

New Nonfiction by David James: A Dream of Death, or the Consolations of History

Despite every dictator (and aspiring dictator) assuming that they alone can stop the arrow of time and prevent their own mortality, dictators always inexorably die in the end (“One forgets that one is a dead man talking to dead men”). And the beloved people (who always universally revile the dictator by the end) continue living their own lives, enjoying a gradually increasing sense of freedom.