
This book addresses the need for an up-to-date and accessible, yet comprehensive, analysis of China’s financial system and related reforms. It takes a systematic look at China’s financial system: how it worked in the past and how it will work in the future, why reforms are needed, what risks reforms bring, and the impact of reforms on China and the rest of the world. By analyzing the topic in terms of a few fundamental distortions, this book provides a simple framework for understanding the nature of the Chinese financial system and its future prospects.

Singapore: Smart City, Smart State, by Kent Calder (Brookings Institution Press, 2016)

Nearly everyone knows that Singapore has one of the most efficient governments and competitive advanced economies in the world. But can this unique city-state of some 5.5 million residents also serve as a model for other advanced economies as well as for the emerging world? Respected East Asia expert Kent Calder provides clear answers to this intriguing question in his new, groundbreaking book that looks at how Singapore’s government has harnessed information technology, data, and a focus on innovative, adaptive governance to become a model smart city, smart state. Singapore consistently ranks at the top in world surveys measuring competitiveness, ease of doing business, protection of intellectual property, and absence of corruption. The book offers concrete insights and a lucid appreciation of how Singapore’s answers to near-universal problems can have a much broader relevance, even in very different societies.


The author argues that the United States must use military power in support of its foreign policy, but that doing so will be increasingly difficult. The U.S. must continue to assume primary responsibility for maintaining world order, or risk a chaotic international environment reminiscent of the 1920s and 1930s—but this time with far more devastating weapons in dangerous hands. America faces major national security challenges: a rising China, enduring jihadi movements, states like Russia and Iran that attempt to upend regions they then seek to dominate, and precarious ungoverned regions from anarchic lands such as Libya to the intangible arena of cyberspace. To confront these problems, our government must revive old concepts such as mobilization and, in some cases, preemption and, more importantly, engage in original thinking about how, and under what conditions, the United States should use force—as it will undoubtedly find itself compelled to do. Combining the scholarship of a prize-winning historian, the experience of a former senior diplomat, and the fluency of a gifted essayist, Cohen shows how America
must rethink and reor-
der its armed strength
to meet the needs of a
world in flux.

Choosing to Lead:
American Foreign Policy
for a Disordered World,
by Eliot A. Cohen, et al.
(The John Hay Initiative,
2015)
This work offers a com-
prehensive governing
agenda to restore Amer-
ican leadership in foreign
policy. Dedicated to the
next president of the
United States, Choosing
to Lead seeks to restore
the bipartisan tradition
of American leadership
in world affairs.

Latin America and the
Asian Giants: Evolving
Ties with China and
India, by Riordan Roett
(Brookings Institution
Press, 2016)
In the years since China
has adopted a “going
global” strategy to
promote its overseas
investment, expand
export markets, and gain
much-needed access
to natural resources
abroad, Sino–Latin
American relations have
both deepened and
broadened at an unex-
pectedly rapid pace. This
volume offers a review of
key cross-regional trends
and critical policy issues
involving the changing
relationship between
these two Asian giants
and Latin America.
Selected country case
studies—Argentina,
Brazil, Chile, and Mex-
ico—provide a more
in-depth analysis of the
implications of China and
India’s evolving interac-
tion with the region.

Brazil, What Everyone
Needs to Know, by
Riordan Roett (Oxford
University Press, 2016)
In his book, Riordan
Roett, an eminent
scholar of Brazil and
Latin America, provides
a rich overview of Brazil,
covering Brazilian soci-
ety, politics, culture, and
the economy. The book
begins with a series of
chapters on Brazilian
history, beginning with
the pre-colonial period
and moving on, in
succession, to the long
era of Portuguese rule,
the birth of independent
Brazil, the emergence
of modern Brazil in the
1930s, the era of the
dictators, and, finally, to
the democratic regime
that came into being in
the 1980s. Throughout
the book, Roett focuses
sharply on the fault
lines—racial, economic,
political, and cultural—
that have plagued Brazil
from its beginnings
to this day. Roett’s
synthesis provides inter-
ested readers with an
accessible, authoritative
overview of this troubled
yet fascinating giant.

The Revolt of 1916 in
Russian Central Asia,
by Edward Dennis Sokol
with a foreword by S.
Frederick Starr (Johns
Hopkins University
Press, 2016)
In 1916, as many as
270,000 Central Asians—
Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Tajiks,
Turkmen, and Uzbeks—
perished at the hands of
the Russian army in a
revolt that began with
resistance to the czar’s
World War I draft. Besides
tens of thousands died trying
to escape over mountain
passes into China. This
horrible incident was
nearly lost to history. In
the Soviet era, the 1916
massacre was hidden in
sealed archives and ban-
ished from history books.
Sokol’s pioneering
Revolt of 1916 in Russian
Central Asia in 1954 was
for generations the only
scholarly study of the
massacre. Sokol argues
that the uprising was no
mere draft riot, but a
revolt against czarist
colonialism. A classic
study of a vanished world,
Sokol’s work has con-
temporary resonance in
light of Putin’s efforts to
persuade Kyrgyzstan to
join his new economic
union. This reissued
dition is published to
coincide with the cen-
Alumni in Print


The civil war between El Salvador’s government and Marxist guerrillas erupted into full force in early 1981 and endured for 11 bloody years. Unwilling to tolerate an advance of Soviet and Cuban-backed communism in its geopolitical backyard, the United States provided over $6 billion in military and economic aid to the Salvadoran government. El Salvador was a deeply controversial issue in American society, dividing both Congress and the public. If success is defined narrowly, there is little question that the Salvador Option achieved its Cold War strategic objective to check communism.

Much more difficult, however, is the human price of this “success”—a toll paid almost entirely by Salvadorans.

Victor in the Rubble, by Alex Finley B’95, ’96 (SHP, 2016)

This book is a satire of the CIA and the so-called War on Terror. A CIA counter-terrorism officer, Victor Caro, is sent to hunt down the terrorist Omar al-Suqqit. While Victor and Omar work to achieve their respective objectives, their own organizations’ bloated bureaucracies foil them. When Victor appears on his own country’s Terrorist Watch List and Omar finds himself struggling to write “Lessons Learned” in the suicide bomber program, they realize they might have a common enemy: red tape.

Crystal and Jade, by Claudia Flisi B’71, ’72 (THEAQ Publishing, 2016)

In her first book for children, the author describes the adventures of a real dog, Giada, in the small Italian town where they live. Poetic license and the desire to “make a difference” result in a story with a simple message: canine friendship is colorblind and can overcome human prejudice.


In this book, the author takes various prevailing assumptions about African and developing societies and subjects them to a critical assessment based on his experience in Botswana since 1970. Botswana Essays is particularly relevant to readers who plan to study or work in an African culture or have already done so.

From Village to City: Social Transformation in a Chinese County Seat, by Andrew Kipnis N’88 (University of California Press, 2016)

This work examines the transformation of the Chinese city of Zouping from an impoverished town of 30,000 people to a bustling city of over 350,000. It paints a vivid portrait of the changes in both the place itself and the lives of its once-rural people.

You Don’t Lose ‘til You Quit Trying, co-written by Caroline Lambert ’92 (Berkley Caliber, 2016)

This book chronicles the extraordinary life of Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam veteran Sammy Lee Davis. From his upbringing in the rural Midwest to his Vietnam tour, the book details the actions that earned him the United States’ highest military decoration—as well as the price he later paid for his combat service.
This volume offers an in-depth study of Shi’i Islam in two very different communities in Senegal: the members of the well-established Lebanese diaspora and the Senegalese “converts” from Sunni to Shi’i Islam. Leichtman explores the influence of Hizbullah and Islamic reformist movements and offers a corrective to prevailing views of Sunni-Shi’i hostility, demonstrating that religious coexistence is possible in Senegal.

Summer in a Bowl, by Joan Leotta B’71, ’71 (THEAQ Publishing, 2016)
In this book, the author introduces the joys of gardening and cooking alongside children. Rosa spends every Thursday helping Aunt Mary tend her garden. On this last Thursday of the season, they harvest the vegetables and cook them. Rosa finds that vegetables can be delicious and discovers a new way to preserve her summer fun.

These authors translated this work distilled from years of research by a team of scholars under Nanjing University historian Zhang Xianwen. The English edition makes accessible the most comprehensive Chinese effort to date on the topic of the 1937–38 Nanjing Massacre, which persists in the ongoing political discourse, particularly among East Asian countries. It draws extensively from primary sources in Chinese, English, and Japanese.

The Troubleseeker, by Alan Lessik ’88 (Chelsea Station Editions, 2016)
The author’s debut novel follows the life of Antinio, from his youth in Havana to his death in San Francisco 50 years later. Scenes of post-revolutionary Cuba, the Mariel boatlift, life as a refugee, the AIDS crisis, mental illness, sex, and aging as a gay man vividly underscore Antinio’s lifelong odyssey to achieve freedom and love. The narrator, the Roman emperor and demi-god Hadrian, weaves in conversations with Cuban santería orishas and Greek gods, along with stories of his own past, in this funny, thoughtful, and deeply poignant novel.

Confucius Says, by Veronica Li ’81 (Homa and Sekey Books, 2015)
This novel about caring for elderly parents is based on the author’s own experience. When the pressure of caregiving becomes overwhelming, she finds guidance from an unexpected source: the teachings of the ancient sage Confucius.

In light of intertwining logics—military competition and economic interdependence—at play in U.S.–China relations, this book examines how the United States has balanced potentially conflicting national security and economic interests in its relationship with the People’s Republic of China.
This work sketches the Tuscan city’s unique history, from ancient Italy to the present day. It offers beautifully illustrated forays into the area’s rich tradition of architecture and art, including the masterworks of Renaissance painter Piero della Francesca. These essays offer insight into Arezzo’s language, politics, food, and culture.

Infomocracy, by Malka Older B’03, ’04 (Tor.com, 2016)
This is a political thriller set in the late 21st century, when nation-states have given way to a patchwork of centenals of 100,000 people, each of which can vote for any government in the world. As the global election approaches, a campaign worker and a spy separately discover hints of sabotage. They must work together to protect the fragile, complex, imperfect Pax Democratica.

The Road to Ruin - The Global Elites’ Secret Plan for the Next Financial Crisis, by James Rickards JHU ’73, ’74, JHU ’06. (Portfolio / Penguin Random House, 2016)
A financial crisis greater than any before is coming. It will be the third in a sequence of crises that began in 1998, and continued in 2008. In 1998, Wall Street bailed out a failing hedge fund that threatened global financial stability. In 2008, central banks bailed out Wall Street. In the next crisis, central banks themselves will need to be bailed out. The only available source of global liquidity will be the IMF and its world money, the SDR. This book examines the policy response to the next crisis and warns investors how to prepare today to survive it.

Argentina and the World: Keys for a Successful Integration, by Francisco de Santibañes ’05 (Edicon, 2016)
The author believes isolation is one of the reasons for Argentina’s relative decline. He looks for possible solutions in the signing of free-trade agreements, the strengthening of the country’s institutions, the adoption of a more realistic foreign policy, and the positioning of Buenos Aires as a bridge between Mercosur and the Pacific Alliance.

Can America Save Itself from Decline?: Politics, Culture, Morality, by Carla (Lofberg) Seaquist ’72 (Morgan-Guidinger Press, 2015)
In this collection of her commentary for The Huffington Post, the author addresses the question of American decline from all angles: political, economic and financial, cultural, and moral. Seaquist believes that if any great nation can reverse its decline, the United States can, but it will take stronger leadership and reform than seen to date.

Libya in Western Foreign Policies, 1911–2011, by Saskia Maria Van Genugten B’10, PhD ’12 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)
The writer places current developments in Libya in historical context. The book traces the significant role played by Western and other foreign powers in shaping Libya’s governance structure and its institutions. The book tells the story of why Libya, due to weak national identity and its peripheral geopolitical position, falls prey to foreign powers wanting to flex their muscles in the Middle East and North Africa.