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Gary Bass's *The Blood Telegram* Wins 2014 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award

Honorable mentions include William Dalrymple's Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-42 and David Shambaugh's China Goes Global: The Partial Power

NEW YORK, October 30, 2014— *The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and A Forgotten Genocide* by **Gary Bass** (Alfred A. Knopf) has won the 2014 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award. Gary Bass will be honored and presented with a \$20,000 prize at a special event to be held at Asia Society's headquarters in New York City on December 9, 2014.

The Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award is the only award that recognizes nonfiction books for their outstanding contributions to the understanding of contemporary Asia or U.S.-Asia relations. *The Blood Telegram* was selected from over 100 nominations submitted by U.S. and Asia-based publishers for books published in 2013.

A jury co-chaired by **Tommy T. B. Koh**, Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large, and **Carol Gluck**, George Sansom Professor of History at Columbia University, and composed of leading experts and figures from policy, academia, and journalism from Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States selected the winner and honorable mentions.

According to **Dr. Gluck**, "*The Blood Telegram* is a compelling account of the origin of the independent state of Bangladesh in 1971, showing how the United States acted in its own national interests in the context of Cold War geopolitics to deal, or rather not to deal, with the mass atrocities and humanitarian crisis in East Pakistan."

Ambassador Koh added, "Gary Bass's book shines a strong light on the tragic events which took place in 1971 in what is now Bangladesh. The book forces the reader to think hard on such important questions as the competition between morality and state interest in foreign policy."

Gary Bass is Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. His other books include *Freedom's Battle: The Origins of Humanitarian Intervention* (Alfred A. Knopf) and *Stay the Hand of Vengeance: The Politics of War Crimes Tribunals* (Princeton University Press). He has also written numerous articles for academic journals and contributed chapters for edited volumes on international affairs.

Dr. Bass is the sixth winner of the Award, which has been made possible through the generous support of philanthropist Bernard Schwartz. The Award is designed to advance public awareness of the changes taking place in Asia and the implications for the wider world, and to raise the profile of authors making a meaningful contribution to this dialogue.

Two honorable mentions were also chosen: *Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-42* by **William Dalrymple** (Alfred A. Knopf) and *China Goes Global: The Partial Power* by **David Shambaugh** (Oxford University Press). Each will receive a \$2,000 prize. According to **Ambassador Koh**, “*Return of a King* chronicles the failed British intervention in Afghanistan, which brings to mind the blunders and challenges evident in the Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989 and the United States’ efforts since 2001.” **Dr. Gluck** praised *China Goes Global* “for challenging much of the conventional wisdom about the unbridled rise of China,” adding that it is “an important book for anyone engaged in thinking about or making policy in regard to present-day China.”

Mr. Dalrymple, a writer and historian, has authored several award winning books on South Asia. **Dr. Shambaugh** is Professor of Political Science and International Affairs and the Director of the China Policy Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.

The winner and honorable mentions were selected from a group of six short-listed finalists. The three other finalists included:

- *Forgotten Ally: China’s World War II 1937-1945* by **Rana Mitter** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
- *The Struggle for Order: Hegemony, Hierarchy, & Transition in Post-Cold War East Asia* by **Evelyn Goh** (Oxford University Press)
- *Wealth and Power: China’s Long March to the Twenty-First Century* by **Orville Schell & John Delury** (Random House)

Previous winners of the Book Award include **Odd Arne Westad** for *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750* (2013), **Brahma Chellany** for *Water: Asia’s New Battleground* (2012), **Richard McGregor** for *The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers* (2011), **James C. Scott** for *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia* (2010), and **Duncan McCargo** for *Tearing Apart the Land: Islam and Legitimacy in Southern Thailand* (2009).

— 2014 Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award Jury Members —

Carol Gluck (Co-Chair), George Sansom Professor of History, Columbia University

Tommy T.B. Koh (Co-Chair), Ambassador-At-Large, Singapore; Special Adviser at the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; Chairman; National Heritage Board

Bhaskar Chakravorti, Senior Associate Dean for International Business and Finance & Executive Director, Institute for Business in the Global Context and Council on Emerging Market Enterprises, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Yoichi Funabashi, Chairman, Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation

Susan Glasser, Editor, *POLITICO*

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Director, Institute of Security and International Studies & Associate Professor, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Susan Shirk Chair, 21st Century China Program & Ho Miu Lam Professor of China and Pacific Relations, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, University of California, San Diego

Rizal Sukma, Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta, Indonesia

More information about the Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award can be found at:

<http://asiasociety.org/policy-institute/bernard-schwartz-book-award>.

About the Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Asia Society is the leading educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, the Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future. Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit institution with headquarters in New York, major centers in Hong Kong and Houston, and offices in Los Angeles, Manila, Mumbai, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Sydney, and Washington, DC.

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