Stanford



Steven Press

Associate Professor of History

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Steven Press is an Associate Professor of History and an affiliated member of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, the Center for African Studies, and the Stanford Center for Law and History.

Press' first book, Rogue Empires: Contracts and Conmen in Europe's Scramble for Africa (published Spring 2017 with Harvard University Press), received the American Historical Association's Pacific Coast Branch Book Award.

Press' second book, Blood and Diamonds: Germany's Imperial Ambitions in Africa, appeared in 2021 with Harvard University Press. It received the German Studies Association's Barclay Book Prize and was named a CHOICE Outstanding Title.

In an article in the Journal of Modern History, Press explored the exchanges between Germany, China, and Cuba that led to the USA's lease for Guantanamo Bay in 1903. His article on post-Napoleonic European nationalism appeared in Central European History, as did a more recent article about Wilhelmine Germany's Weltpolitik.

Press graduated with a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and an A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He taught at Harvard and Vanderbilt before coming to Stanford. His research interests include European sovereignty, international relations, and commodity networks.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor, History

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D, Harvard University
- A.M., Harvard University
- B.A., Vanderbilt University

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)

- Germany's Wars and the World, 1848-2010: HISTORY 137D, HISTORY 37D (Win)
- The European Scramble for Africa: Origins and Debates: AFRICAAM 238J, HISTORY 238J, HISTORY 338J (Aut)

2025-26

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Germany's Wars and the World, 1848-2010: HISTORY 137D, HISTORY 37D (Spr)
- How to Start Your Own Country: Sovereignty and State-Formation in Modern History: HISTORY 9N (Win)
- The European Scramble for Africa: Origins and Debates: HISTORY 238J, HISTORY 338J (Spr)

2024-25

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Germany's Wars and the World, 1848-2010: HISTORY 137D, HISTORY 37D (Aut)
- The European Scramble for Africa: Origins and Debates: HISTORY 238J, HISTORY 338J (Win)

2023-24

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Core Colloquium on Modern Europe: The 19th Century: HISTORY 331B (Win)
- Germany's Wars and the World, 1848-2010: HISTORY 137D, HISTORY 37D (Spr)
- How to Start Your Own Country: Sovereignty and State-Formation in Modern History: HISTORY 9N (Aut)
- The History of 2023: HISTORY 1 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Mariana Calvo, Emre Can Daglioglu, Sonya Schoenberger, Angelica Krystel von Kumberg

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Eva Baudler

Orals Evaluator

Nathan Deschamps, Jackie Olson, Sonya Schoenberger, Matthew Signer, Amanda Zhang, Angelica Krystel von Kumberg

Doctoral (Program)

Jackie Olson

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **An Imperial Homeland: Forging German Identity in Southwest Africa (Book Review)** *CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Press, S.
  2024; 57 (1): 98-99
- **King Leopold's Ghostwriter: The Creation of Persons and States in the Nineteenth Century. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Press, S. M., Fitzmaurice, A.
  2023; 95 (4): 938-939
- **Buying Sovereignty: German "Weltpolitik" and Private Enterprise, 1884-1914** *CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY*
  Press, S.
  2022; 55 (1): 15-33

- **Blood and Diamonds: Germany’s Imperial Ambitions in Africa**
  Press, S.
  Harvard University Press.2021
- **Learning Empire: Globalization and the German Quest for World Status, 1875-1919. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Press, S.
  2020; 51 (2): 325–26
- **Rogue Empires : Contracts and Conmen in Europe's Scramble for Africa**
  Press, S.
  Harvard University Press.2017
- **Sovereignty at Guantanamo: New Evidence and a Comparative Historical Interpretation** *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*
  Press, S.
  2013; 85 (3): 592–631
- **False Fire: The Wartburg Book-Burning of 1817** *CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY*
  Press, S.
  2009; 42 (4): 621–46