

PCCBS Book Prize 2019

The Pacific Coast Conference of British Studies CCBS awards its 2019 Book Prize to David Como, *Radical Parliamentarians and the English Civil War* (Oxford University Press) and Priya Satia, *Empire of Guns: The Violent Making of the Industrial Revolution* (Penguin). These are two radically different books, which envisage different audiences and make very different kinds of arguments; the committee wants to acknowledge the strengths of both approaches. We offer the co-recipients our warmest congratulations -- and our profound admiration -- for their fine work.

Radical Parliamentarians and the English Civil War is nothing less than a technical and intellectual triumph. David Como's book fundamentally refashions our understanding of the great upheaval in the middle of the 17th century. While others have explored aspects of contemporary print culture in the Civil War, Como comprehensibly highlights its pivotal role in these events, and he does so in a masterful exploration of the thousands of books, tracts and broadsides which sought to persuade contemporaries in the 1640s. Writing with formidable authority, he gently set aside earlier revisionist works with their emphasis on consensus, and instead he places contemporary radicals where they have always belonged – at the heart of the Revolution.

Priya Satia's *Empire of Guns: The Violent Making of the Industrial Revolution* underscores the relationship between war and industry in the modern West, arguing that state intervention in the gun trade played a key role in the emergence of industrial capitalism. To make that case Satia moves from Britain to its colonies and back again, drawing from business and economic history, the history of technology, and social and cultural history to produce a new global history of Britain's industrial revolution. *Empire of Guns* is both a bold exploration of the pre-history of the emerging "military-industrial complex" and a detailed and nuanced account of the life of the Quaker gun-maker Samuel Galton. This book is at once an important historiographical intervention and a timely contribution to public discussions about guns and gun violence.