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## Book Briefs

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Provocative from its title onward, “The Murderous History of Bible Translations: Power, Conflict, and the Quest for Meaning” (Bloomsbury Press) includes stories of passion, blood and religious conviction. Freedman, a writer and scholar with a doctorate in Aramaic, notes that the Bible has been translated more than any other book. He writes that William Tyndale, the first man to produce an English version of the Bible in print, was imprisoned in 1535 and burned at the stake the following year, as was his co-translator. Freedman explains that every translator of the Bible into another language had a story, “every bit as illuminating and frequently as violent, as the Bible itself.” And, he says that in present times, while there’s no violence, the controversies and contention remain, “peppered with arguments and disputes about how to read” the Bible and what it really says.