

## Candidates for the 2022 Literary Prize

*A waiter in Paris: adventures in the dark heart of the city*, by Edward Chisholm. Monoray. 370pp. £16.99. ISBN 9781800960183.

A memoir of the writer's four years hard labour as an impoverished and exploited waiter in Paris ten years ago, consciously inspired by George Orwell's *Down and out in Paris and London*.

*Blood, fire and gold: the Story of Elizabeth I and Catherine de Medici*, by Estelle de Parranque. Ebury Press. xix, 316 pp. £20. ISBN 9781529109221.

A study of the complicated relationship – thirty years of friendship, competition and conflict - between two powerful women in the overwhelmingly male world of 16<sup>th</sup> century politics.

*Napoleon at peace: how to end a revolution*, by William Doyle. Reaktion Books. 231 pp. £15.99. ISBN 9781789146172.

A history of how Napoleon ended the Revolutionary period in France, covering the period in 1802-1803 when he ended the republican polity the Revolution had brought and established himself as a monarch in all but name, brought the Revolutionary wars with the great powers of Europe to a peace advantageous to France, and reconciled France with the papacy. The attempts to recover France's lost Caribbean empire, however, were a failure, and the fragile peace with the other great powers (including Great Britain) and the papacy soon broke down; the Revolutionary Wars became the Napoleonic Wars.

*France: an adventure history*, by Graham Robb. Picador. 527 pp. £25. ISBN 9781529007626.

A discursive, idiosyncratic and eclectic history of France, from Julius Caesar's first encounter with the Gauls to Emmanuel Macron's encounter with the *gilets jaunes*, and based not just on extensive research but also on the author's extensive journeys over many years throughout France (often by bicycle). Many of the great moments in French history are exemplified by small but archetypal events overlooked by chroniclers of the grand historical events elsewhere.

*Two houses, two kingdoms: a history of France and England 1100-1300*, by Catherine Hanley. Yale University Press. xxxi,448 pp. ISBN 9780300253580.

A history of how two ruling dynasties – the Capetians in France and the Angevins in England – made war, made peace and intermarried during two centuries of fluctuating fortunes between the two kingdoms. Personalities were important in the story, not least such powerful women as Eleanor of Aquitaine and Blanche of Castile.

*The last Emperor of Mexico: a disaster in the New World*, by Edward Shawcross. Faber. 324 pp. £20. ISBN 9780571360574.

The tragi-comedy of the Archduke Maximilian of Austria who was induced, reluctantly, to accept the throne of Mexico with the support of Mexican royalists and the Emperor Napoleon III of France. Napoleon III sought to expand French influence in Latin America while the United States of America was distracted by the Civil War but when that war ended the US took a renewed interest in enforcing the Monroe Doctrine (that European powers should stay out of the Americas). The duplicitous Napoleon III saw which way the wind was blowing and withdrew the French troops he had sent to aid Maximilian. It was not long before Maximilian's empire crumbled and he was executed.

*The French mind: 400 years of romance, revolution and renewal*, by Peter Watson. Simon & Schuster. xlvii,800 pp. £30. ISBN 9781471128974.

An intellectual history of France from the age of Louis XIV to the present day, paying special attention to the role of the salon and of the women who were the heart of these salons.

*The French Resistance and its legacy*, by Rod Kedward. Bloomsbury Academic. £17.99. ISBN 97813502660429.

A historiographical approach to the history of the French Resistance which considers the ways the Resistance has been and is studied and the influences of successive waves of political theory and philosophical thought which have affected these.