

cornucopia of books ...

Knopf), may be the last word on the topic. Deeply researched and profoundly comprehensive, this is a definitive work.

Tel Aviv, The First Century: Visions, Designs, Actualities (Indiana University Press), edited by Maoz Azaryahu and S. Ilan Troen, looks at this vibrant, cosmopolitan city in terms of its municipal development and its place in Israel's literary imagination. The essays are stimulating and original.

Sara Roy, in *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector* (Princeton University Press), soberly argues that Hamas, far from



Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

being only a terrorist organization devoted to violence, hews to a moderate approach in community development and civic restoration.

Hizbullah's Identity Construction (Amsterdam University Press by Joseph Alagha), is a rather dry analysis of how this political and social movement – Hamas' counterpart in Lebanon – has evolved.

Written after Osama bin Laden's death last May and based in part on interviews with jihadis, *The Rise and Fall of Al-Qaeda* (Oxford University Press), by Fawaz A. Gerges, is a sober account of an organization that still inspires dread and fear. But according to Gerges, Al Qaeda has degenerated into a marginal entity.

In light of last winter's revolution and the continuing turmoil and uncertainty in Egypt, Robert L. Tignor's *Egypt: A Short History* is most timely. Tignor's narrative is cogent, taking a reader from the beginning of human settlement in the Nile Valley to the present day. In an afterword, he predicts that the Muslim Brotherhood will win many seats, maybe even a majority, in fair and free elections.

Daniel Yergin's *The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World* (Penguin) is both current and historical, a sweeping account about the battle for control of oil and the role that renewable sources of energy – solar, wind and biofuels

– may play in the future.

The pre-eminent historian and biographer of Adolf Hitler, Ian Kershaw, expertly explains in *The End: The Defiance and Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1944-1945* (Penguin) how this demonic regime was able to survive despite a succession of battlefield defeats. He ascribes the regime's longevity and durability to, among other factors, its ferocious terror apparatus, which was partly controlled by SS chieftain Heinrich Himmler.

In *Heinrich Himmler* (Oxford University Press), Peter Longerich has produced an exhaustive and intriguing biography of a sinister and idiosyncratic manipulator who moulded the SS in his own image.

Caroline Moorhead's *A Train in Winter* (Random House) is the remarkable story of the only Auschwitz-bound train whose 230 female passengers, aged 15 to 68, belonged to the resistance in France. This is a tale of courage and endurance.

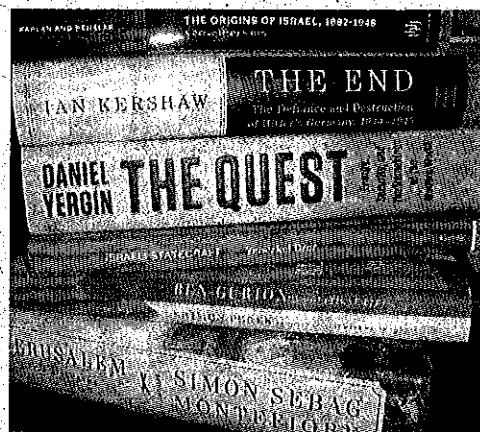
Maus is a comic book classic about the Holocaust. In *Meta Maus* (Pantheon), Art Spiegelman, the author, explains the creative process that led to its publication.

Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway's Jewish muse in 1920s Paris, embarked on one of the strangest of projects when she agreed to translate the speeches of Nazi collaborator Marshal Henri Philippe Petain into English. Barbara Will, in *Unlikely Collaboration* (Columbia University Press), delves into this troubling intellectual exercise.

The late Jan Karski, a courier for Poland's government-in-exile during World War II and one of the first eyewitnesses to inform the Allies about the Holocaust in Poland, wrote an account of his mission, *Story of a Secret State*, which was originally published in the United States in 1944. This moving, heartfelt book has been reissued by Penguin Classics. Read and weep.

Toronto cultural heritage lawyer Bonnie Czegledi, in *Crimes Against Art* (Carswell), writes authoritatively about the phenomenon of art theft in the past century. Her chapter on the Holocaust era, though brief, is incisive.

The Scattered Tribe (Guilford), by Ben Frank, is a seasoned journalist's observations of far-flung Jewish communities in



Russia, Asia, the Middle East and Cuba. *Last Folio: Textures of Jewish Life in Slovakia* (Indiana University Press), by Yuri Dojc and Katya Krausova, is visually stunning and verbally bold.

Cultural Revolution in Berlin: Jews in the Age of Enlightenment (Oxford University Press), by Shmuel Feiner and Natalie Naimark-Goldberg, recounts the process of secularization in the 18th century. *Forced Baptism* (University of California Press), by Marina Caffiero, chronicles 16th- to 19th-century efforts by the Vatican to convert Jews in Rome. Arthur Daniel Hart's *The Jew in Canada*, first published in 1926, has been reissued by Now & Then Books, which has also published Shmuel Mayer Shapiro's *The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community*, written in the 1940s but not published in his lifetime. Harold Troper's *The Defining Decade* (University of Toronto Press) argues, quite convincingly, that the 1960s were a catalyst for change in Canada's Jewish community.

In general: *Lost in Shangri-La* (Harper-Collins), by Mitchell Zuckoff, is an incredible World War II story of survival. *Leningrad* (Penguin), by Anna Reid, is about the Nazi siege of this Russian city. Nial Ferguson's *Civilization: The West and the Rest* (Penguin) is a bracing account of how western nations rose to dominance. *Empires in World History* (Princeton University Press), by Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, charts the rise and fall of major empires. In *Pakistan: Terrorism Ground Zero* (University of Chicago Press), Rohan Gunaratna and Khuram Iqbal examine terrorist groups operating out of Pakistan.

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