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July's Political Best Sellers

By *ORVILLE BUDDO*

“A World On Fire” by Amanda Foreman makes its debut at No. 10. Ms. Foreman, the acclaimed historian, sheds light on the vast involvement that Britain had in the [American Civil War](#); the fruits of her research shocked her: finding that countless British writers, students, actors and others sympathized with the feudal South. “The Storm Of War” by Andrew Roberts debuts at No. 13. A British historian, Roberts ponders that if the Axis had strategized and made better decisions, they possibly could have won World War II. And the final debut is “The Triple Agent” by Joby Warrick at No. 14. This is the first comprehensive account of the [C.I.A.](#) blunder that allowed a [Qaeda](#) mole, Humam al-Balawi, a Jordanian pediatrician turned spy, to detonate a custom-made vest of explosives that took the lives of nine intelligence operatives at a C.I.A. base in [Afghanistan](#).

The full list for July:

1. “In the Garden of Beasts,” by Erik Larson. (Crown, \$26.) This portrait of Berlin during the rise of the Nazi Party concentrates on William E. Dodd, who became the American ambassador to Germany in 1933, and his daughter, Martha.
2. “Seal Team Six,” by Howard E. Wasdin and Stephen Templin. (St. Martin’s, \$26.99.) An expert sniper and a former member of the [Navy Seals](#) recounts his military training and missions, including the battle of Mogadishu in 1993.
3. “Unbroken,” by Laura Hillenbrand. ([Random House](#), \$27.) An Olympic runner’s story of survival as a prisoner of the Japanese in World War II.
4. “Lost in Shangri-La,” by Mitchell Zuckoff. (Harper/HarperCollins, \$26.99.) After a jungle plane crash in 1945, three survivors were caught between headhunters and enemy Japanese.
5. “Reckless Endangerment,” by Gretchen Morgenson and Joshua Rosner. (Times Books/Holt, \$30.) This account of the Wall Street implosion highlights individuals who played crucial roles and bore responsibility.
6. “The Miracle of Freedom,” by Chris Stewart and Ted Stewart. (Deseret Book Company,

\$28.99.) The authors discuss “seven tipping points that saved the world,” including the Battle of Thermopylae, Constantine’s conversion to Christianity, and the Battle of Britain.

7. “Demonic”, by [Ann Coulter](#). (Crown Forum, \$28.99.) The columnist compares the Democratic Party to a mob.

8. “Area 51,” by Annie Jacobsen. (Little, Brown, \$27.99.) An account of the mysterious military installation, which the author contends is the home of secret espionage programs.

9. “The Heart and The Fist,” by Eric Greitens. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$27.) A member of the Navy Seals describes his military deployments and his larger vision of public service.

10. “A World On Fire,” by Amanda Foreman. (Random House, \$35.) An account of the major role Britain played in the American Civil War.

11. “On China,” by [Henry Kissinger](#). (Penguin Press, \$36.) China and America are mutually dependent economic giants, Kissinger writes, but they need to design of partnership.

12. “The Secret Knowledge,” by David Mamet. (Sentinel, \$27.95.) The playwright denounces liberalism and offers his views on religion and American culture.

13. “The Storm of War,” by Andrew Roberts. (Harper, \$29.99.) A distinctive, comprehensive and detailed account of World War II.

14. “The Triple Agent,” by Joby Warrick. (Doubleday, \$26.95.) The intelligence debacle of the C.I.A. in Khost, Afghanistan, after 9/11.

15. “The Post-American World: Release 2.0,” by [Fareed Zakaria](#). (Norton, \$26.95.) By the author of “The Future of Freedom,” an optimistic forecast for America as other nations prosper in the 21st century.

Rankings are based on July figures at many thousands of venues where a wide range of general interest books are sold nationwide. These include hundreds of independent book retailers (statistically weighted to represent all such outlets nationwide); national, regional and local chains; online and multimedia entertainment retailers; university, gift, supermarket, discount, department stores and newsstands. An asterisk (*) indicates that a book’s sales are barely distinguishable from those of the book above. A dagger (†) indicates that some bookstores report receiving bulk orders. Expanded rankings are available on the Web: nytimes.com/books.

