
ASA News, Spring 2021

Pandemic Publishing Interview: Pathfinder Press' Nick Castle

1. How has the pandemic and the broad suspension of in person events impacted publishing?

The pandemic has not interfered with our publishing efforts, which included a new edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* last spring and a new book in the coming months called *Labor, Nature, and the Dawn of Humanity: The Long View of History*. Our participation in academic conferences has been limited to virtual ones. In this period, we have not been able to reach out as we would normally at in-person events where we are better able to engage, discuss, and walk through Pathfinder books with conference participants.

2. What have been the publishing trends that you've seen over the last year? What trends are you most excited about?

There is a growing interest in titles about the fight against racism. Pathfinder has important books on this topic. Our titles by and about Malcolm X have been particularly popular. These include: *By Any Means Necessary*, *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power*. We are also finding expanding interest in Pathfinder's collections of speeches by Thomas Sankara, which are among our best-selling titles month after month.

3. Since we still aren't able to get together, how have book pitches changed and what should our members know about the process?

Pathfinder rarely, if ever, takes book pitches even in normal times.

4. What new projects are you working on that the African Studies community should be on the lookout for?

Pathfinder's most recent title is *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle against Ebola in West Africa*. We featured this book at the virtual ASA conference and will continue to promote it widely, along with Pathfinder's new edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist interpretation* by Abram Leon. This book will soon be published in French. It will be a valuable resource for readers across the former French colonies of North and West Africa. A new title on the materialist view of history will be out in the spring as mentioned above in question one.