



BEYOND POSTMEMORY

July 2026

Conferences & Events

IRENE GASSÓ AT THE VII AEDEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR

Irene Gassó i Lagares, a second-year PhD student in English Studies and member of the Beyond Postmemory research group, recently participated in the VII AEDEAN Doctoral Seminar. The event was hosted at the University of Cantabria, in Santander, from 1 to 3 July 2026.



Organisers and attendees of the VII
AEDEAN Doctoral Seminar

Gassó i Lagares shared with fellow doctoral students and professors her doctoral project, titled *Margaret Atwood's Historiographic Metafiction: Questioning Official Misrepresentations of War through Historical and Speculative Fiction*. The dissertation examines Margaret Atwood's historical and speculative fiction through the lens of historiographic metafiction and postmemory.





Irene Gassó's research explores how Atwood employs historiographic metafiction across genres to interrogate representations of war, trauma, and the intergenerational transmission of memory, challenging triumphalist narratives of historical progress while revealing the cyclical persistence of violence and its enduring impact across generations.



Irene Gassó i Lagares presents her research at the VII
AEDEAN Doctoral Seminar

The seminar brought together leading specialists in literature, including AEDEAN president Rosario Arias and Literature and Culture plenary lecturer Sara Martín, whose feedback provided valuable insights that will contribute to the further development of Gassó's project.



News

FAILED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN

Three weeks after the United States and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding to end the war and restore shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, attacks against vessels were reported at the maritime checkpoint.

Iran claimed authorship for the strikes and argued that the ships attempted to pass the strait without authorisation. The US launched retaliatory attacks on Iranian soil, first targeting coastal cities and later the capital, Tehran. While the days-long funeral of late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was taking place, Iran fired missiles and drones at US-allied Gulf nations.



Donald Trump said: 'I am considering a massive attack. Bigger than ever before.' Photograph:

Julia Demaree Nikhinson/AP

Source: The Guardian



As a result of the escalating offensive, President Donald Trump stated that the truce was over and Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz again. Throughout the following weeks, the US attempted to force Iran to reopen the strait by launching consecutive attacks. After the American expansion of its aerial campaign and Tehran struck US allies, Iran's President Masud Pezeshkian said the country was in a full-scale war. Donald Trump responded by threatening a massive attack against Iran and assuring Israel would undoubtedly join the US military force.

Mediators have continued to try persuading both sides to abandon hostilities and resume peace negotiations. Meanwhile, the UK announced the withdrawal of diplomatic staff from Iran and the German armed forces announced the withdrawal of two vessels from the Red Sea. Warring states also started preparing for escalation, as Israeli cities opened bomb shelters and the US warned their citizens that flights might be cancelled.

The United States and the United Kingdom, under the leadership of its new prime minister, Andy Burnham, aim to meet in London this week to discuss the potential of a coalition to protect ships in the Strait of Hormuz and de-mine the waterway.





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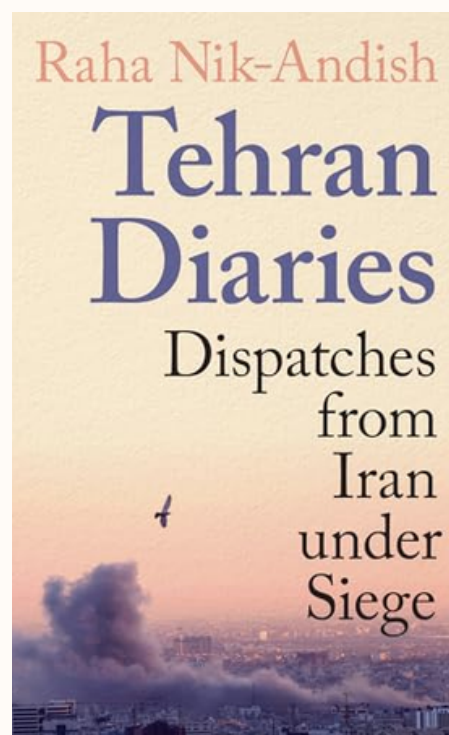


Don't Miss . . .

TEHRAN DIARIES

RAHA NIK-ANDISH

Over Iran, the sky is falling in. The US-Israeli bombardment has begun: there are bodies beneath the rubble. The Ayatollah is dead. The guards have abandoned the prisons. The rain is black with fuel; it burns the skin and the streets. In this searing and contemplative work, writer, academic and Tehran resident Raha Nik-Andish documents life in the Islamic Republic in the days and months leading up to "Operation Epic Fury."



In a rarely-seen portrait of a regime in freefall, this is Tehran on the brink; the crushed protests over the collapse of the currency; the taxicabs circling the city for work; the burned out garbage cans and the taped-up windows.

What does it mean to exist under siege? Or repression, blackout and total fear? How do you get the message out? Piercing, poignant and delicately observed, this is the vital story of a city at the end of the world - and an act of witness against darkness.





FROM THE FRONT LINE: STALINGRAD- TREBLINKA-BERLIN, 1941-45

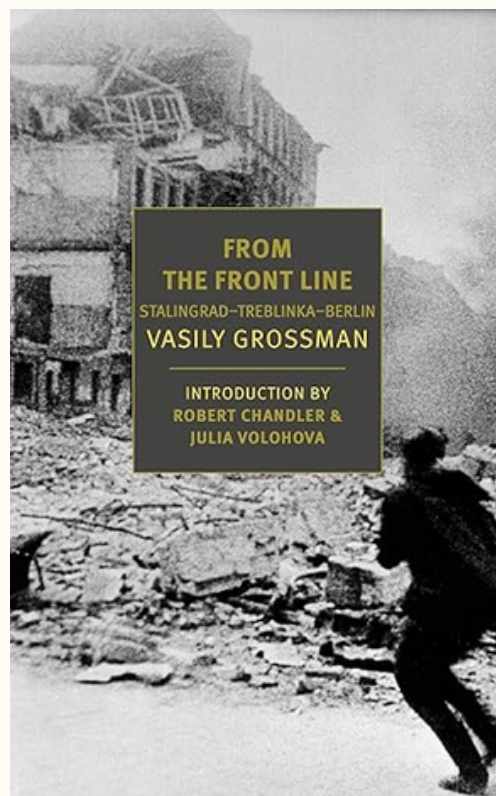
VASILY GROSSMAN

June 22, 1941: Launch of Operation Barbarossa. Hitler invades the Soviet Union. Vasily Grossman soon begins a new career as a war reporter.

During the next four years, he covered all the major battles of the Eastern Front, from Stalingrad to Berlin, writing brutally vivid reports that were read by millions of soldiers and civilians alike. And as the war drew to a close, he was one of the first to expose the horrors of the Treblinka death camp.

Grossman had a remarkable memory and the ability to win the trust of men and women from all walks of life: snipers, generals, fighter pilots, peasants, soldiers in a Soviet penal battalion, and German prisoners of war. Not many reporters are able to write so vividly, and with such understanding, about world-changing events while they are still unfolding.

This collection brings together the best of the forty-nine articles Grossman wrote for the *Red Star* newspaper, many in newly unearthed versions that have not been distorted by censors. It is still a vital record of a deadly time.

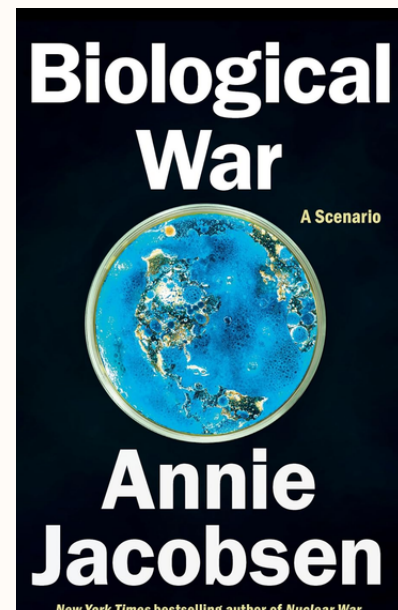




BIOLOGICAL WAR: A SCENARIO

ANNIE JACOBSEN

A lab accident, a bio-attack, a global pandemic, and the collapse of human society. In this essential new book, based on dozens of new interviews with experts with high-level political, governmental, medical, and military responsibility, Annie Jacobsen examines this very scenario. It would be only a matter of days from such a global infection before the infrastructure built to handle this gravest of situations would be in a battle for human existence.



The mass death, total societal breakdown, widespread insurrection, anarchy, and a plague-ravaged wasteland that no longer resembles modern civilization. In other dystopia.

Following the gripping narrative style that launched *Nuclear War* to the New York Times bestseller list, Jacobsen looks deeply at a situation that is in some ways the opposite of a nuclear. There is no mushroom cloud, no shock wave or blast. Instead, the scenario that could end the world as we know it begins with something so small, and something so malicious, that when used for evil, only evil can result.

This is what could happen; a ticking-clock roadmap to the hours, days, and weeks following the release of a biological agent, that serves as the most essential, forward-looking journalism in preparation for urgent societal upheaval.