



Reading List for Fall 2020 and Things to Think About as You Read *Freedom's Forge*

Greetings, Historians!

I hope that all of you are well, although perhaps a bit bored? It was suggested that I might create a reading list of good history books, so here is our Fall reading list, a bit early. Remember when I asked you all about reading books that were quite long? There was general agreement that, given enough time, that would not be a problem. Well, time is not a problem now, so you will find two long books on the list for October and November. Start reading now; you are in for a treat. I am only listing the months with the books as I do not know the exact dates that we will meet this Fall. I do know that I am so looking forward to us getting together physically again. In the meantime, happy reading! And don't forget that The Historians website has all the books that we have read listed at the bottom. This is a great time to read any books that you may have missed.

The Historians Fall 2020

September	<i>Bolívar: American Liberator</i> by Marie Arana
October	<i>The Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943</i> by Rick Atkinson
November	<i>Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom</i> by David Blight
December	<i>The Map of Knowledge: A Thousand Year History of How Classical Ideas Were Lost and Found</i> by Violet Moller. (The paperback is out in April and, believe it or not, this is not one of the long books, despite the title.)

We are still looking at the possibility of having a Zoom conference to discuss *Freedom's Forge* by Arthur Herman. More information will come on this in the next few weeks. This has turned out to a surprisingly timely text, hasn't it? And that will, I think, change the nature of our conversation. With that in mind, as you read, notice how difficult it was to get everyone on board with the new production needs, even after Pearl Harbor. Remember that even as we prepared for war prior to Pearl Harbor, the country was deeply divided about being swept into another "European War." What lessons can be learned from this? And have we learned them? As we discuss *Freedom's Forge*, this will also be an opportunity to give credit to the men and women who produced what was needed for the war. Were you as surprised as I was to read about the number who died on the Homefront? And of course, we also want to give credit where credit is due to the people who made this happen, names that are not mentioned in history courses. This will be an eye-opening discussion in unexpected ways this year! Watch for future information from The Dallas Institute on when and how for a Zoom conference. I hope to see you there!

Be well,

Donna McBride