



National Book Foundation

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2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR NONFICTION

The ten contenders for the National Book Award for Nonfiction

New York, NY (September 17, 2014) – The National Book Foundation announces the Longlist for the 2014 National Book Award for Nonfiction. Finalists will be revealed on October 15.

The Nonfiction Longlist includes the first cartoonist to be honored by the National Book Awards in the adult categories (three graphic novels have been Finalists in the Young People’s Literature category), a Pulitzer Prize Winner, and several distinguished historians.

2014 Longlist for Nonfiction:

Roz Chast, *Can’t We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*
Bloomsbury

John Demos, *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic*
Alfred A. Knopf/ Random House

Anand Gopal, *No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan Eyes*
Metropolitan Books/ Henry Holt and Company

Nigel Hamilton, *The Mantle of Command: FDR at War, 1941 - 1942*
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Walter Isaacson, *The Innovators: How a Group of Inventors, Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution*

Simon & Schuster

John Lahr, *Tennessee Williams: Mad Pilgrimage of the Flesh*
W.W. Norton & Company

Evan Osnos, *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China*
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Ronald C. Rosbottom, *When Paris Went Dark: The City of Light Under German Occupation, 1940-1944*
Little, Brown and Company/ Hachette Book Group

Matthew Stewart, *Nature's God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic*
W.W. Norton & Company

Edward O. Wilson, *The Meaning of Human Existence*
Liveright Publishing Corporation/ W.W. Norton & Company

Author biographies:

Roz Chast's cartoons have been published in many magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *Scientific American*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Redbook*, and *Mother Jones*. She is the author of *Theories of Everything: Selected, Collected, and Health-Inspected Cartoons of Roz Chast, 1978-2006*, a compilation of her favorite cartoons. She also illustrated *The Alphabet from A to Y, with Bonus Letter, Z*, the bestselling children's book by Steve Martin. Chast's awards and honors include honorary doctorates from Dartmouth College, Lesley University/Art Institute of Boston, and Pratt Institute. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth College. rozchast.com/index.shtml

John Demos is the Samuel Knight Professor Emeritus of History at Yale University. His previous books include *The Unredeemed Captive*, which won the Francis Parkman Prize and was a Finalist for the National Book Award, and *Entertaining Satan*, which won the Bancroft Prize. He lives in Tyringham, Massachusetts.

Anand Gopal has served as an Afghanistan correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, and has reported on the Middle East and South Asia for *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Foreign Policy*, and other publications. Gopal is a fellow at the New America Foundation. anandgopal.com

Nigel Hamilton is a bestselling and award-winning biographer of President John F. Kennedy, General Bernard "Monty" Montgomery, and President Bill Clinton, among other subjects. He is a Senior Fellow in the McCormack Graduate School, University of Massachusetts-Boston, and the first president of the Biographers International Organization.

Walter Isaacson, the CEO of the Aspen Institute, has been chairman of CNN, and the managing editor of *Time* magazine. He is the author of *Steve Jobs*, *Einstein: His Life and Universe*, *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, and *Kissinger: A Biography*, and the coauthor of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*. He lives in Washington, DC.

John Lahr, the author of eighteen books, was the senior drama critic of *The New Yorker* for over two decades. He has twice won the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism and is the first critic to win a Tony Award, for coauthoring *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*. johnlahr.com

Evan Osnos is a staff writer for *The New Yorker* who covers politics and foreign affairs. He is also a contributor to *This American Life* and *Frontline*. Prior to *The New Yorker*, he worked as the Beijing bureau chief of the *Chicago Tribune*, where he contributed to a series that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. He has received the Asia Society's Osborn Elliott Prize for Excellence in Journalism on Asia, the Livingston Award for Young Journalists, and a Mirror Award for profile writing. evanosnos.com

Ronald C. Rosbottom is the Winifred L. Arms Professor in the Arts and Humanities and Professor of French and European Studies at Amherst College. Previously, he was the Dean of the Faculty at Amherst, Chair of the Romance Languages Department at Ohio State University, and taught at the University of Pennsylvania. He lives in Amherst, Massachusetts. facebook.com/RonaldCRosbottomAuthor

Matthew Stewart is the author of the books *The Courtier and the Heretic: Leibniz, Spinoza, and the Fate of God in the Modern World*, *The Management Myth: Debunking the Modern Philosophy of Business*, *Monturiol's Dream: The Extraordinary Story of the Submarine Inventor Who Wanted to Save the World*, and *The Truth About Everything: An Irreverent History of Philosophy*. He lives in Boston, Massachusetts. mwstewart.com

Edward O. Wilson has published over two dozen books. He has been awarded two Pulitzer Prizes, for *On Human Nature* and, with Bert Hölldobler, *The Ants*; the US National Medal of Science; Sweden's Crafoord Prize; Japan's International Prize for Biology; the Presidential Medal and Nonino Prize of Italy; the Franklin Medal of the American Philosophical Society, and numerous other awards and honors. He was a Finalist for the National Book Award in 1972 for *The Insect Society*.

Publishers submitted a total of 494 books for the 2014 National Book Award for Nonfiction. Five distinguished Judges were given the charge of selecting what they deem to be the best books of the year. Their decisions are made independently of the National Book Foundation staff and Board of Directors; deliberations are strictly confidential. To be eligible for a 2014 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2013 and November 30, 2014.

2014 Judges for Nonfiction:

Robert Atwan is the series editor of *The Best American Essays*, the annual he launched in 1986. The editor of numerous anthologies, he has published on a wide variety of subjects, such as dreams in ancient literature, early photography, Shakespeare, poetry, literary nonfiction, and the cultural history of American advertising. His essays, criticism, humor, reviews, and poetry have appeared in many periodicals, including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *Image*, *The Iowa Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and *The Los Angeles Times*.

Gretel Ehrlich is the author of 15 books, including *The Solace of Open Spaces*, *Islands*, *The Universe*, *Home*, *A Match to the Heart*, *A Blizzard Year*, and *The Future of Ice*. Her most recent book is *Facing the Wave: A Journey in the Wake of the Tsunami*, which was Longlisted for the National Book Award in 2013. She has won many awards, including the 2010 PEN Henry David

Thoreau Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Award, and the Harold B. Vurcell Award for distinguished prose from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

gretel-ehrllich.com

Tom Reiss's most recent book, *The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo*, won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize and the 2013 PEN Award. His previous book, *The Orientalist: Solving the Mystery of a Strange and Dangerous Life*, was a finalist for the 2006 Samuel Johnson Prize. His articles have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. His books have been translated into over 25 languages. tomreiss.com

Ruth J. Simmons was President of Brown University from 2001-2012, after having served as President of Smith College. She is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship to France, the 2001 President's Award from the United Negro College Fund, the 2002 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University. Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the boards of Texas Instruments, Chrysler, and Mondelez as well as a number of non-profit boards.

Alan Taylor has published seven books, including *William Cooper's Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early Republic*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for American history and the Bancroft and Beveridge prizes; *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution*, *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies*; and *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2013.

The remaining Longlist, for the Fiction category, will be revealed exclusively in *The New York Times* at 8 a.m. ET on September 18.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced exclusively on NPR's *Morning Edition* on October 15, and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on November 19 in New York City.

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The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings National Book Award authors to colleges and universities across the country; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading program.

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, James McBride, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.