

EMBARGOED UNTIL 09:01am THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Champion great history, brilliantly told with **WOLFSON HISTORY PRIZE 2026** **SHORTLIST DIGITAL TOOLKIT**

#WolfsonHistoryPrize

[@wolfsonhistoryprize](#) | [@WolfsonHistory](#) | [@wolfsonhistory.bsky](#)
| wolfsonhistoryprize.org.uk



Highlighting how society weathers seismic change, this year's shortlist of six books spans nearly 3,000 years of human history.

The subjects range from humanity's 'first civilisation', the survival of pre-Christian beliefs in Europe and a groundbreaking history of extinction, to the bloodiest uprising in early modern Europe, a mesmerising new biography of Tennyson, and the story of a city's fight against post-industrial decline.

The six books shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize 2026 are:

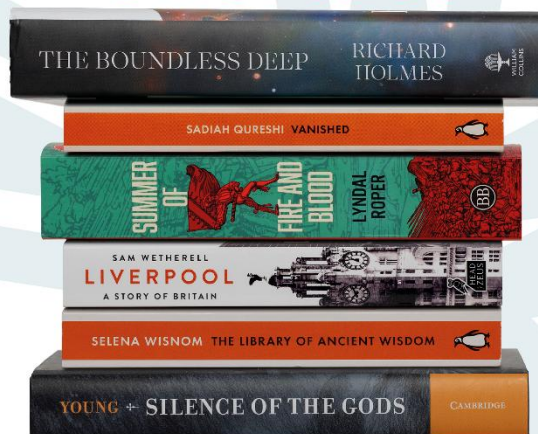
- *The Boundless Deep: Young Tennyson, Science and the Crisis of Belief* by Richard Holmes (William Collins)
- *Vanished: An Unnatural History of Extinction* by Sadiah Qureshi (Allen Lane)
- *Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War* by Lyndal Roper (Basic Books)
- *Liverpool: A Story of Britain* by Sam Wetherell (Apollo)
- *The Library of Ancient Wisdom: Mesopotamia and the Making of History* by Selena Wisnom (Allen Lane)
- *Silence of the Gods: The Untold History of Europe's Last Pagan Peoples* by Francis Young (Cambridge University Press)

Key dates

- The 2026 shortlist announcement – Thursday 17 September 2026.
- The 2026 winner announcement – Tuesday 1 December 2026.

The Wolfson*
History Prize
2026

Shortlist



*Great history, **brilliantly told.***

POS KITS

The Wolfson History Prize is offering digital and physical POS kits to retailers across the UK which celebrate the 2026 shortlisted titles and authors. Physical kits are subject to availability. POS kits can be accessed [here](#) (PW: WHP!2026).

CAMPAIGN ASSETS

Assets to help promote the Wolfson History Prize 2026 shortlist across your social channels/website are available [here](#). Assets available include:

- Shortlist images:
 - Book Jackets
 - Author Headshots
- Social media cards:
 - Save the date: winner announcement (Instagram, X/Bluesky, and TikTok)
 - Shortlist cards for individual books (Instagram, X/Bluesky and TikTok)
- Book sticker artwork – 2026 shortlist
- Bookshelf labels – Wolfson History Prize Judges Recommendation
- A4 poster (digital) – shortlist
- A3 poster (digital) – shortlist
- Logo
- Printed posters and stickers are available by request

The Wolfson History Prize brand guidelines can be downloaded [here](#).

ABOUT THE WOLFSON HISTORY PRIZE –

The Wolfson History Prize, now in its 54th year, is the most valuable history writing prize in the UK, awarding the winner £50,000 and each of the five shortlisted authors £5,000, giving a combined total of £75,000.

The prize is run and awarded by the **Wolfson Foundation** (www.wolfson.org.uk), an independent charity that awards grants in the fields of science, health, heritage, humanities, and the arts. You can connect via X [@wolfsonfdn](https://twitter.com/wolfsonfdn) and via LinkedIn ('[Wolfson Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wolfson-foundation/)').

Previous winners of the Wolfson History Prize include the eminent historians Antonia Fraser, Eric Hobsbawm, Halik Kochanski, Simon Schama, Amanda Vickery, Antony Beevor, Joanna Bourke, Christopher Bayly and Clare Jackson. The 2025 prize was won by Hannah Durkin for her immersive and revelatory history of the survivors of the *Clotilda*, *Survivors: The Lost Stories of the Last Captives of the Atlantic Slave Trade*.

SUGGESTED SOCIAL POSTS

- Where possible, please use the hashtag #WolfsonHistoryPrize
- The Wolfson History Prize's Instagram handle is @WolfsonHistoryPrize, while on X and Bluesky the handle is @WolfsonHistory. Please always tag the Wolfson History Prize in your posts.
- Key social media handles for the Wolfson History Prize 2026 shortlist can be found [here](#).

For Retailers:

- Congratulations to the #WolfsonHistoryPrize 2026 shortlisted authors! Celebrating the best historical writing in the UK, the six titles are all must-reads – buy your copy today: [insert link] @WolfsonHistoryPrize /@WolfsonHistory

Suggested newsletter copy:

The six books shortlisted for this year's Wolfson History Prize span vast historical territory yet collectively shed light on the ways in which societies are brought together – or driven apart – in the wake of profound disruption.

Spanning nearly 3,000 years of human history, the six books shortlisted are:

- *The Boundless Deep: Young Tennyson, Science and the Crisis of Belief* by Richard Holmes (William Collins)
- *Vanished: An Unnatural History of Extinction* by Sadiah Qureshi (Allen Lane)
- *Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War* by Lyndal Roper (Basic Books)
- *Liverpool: A Story of Britain* by Sam Wetherell (Apollo)
- *The Library of Ancient Wisdom: Mesopotamia and the Making of History* by Selena Wisnom (Allen Lane)
- *Silence of the Gods: The Untold History of Europe's Last Pagan Peoples* by Francis Young (Cambridge University Press)

To learn more about the Wolfson History Prize, please visit www.wolfsonhistoryprize.org.uk or connect on Instagram on @WolfsonHistoryPrize, and on X and Bluesky via @WolfsonHistory / #WolfsonHistoryPrize.

UPCOMING PARTNERSHIPS

RETAIL/BOOKSHOP.ORG UK: The Wolfson History Prize 2026 shortlist, alongside the shortlisted authors' and ambassadors' curated lists, will be showcased on the Bookshop.org UK website [here](#), where readers can browse and purchase the books, in support of independent bookshops across the UK.

PRESS RELEASES

[Six great histories, brilliantly told: Wolfson History Prize reveals exceptional shortlist for £75k prize.](#)

Embargoed until 09:01am 17 September 2026.

OUR CHANNELS

Wolfson History Prize's channels:

Website: www.wolfsonhistoryprize.org.uk

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wolfsonhistoryprize/>

X: <https://x.com/WolfsonHistory>

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/wolfsonhistory.bsky.social>

For any queries, please contact: Maddie.Dunne-Kirby@midas-group.com