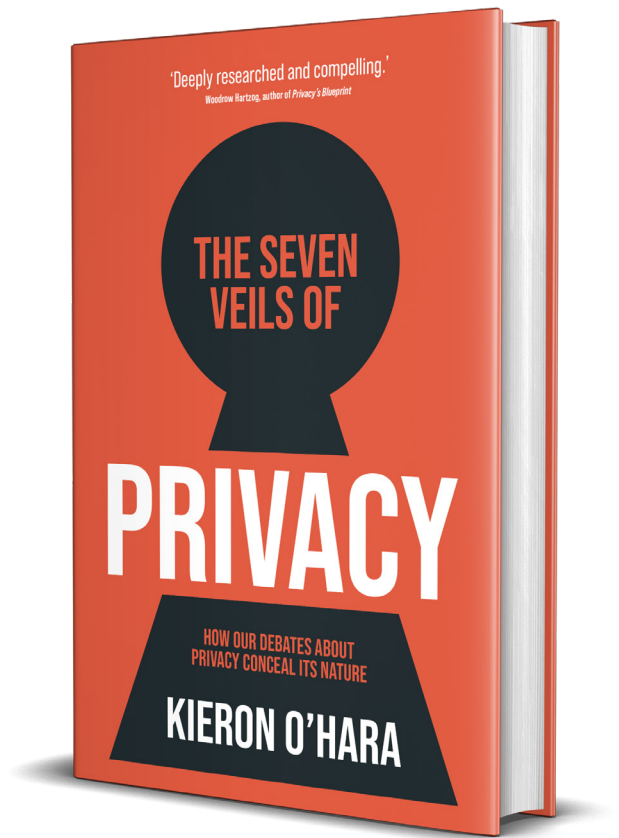
With sharp insight and meticulous research, this book sheds light on the intricate workings of our digitised economy. Staab's compelling analysis challenges us to confront the realities of surveillance capitalism and the urgent need to address the inequities it perpetuates.

Philipp Staab is Professor for the Sociology of the Future of Work at Humbolt-University of Berlin and Einstein Center Digital Future.

The seven veils of privacy: *How our debates about privacy conceal its nature*

Kieron O'Hara

A comprehensive, rigorous, multidisciplinary analysis of privacy debates, organised around a framework for understanding the different questions and perspectives of antagonists.



Privacy is one of the most contested concepts of our time. This book sets out a rigorous and comprehensive framework for understanding debates about privacy and our rights to it.

Much of the conflict around privacy comes from a failure to recognise divergent perspectives. Some people argue about human rights, some about social conventions, others about individual preferences and still others about information and data processing. As a result, 'privacy' has become the focus of competing definitions, leading some to denounce the 'disarray' in the field.

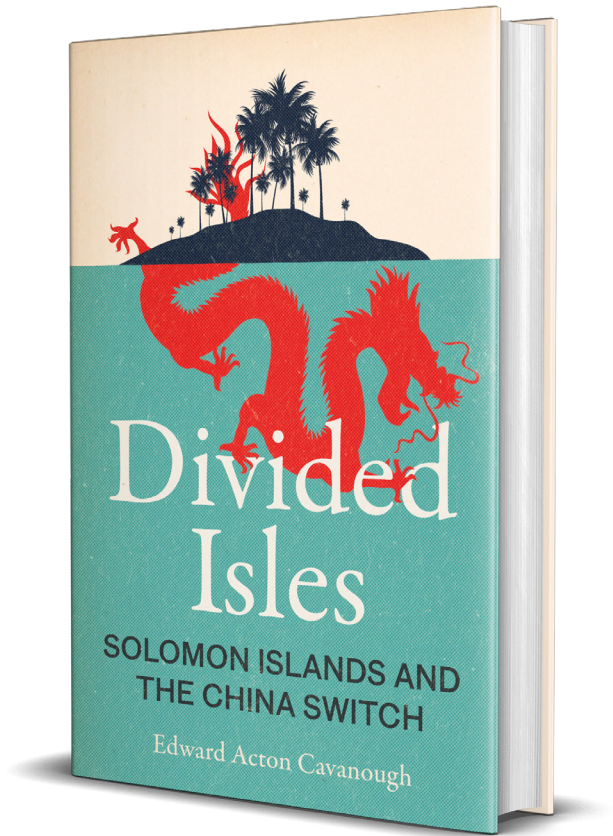
But as this book shows, disagreements about the role and value of privacy obscure a large amount of agreement on the topic. Privacy is not a technical term of law, cybersecurity or sociology, but a word in common use that adequately expresses a few simple and related ideas.

Kieron O'Hara is an Emeritus Fellow in Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Southampton.

Divided Isles: *Solomon Islands and the China Switch*

Edward Acton Cavanough

A pacy, must-read analysis of one of the most consequential geopolitical events in the Pacific region.




In 2019 Solomon Islands made international headlines when the country severed its decades-old alliance with Taiwan in exchange for a partnership with Beijing. The decision prompted international condemnation and terrified Australian security experts, who feared Australia's historical Pacific advantage would come unstuck.

This development is often framed as another example of China's inevitable capture of the region – but this misrepresents how and why the decision was made, and how Solomon Islanders have skilfully leveraged global angst over China to achieve extraordinary gains. Despite Solomon Islands' importance to Australia, local readers know little about the country, a fragile island-nation stretching over a thousand islands and speaking seventy indigenous languages.

In *Divided Isles*, Edward Cavanough explains how the switch played out on the ground and its extraordinary potential consequences. He speaks with the dissidents and politicians who shape Solomon Islands' politics, and to the ordinary people whose lives have been upended by a decision that has changed the country – and the region – forever.

Edward Acton Cavanough is a journalist, researcher and policy analyst based in Adelaide. He has reported from Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. His writing has appeared in the *Saturday Paper*, the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Guardian*, the *Nation*, the *South China Morning Post* and the *Australian*.

 @edwardcavanough

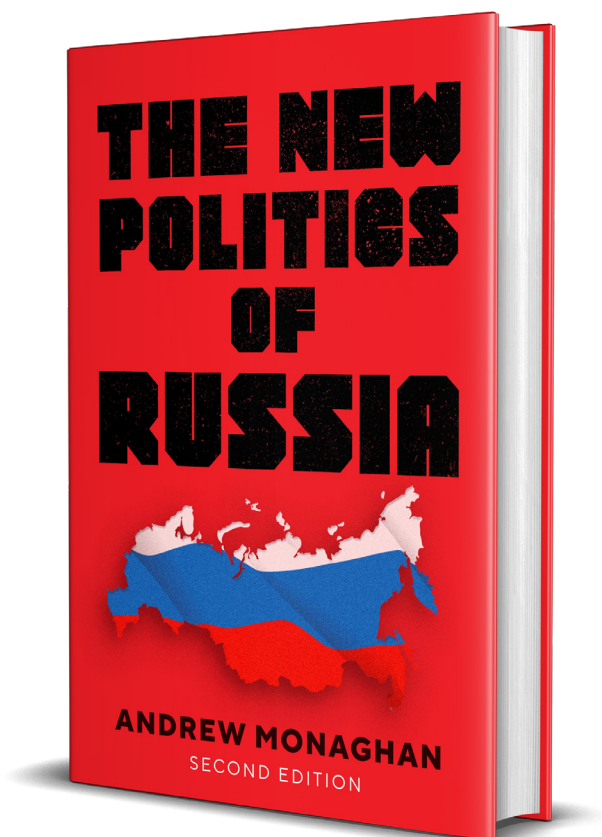
The new politics of Russia

Second edition

Andrew Monaghan

‘A timely and sober corrective to the often ill-informed and contradictory analyses of Russia that are dominant today.’

Richard Connolly, Co-Director, Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies, University of Birmingham



This illuminating book explains how and why Russia's relations with the West have deteriorated to the point of initiating a new era of 'great power competition'. An updated version of the bestselling 2016 edition, it explores the decline in relations since the early 2000s, taking in the war in Syria and the 2022 escalation in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Beyond geopolitical considerations, the book delves into the nature of power in Russia itself, providing an in-depth examination of the networks of influence that define the country's political landscape. In doing so it moves beyond the simplistic, Putin-centric narratives often found in Western accounts, offering readers a fresh perspective on Russian politics.

The new politics of Russia serves as a key resource, challenging conventional wisdom and unpicking the complex dynamics at play in the relationship between Russia and the West.

Andrew Monaghan is Academic Visitor at St Antony's College, Oxford and a Senior Research Fellow in the Russia and Eurasia Programme at The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. He also a Global Fellow at the Wilson's Center's Kennan Institute, which is based in Washington, and the premier US center for advanced research on Russian and Eurasia. He is fluent in Russian having lived and studied there for a number of years.

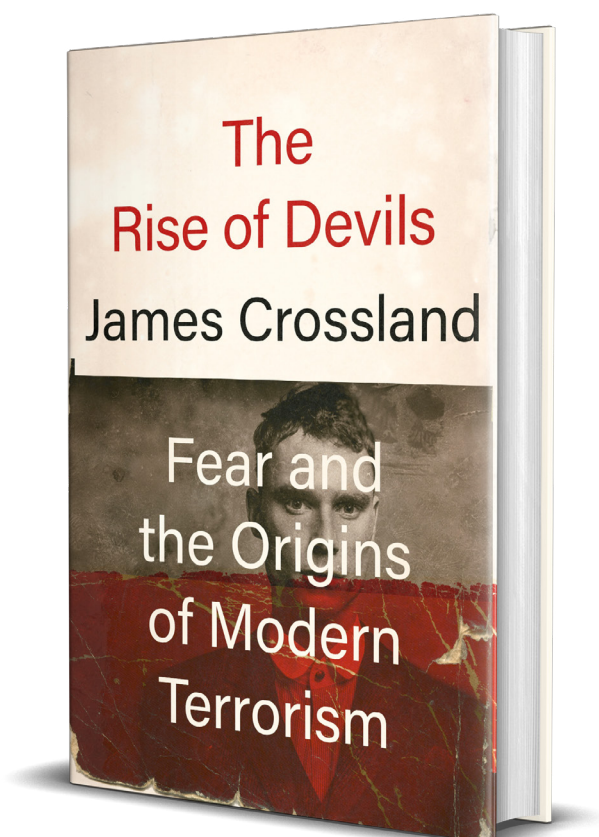
 @AndrewCMonaghan

The rise of devils: *Fear and the origins of modern terrorism*

James Crossland

‘A fascinating exploration of the long nineteenth century’s development of terrorism and counterterrorism.’

Michael Stohl, author of
Crime and Terrorism



In the dying light of the nineteenth century, the world came to know and fear terrorism. Like today, this was a time of progress and dread, characterised by political and technological breakthroughs and waves of immigration that swelled the populations of ever-expanding cities.

The era also simmered with political rage and social inequalities, which drove nationalists, nihilists, anarchists and republicans to dynamite cities and gun down presidents, police chiefs and emperors. This wave of terrorism was seized upon by an outrage-hungry press that peddled hysteria, conspiracy theories and, sometimes, fake news in response, convincing many a reader that they were living through the end of days.

Against the backdrop of this world of fear and disorder, *The rise of devils* chronicles the journeys of the men and women who provoked this panic and created modern terrorism – revolutionary philosophers, cult leaders, criminals and charlatans, as well as the paranoid police chiefs and unscrupulous spies who tried to thwart them. In doing so, the book explains how radicals, once thought just in their causes, became, as Pope Pius IX denounced them, little more than ‘devils risen up from Hell’.

James Crossland is Reader in International History at Liverpool John Moores University and author of *War, Law and Humanity: The Campaign to Control Warfare, 1853-1914* (2018).

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