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Publishing Bestsellers: Penn State Press

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Publisher Bestsellers

Penn State Press
Column Editors: Julia A. Gammon (Univ. of Akron)
Nancy C. Essig (University Press of Virginia)

Not only is the football team at Penn State a powerhouse, but also the university press! Established in 1956, the press published 66 books and 9 journals in 1993, and has a list of 610 titles currently in print covering a wide range of topics. The “Top Ten Titles” from Penn State Press include their bestsellers over the past five years. Topics encompass a wide spectrum including general interest, black studies, literature, history, political science, religion, sociology, philosophy, and women’s studies, according to Alison Reeves, the press’ Assistant Marketing Manager.

Best Kept Secret
From Penn State Press


Through personal reflections, official dispatches, and sophisticated political analysis, Berlin Witness recounts the dramatic story of the erosion of communism in East Germany and the forging of the new Germany. Jonathan Greenwald arrived in East Berlin in the summer of 1987 as the Political Counselor of the American Embassy. He expected to assess for the State Department the implications of strengthening ties between the two German states that were beginning to cause unease in the alliances of both superpowers. Instead, he found a revolution that climaxed with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the Soviet Empire, and the unification of Germany.

"For those who think diplomats only read the local papers and write thumbsuckers on policy minutia, here’s the antidote: a lively, insightful personal account of the roots of revolution, reported by a U.S. diplomat who made it his business to get out on the streets," writes Marc Fisher of The Washington Post.

Top Ten Bestsellers
From Penn State Press

784 pp. Black Studies/Literature

217 pp. General Interest/Sociology/Black Studies

305 pp. General Interest/History

305 pp. General Interest/History

170 pp. Political Science/Economics

176 pp. History/American Studies

194 pp. Sociology/Women’s Studies/Science & Technology

462 pp. Religion/History

298 pp. General Interest/Political Science/Philosophy

190 pp. Philosophy/Political Science/Women’s Studies

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