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2018 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR NONFICTION

The ten contenders for the National Book Award for Nonfiction

New York City, September 13, 2018: The National Book Foundation today announced the Longlist for the 2018 National Book Award for Nonfiction. Finalists will be revealed on October 10.

The 2018 Longlist includes recipients of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction, the Ray Allen Billington Prize, the Lannan Literary Award, the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, and many more. Authors on the Longlist hail from regions across the United States, including Connecticut, Ohio, Kansas, Illinois, and California. They have held positions at prestigious institutions throughout the country, and at media companies like *The New Yorker*, *National Geographic*, and *VICE*. Including explorations of American history and politics, biographies, memoirs, scientific explication, and an essay collection, the titles on this year's Longlist represent an exceptionally wide range of subjects and genres.

A work of natural history considers the ramifications of a relatively recent and unexpected scientific discovery. In *The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life*, **David Quammen** chronicles the research, central figures, and consequences involved in the discovery of a gene's ability to move across species lines, greatly altering the way that science understands evolution, genetics, and the history of life itself.

Two titles delve into the lives and legacies of figures from the United States' earliest history. **Colin G. Calloway's** *The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, the First Americans, and the*

Birth of the Nation recounts the relationship between Native leaders and our first president, aiming to illustrate the ways in which Washington's interests were directly tied to the destruction of Native lands and rights, and examining the influence of the country's first inhabitants on the trajectory of one of the most famous figures in American history. *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic* by **Victoria Johnson** sheds light on the life and work of David Hosack, a renowned surgeon at the turn of the 19th century, whose passion for botany would lead him toward groundbreaking pharmaceutical research, the gathering of unmatched collections of flora, and the pioneering of medical practices that took inspiration and direction from the natural world, ultimately impacting the medical and botanical worlds for many years to come.

Examining the legacy of a historical figure of another era, **Jeffrey C. Stewart's** *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke* provides a granularly detailed account of the life of the often overlooked Alain Locke, a Harvard-educated philosopher and scholar who was one of the key architects of the Harlem Renaissance. The work explores his years of education, his becoming the first African American Rhodes Scholar, his role as a champion of African American art in the Jazz Age, his complex personal life, and his work and contributions in helping lay the groundwork for contemporary African American studies.

Three Longlisted titles trace the roots of American political and cultural phenomena. In *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*, **Carol Anderson** follows recent changes in our electoral system and the way they impact citizens' ability to vote, outlining the ways in which gerrymandering, poll closures, and similar practices have effectively rolled back African American voting participation in the last five years. **Steve Coll's** *Directorate S: The C.I.A. and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan* details a sprawling history of the United States' involvement in the ongoing conflict in South Asia, from pre-9/11 to today, working to elucidate the nuanced and often secretive political happenings that affected U.S. policy across multiple administrations. In *We the Corporations: How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights*, **Adam Winkler** traces corporations' long history of influence in the U.S., and the ways in which they have shaped the nation and politics to create a system in which they have rights that closely resemble the rights of individuals.

Two titles seek to examine the politics of our time through essay and memoir. *Call Them by Their True Names: American Crises (and Essays)* brings together a selection of **Rebecca Solnit's** essays on current issues of our time, offering sociopolitical critiques of issues such as environmental threats, police brutality, gentrification, and more. **Sarah Smarsh's** *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* details Smarsh's childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and '90s, addressing issues of generational poverty, class divides, and identity through the lens of first-hand experience.

A second memoir on the 2018 Longlist looks toward lives beyond the United States. In *Brothers of the Gun: A Memoir of the Syrian War*, **Marwan Hisham** and **Molly Crabapple** chronicle Hisham's coming of age during the Syrian War, from the Arab Spring to the present, and include illustrations by co-author Crabapple that aim to capture the turmoil, repression, resistance, and hope of the time.

Publishers submitted a total of 546 books for the 2018 National Book Award for Nonfiction. The judges for Nonfiction are Rachel Cass, John Freeman, Annette Gordon-Reed (Chair), Sarah Manguso, and Andrés Reséndez. These 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.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced on October 10, and the Winners announced at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on November 14 in New York City.

2018 Longlist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction:

Carol Anderson, *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression Is Destroying Our Democracy*
Bloomsbury Publishing

Colin G. Calloway, *The Indian World of George Washington: The First President, the First Americans, and the Birth of the Nation*
Oxford University Press

Steve Coll, *Directorate S: The C.I.A. and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan*
Penguin Press / Penguin Random House

Marwan Hisham and Molly Crabapple, *Brothers of the Gun: A Memoir of the Syrian War*
One World / Penguin Random House

Victoria Johnson, *American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic*
Liveright / W. W. Norton & Company

David Quammen, *The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life*
Simon & Schuster

Sarah Smarsh, *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*
Scribner / Simon & Schuster

Rebecca Solnit, *Call Them by Their True Names: American Crises (and Essays)*
Haymarket Books

Jeffrey C. Stewart, *The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke*
Oxford University Press

Adam Winkler, *We the Corporations: How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights*
Liveright / W. W. Norton & Company

Nonfiction Biographies:

Carol Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Emory University. She is the author of *White Rage*, which won the National Book Critics Circle

Award, *Bourgeois Radicals*, and *Eyes off the Prize*. She was named a Guggenheim Fellow for Constitutional Studies. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Colin G. Calloway is the John Kimball Jr. 1943 Professor of History and Native American Studies at Dartmouth College. His previous books include *A Scratch of the Pen* and *The Victory with No Name*. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Merle Curti Award and the American Indian History Lifetime Achievement Award.

Steve Coll is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ghost Wars* and the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, and from 2007 to 2013 was president of the New America Foundation, a public policy institute in Washington, D.C. He is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and previously worked for twenty years at *The Washington Post*, where he received a Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism in 1990. He is the author of seven other books, including *On the Grand Trunk Road*, *The Bin Ladens*, *Private Empire*, and *Directorate S*.

Molly Crabapple, an artist and writer in New York, has drawn in Guantanamo Bay, in Abu Dhabi's migrant labor camps, and with rebels in Syria, and received widespread praise for her illustrated memoir *Drawing Blood*. Crabapple is a contributing editor for *Vice* and has written for *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, and *Vanity Fair*. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art.

Marwan Hisham is a Syrian freelance journalist who, since 2014, has covered Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. His work has been published in *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, *The Intercept*, and *Foreign Policy*.

Victoria Johnson, a former Cullman Fellow, is currently an associate professor of urban policy and planning at Hunter College in New York City, where she teaches on the history of New York City.

David Quammen's fifteen books include *The Tangled Tree*, *The Song of the Dodo*, *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*, and *Spillover*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. He has written for *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Outside*, and *Powder*, among other magazines, and is a contributing writer for *National Geographic*. He wrote the entire text of the May 2016 issue of *National Geographic* on the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem—the first time in the history of the magazine that an issue was single-authored. Quammen shares a home in Bozeman, Montana, with his wife, Betsy Gaines Quammen, an environmental historian, and with two Russian wolfhounds and a cross-eyed cat.

Sarah Smarsh has covered socioeconomic class, politics, and public policy for *The Guardian*, *VQR*, *NewYorker.com*, *Harpers.org*, *The Texas Observer*, and many others. She is currently a Joan Shorenstein Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. A former professor of nonfiction writing, Smarsh is a frequent speaker on economic inequality and related media narratives. She lives in Kansas. *Heartland* is her first book.

Rebecca Solnit is a writer, historian, and activist, and the author of over eighteen books on feminism, western and indigenous history, popular power, social change and insurrection, wandering and walking, hope and disaster, including the books *Men Explain Things to Me* and *Hope in the Dark*, both with Haymarket Books; a trilogy of atlases of American cities; *The Faraway Nearby*; *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster*; *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*; *Wanderlust: A*

History of Walking; and *River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West*, for which she received a Guggenheim, the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism, and the Lannan Literary Award. A product of the California public education system from kindergarten to graduate school, she is a regular contributor to *The Guardian*.

Jeffrey C. Stewart is a professor of Black Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of *Paul Robeson: Artist and Citizen* and *1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History*.

Adam Winkler is a professor at UCLA School of Law, where he specializes in American constitutional law. His scholarship has been cited by the Supreme Court of the United States and his writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New Republic*, *Atlantic*, *Slate*, and *Scotusblog*.

2018 National Book Awards Judges for Nonfiction:

Rachel Cass is the head buyer at Harvard Book Store in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She became a bookseller in 2006, managed the award-winning Harvard Book Store author event series from 2011 to 2013, and became head buyer in 2013. Before becoming a bookseller, she pursued graduate work in mathematics, completing an MA in mathematics from Brandeis University in 2008.

John Freeman is a writer, editor and anthologist. His books include *The Tyranny of E-mail*, *How to Read a Novelist*, and *Maps*, a collection of poems. He has also edited two anthologies on inequality, the latest of which is *Tales of Two Americas: Stories of Inequality in a Divided Nation*. The former editor of *Granta*, he lives in New York City, where he teaches at NYU and edits the literary biannual *Freeman's*. He is also executive editor of the *Literary Hub*. The former president of the National Book Critics Circle, his work has been translated into more than twenty languages.

Annette Gordon-Reed (Chair) is the Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School and a Professor of History in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2009 for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*. She is the author of, among other books, *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* and (with Peter S. Onuf) "*Most Blessed of the Patriarchs*": *Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination*.

Sarah Manguso is the author of seven books including *300 Arguments*, *Ongoingness*, *The Guardians*, and *The Two Kinds of Decay*. Her work has been supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rome Prize. She lives in Los Angeles.

Andrés Reséndez is an author and professor of history. His recent book, *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*, was a Finalist for the 2016 National Book Award, winner of the 2017 California Book Award in Nonfiction, and winner of the 2017 Bancroft Prize by Columbia University. He teaches courses on food and history, colonial Latin America, and Mexico.

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The mission of the **National Book Foundation** is to celebrate the best literature in America, expand its audience, and ensure that books have a prominent place in American culture. 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; **NBF Presents**, which brings NBA authors to universities, libraries, festivals, and conferences across the country; **Literature for Justice**, a project that uses literature to contextualize and humanize the issue of mass incarceration in America; **Author in Focus**, a series comprised of panels, lectures, and film screenings designed to connect a broad audience with the works of seminal NBF-honored authors, beginning with James Baldwin in 2018; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; the **Why Reading Matters** conference, an opportunity for writers, activists, educators, librarians, and nonprofit leaders to explore innovative ways to celebrate literature and expand its influence; **Book Rich Environments**, a partnership with HUD, the US Department of Education, the Urban Libraries Council, and the National Center for Families Learning, which has provided nearly 700,000 books to children and families in public housing authorities around the country; the **Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **Raising Readers**, an adult-focused reading initiative to empower adults who work with and raise children to expand their own love of books and reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading club for middle-school students.

The National Book Awards 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 the National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, including Ralph Ellison, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, Flannery O'Connor, Adrienne Rich, and Jesmyn Ward.

