

HISTORY BULLETIN

New to us?

The History Bulletin is produced several times a term and is sent to all Sixth Formers studying History. It aims to keep students informed about what is going on outside the classroom, encouraging historians to engage with matters beyond narrow specifications.

If you would like to receive the Bulletin please go to our website at

<http://haileyburyhistory.edublogs.org> or follow the History Department on Twitter

New Middles History Essay Prize:

Martin Luther vs Malcolm X

Deadline: beginning of next term.

Reading lists for new Removes and existing Middles have been sent out. Contact the History Department if you would like further suggestions—we will have a go at finding something to suit your interests

Julia Wood Essay Prize for Lower Sixth: you have until the end of July to enter.

REITH LECTURES: HILARY MANTEL

This year's prestigious Reith Lectures are being given by Dame Hilary Mantel and highlight a subject we have commented on regularly this year. The series is called *The Art and Craft*, which doesn't really tell you that the subject is historical fiction—but it is.

Mantel examines the role of research, and explores how writers can serve recorded facts whilst giving breathing space to the imagination. She addresses issues such as how a writer might deal with the gaps and erasures of history and whether there is a kind of truth that only historical fiction can tell. Mantel says: 'Facts and alternative facts, truth and



verisimilitude, knowledge and information; what could be more timely or topical than to discuss where the boundaries lie? Is there a firm divide between myth and history, fiction and fact; or do we move back and forth on a line in between...our position always

shifting?'

The first lecture in the series of five was broadcast on Radio 4 on 13th June. The last one, on how fiction changes when adapted for screen and stage, is due on 11th July. All of the lectures are available on the BBC iplayer.

SUMMER READING

The long summer holiday is the best time of the year for many of us, not least because it is the time when you can indulge in reading whatever you want.

A quick survey of Haileybury historians are intending to read shows a real wide range of interests.

Mr Sadler: *The Cretan Runner* by George Psychoundakis. The account of a young shepherd boy who becomes an integral part of the Cretan resistance against Nazi occupation. This combines History and running—both Mr Sadler preoccupations!

Mr Radley, showing that he can break out of the C16th is planning to read *The Resistance:*

The French Fight against the Nazis, by Matthew Cobb.

Mrs Tyndall: *Why I 'm no longer talking to white people about race* by Reni Eddo Lodge, engaging in the debate about race in the UK.

Mr Moore will be reading Orlando Figes' *A People's tragedy: The Russian Revolution* (a fantastic book) and *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World* by Peter Frankopan.

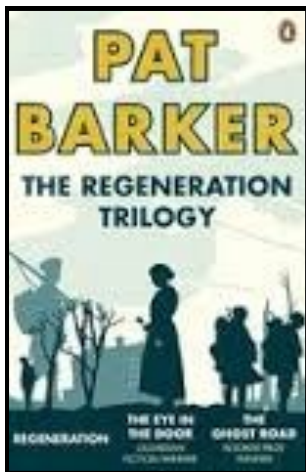
Dr Pugsley: *Istanbul: A Tale of Three Cities* by Bettany Hughes. The three cities in question are Byzantium, Constantinople and Istanbul— looking at development from the Bronze Age to 20th Century.

Mr Davies will be luxuriating in the fact that he can now read whatever he wants, whenever he wants. He is starting with *Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts* by Christopher de Hamel, a study of some of the greatest medieval manuscripts such as St Augustine, Chaucer, and the Book of Kells.

Mrs Galbraith is going to read *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction this year. It is about Slavery in the USA. Also on the list are *Hill-billy Elegy* by JD Vance and *Another Day in the Death of America* by Gary Younge both about contemporary US society.

Our man in the Middle East

The Middle East doesn't feature in any of our current specifications but many of you want to know about this vital region. Jeremy Bowen's recollections of being a correspondent for the BBC are serialised in twenty five 15 minute segments on radio 4. An excellent personal introduction.



If your interest is provoked by the IWM anti-war exhibition, try reading Pat Barker's books about the First World War. Barker takes the true story of poets Sassoon and Wilfred Owen and the pioneering treatment of William Rivers at Craiglockhart War hospital in Scotland. Sassoon was sent here to be 'cured' of his doubts about the war by the government, afraid of bad publicity as Sassoon threw his medals into the Thames.

These powerful, award winning books link to the GCSE medicine course through treatment of psychological damage caused by war as well as being historical fiction of just the type referred to by Mantel.

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power

12th July to 22 October:

Tate Modern, London

The Tate is staging a major show on the contribution of Black artists to a dramatic period in American art and history. The show opens in 1963 at the height of the Civil Rights movement and its dreams of integration. In its wake emerge more militant calls for Black Power. Artists responded by provoking, confronting and confounding expectations. This is an electrifying visual journey of vibrant paintings, powerful murals, collage, photography, revolutionary clothing designs and sculptures made from black hair, melted records...It looks unmissable.



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PEOPLE POWER: FIGHTING FOR PEACE

Politically it feels like dissent is hanging in the air right now in Britain. Jeremy Corbyn has been lambasted and lampooned for his refusal to press the nuclear button. The Imperial War Museum's summer exhibition makes the case that protest has never been dormant—as least with regard to anti-war sentiment.

The exhibition delivers a century of placards, posters, correspondence, art and archival footage. Early protestors were the brave conscientious objectors in the First World War who stood up against a hostile society. The inter-war years saw a booming pacifist movement which was reignited with the dropping of the atom bomb in 1945. Shock-tactic slogans take the visitor through the decades—the Cold War, Vietnam, Greenham Common before culminating in the 2003 Stop the War coalition

which saw two million people take to the streets in London.

The exhibition shows us that protest has never been an easy business. It has always been fraught with emotions. The suffragettes were split over their response to the First World War, as were Socialists. Pacifists in the 'thirties were torn between holding their nerve against the march of Hitler or accepting that war was a necessary counter-evil. In fact the Spanish Civil War acted as a spur for many to abandon their views—it seemed to prove that war could serve a just cause.

The exhibition is also good on the stories of individuals - the handwritten letter by soldier-poet Siegfried Sassoon, footage of Gulf War servicemen casting aside their medals or the photo of Bertrand Russell, lifelong pacifist rebel, who landed in

jail for his beliefs at the age of 89.

The exhibition continues at the Imperial War Museum in South London until 28th August, 2017.

