



National Book Foundation

RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2016
9:30 a.m. EDT

CONTACT: Sherrie Young
National Book Foundation
(212) 685-0261
syoung@nationalbook.org

2016 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR NONFICTION

The ten contenders for the National Book Award for Nonfiction.

New York, NY (September 14, 2016) – The National Book Foundation today announced the Longlist for the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction. Finalists will be revealed on October 13. (Please note that this date was originally set for October 12, but has been changed to acknowledge Yom Kippur.)

All ten of the writers are appearing on the National Book Awards Nonfiction Longlist for the first time. Among the writers are historians, a sociologist, a former member of the *New York Times* editorial board, a data scientist, and a professor of English, who is a Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction.

Two titles that appear on the Longlist explore specific instances of American injustice: **Adam Cohen's** *Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck* and **Heather Ann Thompson's** *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*.

Two titles call for Americans to rethink and re-examine ideas about war: **Andrew J. Bacevich's** *America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History* is a reassessment of US military policy in the Middle East over the past four decades, and **Viet Thanh Nguyen's** *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* is a kaleidoscopic look at how the Vietnam War is remembered around the world. Nguyen also notably won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for his debut novel, *The Sympathizer*.

Three titles explore the legacy of slavery and racism in America: **Andrés Reséndez's** *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*, **Ibram X. Kendi's** *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas In America*, and **Manisha Sinha's** *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*.

In *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice*, **Patricia Bell-Scott** draws on letters, journals, and interviews to contextualize Eleanor Roosevelt's decades-long friendship with an African-American intellectual revolutionary.

Addressing some of the most pressing issues in America today—partisan politics and equality—are **Arlie Russell Hochschild's** *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* and **Cathy O'Neil's** *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*. Hochschild travels to the Louisiana bayou—a stronghold of the conservative right—to explore how the world looks from that perspective, and O'Neil analyzes algorithms, tests, and mathematical models intended to increase fairness, only to find they further obscure our humanity and compassion.

2016 Longlist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction

Andrew J. Bacevich, *America's War for the Greater Middle East: A Military History*
(Random House / Penguin Random House)

Patricia Bell-Scott, *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice*
(Alfred A. Knopf / Penguin Random House)

Adam Cohen, *Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck*
(Penguin Press / Penguin Random House)

Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*
(The New Press)

Ibram X. Kendi, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*
(Nation Books)

Viet Thanh Nguyen, *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War*
(Harvard University Press)

Cathy O'Neil, *Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy*
(Crown / Penguin Random House)

Andrés Reséndez, *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Manisha Sinha, *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*

(Yale University Press)

Heather Ann Thompson, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*
(Pantheon / Penguin Random House)

Publishers submitted a total of 521 books for the 2016 National Book Award for Nonfiction. The judges for Nonfiction are Cynthia Barnett, Masha Gessen (Chair), Greg Grandin, Melissa Harris-Perry, and Ronald Rosbottom. 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. To be eligible for a 2016 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2015 and November 30, 2016.

The remaining Longlist for the Fiction category will be revealed exclusively at newyorker.com at 9:00 am EDT on September 15.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced on October 13 and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on November 16 in New York City.

Nonfiction biographies:

Andrew J. Bacevich is a retired professor of history and international relations at Boston University. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, he served for 23 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. Before joining the faculty of Boston University in 1998, he taught at West Point and at Johns Hopkins University. His three most recent books—*Breach of Trust*, *Washington Rules*, and *The Limits of Power*—were on the *New York Times* Bestseller List. A winner of the Lannan Notable Book Awards, he lectures frequently at universities around the country. He lives in Walpole, Massachusetts.

Patricia Bell-Scott is professor emerita of women's studies and human development and family science at the University of Georgia. Her previous books include *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women*, which was a featured selection of The Quality Paperback Book Club and the Black Literary Guild; *Flat-footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*; *Double Stitch: Black Women Write about Mothers and Daughters*, which won the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize; and *All the Women Are White, All the Blacks Are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies*, an award-winning textbook. She is a former contributing editor to *Ms. Magazine*. She is also a cofounder of the National Women's Studies Association. Bell-Scott lives in Athens, Georgia.

Adam Cohen is a former member of the *New York Times* editorial board and senior writer for *TIME* magazine. He is the co-editor of *The National Book Review*. His previous books include *Nothing to Fear: FDR's Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America*, *The Perfect Store:*

Inside eBay, and *American Pharaoh: Richard J. Daley, His Battle for Chicago and the Nation* (co-author). Cohen is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

Arlie Russell Hochschild is one of the most influential sociologists of her generation. She is the author of nine books, including *The Second Shift*, *The Time Bind*, *The Managed Heart*, *The Outsourced Self*, and *Strangers in Their Own Land*. Three of her books have been named as *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year and her work appears in sixteen languages. The winner of the Ulysses Medal as well as Guggenheim and Mellon grants, she lives in Berkeley, California.

Ibram X. Kendi is currently an assistant professor of African American History at the University of Florida. An intellectual and social movement Africana studies historian, Kendi studies racist and antiracist ideas and movements. He has published essays in books and academic journals, including *The Journal of African American History*, *Journal of Social History*, and *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics and Culture*. Kendi is the author of the award-winning book, *The Black Campus Movement: Black Students and the Racial Reconstitution of Higher Education, 1965-1972*, which was published in March 2012 as part of Palgrave Macmillan's Contemporary Black History Series. He is currently finishing *Black Apple: A Narrative History of Malcolm X and Black Power in New York, 1954-1974*. He is also working on another history of racism—the sequel to *Stamped from the Beginning*.

Viet Thanh Nguyen is the Aerol Arnold Chair of English and an associate professor of English and American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California. He is the author of *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America* and the novel *The Sympathizer*. *The Sympathizer* won many awards, including the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, an Edgar Award for Best First Novel from the Mystery Writers of America, and the First Novel Prize from the Center for Fiction. *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* is the critical bookend to a creative project whose fictional bookend is *The Sympathizer*.

Cathy O'Neil is a data scientist and author of the blog mathbabe.org. She earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Harvard and taught at Barnard College before moving to the private sector, where she worked for the hedge fund D. E. Shaw. She then worked as a data scientist at various start-ups, building models that predict people's purchases and clicks. O'Neil started the Lede Program in Data Journalism at Columbia and is the author of *Doing Data Science*. She appears weekly on the *Slate Money* podcast.

Andrés Reséndez is a historian and author specializing in colonial Latin America who teaches at the University of California, Davis. He has published *A Land So Strange* and *Changing National Identities at the Frontier*.

Manisha Sinha is Professor and Graduate Program Director of Afro-American studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She was born in India and received her Ph.D. from Columbia University where her dissertation was nominated for the Bancroft Prize. Her first book *The Counterrevolution of Slavery* was named one of the ten best books on slavery by Politico in 2015. She

has written for *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, and The Huffington Post. She appeared on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show* in 2014. She was an adviser and on-screen expert for the Emmy-nominated PBS documentary *The Abolitionists* (2013), which is a part of the NEH funded Created Equal film series.

Heather Ann Thompson is an award-winning historian at the University of Michigan. She has written on the history of mass incarceration and its current impact for *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *Dissent*, *New Labor Forum*, and the Huffington Post, as well as for various scholarly publications. She served on a National Academy of Science blue-ribbon panel that studied the causes and consequences of mass incarceration in the United States and has given congressional staff briefings on this subject. Thompson is also the author of *Whose Detroit?: Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City* and the editor of *Speaking Out: Activism and Protest in the 1960s and 1970s*.

2016 National Book Award Judges for Nonfiction:

Cynthia Barnett is an environmental journalist and the author of three books, including *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History*, **longlisted for the 2015 National Book Award** and finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Award for Literary Science Writing. She has reported on water and climate worldwide, and has written for the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *Politico*, *Discover*, *Orion*, and many other publications. She teaches environmental journalism and nature and adventure writing at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications.

Masha Gessen (*Chair*) is a Russian-American journalist and the author, most recently, of *The Brothers: The Road to American Tragedy*, the national bestseller *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*, and *Words Will Break Cement: The Passion of Pussy Riot*. Her award-winning work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *Vanity Fair*, and elsewhere. A longtime resident of Moscow, she now lives in New York.

Greg Grandin is the author of *Kissinger's Shadow* and *The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom, and Deception in the New World*, which won the Bancroft Prize in American History and the Albert Beveridge Award in American History, and was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize in the UK. He is also the author of *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City*. A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in History, as well as for the **National Book Award** and the National Book Critics Circle Award, *Fordlandia* was picked by the *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune* and NPR for their "best of" lists, and Amazon.com named it the best history book of 2009.

Melissa Harris-Perry holds the Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University, where she is the Executive Director of the Pro Humanitate Institute and founding director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center. She is the author of the award-winning book *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday*

Talk and Black Political Thought, and *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*. She is the former host of “Melissa Harris-Perry”, which broadcast live on MSNBC.

Ronald Rosbottom holds the Winifred Arms Professorship in the Arts and Humanities at Amherst College. In 2014, he published *When Paris Went Dark: The City of Light Under German Occupation 1940-1944*, which was Longlisted for the National Book Award. He is working on a new book on how adolescents confronted the German Occupation of Paris, to be published by William Morrow.

###

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 for middle-school students.

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, Adrienne Rich, and Jesmyn Ward.