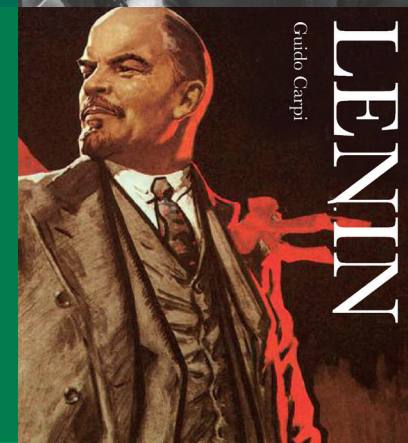
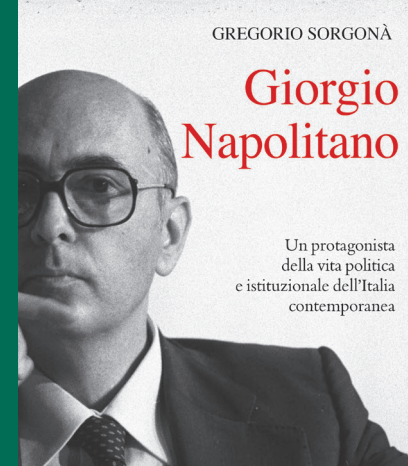


FRANKFURT 2025

Selected backlist and
forthcoming titles

 SALERNO EDITRICE



Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

**LA STORIA
AL CONTRARIO**

PAPESSI E ANTIPAPI,
NANI E FANTASMI

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Tommaso di Carpegna
Falconieri

History Overturned

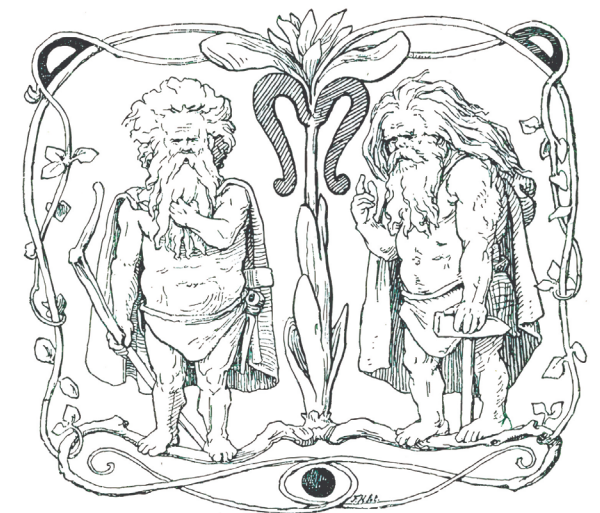
Female Popes, Antipopes,
Dwarves, and Ghosts

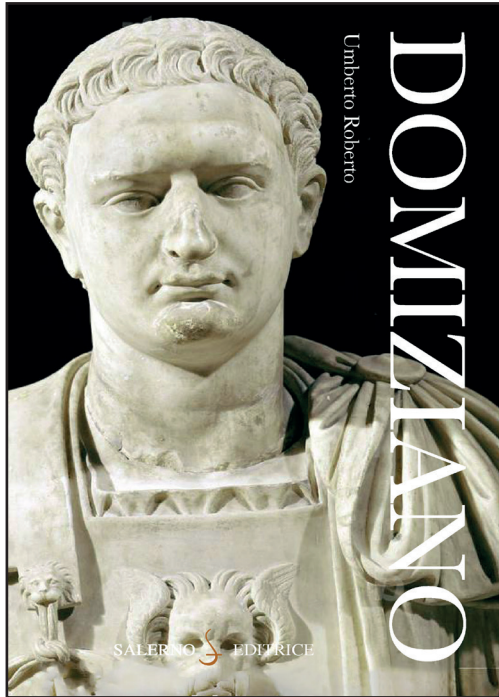
pp. 144
October 2025
New release

The book helps readers to think about history in an entertaining way, as a walk along the border between truth and fiction, evidence and conjecture, reason and imagination. Featuring examples of “history overturned” – the medieval legend of Pope Joan, accounts of the great antipopes, the pseudo-essay on the phantom existence of a population of dwarves, the dream-world where pure imagination reigns –, the text, with a light touch, highlights the extraordinary richness of the historical method.

Tommaso di Carpegna Falconieri

teaches Medieval History at the University of Urbino. His academic interests focus on the history of the Roman church, historical research methodology, and the Middle Ages.





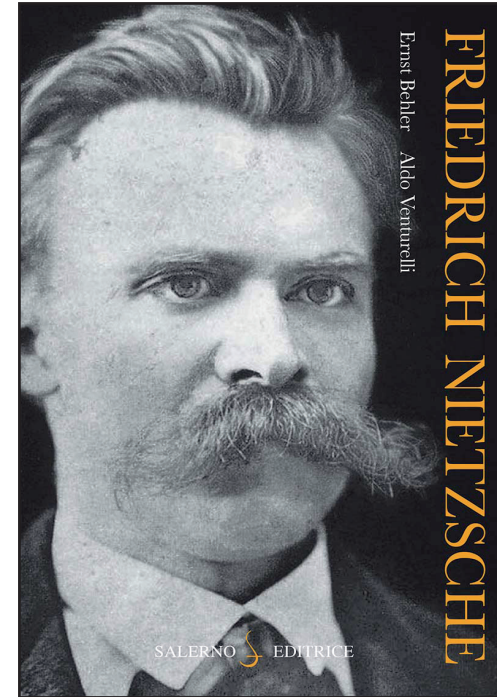
Umberto Roberto
Domitian

pp. 300
October 2025
New release

The story of Domitian (81-96 CE) is a disturbing case of historical manipulation. Descriptions of his 15-year reign have focused on his mistakes and faults, thus perpetuating an image of abominable and irredeemable cruelty. Domitian was actually a conscientious administrator and the prudent commander of an empire that he knew to be fragile and in danger. Nevertheless, his fate was shaped by tenuous alliances, intrigues, and plots that undermined his power. In the final years of his life, suspicion, fear, and isolation led Domitian to drift towards autocracy. Death came without honour amidst a conspiracy; not even the brutality of his end brought peace to the last of the Flavians. The condemnation of Domitian continues to characterise an entire period of Roman history.

Umberto Roberto

teaches Roman History at the Federico II University in Naples and heads the Italian Institute of Ancient History. He is an expert in imperial history, the history of late antiquity, and the history of historiography.



Ernst Behler
& Aldo Venturelli

Friedrich Nietzsche

A Philosophical Life,
the Pathos of Knowledge,
and the Contradictions
of Modernity

pp. 312
New release

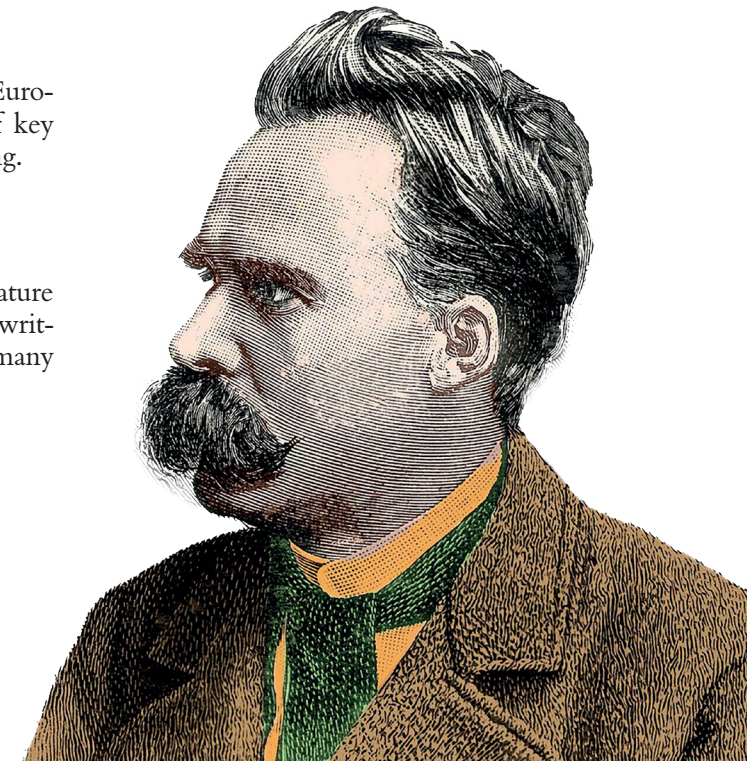
The Übermensch, the will to power, the Dionysian, and nihilism are some of the many ideas and theories evoked by the mere mention of Nietzsche, even though they are often reduced to empty platitudes. This book – in a new, carefully revised and updated edition – explores the enduringly enigmatic figure of Nietzsche through a historically and philologically grounded account of his life and philosophy.

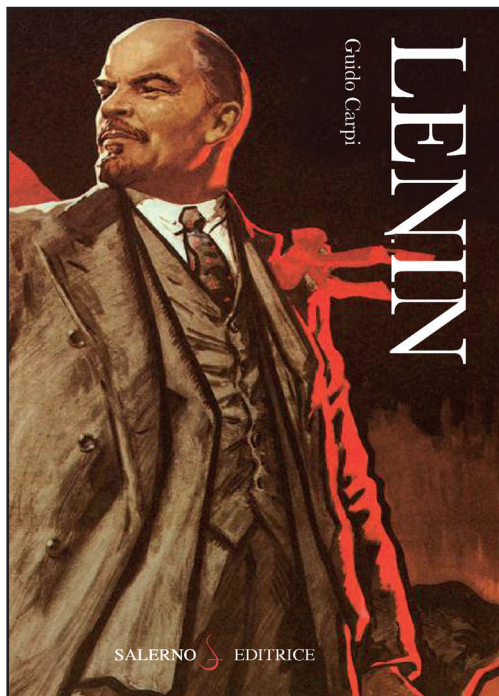
Ernst Behler

(1926-1997) was a major scholar of European romanticism and the author of key studies devoted to Nietzsche's thinking.

Aldo Venturelli

is professor emeritus of German Literature at the University of Urbino and has written essays and books dealing with many facets of Nietzsche's thought.





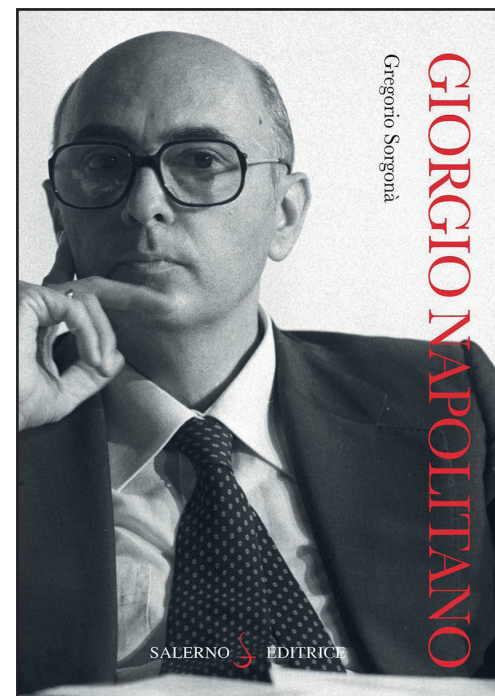
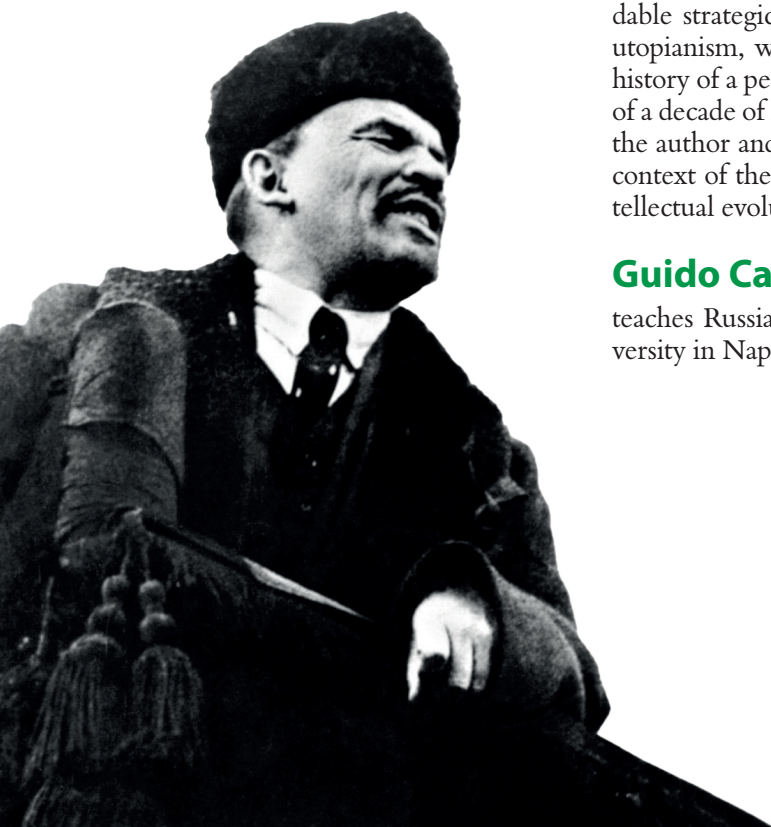
Guido Carpi
Lenin

pp. 464
October 2025
New release

Lenin's biography is closely linked to the destiny of Russia. Alongside his political skills as a seasoned tactician, this book fully reveals his formidable strategic acumen, fuelled by his boundless utopianism, which left an indelible mark on the history of a people. This profile is the culmination of a decade of research and shorter publications by the author and aims to depict the broad historical context of the Bolshevik leader's political and intellectual evolution.

Guido Carpi

teaches Russian Literature at the Orientale University in Naples.



Gregorio Sargonà
Giorgio Napolitano

A Key Political
and Institutional Figure
in Contemporary Italy

pp. 252
New release

Giorgio Napolitano was one of Italy's longest-serving politicians. His public career, spanning some seventy years, was intertwined with the history of the country, from the reconstruction of democracy on the ashes of fascism to the digital age. This book explores a vast amount of archival material and draws on the many historical and journalistic sources involving Napolitano and the history of the organisations and institutions in which he played an active role.

Gregorio Sargonà

is a researcher at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa





Francesca Romana Berno

Luxuria

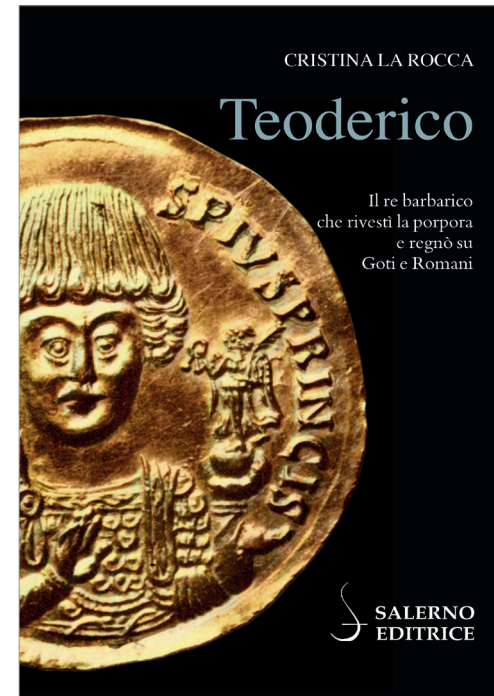
Tales of Banquets, Villas,
and Other Indulgences
in Ancient Rome

pp. 160
New release

Luxuria was the vice of excess in all its forms in ancient Rome. This book tells the stories of famous people – Lucullus, Nero, Cleopatra, Apicius – and introduces readers to both their public profligacy (during banquets and feasts) and private intemperance (undertaken behind the shelter provided by villas). The debauchery of emperors and philosophers accompanies readers through a wide range of personified immoralities that reflect the lustful imagination of the ancient world.

Francesca Romana Berno

teaches Latin Language and Literature at the Sapienza University in Rome. She studies the history of ideas and philosophical vocabulary and has worked extensively on Cicero, Ovid, and especially Seneca.



Cristina La Rocca

Theodoric

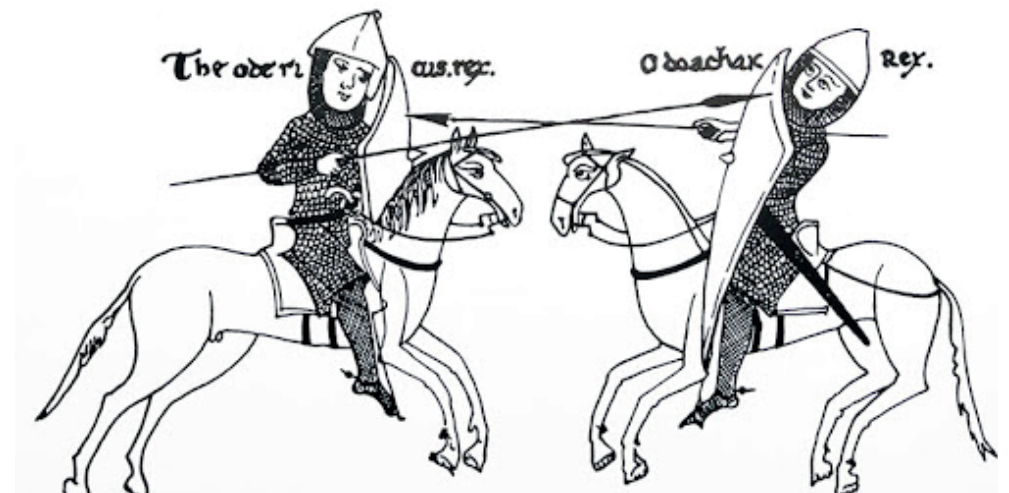
The Barbarian King Who
Wore the Royal Purple
and Reigned over Goths
and Romans

pp. 280
New release

Ruling from 489 to 526 CE, Theodoric the Great was a symbol of the barbarian age. After Romulus Augustulus was deposed in 476, the Western Empire was still alive in practice but subject to the authority of the Emperor of the East. Italy was Theodoric's training ground, where he learned to face down opposition and build support for his power. At the end of his reign, he turned into a "heretic king", whose fame upended his original standing as a balanced ruler, thus bequeathing to the Middle Ages a reputation in need of rehabilitation.

Cristina La Rocca

teaches Medieval History at the University of Padova; her scholarly interests involve the history of urban settlements, social history, and gender in the Early Middle Ages.





Giacomo Todeschini

Second-Hand

The Value of Things
in the Middle Ages
and the Modern Era

pp. 240
New release

At the end of the Middle Ages, second-hand trade on a large scale emerged within a context of consumption growth, led by an expanding number of consumers. It was a pivotal phenomenon, reflecting the spread of a wide variety of retail goods, ranging from clothes to jewellery to household utensils. Considerable quantities of used, recycled, new, or apparently new objects invaded markets, activating trends in consumer behaviour, values, and prices that remain relevant today.

Giacomo Todeschini

formerly taught Medieval History at the University of Trieste.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR::



*Like Water and Blood:
The Medieval Origins of
Economic Thought*

pp. 336

ISBN 9788829005000

Portuguese (Brazil) rights sold



Stefano Gasparri

Power Rituals in Early Medieval Europe

The Iron Crown
and Other Tales

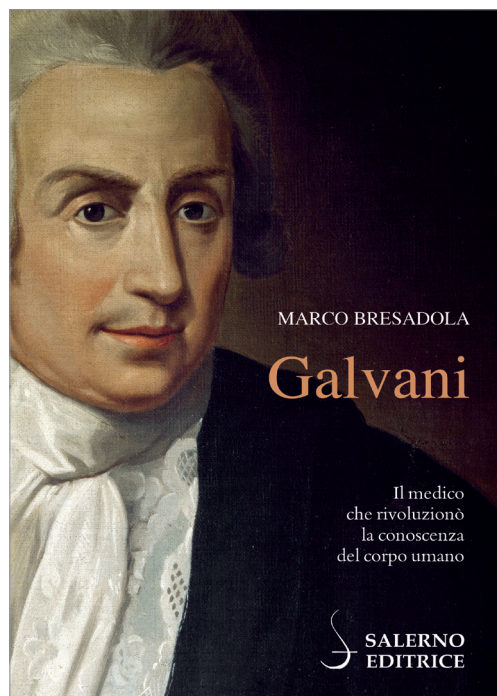
pp. 268
New release

Rituals represent one of the most effective means to explore power in the early Middle Ages when the traditions of the late Roman Empire and barbarian military customs merged within a context increasingly shaped by religion. The author examines "power rituals": hunting, war games, hairstyles, banquets, gift exchanges, and many others. These rituals conveyed an idea of society and its internal hierarchy that was shared – albeit with different perspectives – by rulers and aristocrats.

Stefano Gasparri

is a professor emeritus of Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice and a former president of the Italian Society of Medieval Historians.





Marco Bresadola

Galvani

The Physician Who
Revolutionised Knowledge
of the Human Body

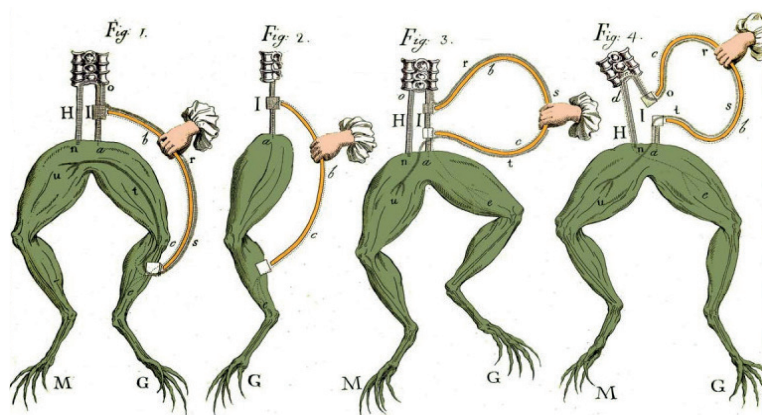
pp. 212

New release

This book is the first modern biography of Luigi Galvani, whose experiments on frogs contributed to the birth of neuroscience. The author describes the life and work of the Bologna physician in the cultural context of the Age of Enlightenment, underscoring Galvani's academic ambitions, religious devotion, and experimental creativity. His work contributed to fundamental scientific discoveries, such as Alessandro Volta's battery, and outstanding literary innovations, such as Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.

Marco Bresadola

teaches History and Communication of Science at the University of Ferrara. He has devoted more than 20 years to the study of Galvani's work, medicine and life sciences throughout the modern and contemporary ages.

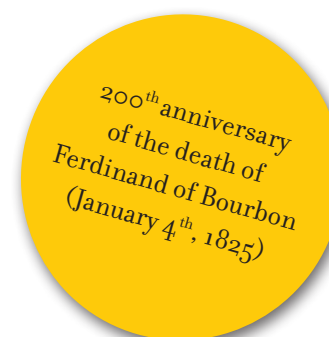


Sebastiano Angelo
Granata

Ferdinand of Bourbon

pp. 280

New release



A frequently cited personality, Ferdinand of Bourbon (1725-1825) – the “rascal king” according to his critics, an innovative sovereign in the eyes of his nostalgic supporters – has received little attention from historians. A complex monarch and a major figure of his age, he is often considered a puppet controlled by his father, his wife, his ministers, or the era's major powers. This book provides an overview of his life and focuses on his projects, passions, triumphs, and mistakes – an original portrait, both political and personal, set against the backdrop of a kingdom undergoing turbulent change.

Sebastiano Angelo Granata

teaches Contemporary History at the University of Catania. His research focuses on Southern Italy from the 18th to the 21st century.





Mariella Zoppi

The Garden Lady

Gertrude Jekyll
and the Freedom of Nature

pp. 144
New release

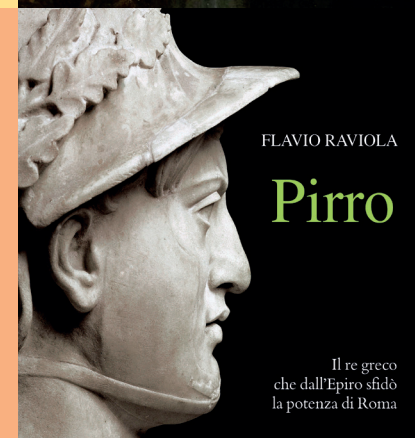
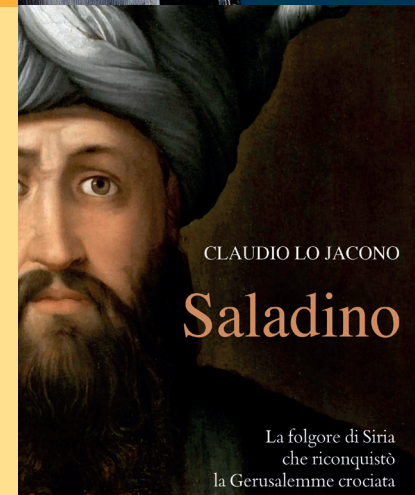
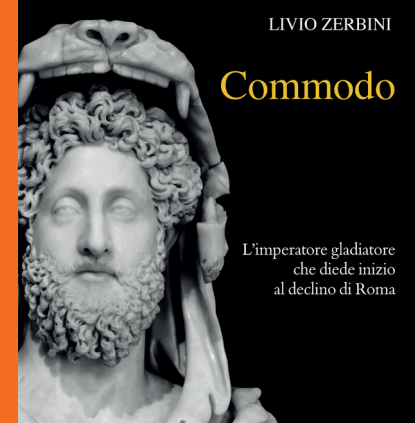
At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Gertrude Jekyll was the first woman to take a professional interest in the world of gardens. With more than 400 creations to her name, she became a reference point for an entire generation and successfully turned her personal interests into an independent and profitable profession, so much so that she became an icon of emancipation in an area dominated by men. Thanks to her, the figure of the female gardener spread throughout England and drew attention to well-educated women featuring strong artistic training, specialised botanical skills, and practical knowledge developed through ceaseless effort in the field.

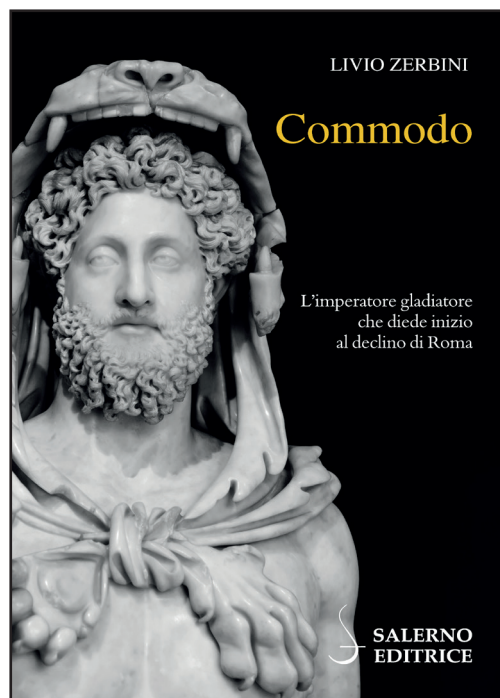
Mariella Zoppi

is an architect and a professor emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florence. She has developed urban plans, parks, and gardens in Italy and abroad, and taught at the University of California, Berkeley and Zhejiang Normal University.



RECENT BLACKLIST





Livio Zerbini

Commodus

The Gladiator Emperor
Who Ushered In the Fall
of Rome

pp. 280

As with Caligula and Nero, ancient history studies have expressed a distinctly negative judgement about Emperor Commodus, portraying him as a young man who was not only inexperienced but also inept and utterly oblivious to the great responsibilities attached to his role. He preferred luxury, the vices of an immoderate life, and an unbridled passion for gladiatorial games. Still too young when he became emperor in 177 CE, Commodus certainly did not possess the *auctoritas* of his father, Marcus Aurelius, nor the political leadership qualities of other emperors of the Antonine dynasty. Yet he was not as weak of character and indolent as ancient authors tend to portray him. In any case, the end of his rule marked the beginning of the decline of the Roman Empire, plunged into a crisis that would become increasingly irreversible in the decades to come.

Livio Zerbini

teaches Ancient Roman History at the University of Ferrara, where he heads the Laboratory for the Study of the Ancient Danubian Provinces (LAD). He also heads the Italian Archaeological Missions in Georgia and Romania.



Maria Nadia Covini

Ludovico Maria Sforza

"Il Moro"'s rise to power and
Milan court's splendour at
the end of the 15th century

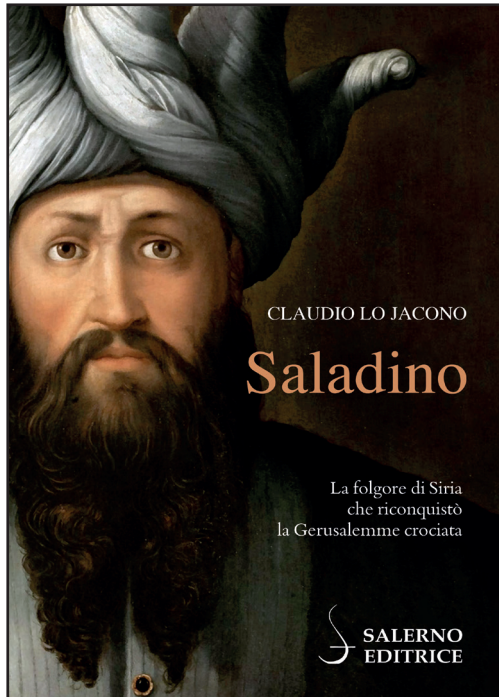
pp. 300

Ludovico Maria Sforza (1452-1508), also known as "il Moro", was a leading figure in the politics and culture of his time. Sforza's rise to power, his personality and projects in the fields of culture and art lay at the heart of the Milan court's splendour at the end of the 15th century. Initially a marginal family member seemingly destined to play, at best, a minor political role, he became the seventh Duke of Milan thanks to a skilful, patient and sometimes ruthless strategy, overcoming pitfalls, obstacles, and a host of adversaries and enemies. Among those who tried to thwart his ambitions, the most successful was Louis of Orléans, who in 1495 opposed Sforza in Lombardy and, in 1500, having become King of France, defeated him and threw him into a prison near Tours, where Sforza remained until the end of his days.

Maria Nadia Covini

teaches Medieval History at the University of Milan.





Claudio Lo Jacono

Saladin

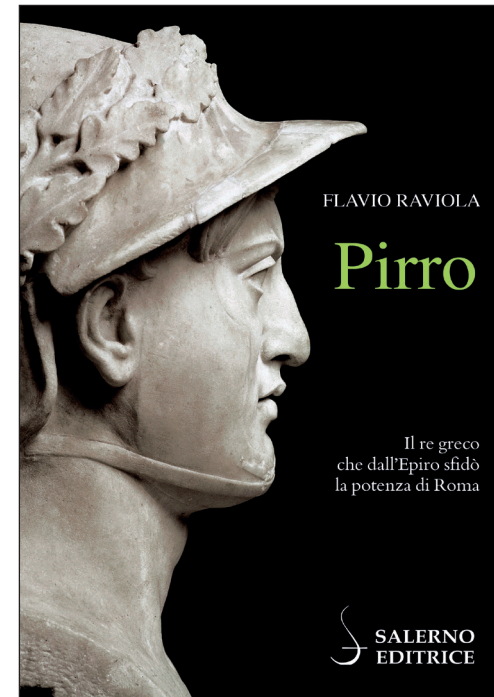
The Syrian Thunderbolt Who Reconquered Jerusalem from the Crusaders

pp. 252

The Kurdish Sultan Salah ad-Din Yusuf – better known in the West as “Saladin” – is the main protagonist of the war between Crusaders and Muslims. This book provides an account of this war up to the conclusion of the Third Crusade and Saladin’s sudden death. The author explores the lengthy conflict during which Byzantines, European Christians and Seljuk Turks played important roles on the Middle Eastern scene. The after-effects of that war continue to shape world events.

Claudio Lo Jacono

teaches History of the Islamic Near East at the Orientale University in Naples and is the president of the Carlo Alfonso Nallino Istituto per l’Oriente.



Flavio Raviola

Pyrrhus

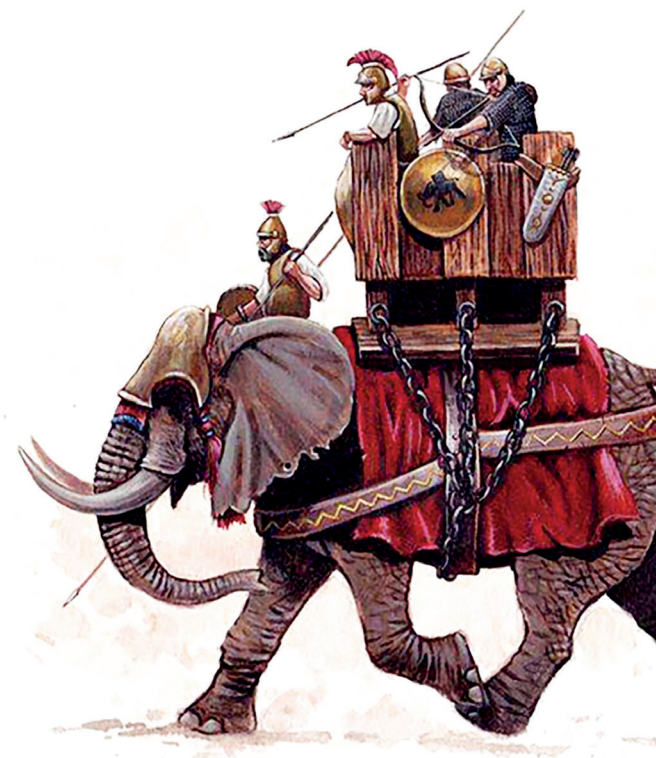
The Greek King from Epirus Who Challenged the Power of Rome

pp. 360

Pyrrhus was a belligerent Greek monarch who, relying on exceptional military prowess, conceived risky yet feasible projects: creating a personal and dynastic dominion in Sicily, establishing a protectorate over Magna Graecia, conquering the Macedonian throne, exercising hegemony over Greece. This account of his accomplishments comprises dreams, desire for power, strategic vision, delusions of royalty, and the realm of possibility. When Pyrrhus finally failed in Sicily and Greece, he barely did so.

Flavio Raviola

teaches Ancient Greek History, Economics and Society of the Greek World, and History of Greek Historiography at the University of Padova.





Tommaso
di Carpegna Falconieri

Cola di Rienzo

The people's Tribune who tried
to restore Rome to its ancient
splendour

pp. 316

Cola di Rienzo (1313-1354) was the most famous Roman citizen of the Middle Ages. He was in contact with the pope, the emperor, and Francis Petrarch. He placed himself at the head of the Roman people, taking on the title of "Tribune Augustus", with the aim to restore the city to its ancient splendour. The author reconstructs the life of this ambitious, contradictory, mysterious and elusive man, from his first appearance in the complex political world of the time to the violent popular uprising during which he met his tragic end. The last chapter provides an overview of Cola di Rienzo's myth over the ensuing centuries.

**Tommaso
di Carpegna Falconieri**

teaches Medieval History at the University of Urbino and is the president of the Società Romana di Storia Patria.

Previous edition: French rights sold



Tommaso Braccini

Trebisond

The Enchanted Empire
between History and Legend

pp. 200

'Of all medieval titles, none is more magical than that of Emperor of Trebizond'. This is how Sir Steven Runciman, the great Byzantinist, summed up the thousand-year fascination of the last Greek empire, which was formed in 1204 and fell in 1461. In two and a half centuries it became an international crossroads, fabulously wealthy, the centre of trade, ambassadorships, intrigues, magic. The book traces the history and legend of a tiny empire in reality, but a super-power in the medieval and modern imagination.

Tommaso Braccini

teaches Classical Philology at the University of Siena.

Greek rights sold





Guido Samarani

Mao Zedong

The Great Helmsman
who led China
from revolution
to socialism

pp. 300



President, Great Helmsman, father of Chinese Communism and revolutionary and socialist China, ruthless and tyrannical leader: like every great protagonist in history, Mao Zedong has been the victim of different and antithetical judgments. The book reconstructs his political and personal path, exploiting the vast amount of documents available, in Chinese and the main western languages, and drawing on the most significant results of the historiographical debate in China and the West.

Guido Samarani

was a Professor of History and Institutions of Asia at the University Ca' Foscari in Venice and is currently a Senior Researcher there.



Marcello Verga

Maria Theresa of Austria

First woman to ascend the
Habsburg throne, protagonist
of major reforms: history and
myth of a sovereign

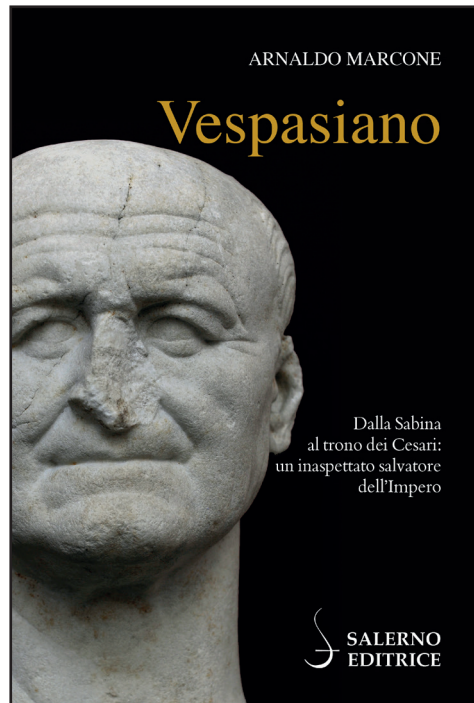
pp. 200

'There are few sovereigns whose history must be written' (Voltaire). Among them, certainly Maria Theresa. During her long reign, from 1740 to 1780, Austria, a Catholic land inhabited by Germans, Italians, Slavs and Magyars, gained a new position on the European chessboard. The empress was able to mobilise the family as a resource for the strategies of the House of Habsburg: the marriages of sons and daughters became instruments of diplomatic alliances. Her myth, from the late 19th century to the present day, tells us much about the political cultures of the countries of Central Europe.

Marcello Verga

teaches Modern History at the University of Florence and has served as the extraordinary commissioner of the Italian Historical Institute for Modern and Contemporary Age.





Arnaldo Marcone

Vespasian

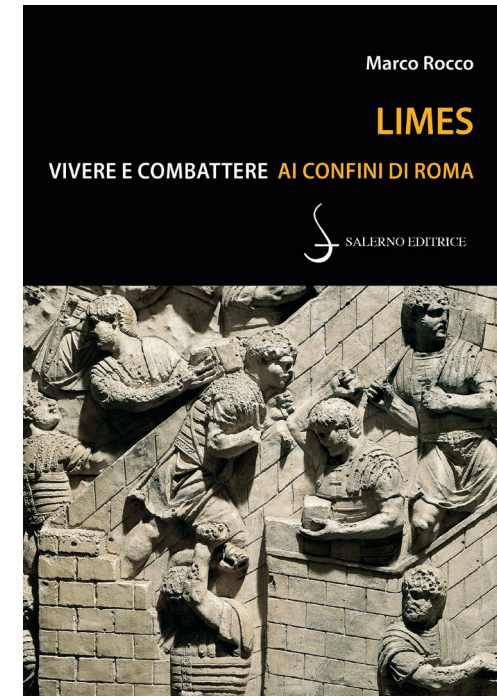
From Sabina to the throne
of the Caesars: an unexpected
saviour of the Empire

pp. 340

Born in a village in the Upper Sabina to a family outside of Roman political life, Vespasian was an unexpected emperor. He managed to take advantage of the military skills that he demonstrated in the Judean War and with a careful strategy he secured consensus in the army and in politics. He countered the excesses of the Julio-Claudians with his modesty, the key to the success of his principality. Between the pages of this book we relive the stages of his rise and the determination with which he developed his dynastic project.

Arnaldo Marcone

teaches Roman History at Roma Tre University.



Marco Rocco

Limes

Living and Fighting
at Rome's Borders

pp. 256

We cultivate a specific image of the Roman *limes*: uninterrupted lines of palisades, walls, forts, and turrets, guarded night and day by thousands of soldiers. But was the dominion exercised by ancient Rome demarcated, always and everywhere, by well-defined borders? The author guides us through the history of Roman frontiers and their geopolitical framework, describes the soldiers who defended them over the centuries, explores the tools they used and the great works they erected, and focuses on the activities and tales that shaped cultures and hybrid identities on the extreme borders of Rome.

Marco Rocco

conducts teaching and research activities at
the University of Padova.



A major medieval metropolis, Florence was earlier an important Roman city. Its ancient monuments were key elements for an elaborate foundation legend involving the mythical figure of General Fiorino, who reportedly established the first settlement on the banks of the Arno. The memory of the early medieval city developed around tales and liturgies of the city's bishops and saints, intertwined with the figures of Roman antiquity and the ancient monuments to which they sought to give a fresh meaning. Later, in the age of Dante and Giovanni Villani, up to the advent of Humanism, Florentine writers applied their creativity to the city's foundation and re-foundation myths, combining modernised legends, inventive interpretations, and veritable fictions.

Lorenzo Tanzini teaches Medieval History at the University of Cagliari.

Lorenzo Tanzini

Florence Before It Became Florence

Myths and Early Origins
of the City on the Arno River



pp. 200



pp. 232

Giorgio Ravegnani

Ravenna Before It Became Ravenna

Myths and Early Origins
of a Roman and Byzantine Capital

The history of Ravenna straddles the dividing line between West and East. It became the capital of the Roman West in 402 CE when, under threat of Visigothic invasions, Emperor Honorius and his court moved there from Milan. Ravenna remained the capital in the final years of the Roman Empire and fostered remarkable artistic developments. It maintained a prominent role even during the barbarian dominations and was then conquered by the Byzantines in 539 CE, during the Gothic War. Under Byzantine rule, it was then the seat of the exarchs, the governors of imperial Italy, who ruled until 751 CE. This book draws attention to the city's twofold cultural spirit.

Giorgio Ravegnani formerly taught Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice. He has written several publications about the Byzantine civilization.



pp. 252

Gianluca De Sanctis

Rome Before It Became Rome

Myths and Early Origins
of the Eternal City

A sanctuary and refuge for outcasts, Rome was a diverse city, the growth of which owes much to its welcoming attitude towards foreigners and losers of wars, as well as its granting freedom to slaves. Viewed through memories and foundation myths, this was how the city appeared in its early days. Indeed, many "Romes" preceded the city founded by Romulus, yet there is one feature they all shared: an "open" constitution, reflecting the city's ability to embrace and integrate foreigners. Origin stories suggest that Roman identity was earned by displaying social virtues, respecting the law, and observing rules: a person could be born a Roman, but an individual could also become one.

Gianluca De Sanctis teaches Roman History at the University of Tuscia, based in Viterbo.

According to the myth, Naples arose where a siren let herself die. The city preserves in its name the mystery of a double foundation: Neapolis is, in fact, the "new" city that succeeded Parthenope, an older settlement of Cumae origin. This book focuses on the urban and architectural transformations that affected the city's original core, thus revising its history up to the Roman age and highlighting the Greek legacy that one can still experience in the city's layout.

Emanuele Greco teaches Classical Archaeology at the Orientale University in Naples.

Daniela Giampaola is the author of many publications about archaeology in Naples.

Emanuele Greco & Daniela Giampaola

Naples Before It Became Naples

Myths and Early Origins
of the City of Parthenope



pp. 208

Reality and myth are conflated in medieval historians' accounts of Venice's origins. The only truly certain thing is that the city was born Byzantine and remained so for several centuries. Already in the 10th century, Venetians had fostered the legend that their city was founded in "a deserted, uninhabited and swampy place" at the time of Attila's invasion. In reality, it is not true that Venetians had settled in a desolate territory; the city was already inhabited in ancient Roman times. The archipelago then gradually became one of the most significant powers in the Mediterranean.

Giorgio Ravegnani formerly taught Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice.

Giorgio Ravegnani
**Venice Before It
 Became Venice**
 Myths and Early Origins
 of the Lagoon City



pp. 160

BEST-
SELLERS

FROM THE
BACKLIST

Luciano Canfora

LA CONVERSIONE

COME GIUSEPPE FLAVIO
FU CRISTIANIZZATO



SALERNO

LUIGI MASCILLI MIGLIORINI



Il Sultano e lo Zar
DUE IMPERI A CONFRONTO



ALESSANDRO BARBERO

COSTANTINO
IL VINCITORE



In 1484, the papal bull *Summis desiderantes* was issued: witches were accused of being determined to attack Christianity and the so-called “witch hunt” begun. However, what really were witchcraft and the resulting witch hunt? Was it an offensive against the folkloric universe and popular superstitions, or a reaction of society to diversity? Through a careful analysis of the sources, a general picture of this “hunting” emerges: not only as a constitutive element of modernity, but also as a response to needs re-emerging in society in different eras; above all, in times when we like to think that reason and law have the upper hand – including the contemporary era.

Marina Montesano teaches Medieval History at the University of Messina and is the author of «Classical Culture and Witchcraft in Medieval and Renaissance Italy» (Palgrave, 2018).

Marina Montesano Witch Hunt



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Luciano Canfora Conversion How Flavius Josephus was Christianised

‘Of the Good Use of Betrayal’ is the title of a famous book by Pierre Vidal-Naquet on the figure and overflowing work of the military commander, priest, historian Flavius Josephus (born in 37 A.D. and lived the reign of Trajan). Overflowing and it has come down to us intact. How did the extraordinary salvation, a unique case in all Greek-language historiography of the four centuries between Polybius and Cassius Dion, take place? Who took charge of the work and why?

Luciano Canfora is an Italian classical philologist, hellenist, historian and essayist. In 2020 he won the scientific historical section of the 53rd edition of the Acqui Storia Prize.

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pp. 646

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini Napoleon ‘Death is nothing but to live defeated and without glory is to die every day’

A contribution to the knowledge of one of the most exciting figures in history. The presentation, made compelling by reference to anecdotal details and authoritative literary sources, rather than celebrating the politician or the man of arms, tells the story of the man, “spectator and actor” of his own existence within the historical framework in which he lived.

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini is an Italian historian, an expert in the Napoleonic period.

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and French rights sold*

At the beginning of the Early Modern Age, the Ottoman Empire overlooked the Mediterranean with the ambition to dominate over Asia and Europe. The ‘second Rome’, Istanbul, spread over two continents, embodies the universal dream of the Caesars that the sultans inherited by right of conquest. But from the cold plains crossed by the great rivers, between the Baltic and the Black Sea, the voice of a ‘third Rome’ arose: Moscow. And with it, of a new power capable of looming over East and West: the Empire of the Tsars.

Franco Cardini is an Italian historian specialised in the study of the Middle Ages.

Franco Cardini The Sultan and the Tsar Two Empires in Comparison



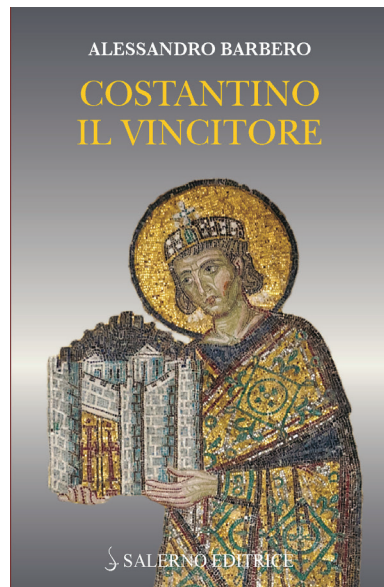
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Constantine is the first Christian emperor. He is the sovereign who converted before the battle of Ponte Milvio, after having seen in heaven the cross with the inscription *In hoc signo vinces*, and who put an end to persecutions granting freedom of worship to Christians. But what do we really know about him? In the past historiography distrusted Constantine, but since the last post-war period there has been a climate of admiration and deference towards the protagonist of what many consider the greatest historical turning point ever.

Alessandro Barbero is an Italian historian, novelist, and essayist. In 2005, the Republic of France awarded Barbero with the title of Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Alessandro Barbero

Constantine the Winner



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Founded in 1972, Salerno editrice is essentially aimed at an audience of students, scholars and readers of non-fiction, especially historical non-fiction.

Starting from July 2023, the publishing company was acquired by Carocci editore, with the aim of enhancing its production and strengthening its position in the high-profile non-fiction market.

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