

ZENOBIA AWARD 2024 – ADVANCING CONCEPT PROPOSALS



North America

South America

Europe

Africa

Middle East

East Asia

Southeast Asia

South Asia

Pre-1400

1400s-1600s

1700s-1800s

1900-now

Cloaked Queen
by Jessica Metheringham
1142 Military
Holy Roman Empress Matilda returns to England to claim the crown from her cousin Stephen. But Stephen's troops trap her in Oxford Castle. One twilight, she and three loyal knights attempt a daring escape.

House of Wisdom
by Fagner Lima da Silva
750-1258 Scientific
Abbasid Baghdad hosts scholars who study, copy, and translate works of mathematics, philosophy, cartography, astronomy, and physics. Caravans cross North Africa, Europe, and Asia pursuing books for the great library.

Koshano
by Willis Peng
1st-4th Centuries Political-Cultural-Economic
In Central Asia's Kushan Empire, competing interests build their personal holdings to patronize different religions, influence the royal court's agenda, and help determine whether the empire will survive or collapse.

Wall Against Bow
by Huiyao Yang
133-90 BCE Military-Political
The Han Empire challenges the Xiongnu of the Mongol Steppe with settlement, forays, bribes, and massive walls. The nomads retaliate with raids and destruction of Han field armies. As each finds Central Asian allies, the war widens.

Warlords of Han
by Jooho Lee
184-194 Political
As the last warlords of a falling empire work together against rebellion and tyranny, each must choose which rising political forces to join. Will they serve as a loyal subjects of the Eastern Han or seek to lead the next empire?

Melaka – The Forgotten Empire
by Effendy Norzaman
15th Century Political-Economic-Military
The Malay Sultanate of Melaka has risen to become a great maritime empire. Nobles loyal to the Sultan outsmart each other by executing each royal command to build Melaka and expand its supremacy differently.

- Cultural History
- Economic History
- Military History
- Political History
- Scientific History
- Social History

The Race for Bogotá
by Juan-Pablo Giraldo
1538 Military-Economic-Political
Conquistadores race to seek *El Dorado*, the fabled gilded city that is now Bogotá. The one who arrives first will have the best claim to the territory, but empathy may be more effective than ruthlessness.

Aguirre
by Annabel Journey
1560 Political-Military-Social
When madman Don Lope de Aguirre takes over a Spanish colonial expedition searching for *El Dorado*, members of the party must survive both the dangers of the Amazon jungle and Aguirre's growing paranoia.

Obraje
by Diego Javier Luis
17th Century Social
In colonial Mexico's infamous textile mills, enslaved people confined to brutal labor confront moral dilemmas as they seek freedom, perhaps eking out a surprising mobility, perhaps living and dying in servitude.

Quilombo
by Federico Benitez
17th-19th Centuries Military-Economic
In colonial Brazil and Rio de la Plata, enslaved people of African origin escape to hinterland towns that must develop governance, fight European incursion, grow food, and trade with or raid each other for goods and people.

Zumbi – The War of Palmares
by Artur Carvalho & Ulisses Ponte
17th Century Military-Economic
In colonial Brazil, formerly enslaved people spread *quilombo* settlements, challenging local rule. Lead the *quilombola* people to resist and fight for the most valuable resource—people.

Triumph of Ned Ludd
by Auguste Seong & Joshua Jeon
Early 1800s Economic-Social
As the Industrial Era roars to life, new factory owners rush to mechanize England's textiles trade. Traditional weavers, however, struggle to preserve their livelihood by petition, threat, or destruction of the dreaded machines.

The Dynasty Above All Else
by Jez Torres
1594 Political
In the succession free-for-all of the Ottoman court, the ailing Sultan's eldest son is set to ascend. In the harem, mothers of other sons join together to block him—while working behind the scenes to advance their own son's claim.

Mancala it!
by Hyunil Oh
1392-1910 Cultural
In Korea's Joseon Dynasty, royal painters create beautiful blueprints of upcoming gatherings. Painters compete for renown by depicting the most guests and featuring the most detailed illustrations.

Batek
by Miguel Martin Meñez
Early 1500s Cultural-Social
The Kalinga people of the northern Philippine archipelago represent their culture in body ink. As Kalinga families vie for prestige and respond to crises, members tattoo their accomplishments on their own skin.

Tohickon Creek
by Stephanie Smith
1686-1737 Economic-Political
The Lenape in the years leading up the infamous "Walking Purchase" must negotiate strategically to restrict acquisition of their ancestral land by the Proprietors of colonial Pennsylvania and limit their loss of people.

Guerras Gauchas
by Julián Vecchione
1814-1821 Military
Martin Miguel de Güemes forms up guerrilla bands of *gauchos* with homemade equipment. Outnumbered, they defend against the Spanish royal army marching its way through the northeast of what will become Argentina.

Sapphic Letters
by Chloë Belle
Late 19th Century Social-Cultural
British and American women who love women must work to overcome sexism and an openly hostile society as they attempt to pursue love interests, experience joy, and achieve professional success.

An Outstretched Hand
by Max Bentovim
1793-1914 Cultural-Political
Russia's annexation of Poland and Lithuania brings a huge Jewish population into a society previously hostile to Jews. The state, Polish nobles, and Hasidic and Jewish modernity movements seek different fates for the Jews.

The Pursuit of Aguinaldo
by Nicanor Marco P. Valdez
1899-1902 Military
As the Philippine President evades capture by US forces in Luzon, his outgunned army mounts a defensive campaign. Will growing US anti-imperialist sentiment end the war, or will Aguinaldo be captured first?

The Porters
by Lucas Cockburn, Neco Cockburn, Alex Goss
1900-1950 Social
Canadian railways employ black porters to serve the white passengers of luxury sleepers. An informal brotherhood of porters forms, overcoming racism and fatigue to secretly organize unions that will admit black workers.

Fear of the Cold
by Elizabeth "Betsy" Joslyn
1918 Social-Scientific
As men and women of Philadelphia respond to the spread of Spanish Influenza from myriad financial, political, medical, military, and religious perspectives, some will not only survive but even capitalize on opportunity.

Tabletop WATU Wargame
by Kit Barry
1942 Military
To win the Battle of the Atlantic, Churchill tasks the Western Approaches Tactical Unit to game out how to sink U-boats. Corvette, frigate, and destroyer players hunt U-boat players trying to sink convoy HX224 west of Ireland.

No One and Nothing
by Monica Callaghan
1941-1943 Military-Economic
In blockaded Leningrad, Red Army and Communist Party leaders must work together to defend the city from destruction, feed the population and keep it warm, and launch a counter-offensive to open supply lines.

Remapped
by Shyam Rangarajan
1884-1947 Political
The Berlin Conference, Sykes-Picot Agreement, and partitioning of British India—imperialists sit around a table carving out territory on the maps of faraway continents, only later to see the consequences for people on the ground.

Sajeon – Intangible Delivery
by Michelle Y. Kim
1921-1942 Political-Social
The Korean Language Society during Japanese occupation uses freedom fighters and independence activists to try to smuggle an outlawed Korean-language dictionary to a printer for mass production.

The Party
by Elif
1950s Political
Factions within the Chinese Communist Party strive to form dominant coalitions that control the party and govern China as a united front in the turbulent political landscape after the civil war.

Sabotage the Raj
by Mohit Patel, Aakansha Patel, Chirag Prakash Arora
1905-1918 Political
In colonial Bengal, secret revolutionaries plot against the British. Can they grow networks, set hideouts, get weapons, or make the bombs to incite a troop mutiny or popular rebellion?

Indian Industrialists & Independence
by Ketan Deshpande
1901-1950 Economic-Political
Industrialist families expand their influence over European counterparts, while drawing the favor of the locals and establishing underground societies to push for South Asia's independence from the British.

Rosie the Riveter
by Kristen Mott
1941-1945 Economic-Social
Wartime companies try to fulfill the most profitable US government contracts by hiring female employees with unique skills, keeping them by paying a full wage, and boosting their morale with activism and propaganda.

The Devil's Advocates
by Mar Hepto
1980s-1990s Social-Cultural
A wave of bizarre accusations of ritualistic child abuse and Satanic cults in daycares sweeps the US, fueled by social workers, cops, and mass media. As small-town leaders pursue convictions, some may finally turn skeptic.

Silencio
by Luis M. Salas
2010s Social
In a Mexican community suffering a terrible wave of violence, a victim struggles to survive. Some years later, a journalist investigates what happened in the town, hoping to interview the victim and also to avoid harm.

Men of Dishonor
by Gianmaria Amato
1983-1994 Political-Social-Economic
Sicily's judges and police struggle against *Cosa Nostra*. But there is political ambiguity and even social resistance to this fight, as the mafia's pursuit of money and power impacts Sicily's politics and economic development.

Democracy in Crisis
by Injae Hwang & Woohe Lee
1968-1971 Political
South Korean President Park Chung-hee seeks to extend his authoritarian regime to a 3rd term in the face of a pro-democracy movement, an organized Opposition, and Kim Dae-jung—a strong contender supported by the people.

Time Immemorial
by Di Luo
2010-2023 Political
China's dispute with its far smaller Southeast Asian neighbors over the South China Sea features gradualist expansion, non-lethal coercion, and worry about not only ships and missiles but also laws, norms, and perceptions.

Goa Kranti
by Andy Desa & Deepak M.
1932-1961 Political-Military
Goa remains under Portuguese control even after Indian independence from Britain. Freedom fighters must choose the violent or nonviolent path (*satyagraha*), gather local support, and build morale toward liberation.

The Coffee Cultivars
by Shradha Jain
20th Century Economic
Peace and independence transform southern India's coffee industry, with export regulation and protection of small farmers. Fertile jungle, shade canopies, and traditional farming grow sought-after coffee gaining global popularity.