The riveting true story of sixty years in the life of a small town ravaged by industrial pollution, *Toms River* melds hard-hitting investigative reporting, a fascinating scientific detective story, deep historical research, and an unforgettable cast of characters into a sweeping narrative that leaves us asking: Could it happen in my town, too?

One of New Jersey’s seemingly innumerable quiet seaside towns, Toms River became the unlikely setting for a decades-long drama that culminated in 2001 with one of the largest legal settlements in the annals of toxic dumping. A town that would rather have been known for its Little League World Series champions ended up making history for an entirely different reason: a notorious cluster of childhood cancers scientifically linked to local air and water pollution. For years, large chemical companies had been using Toms River as their private dumping ground, burying tens of thousands of leaky drums in open pits and discharging billions of gallons of acid-laced wastewater into the town’s namesake river.

**FINALISTS**

- *The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide* by Gary J. Bass
  - WSC Stacks 954.9105 B293
  - A disquieting exploration of the role played by the American president and his national security advisor in the 1971 Pakistani civil war, a bloodbath that killed hundreds of thousands and created millions of refugees

- *The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War* by Fred Kaplan
  - WSC Stacks 355.0218 K141
  - An engrossing look at how a tenacious general became the ringleader of efforts to reshape America’s military strategy in the post-Cold War age

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**1977**

- BEAUTIFUL SWIMMERS: WATERMEN, CRABS, AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY
  - William W. Warner
  - 639.54 W248

- WHY SURVIVE?
  - BEING OLD IN AMERICA
  - Robert N. Butler
  - 301.435 B078

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**1978**

- CHILDREN OF CRISIS, VOLS. II and III
  - Robert Coles
  - 301.451 C679

- SO HUMAN AN ANIMAL
  - Rene Jules Dubos
  - 301.3 D852

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**1979**

- STILWELL AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN CHINA, 1911-1945
  - Barbara W. Tuchman
  - 951.042 779

- THE PROBLEM OF SLAVERY IN WESTERN CULTURE
  - David Brion Davis
  - 326 D291

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**1980**

- THE RISING SUN: THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE JAPANESE EMPIRE, 1936-1945
  - John Toland
  - 940.5352 T574

- WANDERING THROUGH WINTER: A NATURALIST’S RECORD OF A 20,000-MILE JOURNEY THROUGH THE NORTH AMERICAN WINTER
  - Edwin Way Teale

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**1981**

  - Norman Mailer
  - 818.54 M281

- O STRANGE NEW WORLD: AMERICAN CULTURE: THE FORMATIVE YEARS
  - Howard Mumford Jones
  - 917.3 J171

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**1982**

- THE DENIAL OF DEATH
  - Ernest Becker
  - 128.5 B388

- FIRE IN THE LAKE: THE VIETNAMESE AND THE AMERICANS IN VIETNAM
  - Frances Fitzgerald
  - 320.9597 F576

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**1983**

- Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation
  - Dan Fagin
  - WSC Stacks 363.732 F136

- THE RIVETING TRUE STORY OF SIXTY YEARS IN THE LIFE OF A SMALL TOWN RAVAGED BY INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, *TOMS RIVER* MELDS HARD-HITTING INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, A FASCINATING SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE STORY, DEEP HISTORICAL RESEARCH, AND AN UNFORGETTABLE CAST OF CHARACTERS INTO A SWEETING NARRATIVE THAT LEAVES US ASKING: COULD IT HAPPEN IN MY TOWN, TOO?

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**1984**

- THE GUNS OF AUGUST
  - Barbara W. Tuchman
  - 940.42 779

- ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM IN AMERICAN LIFE
  - Richard Hofstadter
  - 917.3 H677

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**1985**

- THE MAKING OF THE PRESIDENT, 1960
  - Theodore H. White
  - 973.921 W585

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**1986**

- THE DENIAL OF SLAVERY IN WESTERN CULTURE
  - David Brion Davis
  - 326 D291

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  - 301.3 D852
The Pulitzer Prize is a U.S. award for achievements in newspaper journalism, literature and musical composition. It was established by Joseph Pulitzer and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.

Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. In twenty of these, each winner receives a certificate and a $10,000 cash reward. The award for general nonfiction is given for distinguished and appropriately documented works. The Pulitzer Prize is a U.S. award for achievement in the arts to understand the Pulitzer Prize. It was established by Joseph Pulitzer and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.

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