

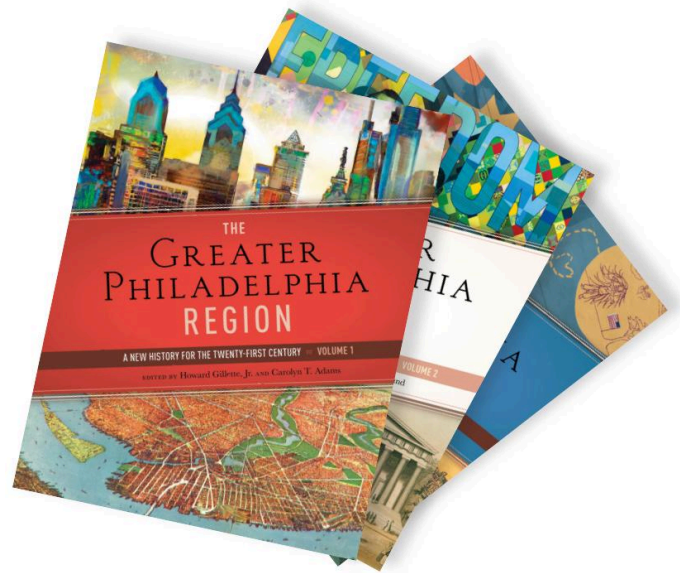
A Prelude to America's 250th

Start Philadelphia's Celebrations Early with These Landmark History Books from Penn Press

PHILADELPHIA, PA — As we prepare for the fireworks, parades, and fanfare of America's 250th anniversary, it's time for Philadelphia to celebrate its role as the beating heart of the nation's story. And a bold new publishing project from the University of Pennsylvania Press is helping lead the way with a landmark book project that unearths the hidden histories, points of pride, people, places, and communities in the city and region we all love.

Richly illustrated with photographs, maps, and archival images, *The Greater Philadelphia Region*, *Greater Philadelphia and the Nation*, and *Greater Philadelphia and the World* (University of Pennsylvania Press, **October 21, 2025**) offer fresh, engaging, and inclusive retellings of our region's history—from leading scholars and local voices.

From the era of Indigenous homelands to the Black Lives Matter movement, from the Liberty Bell to labor strikes, from Bucks County to Camden County, and from television shows like *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* to the iconic cheesesteaks and coffeehouses, these books spotlight untold stories and reframe familiar ones. This is Philly as you've never read it: complex, interconnected, and globally relevant.



Charlene Mires, Professor Emerita of History at Rutgers University and coeditor of *Greater Philadelphia and the Nation*, says, “We set out to create something both timely and timeless—a resource that people can turn to now as we prepare for the 250th, and one that will endure for generations to come. This is more than a history of a city; it’s a story of how Greater Philadelphia helped shape the world.”

Each volume spotlights a different lens:

- **VOLUME 1: THE GREATER PHILADELPHIA REGION** – Explores how “Greater Philadelphia” came to represent not just a city, but a dynamic region shaped by shared history, infrastructure, and identity across southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and northern Delaware. From early 20th-century department stores to regional planning efforts—this volume delves into the natural boundaries, transportation networks, neighborhoods, and political institutions that connect city and suburb. It offers a compelling portrait of a region defined as much by rivers, roads, and rail lines as by its economic and social interdependence.

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- **VOLUME 2: GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND THE NATION** – Chronicles the city’s vital role in shaping American identity, democracy, and movements for justice across centuries. This volume traverses Philadelphia’s revolutionary origins and Civil War divisions through the fight for women’s suffrage, the civil rights and Black Power movements, and more recent moments like the AIDS activism of the 1980s and Occupy Philadelphia. Along the way, it illuminates how questions of citizenship, protest, and belonging have continually played out in the streets, courtrooms, and neighborhoods of the Philadelphia region—from Independence Hall to Girard College, from Germantown to City Hall Plaza.
- **VOLUME 3: GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND THE WORLD** – Reveals how Greater Philadelphia has long been a crossroads of global forces — shaped by waves of migration, transatlantic commerce, and international conflict. From its colonial roots in the British Empire to its rise as an industrial powerhouse and cultural beacon, this volume traces how the region welcomed immigrants from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas; became a center of world religions; and responded to global challenges from cholera to COVID-19. It highlights the city’s impact on international labor, education, and peace movements, as well as its role in military conflicts at home and abroad.

A true Philadelphia achievement, the three-volume set is the result of a deeply collaborative effort—conceived, written, edited, published, and supported by the city’s own scholars, institutions, cultural organizations, and funders. It reflects not only the richness of the region’s history, but the shared pride and investment of the people who live and work here.

“Part of Penn Press’s mission is to bring the rich and cosmopolitan history of Philadelphia to as many readers as possible. Bringing together so much fascinating new work from local historians and community partners in these beautiful volumes has been a landmark project,” said **Mary Francis**, Director of the University of Pennsylvania Press. “Penn Press is proud to publish these books that reflect the pride, complexity, and connectedness of the place we call home.”

Perfect for local readers, educators, libraries, and history buffs, these books offer a vibrant retelling of who we are and how we got here — just in time to shape the conversation leading into 2026. Events are planned throughout the fall to launch and celebrate the books and the important history they convey.

These books are published in association with *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, which is produced at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH) at Rutgers University-Camden. Their publication has been made possible through the generous support of the Philadelphia Funder Collaborative for the Semiquincentennial and the External Board of Advisors of the University of Pennsylvania Press.

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About The University of Pennsylvania Press

True to its Philadelphia roots, Penn Press is well-known for its distinguished list of publications in American history and culture, including innovative work on the transnational currents that surrounded and shaped the republic from the colonial period through the present, as well as prize-winning publications in urban studies. The Press is equally renowned for its publications in European history, literature, and culture from late antiquity through the early modern period. Penn Press’s social science publications tackle contemporary political issues of concern to a broad readership of citizens and scholars, notably including a long-standing

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commitment to publishing path-breaking work in international human rights. Penn Press also publishes outstanding works in archaeology, economic history, business, and Jewish Studies in partnership with local institutions

The Greater Philadelphia Region: 9781512826043 | \$44.95 | 368 pages, 86 color illus., 14 maps
Greater Philadelphia and the Nation: 9781512826630 | \$44.95 | 352 pages, 105 color illus., 1 table
Greater Philadelphia and the World: 9781512827385 | \$44.95, 368 pages, 95 color illus.
3-Volume set: 9781512829358 | \$125.00

The books are oversized gift editions - each book is 8.5 x 11 and the 3-volume set is banded for gifting

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For review copies, interviews, and events -

Jessica Pellien, on behalf of Penn Press and the editors of *Greater Philadelphia*

jessica@pellienpublicrelations.com | 267-980-6868