

# THE ELIZABETH LONGFORD PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY



5 April 2017

## THE ELIZABETH LONGFORD PRIZE SHORTLIST 2017

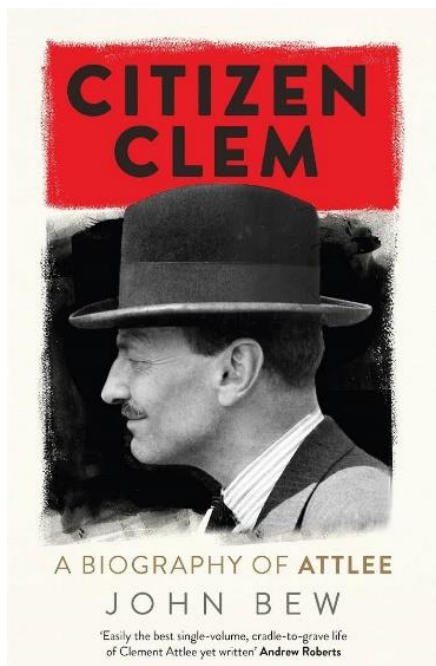
The **Society of Authors** is delighted to announce the shortlist for the 2017 Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography. The £5,000 Prize will be presented at the Society's annual Author's Awards party on June 20.

The prize is generously sponsored by Flora Fraser and Peter Soros in affectionate memory of Elizabeth Longford, the acclaimed biographer.

The judges this year were Richard Davenport-Hines, Roy Foster (Chair), Antonia Fraser, Flora Fraser and Munro Price.

Roy Foster commented on this year's shortlist:

'This is a powerful list, covering the lives of those who changed the current of history: whether spectacularly, like Luther and Marx, incrementally, like Attlee, or unwittingly, like Louis XVI. We have also short-listed the lives of two people who both affected and reflected the nature of contemporary cultural appreciation- Kenelm Digby and Kenneth Clark. Despite the wide range of subjects, eras and preoccupations, all these books share the qualities traditionally recognised by The Elizabeth Longford Prize- an acute sense of individual psychology combined with a penetrating analysis of the way that certain lives intersect with the temper of their times, and the extent to which people make their own history.'

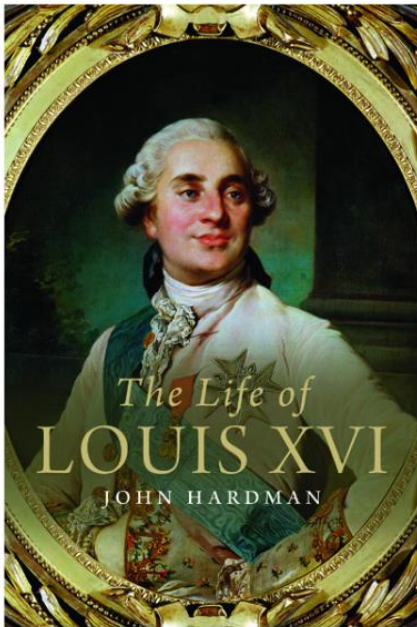


### JOHN BEW – CITIZEN CLEM: A BIOGRAPHY OF ATLEE (riverrun / Quercus)

John Bew pierces the reticence of Attlee and explores the intellectual foundations and core beliefs of one of the most important figures in twentieth-century British history. It reveals a public servant and patriotic socialist, who never lost sight of the national interest and whose view of humanity and belief in solidarity was grafted onto the Union Jack.

**John Bew** teaches History and Foreign Policy at the War Studies Department at King's College London. He was the winner of the 2015 Philip Leverhulme Prize for outstanding achievement in Politics and International Relations at the Library of Congress in Washington DC. Bew is a contributing writer at the *New Statesman* and the author of five books, including the critically acclaimed *Realpolitik: A History*.

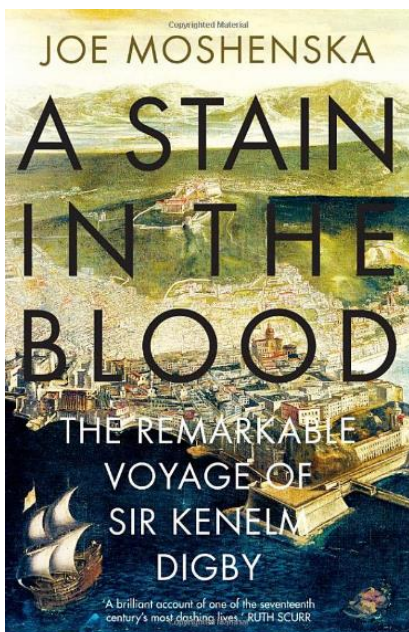
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## **JOHN HARDMAN – THE LIFE OF LOUIS XVI (Yale)**

Hardman's reassessment of the reign of Louis XVI sheds a bold new light on the man, his actions, his world and his policies, including the king's support America's War of Independence, the intricate workings of his court and Louis's famous dash to Varennes.

**John Hardman** is one of the world's leading experts on the French Revolution and the author of several well-regarded books on the subject. He was formerly lecturer in modern history at the University of Edinburgh.

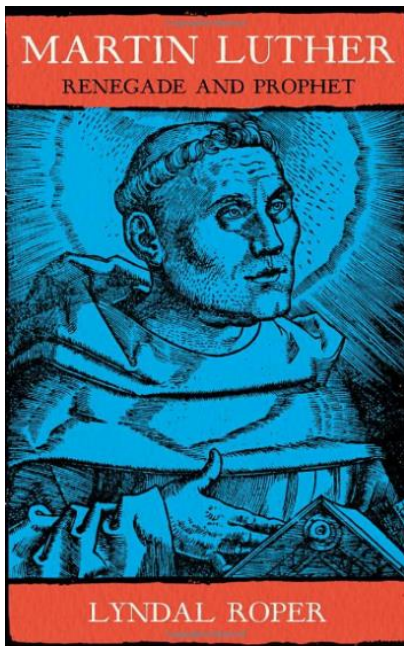


## **JOE MOSHENKA – A STAIN OF BLOOD: THE REMARKABLE VOYAGE OF SIR KENELM DIGBY (William Heinemann / Penguin Random House)**

*A Stain in the Blood* is the story of the extraordinary life of Sir Kenelm Digby, and of a journey that helped to shape a nation. On a quest for personal glory, Digby assembled a fleet and set sail for the Mediterranean. His journey – encompassing fevers, mutiny, piracy, daring rescues and heroic sea battles – is a great and overlooked adventure, and a prism through which to view England, and all of Europe, during one of the most pivotal periods in its history.

**Joe Moshenska** spent parts of his childhood in France and Zimbabwe, and was educated at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and at Princeton University, where he received his PhD. He is now a Fellow and Lecturer in English at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 2015 he was chosen as a BBC 'New Generation Thinker'.

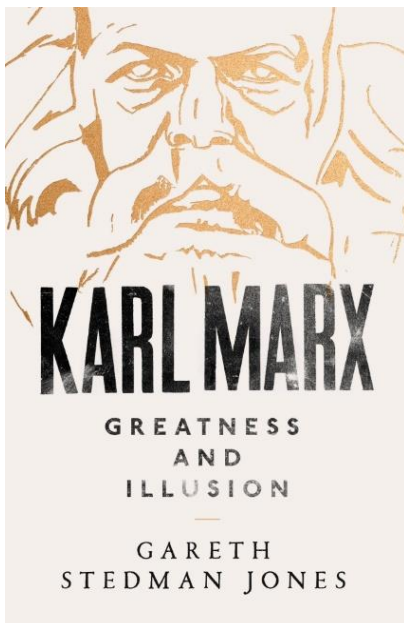
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## LYNDAL ROPER – MARTIN LUTHER: RENEGADE AND PROPHET (The Bodley Head / Penguin Random House)

In this first historical biography for decades, Lyndal Roper gives us a flesh-and-blood figure, warts and all. She reveals the often contradictory psychological forces that drove Martin Luther forward, and the dynamics they unleashed which turned a small act of protest into a battle against the power of the Church.

**Lyndal Roper** is Regius Professor of History at Oxford and one of the most respected historians at work in Britain today. An expert on early modern Germany, her previous books include a study of witchcraft, *Witch Craze: Terror and Fantasy in Baroque Germany*.

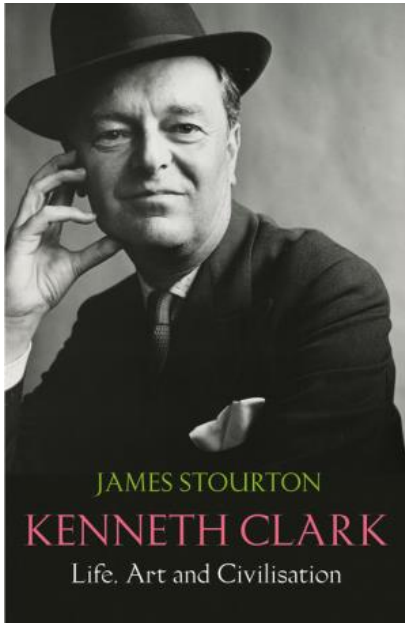


## GARETH STEDMAN JONES – KARL MARX: GREATNESS AND ILLUSION (Allen Lane / Penguin Random House)

Gareth Stedman Jones's biography explores how Marx came to his revolutionary ideas in an age of intellectual ferment, and the impact they had on his times. This book allows the reader to understand as never before the world of ideas which shaped Marx's world – and in turn made Marx shape our own.

**Gareth Stedman Jones** is currently Professor of the History of Ideas at Queen Mary, University of London. He is a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and taught at the university for many years, becoming Professor of Political Science in 1997. He is the author of *Outcast London*, *Languages of Class* and *An End to Poverty?*, as well as being the editor of the Penguin Classics edition of *The Communist Manifesto*.

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## **JAMES STOURTON – KENNETH CLARK: LIFE, ART AND CIVILIZATION (William Collins / Harper Collins)**

From his time at Bernard Berenson's protégé at I Tatti in Florence to being the keeper of Western Art at the Ashmolean aged 27, to his appointment as the youngest-ever director of the National Gallery, Kenneth Clark displayed precocious genius. Drawing on previously unseen archives, James Stourton reveals the formidable intellect and the complicated, private man who wielded enormous influence on art, architecture and civilisation for generations to come.

**James Stourton** read History of Art at Cambridge and was UK Chairman of Sotheby's until 2012. He is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research (London University). He is the author of numerous books on art and architecture including *The Great Houses of London* and *Great Collectors of Our Time*. A regular lecturer on art history, he sits on the Panel of the Heritage Memorial Fund and the Acceptance in Lieu Panel.

## **ABOUT THE ELIZABETH LONGFORD PRIZE**

The Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography was established in 2003 in affectionate memory of Elizabeth Longford, the acclaimed biographer, and is sponsored by Flora Fraser and Peter Soros. This £5,000 prize is awarded annually for a historical biography published in the preceding year. No unsolicited submissions are accepted.

Elizabeth Longford (1906-2002) was born Elizabeth Harman. She married Frank Pakenham, later Earl of Longford, in 1931. For some years a writer for the Daily Express and the Sunday Times, she was also a biographer and historian and continued to write well into her nineties. Her many publications include *Victoria*, which appeared in 1964, a two-volume biography of *Wellington, Churchill, The Queen Mother: A Biography, Elizabeth R*, and *Royal Throne: The Future of the Monarchy*, which was published in 1993.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

For further information please contact Paula Johnson, Eleanor Jenyns or Samia Gundkalli on [PJohnson@societyofauthors.org](mailto:PJohnson@societyofauthors.org) / [EJenyns@societyofauthors.org](mailto:EJenyns@societyofauthors.org) / [SGundkalli@societyofauthors.org](mailto:SGundkalli@societyofauthors.org) / 020 7373 6642.

For previous winners please see <http://www.societyofauthors.org/Prizes/Non-Fiction/Elizabeth-Longford/Past-winners>