

EDITORI LATERZA

*Rights Guide
Fall 2026*



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Not eating meat is not simply a diet. It's a choice.
And every choice begins with an idea.

MASSIMO MONTANARI

A Short History of Vegetarian Thought

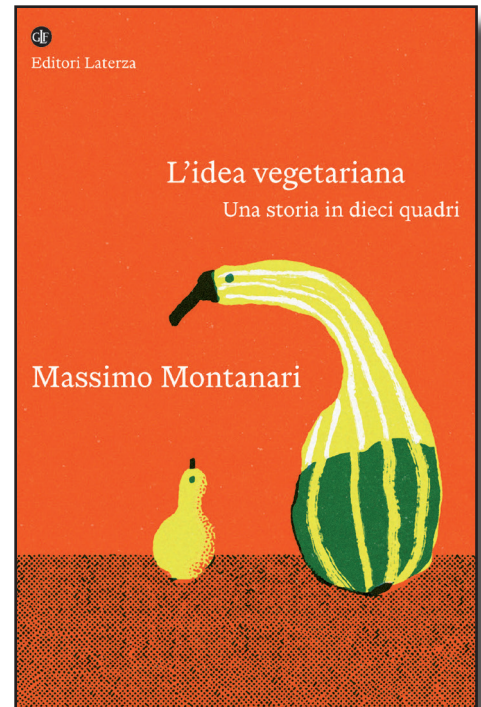
A brief, erudite, and elegant cultural history of vegetarianism.

Why do human beings, who are born omnivores, choose to become vegetarian? They have done so since the earliest civilizations, and their reasons are many — and surprising. Massimo Montanari, Italy's leading food historian, far from writing a manifesto, traces ten distinct arguments that have driven the vegetarian choice across 2,500 years, each with its own logic and its own history: the refusal to kill, the fear of flesh as corruption, religious penance, the pursuit of health, anatomical theory, the contestation of power, animal rights, ecology, world hunger, and, the most overlooked reason of all: pleasure.

The result is a book peopled by an unexpected cast of characters. Pythagoras and Peter Singer end up arguing the same case for very different reasons. Gandhi discovers vegetarianism as a political weapon in a London vegetarian restaurant. Dr. Kellogg invents corn flakes to suppress sexual desire. Medieval Cathars refuse meat as an act of cosmic dualism, while Voltaire mocks Descartes through the mouth of a capon awaiting slaughter. Behind every one of these stories lies the conviction that has run through all of Montanari's work: that food is never merely nutrition, but culture — a concentrate of what we have thought, believed, and wanted to be. In short, to decide what (not) to eat is also to decide who we are.

THE AUTHOR

Massimo Montanari is Italy's foremost food historian. He teaches History of Food at the University of Bologna, where he founded the Master's programme in History and Culture of Food. His many books published with Laterza — including *Cibo come cultura*, *La fame e l'abbondanza* and *Il Mito delle origini. Breve storia degli spaghetti al pomodoro* — have been translated into numerous languages worldwide.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

152 pages - October 2026

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Wagenbach (German);
NLO (Russian);
Zigurate (Portuguese in Portugal)

“Vegetarian thought seems an exemplary model of cultural awareness: a reminder for everyone, vegetarian or not, of the need to make choices when it comes to life’s most decisive activity: eating.”

A nun forced behind convent walls at thirteen.
A decade of secret love, hidden pregnancies, murder.

LISA ROSCIONI

Virginia de Leyva

The True Story of the Nun of Monza

A true-crime story of gender and power, set behind the walls of a 17th-century convent.

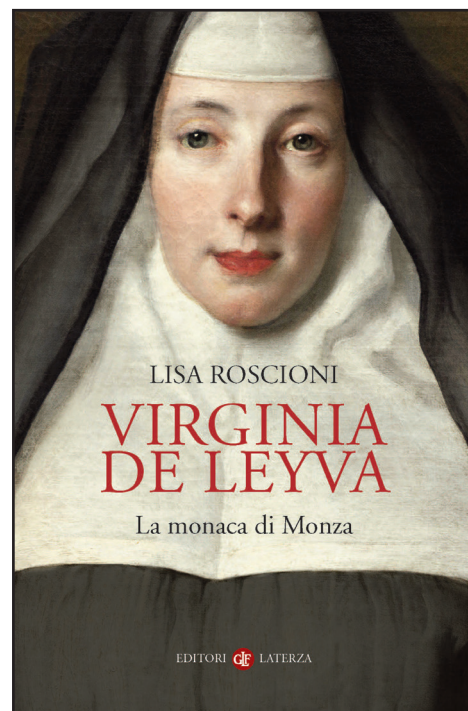
On the morning of November 30, 1607, a boy leading his cow to drink at the Lambro river spots something white and swollen caught in the branches — a fur coat, soaked through. That same morning, a mile upstream, a nun is pulled from the river still alive, her skull shattered, her habit soaked with blood. She survives. The woman who tried to kill her does not yet know she has failed.

That woman is Virginia de Leyva, born into a noble family of Spanish origin settled in Lombardy, then under Spanish rule, and forced into a convent at thirteen — a common fate for noblewomen whose families wished to keep an inheritance intact. Within its walls, she was still a woman of rank and authority, and would use both. For nearly a decade she carried on a clandestine relationship with a nobleman, Gian Paolo Osio, concealing pregnancies and, ultimately, becoming complicit in murder. Convicted, she was sentenced to a punishment reserved for the gravest crimes within religious life: walled alive into a cell three metres by two.

Working from trial records and the few surviving autograph documents, historian Lisa Roscioni reconstructs the case in full — and moves beyond it to what almost no one tells: Virginia de Leyva survived her sentence. What she did with the rest of her life may be the most unsettling part of her story.

THE AUTHOR

Lisa Roscioni is a historian and writer who teaches Early Modern History at Sapienza University of Rome. Her books include *Il governo della follia. Ospedali, medici e pazzi in età moderna* (Bruno Mondadori, 2011), *La badessa di Castro. Storia di uno scandalo* (il Mulino, 2019, translated into French by Tallandier), and *Lo smemorato di Collegno* (Einaudi, 2022), adapted into a TV series.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

192 pages - October 2026

THINGS TO KNOW

Two centuries after the events, Alessandro Manzoni gave this woman three words in his novel *The Betrothed* — “the wretched woman answered” — and left her the most haunting unsolved mystery in Italian literature. This is her real story.

“Virginia is never only a victim. She is a woman who never fully submits, who manipulates even as she seems to yield.”

Four thousand years of conflict that have run through the whole of human history.

*“If you want peace,
then study war”*

GIUSTO TRAINA

A World History of War

An international team of historians tracks ninety turning points across 3,400 years and every continent, dismantling both the “clash of civilizations” and the “Thucydides Trap”.

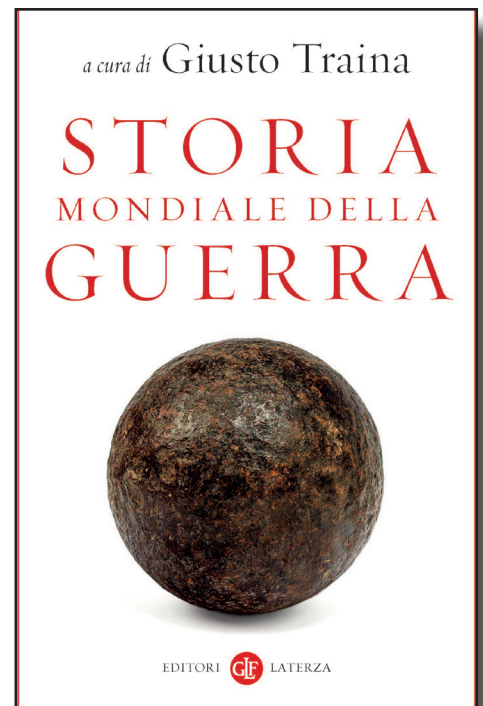
From the fall of Jericho to the drone war over Ukraine, this collective history moves through ancient China and India as much as Greece and Rome, the Mali Empire and Aztec Mexico as much as Renaissance Europe. Each chapter is anchored to a single date and a single battle or campaign, used not as a trophy case of military feats but as a lens onto the deeper structures — economic, political, technological, cultural — that produced it.

Coordinated by ancient historian Giusto Traina, this book deliberately steps outside the Western “comfort zone”: it shows that gunpowder was invented in Tang China centuries before European gunsmiths ever used it, that Sunzi and Kautilya anticipated balance-of-power theory a thousand years before the Treaty of Utrecht, and that the “military revolution” long credited with the rise of the West is, at best, a partial and Eurocentric story.

Written with wit and a sharp eye for how the past is misused in the present — from politicians citing Thermopylae to justify modern wars, to ancient concepts wheeled out to explain today’s great-power rivalries — this is a book about war as the through-line of human history.

THE AUTHOR

Giusto Traina teaches Roman History at Sorbonne Université in Paris and the University of Salento in Lecce. Among his books for Laterza: *La resa di Roma* (2010, winner of the Premio Cherasco Storia 2011), *428 dopo Cristo* (2007), and *I Greci e i Romani ci salveranno dalla barbarie* (2023).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

624 pages - November 2026

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Passés Composés (French)

BOOK ARCHITECTURE

Five chronological sections

Ancient Worlds (1406 BCE – 455 CE)
Medieval Worlds (508 – 1453)
Modern Worlds (1509 – 1781)
Contemporary Worlds (1792 – 1945)
The Present (1949 – 2024)

CONTRIBUTORS

An international team of specialists: 120 historians of politics, economics, art, literature and cinema alongside military historians — from Italy, France, the UK, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Iran, Mexico.

From pagan rites and the birth of Christ to Santa Claus and the global season of lights, shopping and nostalgia.

ALESSANDRO VANOLI

A History of Christmas

A sweeping and surprising cultural history of Christmas, across the centuries and around the globe.

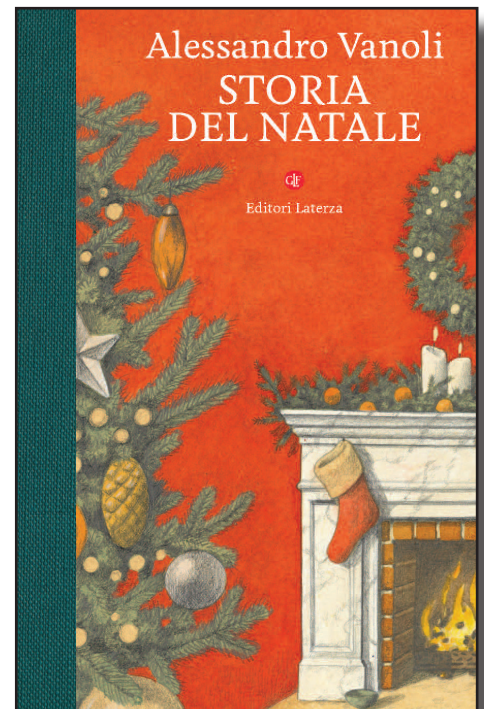
Why do we celebrate Christmas on 25 December? Where do the Christmas tree, the Nativity scene, carols, gift-giving and Santa Claus come from? And how did a Christian feast become a global season of family rituals and consumption?

In this rich, elegant and highly original book, historian Alessandro Vanoli retraces the long history of Christmas across two millennia. Beginning with the ancient festivals of winter and the symbolic power of the solstice, he follows the making of the Christian feast, the stories of the Gospels, the medieval liturgy of the Nativity, and the gradual emergence of the imagery that still shapes Christmas today. Along the way, we encounter saints and kings, monks and merchants, Dickens and Hollywood, Orthodox traditions, Christmas songs, festive foods, and the many ways Christmas has travelled far beyond its European and Mediterranean origins.

A History of Christmas shows that Christmas has never been a fixed tradition. It is a layered and ever-changing story in which religion, folklore, family life, capitalism and popular culture have all left their mark. The result is not only a history of a holiday, but a fascinating portrait of how cultures create meaning, memory and ritual around the darkest days of the year.

THE AUTHOR

Alessandro Vanoli is a historian and writer. He has taught at the University of Bologna and the University of Milan, focusing on the Mediterranean world. He collaborates regularly with RAI (Italy's national broadcaster) and *Corriere della Sera*. With Laterza, he is the author of *Storia del Mediterraneo in 20 oggetti* (with Amedeo Feniello, 2018), *Storia del mare* (2022), *L'invenzione dell'Occidente* (2024), and *Oriente. Una storia* (2025), shortlisted for the non-fiction Strega Book Prize.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

200 pages - November 2026

A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

While rooted in the European and Mediterranean origins of Christmas, the book broadens the picture to include Orthodox traditions and the many ways the holiday has been adopted, transformed and reimagined in Japan, China and India.

“Christmas lies at the heart of Christian history, yet it is rooted in far more ancient traditions tied to the deepest, almost geological sense of existence.”

Every AI winter has been followed by a spring nobody predicted — and no one has agreed yet on why.

ANDREA DANIELE SIGNORELLI

A Human History of AI

Dreams, Battles and Illusions from
Turing to Today

A history of AI told through the rivalries and reversals of the scientists who built it.

The history of artificial intelligence is the history of one argument, fought for eighty years, that no side has ever definitively won. This book traces AI's history as a decades-long argument between two camps, neither of which ever fully prevailed: symbolists, who believed intelligence was rule-based manipulation of symbols, and connectionists, who believed it had to emerge from networks learning by trial and error.

Signorelli follows the rivalries that shaped this debate, from Marvin Minsky's dismissal of neural networks in 1966 and his long-running dispute with Frank Rosenblatt to the funding freezes of the 1970s and the expert-systems boom of the 1980s. The story then moves to the 2012 ImageNet breakthrough that triggered what the book calls AI's "big bang", and finally to ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude — all built on the very technology Minsky had written off.

THE AUTHOR

Andrea Daniele Signorelli is a freelance journalist on technology, politics, and society. He writes for *Domani*, *Wired*, *la Repubblica*, and *Lucy*, and hosts the podcast *Crash*. Among his most recent works: *Technosapiens. Come l'essere umano si trasforma in macchina* (2021), and *Simulacri digitali. Le allucinazioni e gli inganni delle nuove tecnologie* (2025).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

256 pages - November 2026

*“How can anyone waste time
on something like this?
It’s an idea with no future”
Marvin Minsky on neural
networks, 1966.*

Fifty years later, that same technology
became ChatGPT.

Beyond the myth of the powerless Greek woman lies a far richer history to recover, one woman at a time.

LAURA PEPE

An *Unconventional* History of Women in Ancient Greece

A challenge to long-held certainties about women in the ancient Greek world.

Socrates reportedly thanked fate for three things: being born human rather than animal, Greek rather than barbarian, and male rather than female. That anecdote has shaped everything we think we know about women in ancient Greece: inferior, confined, incapable of thinking. Laura Pepe goes looking, chapter by chapter, for what this verdict left out — drawing not only on literature, but on legal speeches, court records, and other documentary sources rarely brought into this conversation.

Focusing on fifth and fourth century BCE Athens, the book moves through the lives of citizen women — from a courtroom speech against the foreigner Neaera to the public and religious roles women held within the city — and into the careers of women who shaped Athenian politics from close proximity to power.

It crosses briefly into Sparta, where women lived under a different, equally codified set of rules, then returns to Athens for marriage, jealousy, divorce, and the economics of everyday married life.

A chapter on working women — market traders, wet nurses, the mother of Socrates herself — recovers an entire female economy largely written out of history. The book closes by reaching back further still, to Homer: Penelope, Helen, and the possibility, raised and left open, that the Odyssey itself may have been shaped by a woman's hand sending the reader back to the classics with a genuinely different pair of eyes.

THE AUTHOR

Laura Pepe teaches Roman Legal Institutions and Ancient Greek Law at the University of Milan. She is also a science communicator for the Italian TV channel Focus. Her previous books for Laterza include *Gli eroi bevono vino. Il mondo antico in un bicchiere* (2018), *La voce delle Sirene. I Greci e l'arte della persuasione* (2020), *Storie meravigliose di giovani greci* (2022), and *Sparta* (2024).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

224 pages - November 2026

“We will meet women who spoke, thought, criticised, fell in love, fought, and worked. And much more besides.”

Great victories and stunning defeats, tactics and strategy. Rome's founding moments and turning points were decided in battle.

GIOVANNI BRIZZI

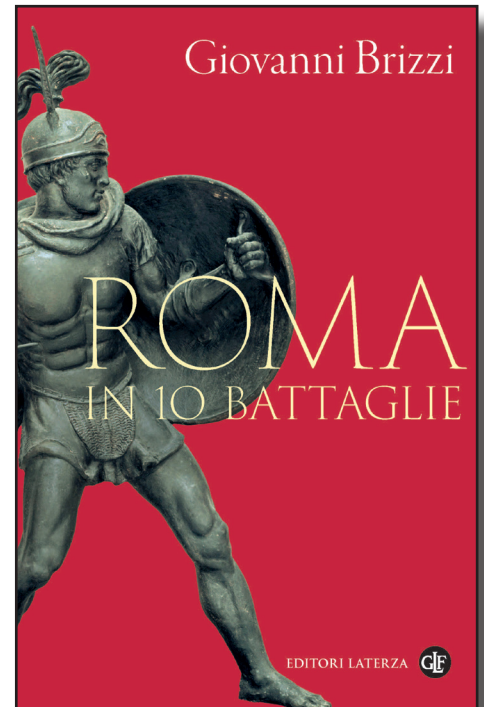
Rome in Ten Battles

Ten pivotal moments that explain how Rome conquered an empire — and why, in the end, it couldn't hold it.

In the ancient world, war was not an exception but a constant: a test of power, discipline and political endurance. In this book, Giovanni Brizzi reconstructs eight centuries of Roman history through ten decisive battles, from the Gallic defeat at the Allia to the last victories of the Western Empire. However, in this book, battles are never merely tactical episodes. They reveal how the Romans fought, what they feared, how they adapted under pressure, and how the army evolved over time. Cannae, for example, is not only one of the most devastating defeats in Roman history; it is also a way into the mentality of the men who fought there, and into the political and military culture that allowed Rome to survive disaster. At the centre of the book stands the Roman army itself, followed through its transformations from early tribal warfare to the legion, from the manipular formation to the cohort. As the army changes, so too does Rome's wider civic and political world: citizenship, law, and the structures of power that underpinned Roman expansion. The result is a work of military history that also illuminates the civilisation that produced it.

THE AUTHOR

Giovanni Brizzi is one of Italy's leading historians of the ancient world and Roman warfare. He is Professor of Roman History at the University of Bologna and he has also taught at the universities of Sassari and Udine, as well as at the Sorbonne. His books with Laterza include *Scipione e Annibale* (2007), *70 d.C. La conquista di Gerusalemme* (2014), *Io, Annibale. Memorie di un condottiero* (2019), and *Imperium. Il potere a Roma* (2024).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

304 pages - November 2026

THE TEN BATTLES

Allia (390 BCE)
Sentinum (295 BCE)
Cannae (216 BCE)
Zama (202 BCE)
Magnesia (190 BCE)
Chaeronea (86 BCE)
Carrhae (53 BCE)
Teutoburg Forest (9 CE)
Adrianople (378 CE)
Catalaunian Plains (451 CE)

Four emperors fought for Rome in a single year. The one no one expected came out on top.

ANDREA CARANDINI

Vespasian

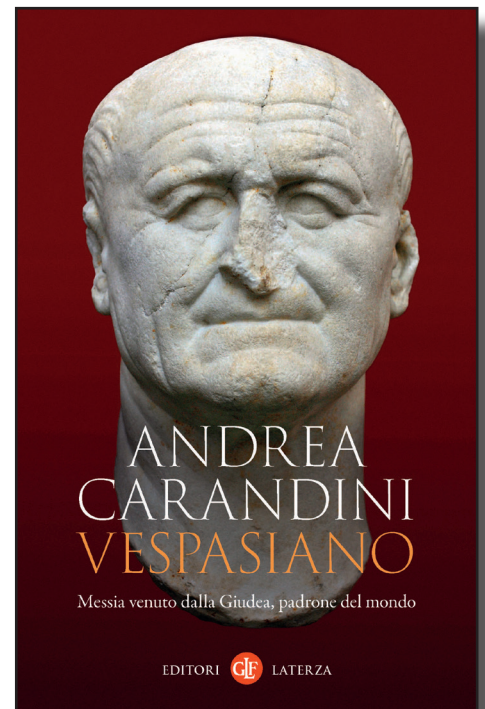
A Messiah out of Judaea, Master of the World

*By the standards of Julio-Claudian Rome,
Vespasian should have been nobody.
And yet he saved an empire.*

Among the spoils Vespasian brought into the imperial palace after the fall of Jerusalem were the scrolls of the Pentateuch — an unprecedented gesture that, for the first time in Roman history, gave the monotheistic God of Judaism a place inside the residence of the emperors. It was short-lived: Domitian would later erase it. But it anticipated, by more than two centuries, Constantine's accommodation of the Christian God. That gesture sits at the center of Carandini's account of the year 69 AD — twelve months in which four emperors succeeded one another, civil war spread through the Gallic and Judaeen provinces, the Capitol burned, and the imperial treasury emptied. Out of this collapse rose Vespasian: a man of modest Sabine origin, a pragmatic soldier with no divine lineage to claim, who nonetheless became, in Carandini's account, the best emperor Rome had had since Augustus. He put out the fires, restored the public finances, and returned to the Roman people the land Nero had annexed for his Domus Aurea — the artificial lake of the "cruel king" would become the site of the Colosseum. What distinguishes Carandini's approach is its focus on the relationship between Rome and conquered Judaea: it was the rebel Josephus who first recognized in Vespasian the messiah foretold by scripture, the ruler of the world arriving from the East. Vespasian's flaw, in the end, was succeeding too well — he saved the empire by refounding it as the Flavian dynasty, whose eventual extinction was the precondition for the "golden age" that followed, from Nerva to Marcus Aurelius.

THE AUTHOR

Andrea Carandini is professor emeritus of Archaeology and the History of Greek and Roman Art at the Sapienza University of Rome. He led landmark excavations on the Palatine that uncovered the earliest Rome of the eighth century BC. His books for Laterza include *Roma. Il primo giorno*, *Io*, *Agrippina* and *Io, Nerone*.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

200 pages - November 2026

*“Vespasian was a prince
both mild-mannered and
firmly in control.
This book traces his merits
alongside his defining flaw:
a blind devotion
to founding his own dynasty,
just as Augustus had done
before him.”*

The most ordinary things hide the universe's deepest laws...
if you know how to look.

ALESSANDRO SILVA

The Wonderful Disorder of Things

Physics and Everyday Life

A physicist teaches general readers to see the world the way he does — and finds the deepest laws of the universe hiding in a traffic jam.

Modern physics is invoked everywhere — climate change, new materials, quantum computing — yet its core ideas stay locked behind a wall of equations that keeps most people out. Alessandro Silva takes them down. He starts from the most ordinary moments of daily life: water boiling in a saucepan, stop-and-go traffic on the ring road, the small talk over coffee on a Monday morning about how “it’s a small world.” From there, without a single equation, he opens onto the pillars of modern physics — statistical mechanics, complex systems, and, eventually, the strange world of quantum phenomena. The premise is that we already have the instinct physics requires: the same pattern-recognition that lets us read a painting or follow a piece of music. Like an Impressionist canvas, the book doesn’t aim for every technical detail — that would take mathematics — but for something rarer: a coherent, vivid picture of how the universe actually works, built from the things we already notice without knowing why they matter.

THE AUTHOR

Alessandro Silva is Professor of Condensed Matter Physics at the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste. He studied at the Weizmann Institute of Science and carried out research at Rutgers University in the US and at the ICTP in Trieste. His research spans condensed matter physics, statistical physics, and quantum technologies.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

160 pages - October 2026

*“What does the water boiling
in the pot for our tea have to
do with the Big Bang?
What do traffic jams have to
do with complex systems?”*

Michel Foucault's life did not explain his philosophy. It shaped it.

STEFANO CATUCCI

Do Not Ask Me to Remain the Same

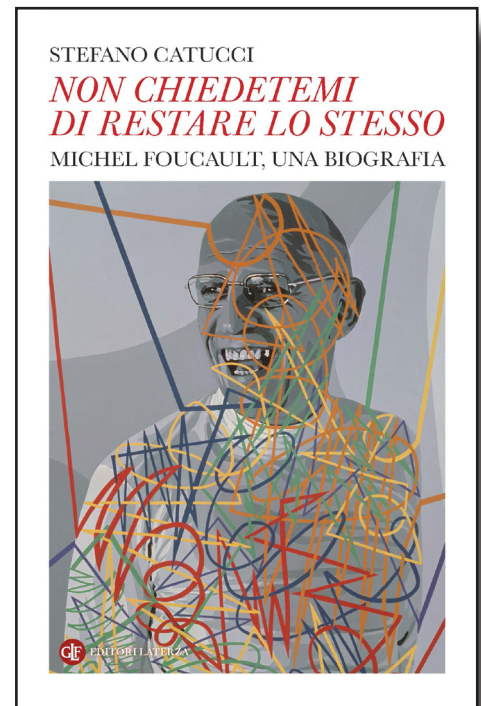
Michel Foucault: a Biography

A new intellectual biography, built from the materials Foucault left at the margins of his published work.

One hundred years after Michel Foucault's birth, his work continues to shape the way we think about power, madness, sexuality, punishment and the self. Yet this is not another account of his philosophy, nor a conventional intellectual biography. Stefano Catucci asks a different question: how did Foucault's thought come into being? He follows philosophy where it first took shape: in the bourgeois home in Poitiers, in the psychiatric hospital of Sainte-Anne, in the Swedish nights in which *History of Madness* slowly took shape, in the streets of Warsaw, Hamburg and Tunis, and in the encounters, political struggles and personal experiences that continually reshaped Foucault's ideas. Drawing on interviews, lectures, notebooks, unpublished papers and other materials beyond the published works, Catucci reconstructs a philosophy in motion, always testing itself against the world it sought to understand. The result is a new biography that restores the materiality of philosophy: the bodies, institutions, prisons, libraries, cities and journeys through which ideas acquired their form. Not simply the life of Michel Foucault, but the making of one of the most influential minds of the twentieth century.

THE AUTHOR

Stefano Catucci is Professor of Aesthetics at Sapienza University of Rome. He has written extensively on Michel Foucault and contemporary philosophy. He is also a cultural critic and broadcaster for Rai Radio3 and Artistic Director of the *Concerti del Quirinale*. Among his books: *Potere e visibilità. Studi su Michel Foucault* (Quodlibet, 2019), *Sul filo. Esercizi di pensiero materiale* (Quodlibet, 2024), and *Introduzione a Foucault* (Laterza, 2019).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

256 pages - October 2026

*“Do not ask who I am,
and do not ask me
to remain the same.”*

Michel Foucault

What has happened to Israeli society after three years of permanent, total war?

FRANCESCA CAFERRI

Fortress Israel

Anatomy of a Country Without Peace

A work of rigorous, first-hand journalism that explains, without excusing, one of the most difficult countries to understand today.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has presented itself to the world as a fortress under siege — a small Sparta ready to strike back without hesitation or doubt, a society united by grief and the will to survive, where dissent has no place. But does Israel really have only one face? Or are there a thousand faces that contradict, ignore, and fear one another? How is it possible that a leader accused of corruption at home and of crimes against humanity at The Hague continues to retain public support?

To answer these questions, Francesca Caferrì undertook a journey into Israeli society armed with the tools of good journalism: shoes worn thin in the field, interviews sought out and won, an eye trained on the facts. She takes us among radical-right voters and increasingly isolated, stubborn pacifists; into newsrooms under pressure and the offices of businessmen who look the other way; and into the West Bank, to witness firsthand the expulsion of Palestinians.

In the background looms Gaza, with its dead and its destruction — and a question that runs through the whole book: how can Israel not see what outrages the rest of the world?

THE AUTHOR

Francesca Caferrì is the Middle East correspondent for *la Repubblica* and head of the Foreign Affairs of the magazine *il Venerdì*. She spent months reporting from the ground in Israel and the West Bank, after the October 7 attack. She has received the Saint-Vincent Journalism Prize (2005), the Colombe d'Oro Peace Prize (2012). Her previous books include *Il Paradiso ai piedi delle donne* (Mondadori, 2012 — winner of the Anna Lindh Foundation's Mediterranean Journalism Award) and *Non chiamatemi straniero* (Mondadori, 2014).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

144 pages - September 2026

“Few people have immersed themselves in the Middle East’s drama with the courage, depth, and humanity of Francesca Caferrì.”

This book is an intense, profound and honest account of one of the world’s most difficult regions.”

David Grossman

The more you travel, the more you inhabit the place where you live.

VALENTINA PIGMEI

True Travel Is the Return

A map for those who don't want to stop travelling, but feel something has to change.

What do we do now that Venice has become inaccessible, Barcelona is turning against tourists, and Jeff Bezos can buy a piece of public space for his wedding? We live in the age of tourism — 1.4 billion people on the move every year — and yet travel has never made us so unhappy. Historic city centres empty of residents and fill up with identical bistros; the world's most beautiful places reek of fried food and selfie sticks; and still we keep booking. This book challenges one of the founding myths of our time: the idea that travel is always, unquestionably good. A form of freedom, a path to self-knowledge. But are we still sure that travelling does anything for us at all? Starting from her own story — decades of travel, a house in landlocked Umbria, a dog adopted during the pandemic, an astrologer in Kerala who once told her “you need to move more” — Valentina Pigmei explores every possible way of moving through the world: night trains crossing Europe while you sleep; travel close to home that requires no plane and still delivers real wonder; hospitality as a concrete, relational practice that turns a place into an experience; communities bringing abandoned islands back to life without turning them into resorts; travelling with no money at all, relying on trust and the gift economy. And then there are the journeys of women — a quiet vanguard now reinventing what it even means to move. It is time, Pigmei argues, to find other roads — to travel less, and better.

THE AUTHOR

Valentina Pigmei is a journalist. She writes for the culture and travel pages of numerous Italian outlets, contributing to *Internazionale*, *Lucy sulla cultura* and *Il Tascabile*. She left Rome years ago to move to Umbria, where she now lives.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

192 pages - July 2026

“There is almost no difference left between travel and tourism — and, undeniably, we are all someone else’s tourists.”

CHIARA CRUCIATI

Anatomy of a Colonization

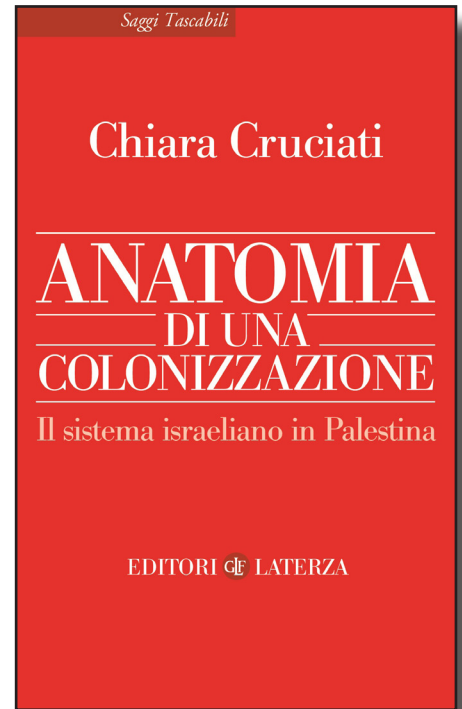
The Israeli System in Palestine

How do you colonize a land?

A journalist with years of reporting from the West Bank and Palestine, maps the daily machinery of Israeli colonization: land confiscation, infrastructure used to isolate communities, planned violence against villages, mass incarceration, the stripping of livelihoods, and the roughly one hundred laws that deny full rights to Palestinian citizens inside Israel. Weaving individual stories into the collective picture, the book shows colonization not as history but as an accelerating present-day system — one that has sharply intensified since October 7, 2023.

THE AUTHOR

Chiara Cruciatì has been deputy editor of the newspaper *Il manifesto* since 2023, where she has covered foreign affairs since 2018 with a focus on West Asia. She lived in Palestine from 2011 to 2017, working as a freelancer, and continues to visit the region regularly. She spent ten years with the news outlet *Nena News*, specializing in reporting and analysis from North Africa and the Middle East.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

144 pages - November 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MICAELA FRULLI

Does International Law Still Matter?

Yes, it does. But to defend it properly, we first need to reckon with its colonial origins and its failures.

Born as a European system to regulate relations among great and middling powers (and to justify the exclusion of the rest of the world), international law has followed a real path of progress, although far from linear. Today, that path seems to have stalled. What is eroding the system's credibility is not some inherent weakness, but the return of selective application: the same rules invoked or ignored depending on who breaks them and who suffers the consequences. However, applied broadly and consistently, international law remains the most effective tool for building a less arbitrary order. This book explains why we cannot afford to do without it.

THE AUTHOR

Micaela Frulli is Professor of International Law at the University of Florence. She is a member of the Macrocrimes Research Centre and of the executive committee of the Italian branch of the International Law Association.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

160 pages - October 2026

DANGEROUS WORDS

A new series by Editori Laterza

No word is neutral. Beyond its literal meaning, every word evokes a world of others: emotions, memories, laws, cultural contexts. Words can also be manipulated, used as weapons, turned into propaganda — especially those with a long history behind them. Some become the slogans of a group, a faction or a party, turning into something akin to private property, impossible to use outside rigid frameworks and inherited prejudices. Others become battlegrounds for ideological conflict, shutting down any prospect of debate or resolution. This new Laterza series reconstructs the history of these words and examines their uses and abuses.



NADIA URBINATI
Freedom

Old power used fear; the new prefers illusion — far more efficient to let people believe they are free while supplying the thoughts they think. Urbinati takes that boast, made by the techno-oligarchy ideologue Curtis Yarvin, as her provocation, and answers it from Cicero through La Boétie to Mill.

96 pages - November 2026
Political Thought



LUCIANO CANFORA
Democracy

Coined in fifth-century BCE Greece, probably by its opponents, the word has survived twenty-five centuries unchanged, while behind it one content after another has been substituted. Canfora follows the word rather than the idea, from Montesquieu's founding confusion to the present drift towards loss of meaning.

96 pages - September 2026
Political Thought



VERA GHENO
Gender

It is not gender we need to fear, but those who wield the word as a threat. Gheno starts from the bare dictionary entry and traces the point at which denotation took on charge, hardening into the gender ideology — the spectre invoked by Trump, Meloni, Pope Francis. Her chief interlocutor is Judith Butler; her standpoint openly feminist and intersectional.

96 pages - September 2026
Sociolinguistics

“A word is valued much less for its etymology than for the use to which it is put.”

Marc Bloch

A phenomenon we experience all day and every day - and that even now, after centuries of study, retains mysteries.

MARCO S. SOZZI

History of Sound

From Pythagoras to AI

A lively narrative history of one of nature's most mysterious forces, where physics, music, and mathematics converge.

From Pythagoras and Galileo to Athanasius Kircher and Isaac Newton, the greatest minds in history have tried to unravel the secrets of sound, sometimes with imaginative hypotheses, always pushing our knowledge forward, step by step. Along the way, they revealed the deep connection between sound and mathematics, the principles behind musical harmony, and the physical laws that govern musical instruments and human hearing. What exactly is sound? Why is Western music built on mathematical ratios? Why are there seven notes, and how arbitrary is that choice? Why do all melodic instruments rely on just two fundamental-producing mechanisms? And how is it that the human ear, still not fully understood, outperforms even the most advanced algorithms? Finally, the book explores how our relationship with sound has been transformed over little more than a century, from electricity to computers, from early recording devices to synthesizers, CDs and MP3s.

THE AUTHOR

Marco S. Sozzi is Full Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Pisa. His research focuses on elementary particle physics, on matter–antimatter asymmetry, studied through quark and neutrino experiments at major international laboratories. He is the author of numerous scientific papers and of the monograph *Discrete Symmetries and CP Violation* (Oxford University Press, 2012), and co-author of the short story collection *Scusate il disturbo* (2019).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

272 pages - May 2026

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Princeton UP (world English);
Ariel/Planeta (world Spanish);
AST (Russian)

“Sound is our first encounter with the world, and one of nature’s most indecipherable enigmas — the most elusive physical phenomenon of all.”

Power today is no longer a palace, an army, or a law. It is code, and whoever controls the code controls everything else.

PAOLO BENANTI

The New Logic of Dominion

Computational Power, Democracy and the Human Condition

A genealogy of power for the algorithmic age.

In 2009, Amazon reached into the Kindles of thousands of readers and deleted their copies of *1984* and *Animal Farm*. The devices had been paid for; the books had been legitimately bought. But the buyers, it turned out, owned only the hardware: the content itself remained on lease, revocable at will by whoever controlled the infrastructure. The episode is a symptom of a deeper shift: power today resides less in laws than in the algorithms that regulate access to information and services. This is computational power: diffuse, infrastructural, traceable to no single authority.

From there, Benanti traces a broader history of how power shapes behaviour by controlling the environments in which people live and act. He moves from the architecture of dictatorship, from Mussolini's EUR to Mao's Tiananmen Square, to the postwar American supermarket and kitchen, where the design of everyday life became a way of guiding habits and choices. He then turns to today's digital platforms — Google, Amazon, WeChat and others — which increasingly mediate our access to information, services and the world itself. Drawing on Foucault and Deleuze, Benanti asks what happens when these forms of power become computational: when algorithms can shape not only what we see and buy, but who gets a loan, a job, or a hearing.

THE AUTHOR

Paolo Benanti is a Franciscan friar and theologian. He is Italy's representative at the UN's High-Level Advisory Body on AI. He teaches moral philosophy at Luiss Guido Carli University and technology ethics at Seattle University. He coined the term *algorética* (algor-ethics), now recognised as part of contemporary Italian usage.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

288 pages - June 2026

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Measures Publishing (world English)

THINGS TO KNOW

Paolo Benanti served as an advisor to Pope Francis on artificial intelligence and technology ethics.

He is Italy's only representative of the UN Committee on Artificial Intelligence.

“A silent but profound revolution is reshaping every aspect of our existence: it's the one of computational power. It pervades our daily habits and alters the very fabric of everyday life.”

There are hells that make no noise. But that does not mean they hurt any less.

MARCELLO CECCARONI

The Invisible Hell

Endometriosis: the Loneliness of a Pain
Without a Name

A compelling narrative account of one of the most overlooked diseases in women's health, written by a leading surgeon at the forefront of endometriosis treatment.

Endometriosis affects one in ten women worldwide, yet it remains widely misunderstood, underdiagnosed, and too often dismissed. For millions of women, it turns everyday life into a silent ordeal marked by chronic pain, infertility, isolation, and professional marginalisation. The average diagnostic delay is ten years: ten years of being told the pain is normal, that it's stress, or that it's in their heads. *The Invisible Hell* breaks all this. Marcello Ceccaroni — one of Europe's leading gynecological surgeons and a pioneer in the treatment of severe endometriosis — brings to light the hidden reality of this condition.

The book opens with Rita, a patient who arrives in the operating room after years of ignored pain, and from that moment, you simply cannot stop reading. Structured around a single working day — from morning to evening — real patient stories frame sections that explain the disease with clarity and rigour: what it is, how it manifests, why it takes years to diagnose.

At once informative and deeply human, a much-needed contribution to the growing awareness of endometriosis.

THE AUTHOR

Marcello Ceccaroni is one of Europe's leading surgeons specialising in severe endometriosis. He directs a major international referral center treating thousands of patients each year and has pioneered innovative surgical techniques, including the widely recognized "Negrar Method" for nerve-sparing surgery.

His works have been published in leading international medical journals, and he regularly trains specialists worldwide.

This is his first book for a general audience.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

160 pages - June 2026

“If diagnosing endometriosis still takes so long, the blame lies with the blindness of a male-dominated culture.”

MASSIMO RAVERI

The Dawns of the World

A wide-ranging meditation on how civilizations have imagined their beginnings.

In the Inuit creation myth, the first being is a child who awakens in darkness and, slowly becoming aware of himself, brings the world into being. From this striking image, Raveri sets off on a comparative journey across Vedic hymns, Genesis, Daoist cosmologies, Buddhist silence, and Islamic revelation. Organized thematically — Ardor, Word, Gesture, Play, Illusion, Darkness, Vision — the book shows how different civilizations have imagined origin: as desire, as creative speech, as sacrifice, as erotic union, as spontaneous emergence, as divine play, as silence. Creation myths emerge here as distinct forms of life, revealing a network of affinities across cultures without ever flattening what makes each one singular.

A work of haunting beauty, exploring humanity's search for meaning.

THE AUTHOR

Massimo Raveri is one of the leading scholars of East Asian religions and philosophy. He taught the subject at Ca' Foscari University in Venice and, as an anthropologist, has conducted field research in India and Japan.

**PAGES/PUBLICATION**

328 pages - June 2026

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Ayné (Portuguese/Brazil)

NATURAL HISTORY**FERDINANDO BOERO**

Darwin's Feathers

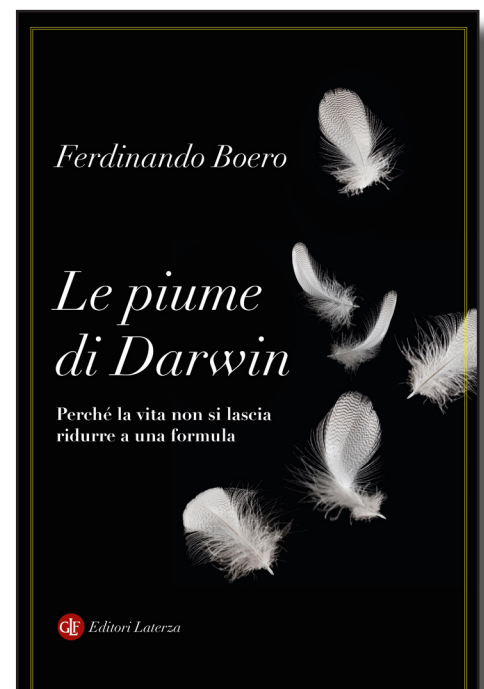
A major work of natural history that invites us to rethink the way we look at the world.

"Throw a handful of feathers into the air, and they will fall according to definite laws. But no law explains why, in a given place, exactly those trees grow, in those proportions, after centuries of intertwined histories between plants and animals." With this image, drawn from *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin fixes the fundamental difference between physics — governed by universal laws — and the life sciences, the domain of history, contingency, and the unrepeatable.

From this insight comes Darwin's Feathers, built from observing animals and plants rather than constructing models. Its premise is that the living world cannot be explained by a theory of everything: it must be seen in its irreducible complexity, made of historicity, variability, uniqueness.

THE AUTHOR

Ferdinando Boero is a marine biologist. He has taught at the University of Salento and the University of Naples, and was president of the Anton Dohrn Zoological Station Foundation. He received the Grande Médaille Albert Ier pour l'Océanographie from the Paris Oceanographic Institute.

**PAGES/PUBLICATION**

224 pages - July 2026

DANTE BOLOGNESI

A History of Fruit

For centuries it was a luxury to display or a risk to fear. Only later did fruit become harmless, even advisable.

Every piece of fruit we buy holds centuries of history inside it. In the Renaissance, physicians warned against eating peaches and cherries, considered a threat to the body's balance of humors; fruit grew almost exclusively in monastery orchards and the gardens of aristocratic villas, where it served to display refinement rather than to nourish. Ordinary people, gripped by the fear of hunger, preferred grain and legumes instead. It's from the seventeenth century that taste starts to override medical prescription, and fruit's trade became strategic. Fruit then sets out to conquer the world: lemons from Amalfi reach Northern Europe by steam railway, Sicilian oranges land in America, and Italy dominates international trade for decades, right up to globalization.

THE AUTHOR

Dante Bolognesi is the author of studies in economic and social history, with a particular focus on early modern Europe. He has edited collective works on the history of Romagna.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

160 pages - July 2026

FOOD HISTORY / MIDDLE AGES / MAGIC

ANDREA MARASCHI

Dining with Demons

Belonging to Italy's rich tradition of food history, this book asks not what people in the Middle Ages ate, but what they believed food could do to them.

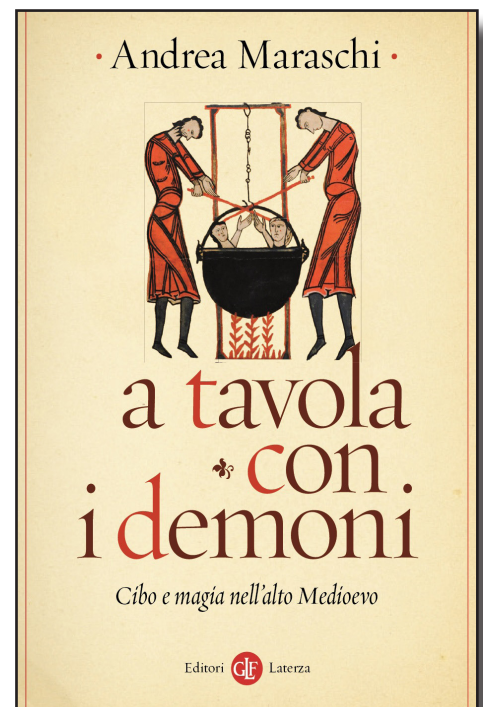
Where does food end and magic begin?

Andrea Maraschi explores this question across three centuries of early medieval Europe, when a clear line between nourishment, remedy, and ritual did not yet exist. Bread could heal or keep the dead at bay; cheese served as a tool of divination; a drink prepared with flakes of one's own skin could make the woman one loved fall in love.

Structured around ingredients — grain, meat, dairy, plants and spices — the book closes with a double answer to its own question: did magic work? Yes, individually, because it helped manage fear. And yes, socially, because it gave collective meaning to the inexplicable.

THE AUTHOR

Andrea Maraschi teaches Food Anthropology at the University of Bologna. His work focuses on the cultural history of food, magical and medical practices in the early Middle Ages.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

160 pages - October 2026

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Azbooca (Russian)

ASCANIO CELESTINI

Pasolini

A Life, Make That Two

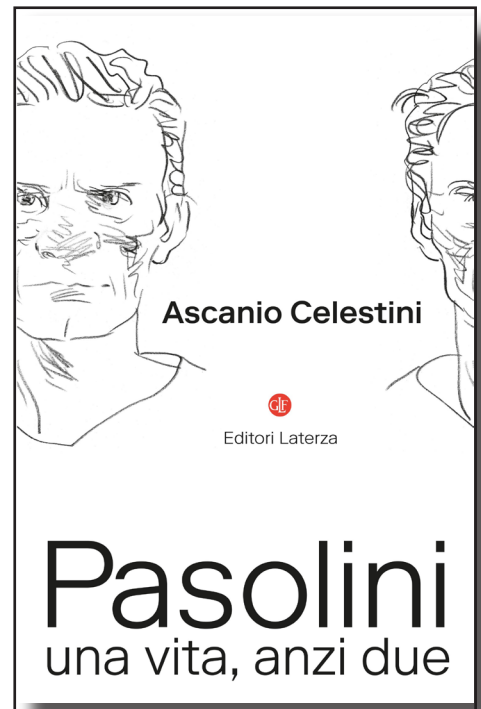
*Laid bare against his time. And against ours.
A radical rethinking of Pier Paolo Pasolini.*

On one side, the Friulian poet, the corsair intellectual, the prophet of consumer society; on the other, the Roman filmmaker, the fragile man, the victim of one of Italy's great unresolved mysteries.

Fifty years after his death, Pier Paolo Pasolini remains one of the most influential and controversial figures of Italian culture. Ascanio Celestini refuses any easy nostalgia and proposes a far more radical approach, placing Pasolini back in his own time. Blending historical insight, storytelling, and sharp political intuition, Pasolini is here not an icon to be quoted, but a restless, unsettling presence, essential for understanding the present.

THE AUTHOR

Ascanio Celestini is one of Italy's most acclaimed writers, playwrights, and performers, widely known for his work in civic and political theatre. Among his numerous works, he directed the award-winning films *La pecora nera* and *Viva la sposa*, both presented at the Venice Film Festival.



PAGES/PUBLICATION

224 pages - July 2026

NARRATIVE NON FICTION

SILVIA BALLESTRA

Uncivil Oration for Milan

A small skirmish over a landing that grows, step by step, into the larger story of a city.

It all starts with an elevator. Or rather, with a staircase so narrow a stretcher can't even turn the corner. In an old building in Milan, where for decades the bathrooms were shared, the conflict breaks out: on one side, women in their nineties living on the lower floors; on the other, the elevator gang and the upper-floor elite, already eyeing the profits of short-term rentals. When Milan's public prosecutor launched investigations in the summer of 2025, Milanese residents found confirmation of something they'd long suspected: skyscrapers sprouting everywhere, even in courtyards, and a new ruling class of finance sharks feeding off fleeting spectacle.

A fierce, razor-sharp counter-narrative of power, speculation, and the lives Milan has pushed out.

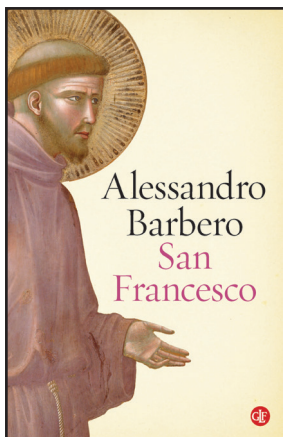
THE AUTHOR

Silvia Ballestra is a writer. Her books for Laterza include *La Sibilla. Vita di Joyce Lussu* (2022) — shortlisted for the Strega Prize and the Campiello Prize — and *Una notte nella casa delle fiabe* (2024).



PAGES/PUBLICATION

160 pages - September 2026



ALESSANDRO BARBERO

Saint Francis

440 pages/History

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Flammarion (French);
Taurus (world Spanish);
Quetzal (Portuguese/Portugal);
Azbooka (Russian);
Pt Kanisius (Indonesian)

150,000 copies sold

To explore the life of Francis of Assisi is to uncover many different accounts. This is the extraordinary story of the creation of a saint.



STEFANO MANCUSO

The Canticle of Earth

160 pages/Popular Science

RIGHTS SOLD TO

Other Press (world English);
Ubu (Portuguese/Brazil);
Alfa (Turkish);
Galaxia Gutenberg (world Spanish);
Azbooka (Russian);
Libra (Polish)

40,000 copies sold

Saint Francis' message for the 21st century. A poetic and scientific journey through the wonders of nature.



MARCO REVELLI

Is Democracy Obsolete?

168 pages/Political Theory

"Democracy is outdated": starting from this provocation, one of today's sharpest political theorists examines its ongoing

distortion and what future awaits it — a distortion so deep that democracies no longer make promises, only present themselves as the "least bad" option. Yet democracy is not dead: a new beginning is possible — and it must come from the ground up.



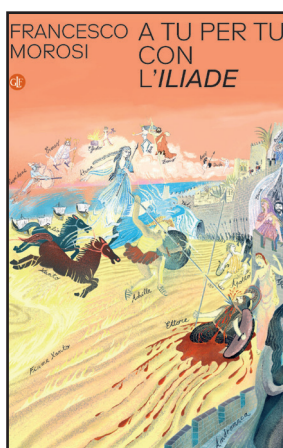
DARIO GUARASCIO

Digital Imperialism

296 pages/Current Affairs

Digital platforms are no longer just companies: they have become instruments of geopolitical power.

This essay explores the alliance between Big Tech and the military apparatus of the state, showing how digital imperialism not only produces deep economic and social inequalities but has also become a structural driver of geopolitical rivalry.



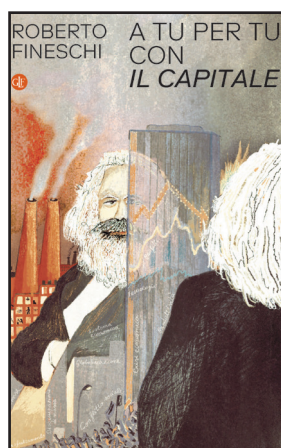
FRANCESCO MOROSI

Face to Face with the Iliad

256 pages/Literature

Written with elegance and narrative flair, Morosi challenges the common perception of the Iliad as a poem of force, revealing it instead as a poem of

weakness and as a mirror of the human heart.



ROBERTO FINESCHI

Face to Face with Marx's Capital

192 pages/Political Philosophy

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AST (Russian);
Da Vinci Libros (Portuguese/Brazil)

The essential insight into understanding one of the most influential books ever

written — and one of the least read.



PAOLA RIVETTI

A History of Iran

272 pages/Contemporary History

An original journey through Iranian history from 1979 to the present, told from the perspective of those who

have truly shaped the country: students, women, workers, and ethnic minorities.



CHIARA ALESSI

The Sadist's Chair

Design and Women's Bodies

144 pages/Design - Gender Studies

Are objects neutral, or are they "sexist"? Does design contribute to the patriarchal system of oppression? In this

provocative, eye-opening essay, leading design expert Chiara Alessi reexamines everyday design objects as a tool for gender critique.



ALBERTO MARIO BANTI

The Invention of the Nation

112 pages/Essay - Contemporary History

The nation does not emerge from an ancient past, it's not a destiny written in the flesh of peoples: it is a historical

construction. A ruthless guide to modernity's greatest political deception.



GIORGIO CARAVALLE

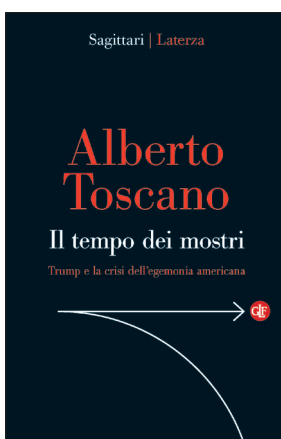
Who Controls the Past

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Les voix urbaines (French)

136 pages/Essay - Contemporary History

A sweeping investigation into how governments from Rome to Washington, Moscow to Beijing, are rewriting history to control the future.



ALBERTO TOSCANO

The Time of Monsters

Trump and the Crisis of U.S.

Hegemony

144 pages/Essay

Trump didn't break U.S. democracy. He exploited its fractures.

A sharp analysis of Trump's return to power, this book presents him not as the cause of the crisis but as its symptom.



GUIDO MAZZONI

Unsheltered

Six attempts to read the present

168 pages/Essay

The sense of shelter Western societies built after the Cold War has collapsed. Mazzoni traces its unraveling through the decisive events and figures of the last fifteen years — Trump above all — and asks why liberal democracies can no longer imagine an alternative to authoritarian drift or disorder.

Recent Published Translations



OMER BARTOV
Israel. What Went Wrong?

(FSG/Tila)



JANE ROGOYSKA
Hotel Exile

(David Higham Ass.)



THOMAS GOMART
L'accélération de l'histoire

(Tallandier/BAM/Anna Spadolini Agency)



BRANKO MILANOVIC
The Great Global Transformation

(Penguin Books)



HU ANYAN
I deliver Parcels in Beijing

(2 Seas Agency)



SUNIL AMRITH
The Burning Earth

(Trident Media Group)

Recent Acquisitions

Paul Gasnier, *La collision*
(Gallimard)

Robert Moor, *In Trees*
(Andrew Nurnberg Associates)

Caroline Sharples, *The Long Death of Adolf Hitler*
(Yale UP)

S. Levitsky, L. Way, D. Ziblatt, *The Great Abdication*
(CALLIGRAPH/ via TILA)

Omer Bartov, *The Broken Promise*
(FSG/via TILA)

Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Michael Greenstone
Just Economics
(The Wylie Agency)

Owen Jones, *The Fall of the West*
(David Higham Associates)

Lyuba Vinogradova, *Motherland. The Untold History*
(Andrew Nurnberg Associates)

John Dickie, *The Strange Death of Cosa Nostra*
(Andrew Nurnberg Associates)

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(The Wylie Agency)

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(The Wylie Agency)

David Motadel, *Global War*
(The Wylie Agency)

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