

---

*An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*

BY DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN.

Simon & Schuster, 2024, 480 pp.

The title Kearns Goodwin chose accurately suggests this is an intimate memoir but does not do justice to the book's rich blend of history and biography. Kearns Goodwin, a presidential historian, was married to the presidential speechwriter and policymaker Richard Goodwin for over 40 years. Goodwin began his career working for U.S. President John F. Kennedy. Although he went on to write the greatest of President Lyndon Johnson's civil rights and Great Society speeches and help formulate key domestic policies, his relationship with Johnson was forever undermined by the president's conviction that Goodwin was a Kennedy man at heart. Goodwin's desire to leave the White House to begin an independent phase of his career touched off a characteristically Johnsonian blend of exalted praise and vicious reprisal. By contrast, Johnson was responsible for launching Kearns Goodwin's career when he made her a key aide during her tenure as a young White House fellow at a time when he had begun to mellow. The tension between the couple's different experiences animated their marriage and was the basis of a jointly undertaken project to mine Goodwin's massive archive from the 1960s to see whether it was possible to reach some joint understanding of the time. Goodwin's death cut short the shared project, which Kearns Goodwin continued on her own. The result

is a wonderful read and a revelation of much that is new about a period in American history that was both transcendently hopeful and tragic.

## Western Europe

ANDREW MORAVCSIK

---

*Impossible City: Paris in the Twenty-First Century*

BY SIMON KUPER. PublicAffairs, 2024, 272 pp.

**K**uper, a *Financial Times* columnist, has written one of the best books about Paris by an expatriate. He passes over the stereotypical observations quickly. To thrive in Parisian society, one must dress well, speak French comfortably, defer to snooty waiters, cultivate networks without seeming to do so, and display wit and charm rather than sincerity at dinner parties. At the same time, Kuper deftly debunks the alarmist narrative that describes a city drowning in riots, terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, and anti-Semitism. Having spent the last two decades making Paris his home, he reveals a city of tolerance and nuance. His kids decode Paris's polyglot street slang and introduce him to the multiethnic world of youth soccer. His journalism allows him to unpack the cozy, secretive, and often corrupt dealings of the elites. He traces Paris's recent emergence as Europe's number one destination for foreign investment and high technology. Above all, he leaves the familiar touristy Parisian core, with its two million residents, and explores the diverse suburbs

that house the other ten million Parisians. Thanks to muscular government efforts to provide affordable housing and amenities, he concludes, Paris is an emerging model for twenty-first-century multiethnic urban life.

---

*Germany and Nuclear Weapons  
in the Twenty-First Century:  
Atomic Zeitenwende?*

EDITED BY ULRICH KÜHN.  
Routledge, 2024, 346 pp.

Over the past 75 years, German security has depended on the extended deterrence provided by U.S. conventional and nuclear forces. In that time, Germans have intermittently debated what to do if the United States decides to withdraw its nuclear shield. The options have changed little: build a German bomb, form a multilateral (now EU) nuclear force, or equip German planes with U.S.-owned and -manufactured bombs. Thanks to the possibility of former President Donald Trump's returning to the White House, the debate is being waged with more urgency and a more hawkish tone today, not just in Germany but across Europe. Germany has already agreed to purchase F-35 planes that can carry nuclear bombs, a move taken with tremendous public support. Further steps might have significant implications for the EU, the global nonproliferation regime, German relations with Iran, Germany's use of civilian nuclear power, and much more. This volume, edited by a senior policy expert, assembles leading analysts

to debate Germany's strategic options, with particular attention to the level of leadership its fractious political parties might be willing and able to provide.

---

*Hindu Nationalism in the Indian  
Diaspora: Transnational Politics and  
British Multiculturalism*

BY EDWARD T. G. ANDERSON.  
Hurst, 2023, 504 pp.

The transnational influence of right-wing nationalist authoritarians has become a major concern in Europe and North America. One puzzle is that diaspora communities often offer strong support to such figures. Turkish communities in Germany and the Netherlands, for instance, have offered vociferous support for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. This densely researched book focuses on backing for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brand of Hindu nationalism in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Thousands of expatriates are actively involved in its promotion, whether through funding, campaign work, or public advocacy. New media powers their connection to the ideology: the Indian diaspora is digitally adept, identity is increasingly divorced from geography, and disinformation is rampant. Institutional links to business interests may also play a role. Advocacy and fundraising for Hindu nationalism outside India date at least as far back as the 1960s, predating these more recent trends. For those interested in the role of diasporas in foreign policy today, this book is a useful source.

---

*The Democratic Regression: The Political Causes of Authoritarian Populism*

BY ARMIN SCHÄFER AND MICHAEL ZÜRN. Translated by Stephen Curtis. Polity, 2024, 225 pp.

Two German political scientists search for the causes of rising authoritarian populism across advanced democracies. They set aside conventional explanations that cite growing discontent among those affected by widening economic inequality or alienated by increasing cultural diversity. Instead, they focus on the deepening conviction that parties and governments are unresponsive to public demands. The only antidote is to expand opportunities for people to meaningfully discuss and shape the policies that affect their lives. Although this view is common in the discourse of left-wing parties, it is decidedly not a talking point for most centrist politicians, who firmly believe that referendums, protest, social media, vigilantism, and other forms of direct public pressure have the effect of encouraging, not suppressing, extremism and authoritarianism. Schäfer and Zürn do not resolve this tension but open a vital scholarly debate about how greater popular engagement might be harnessed to better combat extremism.

---

*Climate Radicals: Why Our Environmental Politics Isn't Working*

BY CAMERON ABADI. Columbia Global Reports, 2024, 192 pp.

Abadi addresses an epochal issue of the times: how to maintain a domestic consensus for combating climate change.

Much of this readable book is devoted to an anecdote-filled and engaging analysis of the radical ideology and unorthodox tactics employed by fringe protesters in Germany, whom the author criticizes for lacking pragmatism. He insightfully contrasts their strategy with that pursued by the Biden administration, whose Inflation Reduction Act he hails as a politically viable and effective step. The argument for greater pragmatism would be far stronger, however, if it considered (with quantitative data) the role of moderate parties, consumers, and business—whose concern is not ideology but the costs and benefits of economic regulation. In Germany, for example, even a pragmatic Green Party with charismatic leadership failed to convince large numbers of homeowners and industry groups that climate regulations would not hurt them. This book makes a convincing case that sound climate policy requires a more rigorous analysis of the domestic politics of climate change abatement.

## Western Hemisphere

RICHARD FEINBERG

---

*American Civil Wars: A Continental History, 1850–1873*

BY ALAN TAYLOR. Norton, 2024, 560 pp.

In his spirited narrative, Taylor shows how the destinies of the three North American powers—Canada, Mexico, and the United States—became forever intertwined. In the nineteenth century, the doctrines of aristocratic hierarchy, republican