SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED FOR 2015 CUNDILL PRIZE IN HISTORICAL LITERATURE

Six books to compete for US$75,000 grand prize
Subjects range from the history of hurricanes to a new biography of a Holocaust mass murderer

Montreal. September 22, 2015 – The six books vying for the 2015 Cundill Prize in historical literature were announced today by Professor Hudson Meadwell, Interim Dean of McGill University’s Faculty of Arts.

“The Cundill jury has selected six remarkable works of historical writing for this year’s shortlist,” said Prof. Meadwell, who serves as Administrative Chair of the Cundill Prize. “The Cundill Prize continues to identify and to reward outstanding contributions to historical understanding.”

Now in its eighth year, the Cundill Prize is the world’s most lucrative international award for a nonfiction book, featuring a grand prize of US$75,000, with two “Recognition of Excellence” prizes of US$10,000 each.

The six shortlisted titles, chosen from a field of 159 submissions, are:

- **Sven Beckert** - Empire of Cotton: A Global History (Alfred A. Knopf)
- **Susan Pedersen** - The Guardians: The League of Nations and the Crisis of Empire, (Oxford University Press)
- **Claudio Saunt** - West of the Revolution: An Uncommon History of 1776 (W. W. Norton & Company)
- **Stuart B. Schwartz** - Sea of Storms: A History of Hurricanes in the Greater Caribbean from Columbus to Katrina (Princeton University Press)
- **Bettina Stangneth** - Eichmann before Jerusalem: The Unexamined Life of a Mass Murderer (Bodley Head)
- **Nikolaus Wachsmann** - KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps (Little, Brown Book Group)

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“The books that have been named today to the Cundill Prize’s shortlist are a celebration of diversity and excellence in historical practice,” said Professor Hudson Meadwell. “These titles show the importance of historians in marking and interpreting our collective past.”

The three finalists will be announced the week of October 5. The grand prize winner of the 2015 Cundill Prize will be announced at a gala awards ceremony in Toronto on Monday, November 2, at the Shangri-La Hotel. Famed Canadian author (The Massey Murder; Gold Diggers, Striking It Rich in the Klondike) and speaker Charlotte Gray will host.

This year’s Cundill Jury includes Anthony Carey, British Commissioner of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; David Frum, author and a senior editor for The Atlantic; University of Ottawa Professor of History and University Research Chair in Digital Scholarship Chad Gaffield; Coolidge Professor of History and Harvard College Professor at Harvard University Maya Jasanoff (American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World); and author (Buying a Better World: George Soros and Billionaire Philanthropy, The Ghosts of Europe) and winner of the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, Anna Porter.

About the Prize: The Cundill Prize in Historical Literature at McGill is the world’s most important international nonfiction historical literature prize. It was established in 2008 by McGill alumnus F. Peter Cundill, who passed away in January 2011. The prize is administered by McGill University’s Dean of Arts, with the help of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC), and is awarded annually to an individual who has published a book determined to have had a profound literary, social and academic impact in the area of history.

For more information on the Cundill Prize: www.cundillprize.com
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Shortlisted authors are available for comment and interview. For further information, please contact:

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