

## Behind the Scenes for History Lovers

This class is for ardent readers of history who are also interested in how history is written. Adam Hochschild is both an acclaimed historian and a long-time writing teacher. Before each meeting, students are expected to carefully read one of his books. For each book, Hochschild will describe how he constructed the narrative, the challenges in doing the research, and why he chose the particular characters, scenes, and events through which to tell the story. He will then ask how other historians have handled the same material—some of them drawing very different lessons from it. Finally, he will discuss the reactions and repercussions each book produced, some of which he never anticipated. We'll end each class with a period for your questions and comments.

Required reading:

Before Session 1: *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*

Before Session 2: *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves*

Before Session 3: *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918*

Before Session 4: *Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939.*

Each book is available in print, audio, and e-book editions.

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Adam Hochschild is the author of 11 books. He has been a finalist for the National Book Award, for the National Book Critics Circle Award (twice), and is a three-time winner of the Gold Medal for Nonfiction of the California Book Awards. He has taught narrative writing at the Graduate School of Journalism at Berkeley for more than 30 years, and has been a guest lecturer in both graduate writing programs and history departments in the United States and abroad.