

**LOGLIST ANNOUNCED: THE ORWELL PRIZE  
FOR BOOKS 2018**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 HRS, TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

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The longlist for The Orwell Prize for Books 2018, Britain's most prestigious prize for political writing, is announced today.

- Twelve books longlisted for The Orwell Prize for Books 2018.
- Following a year in which George Orwell's name continues to occupy the heart of political discourse, the Orwell Prize judges choose the most compelling political writing of 2017
- Books on Islam and the Russian revolution are longlisted alongside a novel spun around Brexit, and social commentary around gender, race and immigration
- This diverse list includes first-time authors such as Reni Eddo-Lodge and Darren McGarvey as well as established political writers including David Goodhart and Mark Mazower
- The longlist features historical writing, fiction and for the first time a graphic novel.

**The Orwell Prize for Books 2018 longlist (see below for notes):**

- ***The Islamic Enlightenment: The Modern Struggle Between Faith and Reason***, Christopher de Bellaigue (Bodley Head)
- ***Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People about Race***, Reni Eddo-Lodge (Bloomsbury)
- ***Threads from the Refugee Crisis***, Kate Evans (Verso)
- ***Testosterone Rex***, Cordelia Fine (Icon Books)
- ***The Road to Somewhere - The Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics***, David Goodhart (Hurst Publishers)
- ***What You Did Not Tell***, Mark Mazower (Allen Lane)
- ***Poverty Safari***, Darren McGarvey (Luath Press)
- ***Age of Anger: A History of the Present***, Pankaj Mishra (Allen Lane)
- ***Bitch Doctrine***, Laurie Penny (Bloomsbury) Bread for All:
- ***The Origins of the Welfare State***, Chris Renwick (Allen Lane)
- ***Winter***, Ali Smith (Hamish Hamilton)
- ***Lovers and Strangers: An Immigrant History of Post-War Britain***, Clair Wills (Allen Lane)

The judges for the Orwell Prize for Books are politician, academic and journalist **Andrew Adonis** (Chair), Literary Journalist and Artistic Director of Words and Literature of the Bath Festival, **Alex Clark**, author **Kit de Waal**, and **Lorien Kite**, Deputy Life & Arts Editor for the Financial Times.

## **Andrew Adonis commented:**

*“It has been an honour to Chair the Orwell Prize, particularly in a year when political analysis, reportage and writing has been so electric and of such high quality. As the world around us shifts in extraordinary, often frightening ways we need writers to explain the world, as Orwell did.”*

**While Kit de Waal said of the prize** *‘I’m absolutely delighted to be one of the judges of The Orwell Prize for 2017. It’s such a privilege to read such outstanding books that illuminate a life, a country, an issue. It’s never been more important to read and understand the world around us and to stay informed.’*

**The shortlist for The Orwell Prize for Books will be announced at The Bath Festival on 18th May. The winner of the £3000 prize will be unveiled on 25th June 2018 at The RSA, together with the winner of The Orwell Prize for Journalism and The Orwell Prize for Exposing Britain’s Social Evils.**

Previous winners of the Orwell Prize for Books include John Bew for his biography of Clement Attlee (2017), Raja Shehadeh (2008), Alan Johnson (2014), and Andrea Gillies (2010).

## **Notes on The Orwell Prize for Books Longlist 2018**

***The Islamic Enlightenment: The Modern Struggle Between Faith and Reason, Christopher de Bellaigue*** (Bodley Head) An absorbing account of the political and social reformations that transformed the lands of Islam in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

***Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People about Race, Reni Eddo-Lodge*** (Bloomsbury) A book on racial inequalities, exploring issues from eradicated black history to the political purpose of white dominance, whitewashed feminism to the inextricable link between class and race

***Threads from the Refugee Crisis, Kate Evans*** (Verso) Combining the techniques of eyewitness reportage with the medium of comic-book storytelling, Evans has produced a compelling view into the life of asylum seekers living in Calais’s ‘Jungle’.

***Testosterone Rex, Cordelia Fine*** (Icon Books) A book explaining why past and present sex roles are only serving suggestions for the future. It reveals a much more dynamic situation through an entertaining and well-documented exploration of the latest research that draws on evolutionary science, psychology, neuroscience, endocrinology, and philosophy.

***The Road to Somewhere - The Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics, David Goodhart*** (Hurst Publishers) An exposition of how the political elites have failed their societies. This investigation into the new global politics reveals how the Somewhere backlash is a democratic response to the dominance of Anywhere interests, in everything from mass higher education to mass immigration.

***What You Did Not Tell, Mark Mazower*** (Allen Lane) In the centenary of the Russian Revolution, *What You Did Not Tell* recounts a brand of socialism erased from memory - humanistic, impassioned, and broad-ranging in its sympathies. But it also explores the unexpected happiness that may await history's losers, the power of friendship, and the love of place.

***Poverty Safari, Darren McGarvey*** (Luath Press Ltd) People from deprived communities all across Britain feel misunderstood and unheard. Darren McGarvey, aka Loki, gives voice to their feelings and concerns, and anger that is spilling over.

***Age of Anger: A History of the Present, Pankaj Mishra*** (Allen Lane) How can we explain the origins of the great wave of paranoid hatreds that seem inescapable in our close-knit world - from American 'shooters' and ISIS to Trump? Pankaj Mishra answers our bewilderment by casting his gaze back to the eighteenth century, before leading us to the present.

***Bitch Doctrine, Laurie Penny*** (Bloomsbury) This collection of Laurie Penny's writing covers everything from the shock of Donald Trump's election and the victories of the far right, to online harassment and the transgender rights movement. These darkly humorous articles provoke challenging conversations about the definitive social issues of today.

***Bread for All: The Origins of the Welfare State, Chris Renwick*** (Allen Lane) *Bread for All* explores and challenges our assumptions about what the welfare state was originally for, and the kinds of people who were involved in creating it. In doing so, it asks what the idea continues to mean for us today.

***Winter, Ali Smith*** (Hamish Hamilton) In the second novel in her Seasonal cycle, Smith's shape-shifting quartet of novels casts a merry eye over a bleak post-truth era with a story rooted in history, memory and warmth, its taproot deep in the evergreens: art, love, laughter.

***Lovers and Strangers: An Immigrant History of Post-War Britain, Clair Wills*** (Allen Lane) Clair Wills' book brings to life the incredible diversity and strangeness of the migrant experience. She introduces us to lovers, scroungers, dancers, homeowners, teachers, drinkers, carers and many more to show the opportunities and excitement as much as the humiliation and poverty that could be part of the new arrivals' experience.

# THE ORWELL PRIZE



## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

1. The Orwell Foundation is a registered charity (1161563) providing free cultural events and resources for the public benefit. Every year, the Foundation awards The Orwell Prize, Britain's most prestigious prize for political writing, to the work which comes closest to George Orwell's ambition 'to make political writing into an art'. There are three prizes: for Books, Journalism and Exposing Britain's Social Evils.
2. The Orwell Prize 2018 is for work published in the calendar year 2018. For more details and rules of entry please visit [www.orwellfoundation.com](http://www.orwellfoundation.com)
3. The Orwell Foundation is supported by Political Quarterly, Richard Blair (George Orwell's son), the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and private donations. The Foundation is based at University College London, home to the Orwell Archive and

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the annual Orwell Lecture.

For more information about The Orwell Prize and more images, please contact Robyn Donaldson at [robyn.donaldson@theorwellprize.co.uk](mailto:robyn.donaldson@theorwellprize.co.uk) or 020 3108 1618

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