

The **2020 Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize** goes to **Monica Kim**, *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History* (Princeton University Press, 2019). The committee (Madeline Hsu, chair; Amanda McVety; and Ryan Irwin) commend this compelling, original account of the Korean War that foregrounds the elevated stakes of interrogation rooms, which staged the heightened politicization of the interiorities of prisoners of war (POWs). To bolster its sovereignty claims and forestall legitimization of either the Democratic People's Republic of



Korea or the Republic of Korea, the United States insisted on “voluntary repatriation” for POWs during the Korean War, producing fraught attempts to channel the complex positionalities of individual soldiers into Cold War binaries. The boldly titled introduction, “War and Humanity,” conveys Kim’s ambitious critique of how liberalism and emerging new strategies for U.S. imperialism came to focus on the “hearts and minds” of captives. Kim’s substantive chapters remain attentive to the human scale of wartime upheavals into larger structures of

how U.S. interference aborted Korean decolonization in ways that conditioned the Cold War’s remaking of the world order and emerging systems of unequal sovereignties. Drawing on extensive transnational research, *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War* is an exceptionally accomplished first book.

The committee also recognizes **Amy C. Offner’s *Sorting out the Mixed Economy: The Rise and Fall of Welfare and Developmental States in the Americas*** (Princeton University Press, 2019) with **Honorable Mention**. Another outstanding book, *Sorting out the Mixed Economy* makes new and vital contributions to the already formidable scholarship on development and twentieth-century economics. Offner uses expansive archival work and multiple oral history interviews to trace the export of U.S. expertise on poverty to Colombia, which produced programs and institutions for privatization, state decentralization, and austerity that were later repatriated to the United States as strategies that conservatives deployed during the 1980s to dismantle New Deal programs. Like *The Interrogation Rooms*, *Sorting out the Mixed Economy* explicates the multidirectional flow of state-making processes and influences that shaped the United States even as it sought to exert superpower influence on various client states.



The Myrna F. Bernath Committee (Sayuri Guthrie Shimizu, chair; Daniel Immerwahr; and Theresa Keeley) awarded the 2020 Myrna F. Bernath Book Prize to **Lucy Salyer** for her book,



***Under the Starry Flag: How a Band of Irish Americans Joined the Fenian Revolt and Sparked a Crisis over Citizenship*** (Harvard University Press, 2018). The committee lauded Lucy Salyer's engaging prose in telling the gripping story of how a group of Irish Americans exploited differences between U.S. and British understandings of citizenship in their push for Irish independence. Their legal battle dramatized the idea of citizenship as an inalienable right, as natural as freedom of speech and religion, ultimately leading to passage of the

U.S. Expatriation Act of 1868, the legislation guaranteeing the right to renounce one's citizenship. Placing Reconstruction-era debates over citizenship and a human rights revolution sparked by Fenians within a global context, *Under the Starry Flag* raises important questions about citizenship and immigration that are still relevant today.

The **Link-Kuehl Prize for Documentary Editing** goes to **David Reynolds and Vladimir Pechatnov**, eds., with the assistance of Iskander Magadeyev and Olga Kucherenko, for ***The Kremlin Letters: Stalin's Wartime Correspondence with Churchill and Roosevelt*** (Yale University Press, 2018). Decision-making during World War II has long been a key topic of study for diplomatic and military



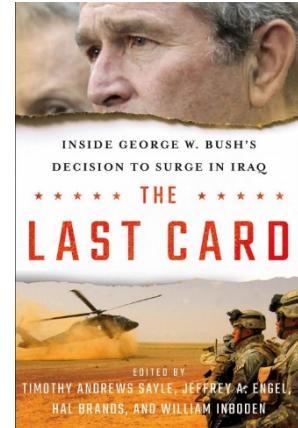
historians, not only because the consequences of those decisions continue to shape the world today, but also because of absences in the primary source record stemming from a variety of factors. One key absence has been Soviet documents, and *The Kremlin Letters* makes a vital contribution by bringing Soviet sources to light and making them available in English translation. The committee (Nicole Phelps, chair; Christopher Dietrich; and David Nickles) commend the editors' considerable, commendable



work to contextualize the correspondence among Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill, weaving their interpretations and introductions together with the primary sources to create a book that is best read cover-to-cover, rather than used strictly as a reference collection of documents.

The committee also commended **Timothy Andrews Sayle, Jeffrey A. Engel, Hal Brands, and William Inboden** for their volume, ***The Last Card: Inside George W. Bush's Decision to Surge into Iraq*** (Cornell University Press, 2019), recognizing it with Honorable Mention. In 2015 and

2016, the editors of this book conducted interviews with a variety of G. W. Bush administration officials who participated in the decision-making process regarding U.S. strategy in Iraq, and *The Last Card* is the fruit of those interviews. The book includes an account of decision-making in 2006 produced by integrating the interviewees' remarks as well as several chapters by a variety of scholars that interpret and contextualize those remarks. The interviews are also available in video format on an accompanying website. It too is a book to be read cover-to-cover as a first interpretation of these relatively recent events, and the editors are to be commended for their efforts to create a primary-source record for scholars' future use.



The Dissertation Prize Committee of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (April Merleaux, chair; V. Scott Kaufman; and Erez Manela) is pleased to announce that the **2020 Oxford University Press-USA Dissertation Prize**, which recognizes outstanding dissertation research in international history, goes to **Cindy Ewing** in recognition of her work,



"The Asian Unity Project: Human Rights, Third World Solidarity, and the United Nations, 1945-1955," completed at Yale University in 2018 under the supervision of Ben Kiernan. Ewing's dissertation is an impressive international history that shows how postcolonial nations inscribed the principle of self-determination into postwar human rights discourse, especially at and through the United Nations. The dissertation makes an important intervention in debates on decolonization and human rights histories, drawing on archives on four continents, nine countries, and multiple languages. Ewing

highlights the role played by nationalists and postcolonial elites from Asia in shaping the postwar international system, ultimately showing that Asian postcolonial internationalism was a critical precursor to the idea of the "Third World" and the institutionalization of human rights norms.

The committee has also awarded **Honorable Mention to Ruth Lawlor** whose dissertation, "American Soldiers and the Politics of Rape in World War II Europe" was completed in 2019 at the University of Cambridge under the advising of Gary Gerstle. Drawing on archives in Germany, Great Britain, France, and the United States, Lawlor's well researched and clearly argued dissertation shows that women's testimony about rapes committed by American soldiers during World War II made the U.S. military courts-martial into a site for debating the parameters of race, gender, and nation across Europe. Bringing together gender studies, military history, and legal history, Lawlor highlights the differences among German, French, and British treatment of sexual violence and the role the military trials played in articulating racialized and gendered senses of nationhood. Lawlor's approach demonstrates the value of international history methods for showing how ideas shift across space and time.

