not always smooth: at the 1883 graduation of the first new rabbis from the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, guests were horrified when waiters served crab, shrimp, and frogs' legs. After 1880, the largely German American Jewish community would be overwhelmed by a great wave of Jews from central and eastern Europe. But their ideas about Judaism, including their complicated responses to Zionism, endured.

_The Point of It All: A Lifetime of Great Loves and Endeavors_
BY CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER.

Last summer, the death of Charles Krauthammer, a longtime columnist for _The Washington Post_, silenced one of the most influential voices in the world of U.S. foreign policy. After a diving accident left him partially paralyzed in 1972, Krauthammer went on to graduate from Harvard Medical School, practice psychiatry, and then enter politics, working as a speechwriter for Vice President Walter Mondale. After the end of the Cold War, Krauthammer, already known for his hawkish foreign policy views, embraced and helped define the concept of unipolarity—the idea that the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union had been replaced by a “unipolar moment,” in which the United States, for a limited time, had no serious rivals. Krauthammer went on to bitterly criticize what he saw as President Barack Obama’s retreat from U.S. responsibilities and what he deemed the fundamentally irresponsible approach of Obama’s successor, Donald Trump. In this book, Krauthammer’s son, Daniel, himself a writer, assembles some of his father’s most important columns. To read (or reread) them is to be reminded of how central the elder Krauthammer was to 30 years of American foreign policy debate.

### Western Europe

**Andrew Moravcsik**

_Pandemic 1918: Eyewitness Accounts From the Greatest Medical Holocaust in Modern History_
BY CATHARINE ARNOLD. St. Martin’s Press, 2018, 368 pp.

Patients coughed up blood riddled with parasitic bacteria, spraying it across hospital rooms. Dying bodies inflated with the air seeping out of their punctured lungs. Huge numbers of otherwise healthy young people died within hours when their powerful immune systems turned on them. Worldwide, between 50 million and 100 million people perished. Among remote populations that lacked immunity, the mortality rate often exceeded 90 percent. Cities threw the dead in mass graves—unless, as in Philadelphia, too few workers remained to bury them all. Scientists and governments were powerless to stop it. This is no horror-movie vision of Ebola or the Black Death. These are stories from the Spanish flu pandemic a century ago, which claimed five times as many victims as World War I. More scientifically rigorous accounts exist, but Arnold, a popular historian, has assembled the
most terrifying eyewitness testimony.
The lessons are obvious. A pandemic
today might well spread even more
quickly and kill even more people.
General multipurpose vaccines—even
genetically engineered ones—are often
powerless to combat diseases that mutate
rapidly. Only a permanent global
system that can quickly diagnose and
treat people could blunt the spread of
such a scourge, yet governments still
underfund such programs.

**English Nationalism: A Short History**
BY JEREMY BLACK. Hurst, 2018,
224 pp.

Does England have a national identity
distinct from that of the United King-
dom? Recent political conflict between
England and the rest of the union over
Brexit, Scottish independence, Irish
unity, and other issues has made this a
hot-button question. Black argues that
English nationalism is genuine: English-
ness rests on the shared experiences
of Magna Carta, the Reformation, the
Thirty Years’ War, the British Empire,
and World War II. Yet Black struggles
to persuade. Memories of internal and
external warfare hundreds of years ago
neither distinguish England from the
rest of the United Kingdom nor reveal
much about how media-savvy politicians,
a sensationalistic press, and right-wing
skinheads are redefining populist national-
ism today—something the author all
but admits in the last chapter, “Postscript
From a Pub.” In general, current events
stymie Black. In considering Brexit, he
dismisses (without evidence) any
thought that Euroskeptical voters are
ignorant or have been manipulated, or
that they are indulging in nationalism.

Yet he fails to provide a plausible alter-
native explanation for their behavior.

**A Bite-Sized History of France:**
Gastronomic Tales of Revolution, War,
and Enlightenment
BY STÉPHANE HÉNAUT AND JENI

This engaging book recounts the
history of France through its food. For
the French, their cuisine is a prime
source of national pride, but as Hénaut
and Mitchell’s lively vignettes show, few
French delicacies are indigenous. The
Romans converted uncouth beer-drinking
Gauls to wine. The Frank Charlemagne
standardized French farms, decreeing
that every estate should grow garlic,
produce honey, and much else. Return-
ing crusaders brought plums and other
exotic fruits. Schismatic popes from
Italy established eggplants and Syrah
wine. An Italian noblewoman turned
French queen, Catherine de Medicis,
brought artichokes, spinach, broccoli,
sorbet, and the fork. The Turks added
coffee; the Austrians the croissant.
Brutal slave plantations in imperial
domains satisfied sugar cravings. One
tday, Louis XIV’s troops in Spain substi-
tuted olive oil for butter, and—voilå!—
mayonnaise was born. In the nineteenth
century, farmers had to graft American
vines onto French grape plants to save
them from disease. Today, couscous and
pho are ubiquitous in Paris. Aside from
a few cases, such as champagne, which
was perfected by Dom Pierre Pérignon,
a French Benedictine monk, French
cuisine is largely the fruit of globaliza-
tion and appropriation.
Modern French intellectuals receive tremendous social respect—so much so that they are generally immune from punishment even when they commit common crimes, preach treason or hatred, or speak in riddles. This book argues that in recent decades, although these intellectuals’ social status has remained largely intact, the quality of their thought has ebbed. Sand is hardly the first to say this—and certainly not the most persuasive. He is concerned with only one angle of French intellectual life: the conflict between Jews and Muslims. He argues that a century ago, anti-Semitism led many leading French intellectuals to abandon the army captain Alfred Dreyfus after he was falsely convicted of treason. Under the Nazi occupation, many again failed to defend the Jews. Today, Islamophobia is common. Sand argues that the cartoons that provoked the Charlie Hebdo shooting in 2015 trucked in tasteless ethnic stereotypes that would have been unacceptable if directed at Jews. He has a point, but he is wrong to level the same charge at such leading French thinkers as Alain Finkielkraut, Michel Houellebecq, and Éric Zemmour. These men may be sensationalistic and perhaps even distasteful, but Sand does little to show that they preach systematic ethnic hatred in the manner of their anti-Dreyfusard and pro-fascist predecessors.

This book contains an ethnographic study of al Muhajiroun, an outlawed radical jihadist group in London. Kenney seeks to explain how, despite intense police surveillance, the group survived, attracted adherents, and recruited fighters to join the war in Syria until the British government banned it in 2010. Ideological sympathy, ties of friendship, charismatic leaders, and youthful inexperience led people to join the group. Once there, they learned how to be activists by watching more experienced members, often imbuing even more dangerous ideologies along the way. Tight subgroups permitted the movement to deflect government pressure by frequently reconfiguring themselves and fostering ambiguity about their purposes. As they aged, some members left for more normal lives, while others turned to different, often more radical groups. These broad conclusions are hardly new, but some readers may be surprised by Kenney’s argument that such groups can allow young men to let off steam, thus containing, rather than promoting, violence. As the authorities stamp out these organizations, their disgruntled members may pose an even greater danger.