

Paddy Docherty

Writer

Paddy Docherty is a historian of empire, with a particular interest in the British Empire, anticolonial resistance, and the cultural impact of imperialism. Born in Scotland, he grew up in Gloucestershire and was educated at Oxford University (gaining a BA (Hons) in Modern History and an MSt in Historical Research), where he was also Junior Dean of Brasenose College and won a Blue for boxing.



His first book was *The Khyber Pass: a History of Empire and Invasion* (Faber & Faber, 2007), which was a *Financial Times* Book of the Year in 2007 and was shortlisted for the Longman/*History Today* Book of the Year Award 2008. The US edition was published by Union Square Press in 2008, and the Italian edition by Il Saggiatore in 2010.

During 2009-18, Paddy was Chief Executive of Phoenix Africa Development Company, which sought to develop social impact agricultural businesses in post-conflict countries in Africa; in this role he was also Chairman of Lion Mountains Agrico Ltd in Sierra Leone. Paddy was a Trustee of Millennium Promise UK, a member of the Global Agenda Council on Fragile States at the World Economic Forum, and a member of the Private Sector Delegation to the UN FAO.

His forthcoming book is about an aspect of the British Empire in West Africa during the late Victorian period, and he also conducts research in anti-colonial resistance and cultural representations of empire.

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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
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**Blood and
Bronze: The
British Empire
and the Sack of
Benin**

2021

Hurst Publishers

UPCOMING PUBLICATION

The famous Benin Bronzes are among the most prized possessions of the British Museum. Celebrated for their great beauty, they embody the history, myth and artistry of the ancient Kingdom of Benin, once the most powerful in West Africa and now part of Nigeria. But despite their renown, little has been written about the brutal act of imperial violence through which the Bronzes were plundered. This incisive new history tells that neglected story: the 1897 British invasion of Benin.

Diving into the archives, Blood and Bronze sets the assault on Benin in its late Victorian context. As Britain faced new commercial and strategic pressures on its power elsewhere, it ruthlessly expanded its rule in West Africa. Revealing both the extent of African resistance and previously concealed British outrages, this is a definitive account of the conquest and destruction of Benin. By laying bare the Empire's true motives and its violent means, Paddy Docherty demolishes any moral claim for Britain retaining the Bronzes, and makes a passionate case for their immediate repatriation to Nigeria.

**The Khyber
Pass: a History
of Empire and
Invasion**

2007

Faber and Faber

*Financial Times Books of the Year, 2007

*Shortlisted, Longman/History Today Book of the Year Award, 2008
