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Realism and Nationalism 1852-1871 - Robert C. Binkley - 1935

A fascinating history of nationalistic policies in Europe in the mid-nineteenth century. Both Germany, France and Italy experienced huge nationalistic political reforms and they helped create the modern Europe we know today.

Realism and Nationalism, 1852-1871, Etc. [With Plates.]. - Robert Cedric BINKLEY - 1935
Konsumgeschichte - oder vergleichende und beziehungsgeschichtliche Fragen in den letzten Jahren erheblich an Bedeutung gewonnen haben - wie die historische Nationalismusforschung, die Arbeitergeschichte, die Geschichte der Zivilgesellschaft oder die Geschichte kollektiver Erinnerungen. Schließlich werden Ansätze wie die Kulturgeschichte oder die Mikrogeschichte, die sich gegen internationalisierende Zugriffe zu sperren scheinen, in ihrer transnationalen Dimension diskutiert.

**Transnationale Geschichte** - Gunilla Budde (Historikerin) - 2006

**English summary:** This volume discusses and compares alternative approaches of a trans-national historiography from comparative history to histories of Europe, post-colonial studies, and global history. German description: Die Internationalisierung der Geschichtswissenschaft schreitet voran. Zunehmend orientiert sie sich an transnationalen Fragestellungen und globalen Zusammenhängen. Dieser Band zieht eine Zwischenbilanz der aktuellen Entwicklung. Vom historischen Vergleich über die europäische Geschichte und die Postcolonial Studies bis zu globalgeschichtlichen Perspektiven stellen die Autoren die wichtigsten Konzepte einer transnationalen Historiographie vor. Daneben werden Felder der Geschichtswissenschaft behandelt, in denen transnationale Perspektiven eine lange Tradition haben - wie die judische Geschichte, die Intellectual History, die Geschichte multinationaler Unternehmen und die Konsumgeschichte - oder vergleichende und beziehungsgeschichtliche Fragen in den letzten Jahren erheblich an Bedeutung gewonnen haben - wie die historische Nationalismusforschung, die Arbeitergeschichte, die Geschichte der Zivilgesellschaft oder die Geschichte kollektiver Erinnerungen. Schließlich werden Ansätze wie die Kulturgeschichte oder die Mikrogeschichte, die sich gegen internationalisierende Zugriffe zu sperren scheinen, in ihrer transnationalen Dimension diskutiert.

**The Longman Companion to European Nationalism 1789-1920** - Raymond Pearson - 2014-09-25

A highly topical analysis of European Nationalism from the French Revolution through to the aftermath of the First World War, when the nationalist issues and problems that dominate the political landscape of our own time were already fully established. Covering an enormous range of peoples -- from the Icelanders to the Gypsies, from Brittany to Wallachia -- the book presents a wealth of historical geopolitical information unavailable elsewhere. Essential as a reference work, it also provides a unique opportunity to survey systematically a crucial but fragmented subject in its full European context. For historians, political scientists, departments of European studies, and general readers.

**Taking Stock - Twenty-Five Years of Comparative Literary Research** - 2019-10-29

This commemorative volume offers a retrospective of the discipline as mirrored in the series Internationale Forschungen zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Literaturwissenschaft since its founding in 1993. Leading scholars examine issues of world literature, the history of ideas, gender studies, aesthetics and literary translation.

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The Catholics and German Unity, 1866-1871 - George G. Windell - 1954-01-01

The Catholics and German Unity was first published in 1954. Minnesota Archive Editions uses digital technology to make long-unavailable books once again accessible, and are published unaltered from the original University of Minnesota Press editions. The period of German history between the overthrow of the old German Confederation in 1866 and the establishment of the Second Reich in 1871 was critical and far-reaching in its influence upon subsequent events in Germany and in Europe. It is, therefore, a period that still merits close scrutiny and analysis in all its aspects by historians. In this detailed study, Professor Windell traces the development of political movements among German Catholics during those years and explores the relationship of the various streams of Catholic political action to the larger questions of German history. The War of 1866, which ended Austrian predominance in Germany, was a shattering blow to German Catholics. During the next five years they gradually adjusted to the new situations and were responsible for a series of political movements which exerted a powerful and generally underestimated effects on state governments, on other political parties, and on the domestic and foreign policy of Bismarck. Although a substantial amount of material was available on Catholic political activity in the individual German states, it had not, until now, been synthesized into a comprehensive, single work placing these events in proper perspective against the broader canvas of history. Of this book Hans Rothfels, professor of history at the University of Chicago and the University of Tubingen, Germany, says: "Without being partial to any side, in fact with considerable circumspection, the author analyzes and interprets a great nineteenth century dilemma to which the foundation of the German Reich adds only a specific issue."

Citizenship and the Nation-state in Greece and Turkey - Faruk Birtek - 2005

Of all the successor states of the Ottoman Empire, Greece and Turkey have moved the farthest in the direction of coping with the challenges relating to the transition to modernity. The goal of the series Social and Historical Studies on Greece and Turkey is to serve as a forum for discourse and dialogue between Greek and Turkish social scientists and historians, contributing to the ongoing theoretical debates in the international social science community, concerning the economic, cultural, political, and social aspects of modernity. Citizenship and the Nation State in Greece and Turkey brings together papers on a transdisciplinary dialogue on nation formation in Greece and Turkey as successor states of the Ottoman Empire, and on aspects of civil society in the two countries. The volume is divided into two parts: Empire and Nation-State and Nation and Civil Society and
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the Ottoman Empire, civil society in Greece during the post-World War II
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The Upanishads - Swami Nikhilananda - 1964
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Shifting Grounds - Paul Quigley - 2014
Between 1848 and 1865 white southerners felt the grounds of nationhood
shift beneath their feet. The conflict over slavery that led to the Civil War
forced them to confront the difficult problems of nationalism. What made a
nation a nation? Could an individual or a group change nationality at will?
What were the rights and responsibilities of national citizenship? Why
southerners drew on their long experience as Americans and their
knowledge of nationalism in the wider world. This was true of not just the
radical secessionists who shattered the Union in 1861, but also of the
moderate majority who struggled to balance their southern and American
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Southerners also looked across the Atlantic, comparing southern separatism with movements in Hungary and Ireland, and applying the European model of romantic nationalism first to the United States and later to the Confederacy. In the turmoil of war, the Confederacy's national government imposed new, stringent obligations of citizenship, while the shared experience of suffering united many Confederates in a sacred national community of sacrifice. For Unionists, die-hard Confederates, and the large majority torn between the two, nationalism became an increasingly pressing problem. In Shifting Grounds Paul Quigley brilliantly reinterprets southern conceptions of allegiance, identity, and citizenship within the contexts of antebellum American national identity and the transatlantic "Age of Nationalism," shedding new light on the ideas and motivations behind America’s greatest conflict.

**Orthodoxy, Modernity, and Authenticity** - Heather Bailey - 2020-10-21

Ernest Renan was one of the most renowned European intellectuals of the second half of the nineteenth century. Yet, the impact of his most popular work, Life of Jesus, has been underestimated when not altogether ignored. While commonplace now, the idea that Jesus was merely human was at one time a novelty, with significant socio-political, cultural, and religious implications. A case study in the Russian encounter with modernity, Orthodoxy, Modernity, and Authenticity: The Reception of Ernest Renan’s “Life of Jesus” in Russia demonstrates that Renan’s book has had long-lasting and broad appeal in Russia because it presents an alternative to a strictly materialist worldview on the one hand, and an Orthodox worldview on the other. Renan offered his readers the possibility to accept the tenets of modernity while still retaining both an admiration for the importance of religion in history and a sense of religious feeling or even belief in a higher religious ideal. Assessments of Renan’s alternative belief system, whether positive, negative, or mixed, were often simultaneously evaluations of the moral, socio-political, and spiritual condition of European society in general and Russian society in particular. The interpretive history of Renan’s Life of Jesus in Russia reveals a persistent disillusionment with a strictly materialist interpretation of history and of life.

**Catholic and German Unity, Eighteen Sixty-Six to Eighteen Seventy-One** - George G. Windell - 1954

**Decentralization and Self-Government in Russia, 1830-1870** - Frederick S. Starr - 2015-03-08

The turbulent period of renewal and innovation that followed Russia's crushing defeat in the Crimea has been interpreted, historically, in terms of the emancipation of the serfs and the evolution of the gentry class. But, contends Frederick Starr, such an approach underestimates the breadth and intensity of the impulse for local reforms per se. After tracing the ideological sources of the reform, Mr. Starr examines in detail the legislative process by which administrative decentralization and public self-government were instituted. Originally published in 1972. The Princeton
Realpolitik is approaching its 160th birthday, though it has existed as a form of statecraft for centuries and is arguably as old as the conduct of foreign affairs itself. Associated with great thinkers from Machiavelli to Kissinger, it is deeply rooted in the history of diplomacy yet also remains strikingly relevant to debates on contemporary foreign policy in the Obama administration today. Despite the fact that Realpolitik has had something of a renaissance in recent years, however, it remains a surprisingly elusive notion, defying easy categorization. In this concise book, John Bew aims to address this gap, offering a history of the concept of Realpolitik in the statecraft in the recent past; and its relevance to the foreign policy challenges facing the United States and its allies in the future. Now most often associated with the conduct of foreign policy, Realpolitik has traditionally had pejorative connotations in the English-speaking world and sits uneasily alongside notions of "enlightenment," "morality" and "virtue." But it has also had its defenders, admirers and exponents, who regard it as the best tool for the successful wielding of political power and the preservation of global order. As such, Realpolitik has both successes and failures to its name, as Bew's comprehensive and even-handed overview displays. Bew begins by charting the evolution of the idea through the work of important thinkers or statesmen from Machiavelli, Cardinal de Richelieu, and Thomas Hobbes up through Carl Schmitt, Kissinger, and Dennis Ross. He then examines how Realpolitik has been evoked and operationalized in US and UK foreign policy during specific episodes in the twentieth century, looking at such cases as the overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh in 1953, and President Nixon's visit to the People's Republic of China in 1972 - often taken as the archetypal instance of Realpolitik in action. Bew then uses this historical platform to look forward to emerging foreign policy challenges in a changing, multi-polar, geopolitical scene - in which Realpolitik and agile statecraft seems as important as ever. Suggesting that there is a uniquely Anglo-American version of Realpolitik, which reflects an attempt (not always a successful one) to reconcile Western ideological and moral norms with purely utilitarian conceptions of the national interest, Bew argues that a more accurate and sustainable version of Anglo-American Realpolitik is one that recognizes the draw Enlightenment values and ideas. Directed at a broader audience of current policy-makers, legislators and commentators with an interest in foreign affairs, this is a brilliant introduction to an important topic from one of the field's rising stars.
In Simon Dubnow's 'New Judaism', Seltzer traces a shtetl youth's rejection of traditional Judaism and the impact of European intellectual currents on the most eminent East European Jewish historian of his time (1860-1941) and exponent of Jewish cultural nationalism.

Simon Dubnow's "New Judaism" - Robert Seltzer - 2013-12-05
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The Industrial Revolution - James Wolfe - 2015-07-15
The Industrial Revolution has had the most far-reaching and transformative effects of any era in the planet's history. After detailing life and technology in Europe prior to the revolution, this volume presents the changes that led to the revolution, important inventions and innovations, societal and economic consequences, and the Second Industrial Revolution in the United States. Readers will learn how inventions we take for granted today, such as the telephone, steam engine, and railroad, transformed our world and started us on the path to globalization.

Italian Foreign Policy - Federico Chabod - 2014-07-14
Federico Chabod (1901-1960) was one of Italy's best-known historians, noted for his study of Italian history in a European context. This is the first English translation of his most important book. Although he carried out his
extensive archival research for this work from 1936 until 1943, the fall of
fascism and Chabod’s active participation in the Resistance delayed its
completion. When it was published in 1951, it was immediately hailed as a
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The Modern Schism - Martin E. Marty - 2012-09-01
The reality of the secular has come to obsess modern religious thinkers,
notes Martin E. Marty. This volume analyzes from the first time the complex
story of THE MODERN SCHISM, an episode in the cultural and spiritual
history of the West which has had fateful consequences for contemporary
society. Dr. Marty argues that during the previous century, there occurred a
cluster of events more devastating to--and potentially more hopeful for--
Christianity than anything that happened during such similar periods as the
Renaissance and the Enlightenment. He traces three different types of
secularization which together make up the "modern schism," shows how
they have developed in the West, and where they are leading man today. By
contrasting the ways in which the old Christian order was attacked in
Europe, ignored in England, and transformed in America, the author points
to present alternatives to that order and what they mean for society.

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Structuring the State - Daniel Ziblatt - 2008-01-21
Germany's and Italy's belated national unifications continue to loom large in contemporary debates. Often regarded as Europe's paradigmatic instances of failed modernization, the two countries form the basis of many of our most prized theories of social science. Structuring the State undertakes one of the first systematic comparisons of the two cases, putting the origins of these nation-states and the nature of European political development in new light. Daniel Ziblatt begins his analysis with a striking puzzle: Upon national unification, why was Germany formed as a federal nation-state and Italy as a unitary nation-state? He traces the diplomatic maneuverings and high political drama of national unification in nineteenth-century Germany and Italy to refute the widely accepted notion that the two states' structure stemmed exclusively from Machiavellian farsightedness on the part of militarily powerful political leaders. Instead, he demonstrates that Germany's and Italy's "founding fathers" were constrained by two very different pre-unification patterns of institutional development. In Germany, a legacy of well-developed sub-national institutions provided the key building blocks of federalism. In Italy, these institutions' absence doomed federalism. This crucial difference in the organization of local power still shapes debates about federalism in Italy and Germany today. By exposing the source of this enduring contrast, Structuring the State offers a broader theory of federalism's origins that will interest scholars and students of comparative politics, state-building, international relations, and European political history.

The Birth of a New Europe - Theodore S. Hamerow - 2016-08-01
Between the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars and the outbreak of the First World War, Europe underwent a transformation unparalleled in its history. No comparable degree of change had occurred on the Continent since the New Stone Age. Theodore Hamerow examines the innovations that challenged nineteenth-century Europe, using a perspective that transcends events that occurred within national boundaries. He brings together political, social, diplomatic, and national developments to demonstrate how they relate to the profound transformations brought about by the industrial revolution. Using a wealth of statistics and other documentation to buttress insightful generalizations, Hamerow broadly appraises the implications of the shift in Europe from an agricultural to an industrial society. Among the subjects he considers are the rise of the middle and working classes, the spread of literacy and the enfranchisement of the masses, the growth of urban centers of manufacture and trade, the acquisition of colonies, the spread of military technologies, and the changes in the functions of governments.

realism-and-nationalism-1852-1871
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**Nation, State, and Territory** - George W. White - 2007
Globalization seems to be making nation-states increasingly irrelevant, yet their number has continued to grow in recent years. New nation-states emerged out of the ruins of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia; more still may come as Palestinians, Kurds, Chechens, and other peoples struggle tenaciously to establish their own. Nation, State, and Territory shows that national identities are as potent as ever. Today many conflicts rage over places and territories of historical, linguistic, and religious significance. Many analyses, however, only consider the economic and geostrategic value of territory. George W. White shows that national identity is intimately bound to specific places and territories. "Nation," "state," and "territory" are mutually defining and reinforcing phenomena, and through careful analysis White examines their origins, evolutions, and relationships to provide a better understanding of the interactions and conflicts of the world's nation-states.

**Political Economy from Below** - Rob Knowles - 2017-07-05
Communitarian anarchism is a generic form of socialism that denies the need for a state or any other authority over the individual from above, and which requires absolute belief that the individual cannot exist outside of a community of others. This book suggests that the communitarian anarchists of the nineteenth century developed and articulated a distinct tradition of economic thought. The period of this study begins with the first major writing of the French communitarian anarchist, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, in 1840 and ends with the temporary burial of anarchist theorizing at the beginning of the First World War in 1914. However, the tradition of communitarian anarchist economic thought did not end in 1914. The economic thought explored in this book provides a fresh perception of the fragmentation evident in many societies today, especially where there is a substantial "informal economy."

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**Bourgeois Liberty and the Politics of Fear** - Marc Mulholland -
2012-10-04
An examination of state-building, class conflicts, revolutions, and fear of
revolutions from the English Civil War of the 1640s to the invasion of Iraq in
2003, and the Great Recession from 2003. Sheds new light on key topics
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**History of the Church: The Church in the age of liberalism** - Hubert
Jedin - 1981

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**History of the Church: The Church between revolution and
restoration** - Hubert Jedin - 1980

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**Revolution, Romanticism, and the Afro-Creole Protest Tradition in
Louisiana, 1718--1868** - Caryn Cossé Bell - 1997-02
With the Federal occupation of New Orleans in 1862, Afro-Creole leaders in
that city, along with their white allies, seized upon the ideals of the
American and French Revolutions and images of revolutionary events in the
French Caribbean and demanded Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité. Their
republican idealism produced the postwar South's most progressive vision
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**From Peoples into Nations** - John Connelly - 2020-01-21
A sweeping narrative history of Eastern Europe from the late eighteenth
century to today In the 1780s, the Habsburg monarch Joseph II decreed that
henceforth German would be the language of his realm. His intention was to
forge a unified state from his vast and disparate possessions, but his action
had the opposite effect, catalyzing the emergence of competing
nationalisms among his Hungarian, Czech, and other subjects, who feared
that their languages and cultures would be lost. In this sweeping narrative
history of Eastern Europe since the late eighteenth century, John Connelly
connects the stories of the region's diverse peoples, telling how, at a
profound level, they have a shared understanding of the past. An ancient
history of invasion and migration made the region into a cultural landscape
of extraordinary variety, a patchwork in which Slovaks, Bosnians, and
countless others live shoulder to shoulder and where calls for national
autonomy often have had bloody effects among the interwoven ethnicities.
Connelly traces the rise of nationalism in Polish, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman lands; the creation of new states after the First World War and their later absorption by the Nazi Reich and the Soviet Bloc; the reemergence of democracy and separatist movements after the collapse of communism; and the recent surge of populist politics throughout the region. Because of this common experience of upheaval, East Europeans are people with an acute feeling for the precariousness of history: they know that nations are not eternal, but come and go; sometimes they disappear. From Peoples into Nations tells their story.

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Eastern Europe - David Turnock - 2002-11

Europe Unbound - Jan Zielonka - 2003-09-02
Europe Unbound provides an analysis of the enlargement of the European Union and examines from both a theoretical and a political approach issues such as: * Where does Europe end? * Should Europe's borders be open or closed? * How does the evolution of territorial politics impact on the course of European integration? This book draws upon such diverse fields as History, Sociology, Political Science and International Relations and contains contributions from an international range of respected academics.

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Fictions of State - Patrick Brantlinger - 2019-06-30
In this ambitious book, Patrick Brantlinger offers a cultural history of Great Britain focused on the concept of “public credit,” from the 1694 founding of the Bank of England to the present. He draws on literary texts ranging from Augustan satire such as Gulliver's Travels to postmodern satire such as Martin Amis's Money: A Suicide Note. All critique the misrecognition of public credit as wealth. The economic foundations of modern nation-states involved national debt, public credit, and paper money. Brantlinger traces the emergence of modern, imperial Great Britain from those foundations. He analyzes the process whereby nationalism, both the cause and the result of wars and imperial expansion, multiplied national debt and produced crises of public credit resolved only through more nationalism and war. During the first half of the eighteenth century, conservatives attacked public credit as fetishistic and characterized national debt as alchemical. From the 1850s, the stabilizing theories of public credit authored by David
Hume, Adam Smith, Henry Thornton, and others, helped initiate the first "social science" economics. In the nineteenth century, literary criticism both paralleled and questioned early capitalist discourse on public credit and nationalism, while the Victorian novel refigured debt as the individual, private credit and debt. During the era of high modernism and Keynesian economics, the notion of high culture as genuine value recast the debate over money and national indebtedness. Brantlinger relates this cultural-historical trajectory to Marxist, poststructuralist, and postcolonial theories about the decline of the European empires after World War II, the global debt crisis, and the weakening of western nation-states in the postmodern era.

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**Conservative Political Parties and the Birth of Modern Democracy in Europe** - Daniel Ziblatt - 2017-04-17
A bold re-interpretation of democracy's historical rise in Europe, Ziblatt highlights the surprising role of conservative political parties with sweeping implications for democracy today.

How could Victorian capitalist values be harmonized with Christian beliefs and concepts of public morality and social duty? This book explores ideas about citizenship and public virtue and how public morality was reconciled with the market.

**World Civilization** - Robin W. Winks - 1993-05
Robin W. Winks placed particular emphasis on those developments that most directly explain the nature of the modern world: social diffusion, group and national consciousness, technological change, religious identities—those aspects of intellectual history that have contributed most to our current dilemmas. In turn this means that there is more in World Civilization: A Brief History about nationalism, imperialism, or ethnic identities than there
is also placed on the period from the French Revolution on, for it is the and intellectual decisions made with respect to this textbook is that its proportions are not the customary ones. Particular emphasis is placed on the early origins of civilizations, on Greece and Rome, and on the period of the so-called barbarian invasions, because it is by studying these periods that students may best learn how societies are formed. Particular emphasis is also placed on the period from the French Revolution on, for it is the events of the last two hundred years that have most closely shaped our present condition. This book can be read, straight through and in its entirety, as an interpretive statement about Western history written by a person who knew a good bit about non-Western history and who could thus throw into perspective the unusual, the commonplace, and the comparable in that sector of history conventionally labeled 'Western'. The text draws on over thirty-five years of discovering, in the classroom, what students themselves wish to ask about the past rather than what a body of scholars may have concluded they should wish to ask. Though this book is largely about Western civilization, it is also about world civilizations, for from the eighteenth century forward—and in many aspects of life, much earlier—the non-West has interacted with the West in such a way as to make it virtually impossible to separate one from the other when dealing at this level of generalization. As a teacher of the history of exploration and discovery, of imperialism and decolonization,

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Empire, Technology and Seapower - Howard J. Fuller - 2014-01-03
This book examines British naval diplomacy from the end of the Crimean War to the American Civil War, showing how the mid-Victorian Royal Navy suffered serious challenges during the period. Many recent works have attempted to depict the mid-Victorian Royal Navy as all-powerful, innovative, and even self-assured. In contrast, this work argues that it suffered serious challenges in the form of expanding imperial commitments, national security concerns, precarious diplomatic relations with European Powers and the United States, and technological advancements associated with the armoured warship at the height of the so-called 'Pax Britannica'. Utilising a wealth of international archival sources, this volume explores the introduction of the monitor form of ironclad during the American Civil War, which deliberately forfeited long-range power-projection for local, coastal command of the sea. It looks at the ways in which the Royal Navy responded to this new technology and uses a wealth of international primary and secondary sources to ascertain how decision-making at Whitehall affected that at Westminster. The result is a better-balanced understanding of Palmerstonian diplomacy from the end of the Crimean War to the American Civil War, the early evolution of the modern capital ship (including the
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Resurrecting a Discipline - George Liska - 1999
Resurrecting a Discipline completes a trilogy in which George Liska, renowned scholar of international relations, encapsulates a lifetime of inquiry into past and present world politics. This final book examines the future of politics in general and of the discipline of international relations in particular, seeking a theory that combines the two. The author takes as his starting point former Secretary of State Dean Acheson's call for a 'usable theory' of international politics, integrating selections from his own many books on politics, world history, and international relations with analysis of the present and speculation on the future state of scholarship. Scholars of international relations, world politics, and political history will find this book a valuable addition to their collections.

War and Social Change in Modern Europe - Sandra Halperin - 2004
This book focuses on the interrelationship of social forces, industrial expansion, and conflict in Europe between 1789 and 1945.

Beyond Equality - David Montgomery - 1967
For anyone who believes that there was no important labor movement before Roosevelt, or before Gompers, or before the Knights of Labor, this well-documented work should prove a shocker. And for those who look to the past for enlightenment to guide us through our troubled tomorrows, this book is a reservoir of historic information and insights."
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**Transformations of Electricity in Nineteenth-Century Literature and
Science** - Stella Pratt-Smith - 2017-05-15

Throughout the nineteenth century, practitioners of science, writers of
fiction and journalists wrote about electricity in ways that defied
epistemological and disciplinary boundaries. Revealing electricity as a site
for intense and imaginative Victorian speculation, Stella Pratt-Smith traces
the synthesis of nineteenth-century electricity made possible by the
powerful combination of science, literature and the popular imagination.
With electricity resisting clear description, even by those such as Michael
Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell who knew it best, Pratt-Smith argues that
electricity was both metaphorically suggestive and open to imaginative
speculation. Her book engages with Victorian scientific texts, popular and
specialist periodicals and the work of leading midcentury novelists,
including Charles Dickens, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, William
Makepeace Thackeray and Wilkie Collins. Examining the work of William
Harrison Ainsworth and Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Pratt-Smith explores how
Victorian novelists attributed magical qualities to electricity, imbuing it with
both the romance of the past and the thrill of the future. She concludes with
a case study of Benjamin Lumley’s Another World, which presents an
enticing fantasy of electricity’s potential based on contemporary
developments. Ultimately, her book contends that writing and reading about
electricity appropriated and expanded its imaginative scope, transformed its
factual origins and applications and contravened the bounds of literary
genres and disciplinary constraints.