

Beyond the Bank: Retirees Turn to the Page

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After decades of dedicated service to the World Bank Group, many retirees continue to apply their expertise, creativity, and curiosity through the written word. The [1818 Society Book Repository](#) is a growing, searchable database of books authored by WBG alumni after their retirement—covering an extraordinary range of topics, languages, and genres.

Launched as a grassroots initiative in the summer of 2024, the 1818 Society Book Repository began with a simple call for submissions. Today, it has grown into an online collection of over 500 titles, showcasing the rich diversity of interests and experiences of the WBG retiree community. From memoirs, travelogues, and photography collections to novels, histories, and how-to guides, the repository offers something for every kind of reader.

“World Bank Group staff are talented and highly skilled professionals. Retirement has provided many people with the opportunity and the means to tap into their latent interests, producing a wide variety of books. Having accidentally discovered some, I was intrigued by what motivated retirees to produce these books and by the diversity of topics—biographies, fiction, photography, poetry, travel and, of course, development—they wrote about.” [Anis Dani](#), President, 1818 Society

What sets this collection apart is that each book was written after the author's retirement from the World Bank Group, and all titles are publicly available—either free to download or available for purchase at cost. We invited a few of the featured authors to reflect on their books and the significance of the repository.

"One of the best parts of working at the World Bank was being surrounded by intellectually curious people from around the globe. After writing 'Damned If You Do', I felt sure that other retirees were penning amazing stories shaped by their experiences—and I wanted to read them! Anis brought the idea of a Book Repository to life, and it has taken off beyond expectations."

—Ellen Goldstein



Ellen Goldstein,
author of *Damned If You Do*



Anthony Gad Bigio,
author of *A Sephardi Turkish Patriot*

"I had to write it, it is my grandfather's life-story, about the very harsh times he endured while promoting the rule of law as a jurist and a lawyer, and more in general about the turbulent fate of minorities in Turkey in the transition from Empire to Republic, from pluralism to nationalism. It was a deep dive in modern Middle Eastern history, and I'm delighted to share the book with present and former Bank colleagues through the Repository."

—Anthony Gad Bigio

"Thanks to Anis and the 1818 Society for implementing this great initiative. It is fascinating and inspiring to see how many retirees have written books. This Repository fosters connections among WBG staff and retirees. Furthermore, the timeline of idea to over 500 books online within just a few months is most impressive."

—Laurence Carter



Laurence Carter,
author of *From Grief to Love: Walking
Around England and Wales*

The [1818 Society Book Repository](#) is not just for retirees—current staff also have full access to the online collection and are encouraged to browse, read, and celebrate the continued contributions of the WBG alumni community. Whether you're planning your next vacation and looking for a good read, or curious to explore the passions and reflections of former colleagues, the Book Repository is an inspiring and accessible resource.

About the 1818 Society

The 1818 Society is the official alumni association of the World Bank Group, bringing together former staff and partners who share a continued connection to the institution while offering a valuable way to stay informed, engaged, and connected with the World Bank community. [Learn more.](#)