

black political power in North Carolina. A complex and fascinating figure, Daniels deserves a better biography than this well-researched but underdeveloped book.

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## Western Europe

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*Andrew Moravcsik*

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*Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography; From Grantham to the Falklands*  
BY CHARLES MOORE. Knopf, 2013, 896 pp. \$35.00.

**E**ngaging and informative from start to finish, the first part of Moore's two-volume biography of Margaret Thatcher recounts and transcends well-known themes and anecdotes about the small-town grocer's daughter who rose to become the leader of the British Conservative Party, prime minister of the United Kingdom, and a politician whose convictions and temperament earned her the nickname the Iron Lady. Myriad details, from her early romances to her relationships with senior colleagues, illuminate the complexity and contradictions of this clever scientist turned politician from a lower-middle-class background: her nervousness at meeting the queen of England; her disdain for the affectations of the upper classes, which did not diminish her fierce desire to join them; and her surprising tendency to defer to experts and bow to pragmatism. Along the way, Moore skillfully captures just how odd it was for a woman to head the world's stuffiest political party and then to become prime minister: in one scene, he describes the tears, at once chivalrous and wistful, that welled

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up in the eyes of Conservative Party grandees when Thatcher was named their leader in 1975. The book concludes with Thatcher's finest hour: her leadership during the 1982 Falklands War between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

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*Europe Before Rome: A Site-by-Site Tour of the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages*

BY T. DOUGLAS PRICE. Oxford University Press, 2013, 432 pp. \$45.00.

In recent decades, archaeologists, geneticists, and other scholars have revolutionized the study of prehistoric Europe. They have uncovered stone tools and gnawed bones that humanoid creatures left behind more than a million years ago. They have shown how a quarter of a million years ago, Neanderthals controlled fire, cared for their elderly and sick, and buried their dead in the expectation of an afterlife. Most striking is new information about a number of advanced Bronze Age and Iron Age civilizations, not just in the Mediterranean but throughout northern Europe, that boasted large cities, delicate art, sophisticated technology, and complex trading routes reaching all the way to China. Although most of these cultures were crushed by the Greek, Roman, and Viking empires, an extraordinary amount of archaeological and genetic evidence testifies to their creativity. Their political and cultural legacies contribute to the diversity that characterizes modern Europe. In this engaging and lavishly illustrated volume, Price powerfully links these new findings to specific locations; readers who visit almost any European country will want to add a prehistoric site to their itinerary.

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*Story of My People*

BY EDOARDO NESI. Other Press, 2013, 176 pp. \$19.95.

Nesi is a third-generation Italian businessman. Under his leadership, his family's textile business went bankrupt. Today, he is a successful writer. Here, he chronicles the sad story of free trade's impact on "his people" in the town of Prato, capturing the distinctive pain of a modern European left behind, a cultural stranger in his own land. The Chinese have demolished Italian firms like Nesi's, a process Nesi blames on the neoliberal economists and trade negotiators who hailed unconditional globalization without understanding how global market competition actually works. In his view, the embrace of free trade spelled the end of a post-war Italian society of dynamic small enterprises that produced custom goods in a way that distributed wealth and skills fairly, rather than concentrating them in the hands of a few. It is painful to read about family-run artisanal businesses being supplanted by filthy sweatshops allied with criminal groups. Yet there is an unintentional irony here as well, since not only what Nesi dislikes but also nearly everything he loves is the fruit of globalization. His family business rested primarily on exports to Germany and sales to the global clients of famous Italian designers. The films and ideas that inspire his metaphors come from Hollywood and Harvard, not his own country.

*Food, Farms, and Solidarity: French Farmers Challenge Industrial Agriculture and Genetically Modified Crops*

BY CHAIA HELLER. Duke University Press, 2013, 352 pp. \$94.95 (paper, \$24.95).

Although Heller shrouds her conclusions in opaque academic jargon, her engaging book contains many insights into the surprisingly divergent fates of French and U.S. agricultural interest groups. Her basic thesis is that French farmers have been more successful than their American counterparts at persuading their government to oppose the use of genetically modified organisms not because that position is intrinsically French (it originated in Vermont) or because French farmers enjoy more political clout. Rather, the French farmers have prevailed because they linked their cause to powerful legitimating symbols and political values in France: preserving small farms and small towns, resisting unjust state authority, maintaining the power of unions, combating the spread of McDonald's and other fast-food chains, and defending the integrity of local communities and traditional practices. In the United States, such tactics would be less effective, she argues, because the American public lacks a sense of solidarity with unions, farmers, or purveyors of gourmet food. It is hard to know if Heller is right, but her tale of earthy farmers becoming postmodern ideological entrepreneurs makes for fun reading.

*Stateness and Sovereign Debt: Greece in the European Conundrum*

BY KOSTAS A. LAVDAS, SPYRIDON N. LITSAS, AND DIMITRIOS V. SKIADAS. Lexington Books, 2013, 200 pp. \$60.00.

Most analysts have addressed the euro crisis as an economic issue. Yet everyone concedes that its most important causes, consequences, and remedies are essentially political. This is one of the first books that addresses the deeper political significance of the crisis, focusing primarily on Europe's troubled relationship with Greece and highlighting the ways in which southern European political systems, societies, and economies have long functioned according to fundamentally different rules from those followed elsewhere in Europe. Since the outbreak of the crisis, the EU has been attempting to force convergence from the center, having replaced the International Monetary Fund as the world's most important guarantor of financial rectitude. Yet in many ways, the result has been greater divergence, as European countries struggle with debt and austerity measures. Absent a major push toward a European federal state, the authors portray a stark choice for Greece: retreat from European integration, or lose many of the attributes of a sovereign state.