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# Philosophy

University of California Press

Columbia University Press

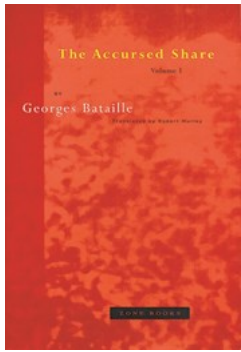
Princeton University Press

**New and Best of Backlist**

Autumn 2023



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## The Accursed Share, Volume I

Georges Bataille

9780942299113

£20.00 • \$23.95

Trade Paperback

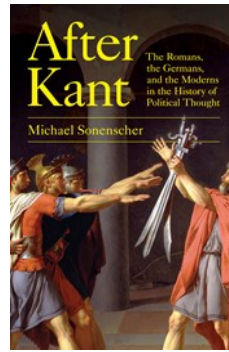
Philosophy

May 1991

Zone Books

In this important work, Georges Bataille uses his novel economic theory as the basis for an incisive inquiry into the very nature of civilization. He introduces here his concept of the *accursed share*, the surplus energy that any system, natural or cultural, must expend; it is this expenditure, according to Bataille, that most clearly defines a society. His examples include sacrifice among the Aztecs, potlatch among the Northwest Coast Indians, military conquest in Islam, and Buddhist monasticism in Tibet.

In this way, Bataille proposes a theory of a “general economy” based on excess and exuberance that radically revises conventional economic models of scarcity and utility. A brilliant blend of economics and aesthetics, ethics and anthropology, *The Accursed Share* provides an excellent introduction to Bataille’s philosophic work. It will be of particular interest not only to readers of his fiction and essays but also to cultural theorists, anthropologists, and economists of all schools.



## After Kant

Michael Sonenscher

9780691245638

£45.00 • \$55.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

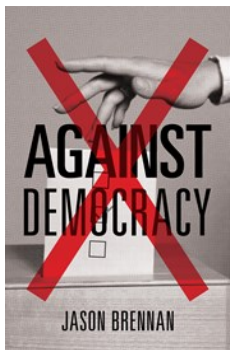
July 2023

Princeton University Press

**Tracing the origins of modern political thought through three sets of arguments over history, morality, and freedom**

In this wide-ranging work, Michael Sonenscher traces the origins of modern political thought and ideologies to a question, raised by Immanuel Kant, about what is involved in comparing individual human lives to the whole of human history. How can we compare them, or understand the results of the comparison? Kant’s question injected a new, future-oriented dimension into existing discussions of prevailing norms, challenging their orientation toward the past. This reversal made Kant’s question a bridge between three successive sets of arguments: between the supporters of the ancients and moderns, the classics and romantics, and the Romans and the Germans. Sonenscher argues that the genealogy of modern political ideologies—from liberalism to nationalism to communism—can be connected to the resulting discussions of time, history, and values, mainly in France but also in Germany, Switzerland, and Britain, in the period straddling the French and Industrial revolutions.

What is the genuinely human content of human history? Everything begins somewhere—democracy with the Greeks, or the idea of a *res publica* with the Romans—but these local arrangements have become vectors of values that are, apparently, universal. The intellectual upheaval that Sonenscher describes involved a struggle to close the gap, highlighted by Kant, between individual lives and human history. *After Kant* is an examination of that struggle’s enduring impact on the history and the historiography of political thought.



## Against Democracy

Jason Brennan

9780691178493

£17.99 • \$20.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

September 2017

Princeton University Press

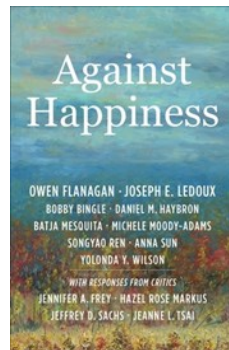
**A bracingly provocative challenge to one of our most cherished ideas and institutions**

Most people believe democracy is a uniquely just form of government. They believe people have the right to an equal share of political power. And they believe that political participation is good for us—it empowers us, helps us get what we want, and tends to make us smarter, more virtuous, and more caring for one another. These are some of our most cherished ideas about democracy. But Jason Brennan says they are all wrong.

In this trenchant book, Brennan argues that democracy should be judged by its results—and the results are not good enough. Just as defendants have a right to a fair trial, citizens have a right to competent government. But democracy is the rule of the ignorant and the irrational, and it all too often falls short. Furthermore, no one has a fundamental right to any share of political power, and exercising political power does most of us little good. On the contrary, a wide range of social science research shows that political participation and democratic deliberation actually tend to make people worse—more irrational, biased, and mean. Given this grim picture, Brennan argues that a new system of government—epistocracy, the rule of the knowledgeable—may be better than democracy, and that it’s time to experiment and find out.

A challenging critique of democracy and the first sustained defense of the rule of the knowledgeable, *Against Democracy* is essential reading for scholars and students of politics across the disciplines.

Featuring a new preface that situates the book within the current political climate and discusses other alternatives beyond epistocracy, *Against Democracy* is a challenging critique of democracy and the first sustained defense of the rule of the knowledgeable.



## Against Happiness

Owen Flanagan

9780231209496

£25.00 • \$30.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

May 2023

Columbia University Press

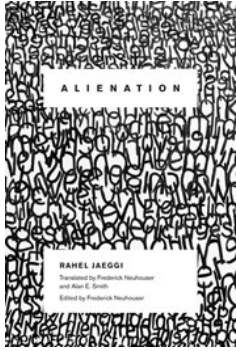
The “happiness agenda” is a worldwide movement that claims that happiness is the highest good, happiness can be measured, and public policy should promote happiness. *Against Happiness* is a thorough and powerful critique of this program, revealing the flaws of its concept of happiness and advocating a renewed focus on equality and justice.

Written by an interdisciplinary team of authors, this book provides both theoretical and empirical analysis of the limitations of the happiness agenda. The authors emphasize that this movement draws on a parochial, Western-centric philosophical basis and demographic sample. They show that happiness defined as subjective satisfaction or a surplus of positive emotions bears little resemblance to the richer and more nuanced concepts of the good life found in many world traditions. Cross-cultural philosophy, comparative theology, and social and cultural psychology all teach that cultures and subcultures vary in how much value they place on life satisfaction or feeling happy. Furthermore, the ideas promoted by the happiness agenda can compete with rights, justice, sustainability, and equality—and even conceal racial and gender injustice.

*Against Happiness* argues that a better way forward requires integration of cross-cultural philosophical, ethical, and political thought with critical social science. Ultimately, the authors contend, happiness should be a secondary goal—worth pursuing only if it is contingent on the demands of justice.



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## Alienation

Rahel Jaeggi

9780231151993

£22.00 • \$27.00

Trade Paperback

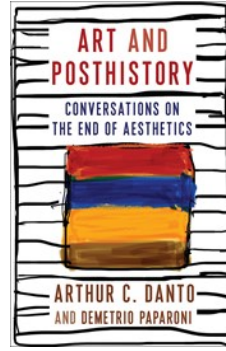
Philosophy / Movements / Deconstruction

September 2016

Columbia University Press

The Hegelian-Marxist idea of alienation fell out of favor after the postmetaphysical rejection of humanism and essentialist views of human nature. In this book Rahel Jaeggi draws on the Hegelian philosophical tradition, phenomenological analyses grounded in modern conceptions of agency, and recent work in the analytical tradition to reconceive alienation as the absence of a meaningful relationship to oneself and others, which manifests in feelings of helplessness and the despondent acceptance of ossified social roles and expectations.

A revived approach to alienation helps critical social theory engage with phenomena such as meaninglessness, isolation, and indifference. By severing alienation's link to a problematic conception of human essence while retaining its social-philosophical content, Jaeggi provides resources for a renewed critique of social pathologies, a much-neglected concern in contemporary liberal political philosophy. Her work revisits the arguments of Rousseau, Hegel, Kierkegaard, and Heidegger, placing them in dialogue with Thomas Nagel, Bernard Williams, and Charles Taylor.



## Art and Posthistory

Arthur C. Danto

9780231204774

£16.99 • \$20.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Aesthetics

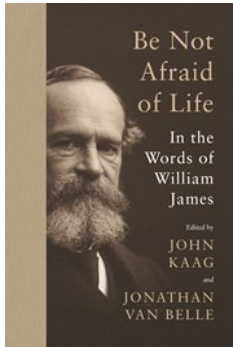
August 2022

Columbia University Press

From the 1990s until just before his death, the legendary art critic and philosopher Arthur C. Danto carried out extended conversations about contemporary art with the prominent Italian critic Demetrio Paparoni. Their discussions ranged widely over a vast range of topics, from American pop art and minimalism to abstraction and appropriationism. Yet they continually returned to the concepts at the core of Danto's thinking—posthistory and the end of aesthetics—provocative notions that to this day shape questions about the meaning and future of contemporary art.

*Art and Posthistory* presents these rich dialogues and correspondence, testifying to the ongoing importance of Danto's ideas. It offers readers the opportunity to experience the intellectual excitement of Danto in person, speculating in a freewheeling yet erudite style. Danto and Paparoni discuss figures such as Andy Warhol, Marcel Duchamp, Franz Kline, Sean Scully, Clement Greenberg, Cindy Sherman, and Wang Guangyi, offering both insightful comments on individual works and sweeping observations about wider issues. On occasion, the artist Mimmo Paladino and the philosopher Mario Perniola join the conversation, enlivening the discussion and adding their own perspectives.

The book also features an introductory essay by Paparoni that provides lucid analysis of Danto's thinking, emphasizing where the two disagree as well as what they learned from each other.



## Be Not Afraid of Life

William James

9780691240152

£25.00 • \$29.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Individual Philosophers

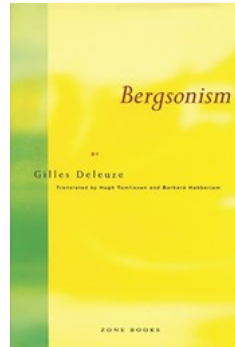
January 2023

Princeton University Press

### A compelling collection of the life-changing writings of William James

William James—psychologist, philosopher, and spiritual seeker—is one of those rare writers who can speak directly and powerfully to anyone about life's meaning and worth, and whose ideas change not only how people think but how they live. The thinker who helped found the philosophy of pragmatism and inspire Alcoholics Anonymous, James famously asked, “is life worth living?” Bringing together many of his best and most popular essays, talks, and other writings, this anthology presents James's answer to that and other existential questions, in his own unique manner—caring, humorous, eloquent, incisive, humble, and forever on the trail of the “ever not quite.”

Here we meet a James perfectly attuned to the concerns of today—one who argues for human freedom, articulates a healthy-minded psychology, urges us to explore the stream of consciousness, presents a new definition of truth based on its practical consequences, and never forecloses the possibility of mystical transcendence. Introduced by John Kaag and Jonathan van Belle, these compelling and accessible selections reveal why James is one of the great guides to the business of living.



## Bergsonism

Gilles Deleuze

9780942299076

£20.00 • \$23.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

September 1991

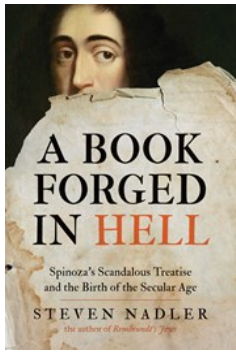
Zone Books

What is needed for something new to appear? According to Gilles Deleuze, one of the most brilliant of contemporary philosophers, this question of “novelty” is the major problem posed by Bergson's work. In *Bergsonism*, Deleuze demonstrates both the development and the range of three fundamental Bergsonian concepts: duration, memory, and the élan vital.

A perfect companion book to Bergson's *Matter and Memory*, *Bergsonism* is also of particular interest to students of Deleuze's own work, influenced as it is by Bergson. Given his texts on Nietzsche, Kafka, and cinema, this book by Deleuze is essential to his English-reading audience. The paperback contains a new afterword prepared by the author especially for this English-language edition.



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## A Book Forged in Hell

Steven Nadler

9780691160184

£15.99 • \$18.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

November 2013

Princeton University Press

### The story of one of the most important—and incendiary—books in Western history

When it appeared in 1670, Baruch Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise* was denounced as the most dangerous book ever published—"godless," "full of abominations," "a book forged in hell . . . by the devil himself." Religious and secular authorities saw it as a threat to faith, social and political harmony, and everyday morality, and its author was almost universally regarded as a religious subversive and political radical who sought to spread atheism throughout Europe. Yet Spinoza's book has contributed as much as the Declaration of Independence or Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* to modern liberal, secular, and democratic thinking. In *A Book Forged in Hell*, Steven Nadler tells the fascinating story of this extraordinary book: its radical claims and their background in the philosophical, religious, and political tensions of the Dutch Golden Age, as well as the vitriolic reaction these ideas inspired.

It is not hard to see why Spinoza's *Treatise* was so important or so controversial, or why the uproar it caused is one of the most significant events in European intellectual history. In the book, Spinoza became the first to argue that the Bible is not literally the word of God but rather a work of human literature; that true religion has nothing to do with theology, liturgical ceremonies, or sectarian dogma; and that religious authorities should have no role in governing a modern state. He also denied the reality of miracles and divine providence, reinterpreted the nature of prophecy, and made an eloquent plea for toleration and democracy.

A vivid story of incendiary ideas and vicious backlash, *A Book Forged in Hell* will interest anyone who is curious about the origin of some of our most cherished modern beliefs.



## The Collected Dialogues of Plato

Plato

9780691097183

£48.00 • \$58.00

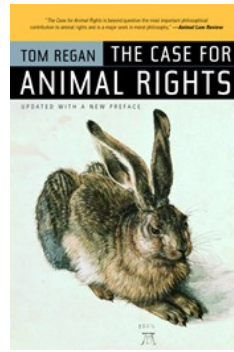
Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 1961

Princeton University Press

All the writings of Plato generally considered to be authentic are here presented in the only complete one-volume Plato available in English. The editors set out to choose the contents of this collected edition from the work of the best British and American translators of the last 100 years, ranging from Jowett (1871) to scholars of the present day. The volume contains prefatory notes to each dialogue, by Edith Hamilton; an introductory essay on Plato's philosophy and writings, by Huntington Cairns; and a comprehensive index which seeks, by means of cross references, to assist the reader with the philosophical vocabulary of the different translators.



## The Case for Animal Rights

Tom Regan

9780520243866

£30.00 • \$34.95

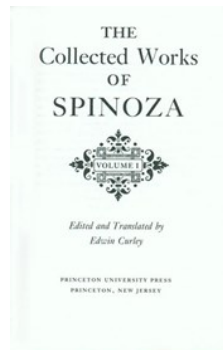
Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

September 2004

University of California Press

More than twenty years after its original publication, *The Case for Animal Rights* is an acknowledged classic of moral philosophy, and its author is recognized as the intellectual leader of the animal rights movement. In a new and fully considered preface, Regan responds to his critics and defends the book's revolutionary position.



## The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume I

Benedictus de Spinoza

9780691072227

£48.00 • \$58.00

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys

September 1985

Princeton University Press

*The Collected Works of Spinoza* provides, for the first time in English, a truly satisfactory edition of all of Spinoza's writings, with accurate and readable translations, based on the best critical editions of the original-language texts, done by a scholar who has published extensively on the philosopher's work.

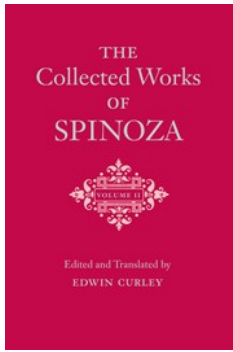
This first volume contains Spinoza's single most important work, the *Ethics*, and four earlier works: the *Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect*, the *Short Treatise on God, Man, and His Well-Being*, Descartes' *"Principles of Philosophy,"* and *Metaphysical Thoughts*. Also included are Spinoza's letters from the periods when these works were being written.

The elaborate editorial apparatus—including prefaces, notes, glossary, and indexes—assists the reader in understanding one of the world's most fascinating, but also most difficult, philosophers. Of particular interest is the glossary-index, which provides extensive commentary on Spinoza's technical vocabulary.

A milestone of scholarship more than forty-five years in the making, *The Collected Works of Spinoza* is an essential edition for anyone with a serious interest in Spinoza or the history of philosophy.



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## The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume II

Benedictus de Spinoza

9780691167633

£48.00 • \$58.00

Hardcover

Philosophy / Political

June 2016

Princeton University Press

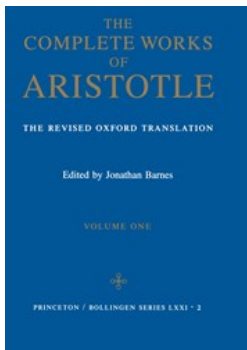
**The second and final volume of the most authoritative English-language edition of Spinoza's writings**

*The Collected Works of Spinoza* provides, for the first time in English, a truly satisfactory edition of all of Spinoza's writings, with accurate and readable translations, based on the best critical editions of the original-language texts, done by a scholar who has published extensively on the philosopher's work.

The centerpiece of this second volume is Spinoza's *Theological-Political Treatise*, a landmark work in the history of biblical scholarship, the first argument for democracy by a major philosopher, and a forceful defense of freedom of thought and expression. This work is accompanied by Spinoza's later correspondence, much of which responds to criticism of the *Theological-Political Treatise*. The volume also includes his last work, the unfinished *Political Treatise*, which builds on the foundations of the *Theological-Political Treatise* to offer plans for the organization of nontyrannical monarchies and aristocracies.

The elaborate editorial apparatus—including prefaces, notes, glossary, and indexes—assists the reader in understanding one of the world's most fascinating, but also most difficult, philosophers. Of particular interest is the glossary-index, which provides extensive commentary on Spinoza's technical vocabulary.

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## The Complete Works of Aristotle, Volume 1

Aristotle

9780691016504

£52.00 • \$63.00

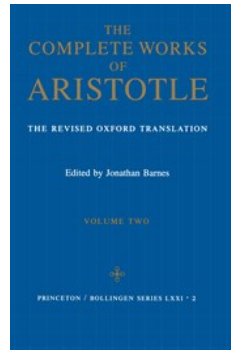
Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

September 1984

Princeton University Press

The Oxford Translation of Aristotle was originally published in 12 volumes between 1912 and 1954. It is universally recognized as the standard English version of Aristotle. This revised edition contains the substance of the original Translation, slightly emended in light of recent scholarship; three of the original versions have been replaced by new translations; and a new and enlarged selection of Fragments has been added. The aim of the translation remains the same: to make the surviving works of Aristotle readily accessible to English speaking readers.



## The Complete Works of Aristotle, Volume 2

Aristotle

9780691016511

£52.00 • \$63.00

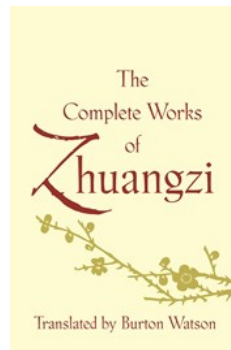
Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

September 1984

Princeton University Press

The Oxford Translation of Aristotle was originally published in 12 volumes between 1912 and 1954. It is universally recognized as the standard English version of Aristotle. This revised edition contains the substance of the original Translation, slightly emended in light of recent scholarship; three of the original versions have been replaced by new translations; and a new and enlarged selection of Fragments has been added. The aim of the translation remains the same: to make the surviving works of Aristotle readily accessible to English speaking readers.



## The Complete Works of Zhuangzi

Burton Watson

9780231164740

£62.00 • \$75.00

Hardcover

Religion / Philosophy

December 2013

Columbia University Press

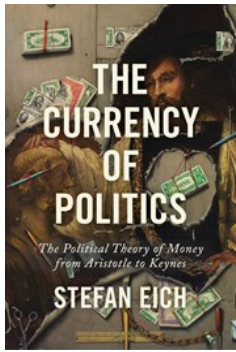
Only by inhabiting Dao (the Way of Nature) and dwelling in its unity can humankind achieve true happiness and freedom, in both life and death. This is Daoist philosophy's central tenet, espoused by the person—or group of people—known as Zhuangzi (369?-286? B.C.E.) in a text by the same name. To be free, individuals must discard rigid distinctions between good and bad, right and wrong, and follow a course of action not motivated by gain or striving. When one ceases to judge events as good or bad, man-made suffering disappears and natural suffering is embraced as part of life.

Zhuangzi elucidates this mystical philosophy through humor, parable, and anecdote, deploying non sequitur and even nonsense to illuminate a truth beyond the boundaries of ordinary logic. Boldly imaginative and inventively worded, the *Zhuangzi* floats free of its historical period and society, addressing the spiritual nourishment of all people across time. One of the most justly celebrated texts of the Chinese tradition, the *Zhuangzi* is read by thousands of English-language scholars each year, yet only in the Wade-Giles romanization. Burton Watson's pinyin romanization brings the text in line with how Chinese scholars, and an increasing number of other scholars, read it.





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## The Currency of Politics

Stefan Eich

9780691191072

£30.00 • \$37.00

Hardcover

Philosophy / Political

May 2022

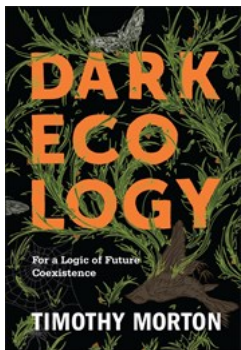
Princeton University Press

**Money in the history of political thought, from ancient Greece to the Great Inflation of the 1970s**

In the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, critical attention has shifted from the economy to the most fundamental feature of all market economies—money. Yet despite the centrality of political struggles over money, it remains difficult to articulate its democratic possibilities and limits. *The Currency of Politics* takes readers from ancient Greece to today to provide an intellectual history of money, drawing on the insights of key political philosophers to show how money is not just a medium of exchange but also a central institution of political rule.

Money appears to be beyond the reach of democratic politics, but this appearance—like so much about money—is deceptive. Even when the politics of money is impossible to ignore, its proper democratic role can be difficult to discern. Stefan Eich examines six crucial episodes of monetary crisis, recovering the neglected political theories of money in the thought of such figures as Aristotle, John Locke, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Karl Marx, and John Maynard Keynes. He shows how these layers of crisis have come to define the way we look at money, and argues that informed public debate about money requires a better appreciation of the diverse political struggles over its meaning.

Recovering foundational ideas at the intersection of monetary rule and democratic politics, *The Currency of Politics* explains why only through greater awareness of the historical limits of monetary politics can we begin to articulate more democratic conceptions of money.



## Dark Ecology

Timothy Morton

9780231177535

£20.00 • \$25.00

Trade Paperback

Literary Criticism / Semiotics & Theory

June 2018

Columbia University Press

Timothy Morton argues that ecological awareness in the present Anthropocene era takes the form of a strange loop or Möbius strip, twisted to have only one side. Deckard travels this oedipal path in *Blade Runner* (1982) when he learns that he might be the enemy he has been ordered to pursue. Ecological awareness takes this shape because ecological phenomena have a loop form that is also fundamental to the structure of how things are.

The logistics of agricultural society resulted in global warming and hardwired dangerous ideas about life-forms into the human mind. Dark ecology puts us in an uncanny position of radical self-knowledge, illuminating our place in the biosphere and our belonging to a species in a sense that is far less obvious than we like to think. Morton explores the logical foundations of the ecological crisis, which is suffused with the melancholy and negativity of coexistence yet evolving, as we explore its loop form, into something playful, anarchic, and comedic. His work is a skilled fusion of humanities and scientific scholarship, incorporating the theories and findings of philosophy, anthropology, literature, ecology, biology, and physics. Morton hopes to reestablish our ties to nonhuman beings and to help us rediscover the playfulness and joy that can brighten the dark, strange loop we traverse.



## Dao De Jing

Laozi

9780691179773

£20.00 • \$23.95

Paperback - with flaps

Philosophy / Taoist

August 2020

Princeton University Press

**From bestselling cartoonist C. C. Tsai, a delightfully illustrated version of the classic work of Daoist philosophy**

C. C. Tsai is one of Asia's most popular cartoonists, and his editions of the Chinese classics have sold more than 40 million copies in over twenty languages. Here, he works his magic again with a delightful graphic adaptation of the complete text of Laozi's *Dao De Jing*, the beloved source of Daoist philosophy. Masterfully transforming Laozi's challenging work into entertaining and enlightening episodes, Tsai offers a uniquely fresh, relevant, and accessible version of one of the world's most influential books.

After opening with Laozi's biography from the *Shi Ji*, Tsai turns the stage over to Laozi, who patiently explains his ideas to his earnest students (and us). Laozi describes the spontaneity of natural processes, the paradoxical effects of ethical precepts, the limits of language, the values of simplicity, and, above all else, how to go with the flow. In brief episodes that tantalize and inspire, he takes us into the subtle complexities of human existence. Ultimately, Laozi, a master visionary, guides us to the mountaintop to reveal an expansive view of life.

A marvelous edition of a timeless classic, this book also presents Laozi's original Chinese text in sidebars on each page, enriching the book for readers and students of Chinese without distracting from the English-language cartoons. The text is skillfully translated by Brian Bruya, who also provides an illuminating introduction.



## Dark Matters

Mara van der Lugt

9780691226149

£22.00 • \$27.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

September 2023

Princeton University Press

**An intellectual history of the philosophers who grappled with the problem of evil, and the case for why pessimism still holds moral value for us today**

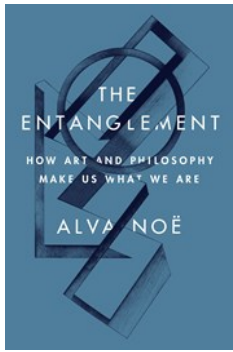
In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, philosophers engaged in heated debates on the question of how God could have allowed evil and suffering in a creation that is supposedly good. *Dark Matters* traces how the competing philosophical traditions of optimism and pessimism arose from early modern debates about the problem of evil, and makes a compelling case for the rediscovery of pessimism as a source for compassion, consolation, and perhaps even hope.

Bringing to life one of the most vibrant eras in the history of philosophy, Mara van der Lugt discusses legendary figures such as Leibniz, Hume, Voltaire, Rousseau, Kant, and Schopenhauer. She also introduces readers to less familiar names, such as Bayle, King, La Mettrie, and Maupertuis. Van der Lugt describes not only how the earliest optimists and pessimists were deeply concerned with finding an answer to the question of the value of existence that does justice to the reality of human suffering, but also how they were fundamentally divided over what such an answer should look like.

A breathtaking work of intellectual history by one of today's leading scholars, *Dark Matters* reveals how the crucial moral aim of pessimism is to find a way of speaking about suffering that offers consolation and does justice to the fragility of life.



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## The Entanglement

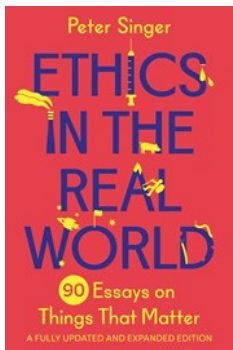
Alva Noë  
9780691188812  
£22.00 • \$27.95  
Hardcover  
Philosophy / Aesthetics  
June 2023  
Princeton University Press

**Why human nature is an aesthetic phenomenon—and why we need art and philosophy to understand ourselves**

In *The Entanglement*, philosopher Alva Noë explores the inseparability of life, art, and philosophy, arguing that we have greatly underestimated what this entangled reality means for understanding human nature.

Life supplies art with its raw materials, but art, Noë argues, remakes life by giving us resources to live differently. Our lives are permeated with the aesthetic. Indeed, human nature is an aesthetic phenomenon, and art—our most direct and authentic way of engaging the aesthetic—is the truest way of understanding ourselves. All this suggests that human nature is not a natural phenomenon. Neither biology, cognitive science, nor AI can tell a complete story of us, and we can no more pin ourselves down than we can fix or settle on the meaning of an artwork. Even more, art and philosophy are the means to set ourselves free, at least to some degree, from convention, habit, technology, culture, and even biology. In making these provocative claims, Noë explores examples of entanglement—in artworks and seeing, writing and speech, and choreography and dancing—and examines a range of scientific efforts to explain the human.

Challenging the notions that art is a mere cultural curiosity and that philosophy has been outmoded by science, *The Entanglement* offers a new way of thinking about human nature, the limits of natural science in understanding the human, and the essential role of art and philosophy in trying to know ourselves.



## Ethics in the Real World

Peter Singer  
9780691237862  
£14.99 • \$18.95  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy  
April 2023  
Princeton University Press

**Provocative essays on real-world ethical questions from the world's most influential philosopher**

Peter Singer is often described as the world's most influential philosopher. He is also one of its most controversial. The author of important books such as *Animal Liberation*, *Practical Ethics*, *Rethinking Life and Death*, and *The Life You Can Save*, he helped launch the animal rights and effective altruism movements and contributed to the development of bioethics. Now, in *Ethics in the Real World*, Singer shows that he is also a master at dissecting important current events in a few hundred words.

In this book of brief essays, he applies his controversial ways of thinking to issues like climate change, extreme poverty, animals, abortion, euthanasia, human genetic selection, sports doping, the sale of kidneys, the ethics of high-priced art, and ways of increasing happiness. Singer asks whether chimpanzees are people, smoking should be outlawed, or consensual sex between adult siblings should be decriminalized, and he reiterates his case against the idea that all human life is sacred, applying his arguments to some recent cases in the news. In addition, he explores, in an easily accessible form, some of the deepest philosophical questions, such as whether anything really matters and what is the value of the pale blue dot that is our planet. The collection also includes some more personal reflections, like Singer's thoughts on one of his favorite activities, surfing, and an unusual suggestion for starting a family conversation over a holiday feast.

Provocative and original, these essays will challenge—and possibly change—your beliefs about a wide range of real-world ethical questions.



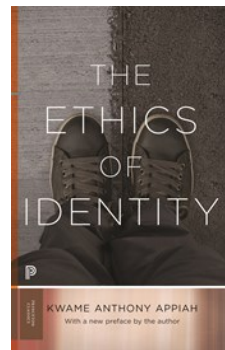
## The Essential Kierkegaard

Søren Kierkegaard  
9780691254067  
£25.00 • \$29.95  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Religious  
August 2023  
Princeton University Press

**A comprehensive anthology of Kierkegaard's writings that offers an unmatched introduction to one of the most original and influential modern philosophers**

This is the most comprehensive anthology of Søren Kierkegaard's works ever published in English. Drawn from the volumes of Princeton's authoritative *Kierkegaard's Writings* series by editors Howard and Edna Hong, these carefully chosen selections represent every major aspect of Kierkegaard's extraordinary output, which changed the course of modern intellectual history with its mix of philosophy, psychology, theology, and literary criticism. The anthology reveals the most important themes of his work, especially what it means to exist and to be human, and captures the unique character of his writings, with their shifting pseudonyms, complex dialogues, and powerful combination of irony, satire, sermon, polemic, humor, and fiction. A superb introduction and guide to the Danish philosopher, *The Essential Kierkegaard* vividly demonstrates why his work continues to speak so directly to so many readers.

- Traces the full span of Kierkegaard's writings, from his early journals to his final work
- Features generous selections from all of Kierkegaard's most important works, including *Either/Or*, *Fear and Trembling*, *Works of Love*, and *The Sickness unto Death*
- Presents selections from lesser-known writings, including *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions* and *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air*
- Includes an introduction to Kierkegaard's writings and explanatory notes for each selection



## The Ethics of Identity

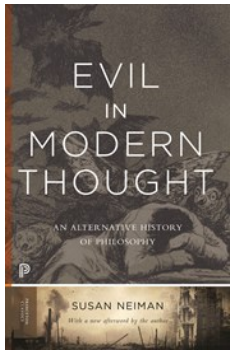
Kwame Anthony Appiah  
9780691254074  
£16.99 • \$19.95  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Political  
October 2023  
Princeton University Press

**A bold vision of liberal humanism for navigating today's complex world of growing identity politics and rising nationalism**

Collective identities such as race, nationality, religion, gender, and sexuality clamor for recognition and respect, sometimes at the expense of other things we value. To what extent do they constrain our freedom, and to what extent do they enable our individuality? Is diversity of value in itself? Has the rhetoric of human rights been overstretched? Kwame Anthony Appiah draws on thinkers through the ages and across the globe to explore such questions, developing an account of ethics that connects moral obligations with collective allegiances and that takes aim at clichés and received ideas about identity. This classic book takes seriously both the claims of individuality—the task of making a life—and the claims of identity, these large and often abstract social categories through which we define ourselves.



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## Evil in Modern Thought

Susan Neiman

9780691168500

£22.00 • \$26.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / History & Surveys

August 2015

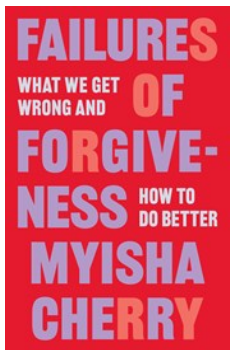
Princeton University Press

**A compelling look at the problem of evil in modern thought, from the Inquisition to global terrorism**

Evil threatens human reason, for it challenges our hope that the world makes sense. For eighteenth-century Europeans, the Lisbon earthquake was manifest evil. Today we view evil as a matter of human cruelty, and Auschwitz as its extreme incarnation. Examining our understanding of evil from the Inquisition to contemporary terrorism, Susan Neiman explores who we have become in the three centuries that separate us from the early Enlightenment. In the process, she rewrites the history of modern thought and points philosophy back to the questions that originally animated it.

Whether expressed in theological or secular terms, evil poses a problem about the world's intelligibility. It confronts philosophy with fundamental questions: Can there be meaning in a world where innocents suffer? Can belief in divine power or human progress survive a cataloging of evil? Is evil profound or banal? Neiman argues that these questions impelled modern philosophy. Traditional philosophers from Leibniz to Hegel sought to defend the Creator of a world containing evil. Inevitably, their efforts—combined with those of more literary figures like Pope, Voltaire, and the Marquis de Sade—eroded belief in God's benevolence, power, and relevance, until Nietzsche claimed He had been murdered. They also yielded the distinction between natural and moral evil that we now take for granted. Neiman turns to consider philosophy's response to the Holocaust as a final moral evil, concluding that two basic stances run through modern thought. One, from Rousseau to Arendt, insists that morality demands we make evil intelligible. The other, from Voltaire to Adorno, insists that morality demands that we don't.

Beautifully written and thoroughly engaging, this book tells the history of modern philosophy as an attempt to come to terms with evil. It reintroduces philosophy to anyone interested in questions of life and death, good and evil, suffering and sense. Featuring a substantial new afterword by Neiman that raises provocative questions about Hannah Arendt's take on Adolf Eichmann and the rationale behind



## Failures of Forgiveness

Myisha Cherry

9780691223193

£22.00 • \$27.95

Hardcover

Philosophy

September 2023

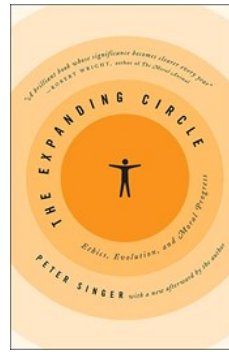
Princeton University Press

**Philosopher Myisha Cherry teaches us the right ways to deal with wrongdoing in our lives and the world**

Sages from Cicero to Oprah have told us that forgiveness requires us to let go of negative emotions and that it has a unique power to heal our wounds. In *Failures of Forgiveness*, Myisha Cherry argues that these beliefs couldn't be more wrong—and that the ways we think about and use forgiveness, personally and as a society, can often do more harm than good. She presents a new and healthier understanding of forgiveness—one that will give us a better chance to recover from wrongdoing and move toward "radical repair."

Cherry began exploring forgiveness after some relatives of the victims of the mass shooting at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina, forgave what seemed unforgivable. She was troubled that many observers appeared to be more inspired by these acts of forgiveness than they were motivated to confront the racial hatred that led to the killings. That is a big mistake, Cherry argues. Forgiveness isn't magic. We can forgive and still be angry, there can be good reasons not to forgive, and forgiving a wrong without tackling its roots solves nothing. Examining how forgiveness can go wrong in families, between friends, at work, and in the media, politics, and beyond, Cherry addresses forgiveness and race, canceling versus forgiving, self-forgiveness, and more. She takes the burden of forgiveness off those who have been wronged and offers guidance both to those deciding whether and how to forgive and those seeking forgiveness.

By showing us how to do forgiveness better, *Failures of Forgiveness* promises to transform how we deal with wrongdoing in our lives, opening a new path to true healing and reconciliation.



## The Expanding Circle

Peter Singer

9780691150697

£14.99 • \$17.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

May 2011

Princeton University Press

What is ethics? Where do moral standards come from? Are they based on emotions, reason, or some innate sense of right and wrong? For many scientists, the key lies entirely in biology--especially in Darwinian theories of evolution and self-preservation. But if evolution is a struggle for survival, why are we still capable of altruism?

In his classic study *The Expanding Circle*, Peter Singer argues that altruism began as a genetically based drive to protect one's kin and community members but has developed into a consciously chosen ethic with an expanding circle of moral concern. Drawing on philosophy and evolutionary psychology, he demonstrates that human ethics cannot be explained by biology alone. Rather, it is our capacity for reasoning that makes moral progress possible. In a new afterword, Singer takes stock of his argument in light of recent research on the evolution of morality.



## Fear and Trembling and The Sickness Unto Death

Søren Kierkegaard

9780691158310

£12.99 • \$14.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Movements / Existentialism

April 2013

Princeton University Press

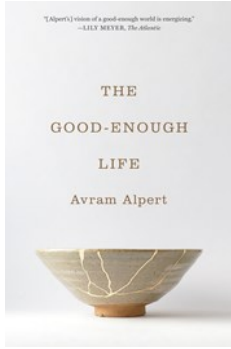
Walter Lowrie's classic, bestselling translation of Søren Kierkegaard's most important and popular books remains unmatched for its readability and literary quality. *Fear and Trembling* and *The Sickness Unto Death* established Kierkegaard as the father of existentialism and have come to define his contribution to philosophy. Lowrie's translation, first published in 1941 and later revised, was the first in English, and it has introduced hundreds of thousands of readers to Kierkegaard's thought. Kierkegaard counted *Fear and Trembling* and *The Sickness Unto Death* among "the most perfect books I have written," and in them he introduces two terms—"the absurd" and "despair"—that have become key terms in modern thought. *Fear and Trembling* takes up the story of Abraham and Isaac to explore a faith that transcends the ethical, persists in the face of the absurd, and meets its reward in the return of all that the faithful one is willing to sacrifice, while *The Sickness Unto Death* examines the spiritual anxiety of despair.

Walter Lowrie's magnificent translation of these seminal works continues to provide an ideal introduction to Kierkegaard. And, as Gordon Marino argues in a new introduction, these books are as relevant as ever in today's age of anxiety.





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## The Good-Enough Life

Avram Alpert

9780691254685

£15.99 • \$18.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Social

September 2023

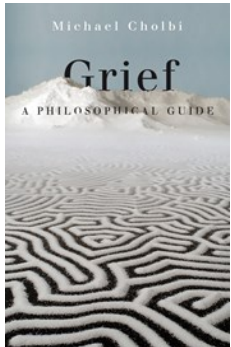
Princeton University Press

### How an acceptance of our limitations can lead to a more fulfilling life and a more harmonious society

We live in a world oriented toward greatness, one in which we feel compelled to be among the wealthiest, most powerful, and most famous. This book explains why no one truly benefits from this competitive social order, and reveals how another way of life is possible—a good-enough life for all.

Avram Alpert shows how our obsession with greatness results in stress and anxiety, damage to our relationships, widespread political and economic inequality, and destruction of the natural world. He describes how to move beyond greatness to create a society in which everyone flourishes. By competing less with each other, each of us can find renewed meaning and purpose, have our material and emotional needs met, and begin to lead more leisurely lives. Alpert makes no false utopian promises, however. Life can never be more than good enough because there will always be accidents and tragedies beyond our control, which is why we must stop dividing the world into winners and losers and ensure that there is a fair share of decency and sufficiency to go around.

Visionary and provocative, *The Good-Enough Life* demonstrates how we can work together to cultivate a good-enough life for all instead of tearing ourselves apart in a race to the top of the social pyramid.



## Grief

Michael Cholbi

9780691232737

£13.99 • \$16.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

January 2024

Princeton University Press

### An engaging and illuminating exploration of grief—and why, despite its intense pain, it can also help us grow

Experiencing grief at the death of a person we love or who matters to us—as universal as it is painful—is central to the human condition. Surprisingly, however, philosophers have rarely examined grief in any depth. In *Grief*, Michael Cholbi presents a groundbreaking philosophical exploration of this complex emotional event, offering valuable new insights about what grief is, whom we grieve, and how grief can ultimately lead us to a richer self-understanding and a fuller realization of our humanity.

Drawing on psychology, social science, and literature as well as philosophy, Cholbi explains that we grieve for the loss of those in whom our identities are invested, including people we don't know personally but cherish anyway, such as public figures. Their deaths not only deprive us of worthwhile experiences; they also disrupt our commitments and values. Yet grief is something we should embrace rather than avoid, an important part of a good and meaningful life. The key to understanding this paradox, Cholbi says, is that grief offers us a unique and powerful opportunity to grow in self-knowledge by fashioning a new identity. Although grief can be tumultuous and disorienting, it also reflects our distinctly human capacity to rationally adapt as the relationships we depend on evolve.

An original account of how grieving works and why it is so important, *Grief* shows how the pain of this experience gives us a chance to deepen our relationships with others and ourselves.



## The Great Guide

Julian Baggini

9780691220864

£16.99 • \$19.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

August 2022

Princeton University Press

### Invaluable wisdom on living a good life from one of the Enlightenment's greatest philosophers

David Hume (1711–1776) is perhaps best known for his ideas about cause and effect and his criticisms of religion, but he is rarely thought of as a philosopher with practical wisdom to offer. Yet Hume's philosophy is grounded in an honest assessment of nature—human nature in particular. *The Great Guide* is an engaging and eye-opening account of how Hume's thought should serve as the basis for a complete approach to life.

In this enthralling book, Julian Baggini masterfully interweaves biography with intellectual history and philosophy to give us a complete vision of Hume's guide to life. He follows Hume on his life's journey, literally walking in the great philosopher's footsteps as Baggini takes readers to the places that inspired Hume the most, from his family estate near the Scottish border to Paris, where, as an older man, he was warmly embraced by French society. Baggini shows how Hume put his philosophy into practice in a life that blended reason and passion, study and leisure, and relaxation and enjoyment.

*The Great Guide* includes 145 Humean maxims for living well, on topics ranging from the meaning of success and the value of travel to friendship, facing death, identity, and the importance of leisure. This book shows how life is far richer with Hume as your guide.



## Hannah Arendt and Isaiah Berlin

Kei Hiruta

9780691226125

£20.00 • \$24.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

November 2023

Princeton University Press

### For the first time, the full story of the conflict between two of the twentieth century's most important thinkers—and the lessons their disagreements continue to offer

Two of the most iconic thinkers of the twentieth century, Hannah Arendt (1906–1975) and Isaiah Berlin (1909–1997) fundamentally disagreed on central issues in politics, history and philosophy. In spite of their overlapping lives and experiences as Jewish émigré intellectuals, Berlin disliked Arendt intensely, saying that she represented “everything that I detest most,” while Arendt met Berlin's hostility with indifference and suspicion. Written in a lively style, and filled with drama, tragedy and passion, *Hannah Arendt and Isaiah Berlin* tells, for the first time, the full story of the fraught relationship between these towering figures, and shows how their profoundly different views continue to offer important lessons for political thought today.

Drawing on a wealth of new archival material, Kei Hiruta traces the Arendt–Berlin conflict, from their first meeting in wartime New York through their widening intellectual chasm during the 1950s, the controversy over Arendt's 1963 book *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, their final missed opportunity to engage with each other at a 1967 conference and Berlin's continuing animosity toward Arendt after her death. Hiruta blends political philosophy and intellectual history to examine key issues that simultaneously connected and divided Arendt and Berlin, including the nature of totalitarianism, evil and the Holocaust, human agency and moral responsibility, Zionism, American democracy, British imperialism and the Hungarian Revolution. But, most of all, Arendt and Berlin disagreed over a question that goes to the heart of the human condition: what does it mean to be free?



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## Heretics!

Steven Nadler

9780691168692

£20.00 • \$23.95

Paperback - with flaps

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Modern

June 2017

Princeton University Press

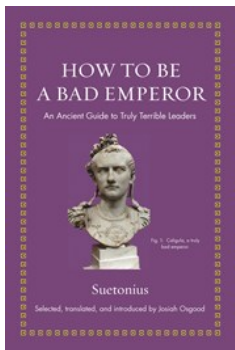
**An entertaining, enlightening, and humorous graphic narrative of the dangerous thinkers who laid the foundation of modern thought**

This entertaining and enlightening graphic narrative tells the exciting story of the seventeenth-century thinkers who challenged authority—sometimes risking excommunication, prison, and even death—to lay the foundations of modern philosophy and science and help usher in a new world. With masterful storytelling and color illustrations, *Heretics!* offers a unique introduction to the birth of modern thought in comics form—smart, charming, and often funny.

These contentious and controversial philosophers—from Galileo and Descartes to Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, and Newton—fundamentally changed the way we look at the world, society, and ourselves, overturning everything from the idea that the Earth is the center of the cosmos to the notion that kings have a divine right to rule. More devoted to reason than to faith, these thinkers defended scandalous new views of nature, religion, politics, knowledge, and the human mind.

*Heretics!* tells the story of their ideas, lives, and times in a vivid new way. Crisscrossing Europe as it follows them in their travels and exiles, the narrative describes their meetings and clashes with each other—as well as their confrontations with religious and royal authority. It recounts key moments in the history of modern philosophy, including the burning of Giordano Bruno for heresy, Galileo's house arrest for defending Copernicanism, Descartes's proclaiming *cogito ergo sum*, Hobbes's vision of the "nasty and brutish" state of nature, and Spinoza's shocking *Theological-Political Treatise*.

A brilliant account of one of the most brilliant periods in philosophy, *Heretics!* is the story of how a group of brave thinkers used reason and evidence to triumph over the authority of religion, royalty, and antiquity.



## How to Be a Bad Emperor

Suetonius

9780691193991

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient &

Classical

February 2020

Princeton University Press

**What would Caligula do? What the worst Roman emperors can teach us about how *not* to lead**

If recent history has taught us anything, it's that sometimes the best guide to leadership is the negative example. But that insight is hardly new. Nearly 2,000 years ago, Suetonius wrote *Lives of the Caesars*, perhaps the greatest negative leadership book of all time. He was ideally suited to write about terrible political leaders; after all, he was also the author of *Famous Prostitutes* and *Words of Insult*, both sadly lost. In *How to Be a Bad Emperor*, Josiah Osgood provides crisp new translations of Suetonius's briskly paced, darkly comic biographies of the Roman emperors Julius Caesar, Tiberius, Caligula, and Nero. Entertaining and shocking, the stories of these ancient anti-role models show how power inflames leaders' worst tendencies, causing almost incalculable damage.

Complete with an introduction and the original Latin on facing pages, *How to Be a Bad Emperor* is both a gleeful romp through some of the nastiest bits of Roman history and a perceptive account of leadership gone monstrously awry. We meet Caesar, using his aunt's funeral to brag about his descent from gods and kings—and hiding his bald head with a comb-over and a laurel crown; Tiberius, neglecting public affairs in favor of wine, perverse sex, tortures, and executions; the insomniac sadist Caligula, flaunting his skill at cruel put-downs; and the matricide Nero, indulging his mania for public performance.

In a world bristling with strongmen eager to cast themselves as the Caesars of our day, *How to Be a Bad Emperor* is a delightfully enlightening guide to the dangers of power without character.

## how to do things with emotions

The Morality of Anger  
& Shame across Cultures

owen flanagan

## How to Do Things with Emotions

Owen Flanagan

9780691220994

£18.99 • \$22.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

April 2023

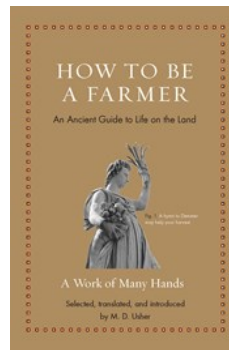
Princeton University Press

**An expansive look at how culture shapes our emotions—and how we can benefit, as individuals and a society, from less anger and more shame**

The world today is full of anger. Everywhere we look, we see values clashing and tempers rising, in ways that seem frenzied, aimless, and cruel. At the same time, we witness political leaders and others who lack any sense of shame, even as they display carelessness with the truth and the common good. In *How to Do Things with Emotions*, Owen Flanagan explains that emotions are things we do, and he reminds us that those like anger and shame involve cultural norms and scripts. The ways we do these emotions offer no guarantee of emotionally or ethically balanced lives—but still we can control and change how such emotions are done. Flanagan makes a passionate case for tuning down anger and tuning up shame, and he observes how cultures around the world can show us how to perform these emotions better.

Through comparative insights from anthropology, psychology, and cross-cultural philosophy, Flanagan reveals an incredible range in the expression of anger and shame across societies. He establishes that certain types of anger—such as those that lead to revenge or passing hurt on to others—are more destructive than we imagine. Certain forms of shame, on the other hand, can protect positive values, including courage, kindness, and honesty. Flanagan proposes that we should embrace shame as a uniquely socializing emotion, one that can promote moral progress where undisciplined anger cannot.

*How to Do Things with Emotions* celebrates the plasticity of our emotional responses—and our freedom to recalibrate them in the pursuit of more fulfilling lives.



## How to Be a Farmer

M. D. Usher

9780691211749

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient &

Classical

November 2021

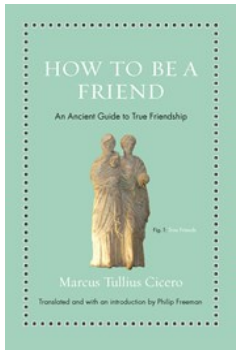
Princeton University Press

**A delightful anthology of classical Greek and Roman writings celebrating country living—ranging from a philosophy of compost to hymns to the gods of agriculture**

Whether you farm or garden, live in the country or long to move there, or simply enjoy an occasional rural retreat, you will be delighted by this cornucopia of writings about living and working on the land, harvested from the fertile fields of ancient Greek and Roman literature. An inspiring antidote to the digital age, *How to Be a Farmer* evokes the beauty and bounty of nature with a rich mixture of philosophy, practical advice, history, and humor. Together, these timeless reflections on what the Greeks called *boukolika* and the Romans *res rusticae* provide an entertaining and enlightening guide to a more meaningful and sustainable way of life.

In fresh translations by classicist and farmer M. D. Usher, with the original texts on facing pages, Hesiod praises the dignity of labor; Plato describes the rustic simplicity of his ideal republic; Varro dedicates a farming manual to his wife, Fundania ("Mrs. Farmer"); and Vergil idealizes farmers as residents of the Golden Age. In other selections, Horace extols the joys of simple living at his cherished country farm; Pliny the Elder explains why all culture stems from agriculture; Columella praises donkeys and tells how to choose a ram or a dog; Musonius Rufus argues that farming is the best livelihood for a philosopher; and there is much more.

Proof that farming is ultimately a state of mind we should all cultivate, *How to Be a Farmer* will charm anyone who loves nature or its fruits.



## How to Be a Friend

Marcus Tullius Cicero

9780691177199

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2018

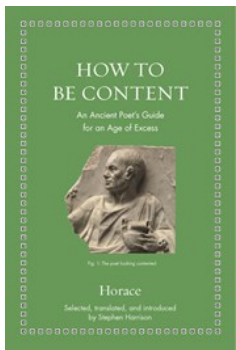
Princeton University Press

### A splendid new translation of one of the greatest books on friendship ever written

In a world where social media, online relationships, and relentless self-absorption threaten the very idea of deep and lasting friendships, the search for true friends is more important than ever. In this short book, which is one of the greatest ever written on the subject, the famous Roman politician and philosopher Cicero offers a compelling guide to finding, keeping, and appreciating friends. With wit and wisdom, Cicero shows us not only how to build friendships but also why they must be a key part of our lives. For, as Cicero says, life without friends is not worth living.

Filled with timeless advice and insights, Cicero's heartfelt and moving classic—written in 44 BC and originally titled *De Amicitia*—has inspired readers for more than two thousand years, from St. Augustine and Dante to Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Presented here in a lively new translation with the original Latin on facing pages and an inviting introduction, *How to Be a Friend* explores how to choose the right friends, how to avoid the pitfalls of friendship, and how to live with friends in good times and bad. Cicero also praises what he sees as the deepest kind of friendship—one in which two people find in each other “another self” or a kindred soul.

An honest and eloquent guide to finding and treasuring true friends, *How to Be a Friend* speaks as powerfully today as when it was first written.



## How to Be Content

Horace

9780691182520

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2020

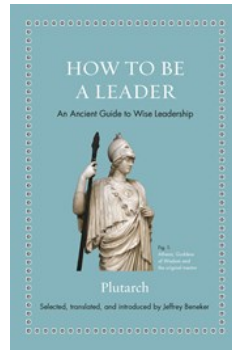
Princeton University Press

### What the Roman poet Horace can teach us about how to live a life of contentment

What are the secrets to a contented life? One of Rome's greatest and most influential poets, Horace (65–8 BCE) has been cherished by readers for more than two thousand years not only for his wit, style, and reflections on Roman society, but also for his wisdom about how to live a good life—above all else, a life of contentment in a world of materialistic excess and personal pressures. In *How to Be Content*, Stephen Harrison, a leading authority on the poet, provides fresh, contemporary translations of poems from across Horace's works that continue to offer important lessons about the good life, friendship, love, and death.

Living during the reign of Rome's first emperor, Horace drew on Greek and Roman philosophy, especially Stoicism and Epicureanism, to write poems that reflect on how to live a thoughtful and moderate life amid mindless overconsumption, how to achieve and maintain true love and friendship, and how to face disaster and death with patience and courage. From memorable counsel on the pointlessness of worrying about the future to valuable advice about living in the moment, these poems, by the man who famously advised us to *carpe diem*, or “harvest the day,” continue to provide brilliant meditations on perennial human problems.

Featuring translations of, and commentary on, complete poems from Horace's *Odes*, *Satires*, *Epistles*, and *Epodes*, accompanied by the original Latin, *How to Be Content* is both an ideal introduction to Horace and a compelling book of timeless wisdom.



## How to Be a Leader

Plutarch

9780691192116

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

November 2019

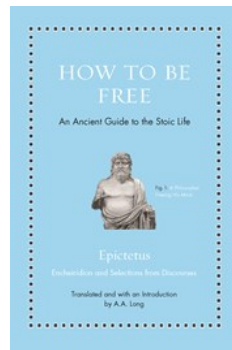
Princeton University Press

### Timeless advice on how to be a successful leader in any field

The ancient biographer and essayist Plutarch thought deeply about the leadership qualities of the eminent Greeks and Romans he profiled in his famous—and massive—*Lives*, including politicians and generals such as Pericles, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Mark Antony. Luckily for us, Plutarch distilled what he learned about wise leadership in a handful of essays, which are filled with essential lessons for experienced and aspiring leaders in any field today. In *How to Be a Leader*, Jeffrey Beneker presents the most important of these essays in lively new translations accompanied by an enlightening introduction, informative notes, and the original Greek on facing pages.

In “To an Uneducated Leader,” “How to Be a Good Leader,” and “Should an Old Man Engage in Politics?” Plutarch explains the characteristics of successful leaders, from being guided by reason and exercising self-control to being free from envy and the love of power, illustrating his points with memorable examples drawn from legendary Greco-Roman lives. He also explains how to train for leadership, persuade and deal with colleagues, manage one's career, and much more.

Writing at the height of the Roman Empire, Plutarch suggested that people should pursue positions of leadership only if they are motivated by “judgment and reason”—not “rashly inspired by the vain pursuit of glory, a sense of rivalry, or a lack of other meaningful activities.” His wise counsel remains as relevant as ever.



## How to Be Free

Epictetus

9780691177717

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Free Will & Determinism

October 2018

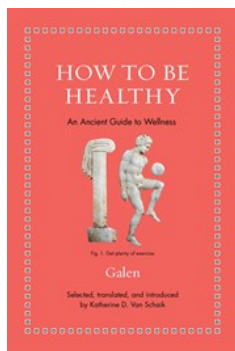
Princeton University Press

### A superb new edition of Epictetus's famed handbook on Stoicism—translated by one of the world's leading authorities on Stoic philosophy

Born a slave, the Roman Stoic philosopher Epictetus (c. 55–135 AD) taught that mental freedom is supreme, since it can liberate one anywhere, even in a prison. In *How to Be Free*, A. A. Long—one of the world's leading authorities on Stoicism and a pioneer in its remarkable contemporary revival—provides a superb new edition of Epictetus's celebrated guide to the Stoic philosophy of life (the *Encheiridion*) along with a selection of related reflections in his *Discourses*.

Freedom, for Epictetus, is not a human right or a political prerogative but a psychological and ethical achievement, a gift that we alone can bestow on ourselves. We can all be free, but only if we learn to assign paramount value to what we can control (our motivations and reactions), treat what we cannot control with equanimity, and view our circumstances as opportunities to do well and be well, no matter what happens to us through misfortune or the actions of other people.

*How to Be Free* features splendid new translations and the original Greek on facing pages, a compelling introduction that sets Epictetus in context and describes the importance of Stoic freedom today, and an invaluable glossary of key words and concepts. The result is an unmatched introduction to this powerful method of managing emotions and handling life's situations, from the most ordinary to the most demanding.



## How to Be Healthy

Katherine D. Van Schaik

9780691206271

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

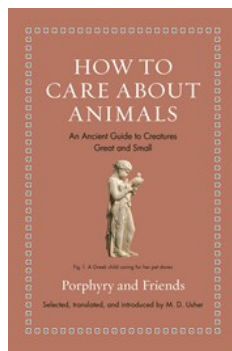
January 2024

Princeton University Press

**Timeless wisdom about how to be healthy in body and mind from one of the greatest physicians of the ancient world**

The second-century Greek physician Galen—the most famous doctor in antiquity after Hippocrates—is a central figure in Western medicine. A talented doctor, surgeon, writer, philosopher, teacher, pharmacologist, and inventor, Galen attended the court of Marcus Aurelius, living through outbreaks of plague (likely smallpox) that devastated the Roman Empire. He also served as physician for professional gladiators, boasting that only two fighters died during his first year (his predecessor had lost sixteen). In writings that provided the foundation of Western medicine up to the nineteenth century, Galen created a unified account of health and disease. In *How to Be Healthy*, practicing physician and classical historian Katherine Van Schaik presents a collection of Galen's enduring insights about how we can take care of our bodies and minds, prevent disease, and reach a healthy old age.

Although we now know that many of Galen's ideas about physiology are wrong, *How to Be Healthy* shows that much of his advice remains sound. In these selections from his writings, presented in fresh translations, Galen discusses the art of medicine, exercise and diet, the mind-body connection, the difficulty of applying general medical principles to individuals, and much more. Featuring an introduction, brief commentaries that connect ancient medical practices to modern ones, and the original Greek on facing pages, *How to Be Healthy* offers an entertaining and enlightening new perspective on the age-old pursuit of wellness, from the importance of “the exercise with a small ball” to the benefits of “avoiding distress.”



## How to Care about Animals

M. D. Usher

9780691240435

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2023

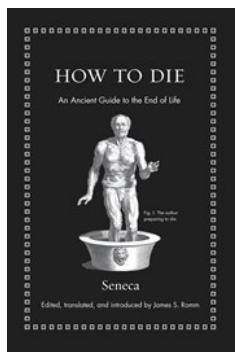
Princeton University Press

**An entertaining and enlightening anthology of classical Greek and Roman writings on animals—and our vital relationships with them**

*How to Care about Animals* is a fascinating menagerie of passages from classical literature about animals and the lives we share with them. Drawing on ancient writers from Aesop to Ovid, classicist and farmer M. D. Usher has gathered a healthy litter of selections that reveal some of the ways Greeks and Romans thought about everything from lions, bears, and wolves to birds, octopuses, and snails—and that might inspire us to rethink our own relationships with our fellow creatures. Presented in lively new translations, with the original texts on facing pages, these pieces are filled with surprises—anticipating but also offering new perspectives on many of our current feelings and ideas about animals.

Here, Porphyry makes a compelling argument for vegetarianism and asserts that the just treatment of animals makes us better people; Pliny the Elder praises the virtuosity of songbirds and the virtuousness of elephants; Plutarch has one of Circe's pigs from the *Odyssey* make a serio-comic case for the dignity of the beasts of the field; Aristotle puts the study of animals on par with anthropology; we read timeless Aesopian fables, including “The Hen That Laid the Golden Egg” and “The Fox and the Grapes”; and there is much, much more.

A Noah's Ark of a book, *How to Care about Animals* is guaranteed to charm and inspire anyone who loves animals.



## How to Die

Seneca

9780691175577

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

February 2018

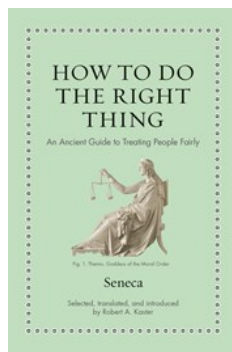
Princeton University Press

**Timeless wisdom on death and dying from the celebrated Stoic philosopher Seneca**

“It takes an entire lifetime to learn how to die,” wrote the Roman Stoic philosopher Seneca (c. 4 BC–65 AD). He counseled readers to “study death always,” and took his own advice, returning to the subject again and again in all his writings, yet he never treated it in a complete work. *How to Die* gathers in one volume, for the first time, Seneca's remarkable meditations on death and dying. Edited and translated by James S. Romm, *How to Die* reveals a provocative thinker and dazzling writer who speaks with a startling frankness about the need to accept death or even, under certain conditions, to seek it out.

Seneca believed that life is only a journey toward death and that one must rehearse for death throughout life. Here, he tells us how to practice for death, how to die well, and how to understand the role of a good death in a good life. He stresses the universality of death, its importance as life's final rite of passage, and its ability to liberate us from pain, slavery, or political oppression.

Featuring beautifully rendered new translations, *How to Die* also includes an enlightening introduction, notes, the original Latin texts, and an epilogue presenting Tacitus's description of Seneca's grim suicide.



## How to Do the Right Thing

Seneca

9780691238647

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

June 2023

Princeton University Press

**How ancient Stoicism can help teach us to treat others—and ourselves—more fairly and mercifully**

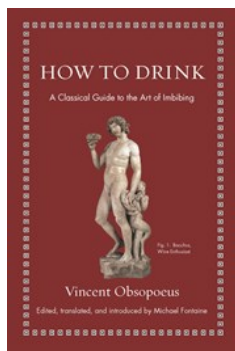
There are times when we've all felt that we haven't been treated as we deserve—that we've been misjudged, shortchanged, or given a raw deal. And, at one time or another, other people have probably felt that we've treated them just as unfairly. *How to Do the Right Thing* draws on the principles of ancient Stoicism as articulated by the Roman statesman and philosopher Seneca to help readers better navigate one of the most important practical questions of daily life—how to do right by others.

Starting from the virtue of magnanimity—the opposite of small-mindedness—*How to Do the Right Thing* draws together lessons from Seneca's writings that stress the importance of calm and clear thinking, of judging oneself fairly before judging others, and of cutting people slack, with a bias toward mercy—all delivered in crisp and lively new translations, and with the original Latin on facing pages.





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## How to Drink

Vincent Obsopoeus

9780691192147

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

April 2020

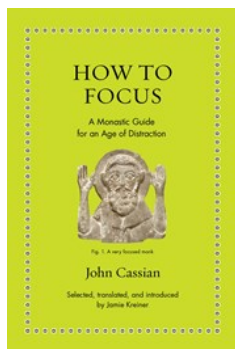
Princeton University Press

### A spirited new translation of a forgotten classic, shot through with timeless wisdom

Is there an art to drinking alcohol? Can drinking ever be a virtue? The Renaissance humanist and neoclassical poet Vincent Obsopoeus (ca. 1498–1539) thought so. In the winelands of sixteenth-century Germany, he witnessed the birth of a poisonous new culture of bingeing, hazing, peer pressure, and competitive drinking. Alarmed, and inspired by the Roman poet Ovid's *Art of Love*, he wrote *The Art of Drinking* (*De Arte Bibendi*) (1536), a how-to manual for drinking with pleasure and discrimination. In *How to Drink*, Michael Fontaine offers the first proper English translation of Obsopoeus's text, rendering his poetry into spirited, contemporary prose and uncorking a forgotten classic that will appeal to drinkers of all kinds and (legal) ages.

Arguing that moderation, not abstinence, is the key to lasting sobriety, and that drinking can be a virtue if it is done with rules and limits, Obsopoeus teaches us how to manage our drinking, how to win friends at social gatherings, and how to give a proper toast. But he also says that drinking to excess on occasion is okay—and he even tells us how to win drinking games, citing extensive personal experience.

Complete with the original Latin on facing pages, this sparkling work is as intoxicating today as when it was first published.



## How to Focus

Jamie Kreiner

9780691208084

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Medieval

January 2024

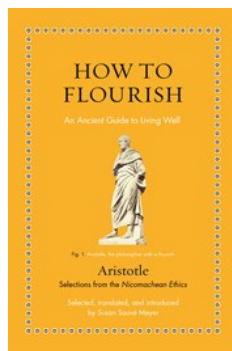
Princeton University Press

### How you can learn to focus like a monk without living like one

Distraction isn't a new problem. We're also not the first to complain about how hard it is to concentrate. Early Christian monks beat us to it. They had given up everything to focus on God, yet they still struggled to keep the demons of distraction at bay. But rather than surrender to the meandering of their minds, they developed powerful strategies to improve their attention and engagement. *How to Focus* is an inviting collection of their strikingly relatable insights and advice—frank, funny, sympathetic, and psychologically sophisticated.

This wisdom is drawn from John Cassian's fifth-century CE *Collationes*, one of the most influential manuals for monks from late antiquity. The *Collationes* follow Cassian and his friend Germanus as they travel around Egypt, asking a series of sage monks how they can make their minds stronger. In response, these monks offer a range of techniques for increasing focus, including setting goals, training the body, managing the memory, using mantras, taking breaks, consulting others—and, most of all, being honest about yourself. As Cassian and Germanus eventually realize, we can't escape distraction—but we can learn how to confront it and, eventually, to concentrate.

Featuring an engaging new translation by Jamie Kreiner and the original Latin on facing pages, *How to Focus* can help even the least monkish of us to train our attention on what matters most.



## How to Flourish

Aristotle

9780691238623

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

June 2023

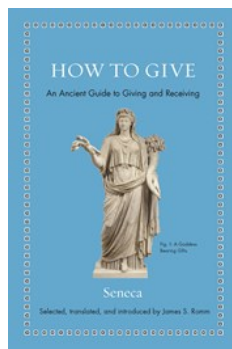
Princeton University Press

### Aristotle's essential guide to human flourishing—the *Nicomachean Ethics*—in a lively new abridged translation

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* is one of the greatest guides to human flourishing ever written, but its length and style have left many readers languishing. *How to Flourish* is a carefully abridged version of the entire work in a highly readable and colloquial new translation by Susan Sauvé Meyer that makes Aristotle's timeless insights about how to lead a good life more engaging and accessible than ever before.

For Aristotle, flourishing involves becoming a good person through practice, and having a life of the mind. To that end, he draws vivid portraits of virtuous and vicious characters and offers sound practical advice about everything from eating and drinking to managing money, controlling anger, getting along with others, and telling jokes. He also distinguishes different kinds of wisdom that are essential to flourishing and offers an unusual perspective on how to appreciate our place in the universe and our relation to the divine.

Omitting Aristotle's digressions and repetitions and overly technical passages, *How to Flourish* provides connecting commentary that allows readers to follow the continuous line of his thought; it also features the original Greek on facing pages. The result is an inviting and lively version of an essential work about how to flourish and lead a good life.



## How to Give

Seneca

9780691192093

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2020

Princeton University Press

### Timeless wisdom on generosity and gratitude from the great Stoic philosopher Seneca

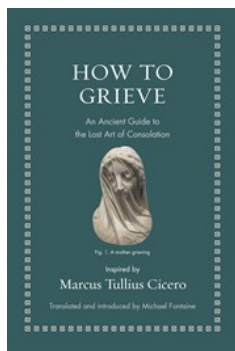
To give and receive well may be the most human thing you can do—but it is also the closest you can come to divinity. So argues the great Roman Stoic thinker Seneca (c. 4 BCE–65 CE) in his longest and most searching moral treatise, "On Benefits" (*De Beneficiis*). James Romm's splendid new translation of essential selections from this work conveys the heart of Seneca's argument that generosity and gratitude are among the most important of all virtues.

For Seneca, the impulse to give to others lies at the very foundation of society; without it, we are helpless creatures, worse than wild beasts. But generosity did not arise randomly or by chance. Seneca sees it as part of our desire to emulate the gods, whose creation of the earth and heavens stands as the greatest gift of all. Seneca's soaring prose captures his wonder at that gift, and expresses a profound sense of gratitude that will inspire today's readers.

Complete with an enlightening introduction and the original Latin on facing pages, *How to Give* is a timeless guide to the profound significance of true generosity.



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## How to Grieve

Marcus Tullius Cicero

9780691220321

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2022

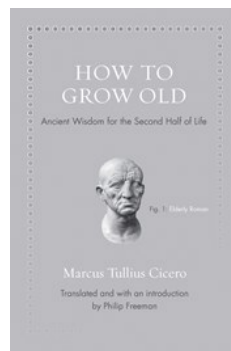
Princeton University Press

**An engaging new translation of a timeless masterpiece about coping with the death of a loved one**

In 45 BCE, the Roman statesman Cicero fell to pieces when his beloved daughter, Tullia, died from complications of childbirth. But from the depths of despair, Cicero fought his way back. In an effort to cope with his loss, he wrote a consolation speech—not for others, as had always been done, but for himself. And it worked. Cicero’s *Consolation* was something new in literature, equal parts philosophy and motivational speech. Drawing on the full range of Greek philosophy and Roman history, Cicero convinced himself that death and loss are part of life, and that if others have survived them, we can, too; resilience, endurance, and fortitude are the way forward.

Lost in antiquity, Cicero’s *Consolation* was recreated in the Renaissance from hints in Cicero’s other writings and the Greek and Latin consolatory tradition. The resulting masterpiece—translated here for the first time in 250 years—is infused throughout with Cicero’s thought and spirit.

Complete with the original Latin on facing pages and an inviting introduction, Michael Fontaine’s engaging translation makes this searching exploration of grief available to readers once again.



## How to Grow Old

Marcus Tullius Cicero

9780691167701

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

March 2016

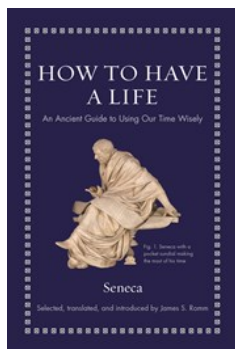
Princeton University Press

**Timeless wisdom on growing old gracefully from one of ancient Rome's greatest philosophers**

Worried that old age will inevitably mean losing your libido, your health, and possibly your marbles too? Well, Cicero has some good news for you. In *How to Grow Old*, the great Roman orator and statesman eloquently describes how you can make the second half of life the best part of all—and why you might discover that reading and gardening are actually far more pleasurable than sex ever was.

Filled with timeless wisdom and practical guidance, Cicero’s brief, charming classic—written in 44 BC and originally titled *On Old Age*—has delighted and inspired readers, from Saint Augustine to Thomas Jefferson, for more than two thousand years. Presented here in a lively new translation with an informative new introduction and the original Latin on facing pages, the book directly addresses the greatest fears of growing older and persuasively argues why these worries are greatly exaggerated—or altogether mistaken.

Montaigne said Cicero’s book “gives one an appetite for growing old.” The American founding father John Adams read it repeatedly in his later years. And today its lessons are more relevant than ever in a world obsessed with the futile pursuit of youth.



## How to Have a Life

Seneca

9780691219127

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2022

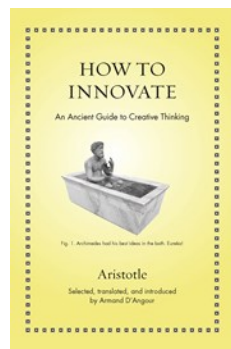
Princeton University Press

**A vibrant new translation of Seneca’s “On the Shortness of Life,” a pointed reminder to make the most of our time**

Who doesn’t worry sometimes that smart phones, the Internet, and TV are robbing us of time and preventing us from having a life? How can we make the most of our time on earth? In the first century AD, the Stoic philosopher Seneca the Younger offered one of the most famous answers to that question in his essay “On the Shortness of Life”—a work that has more to teach us today than ever before. In *How to Have a Life*, James Romm presents a vibrant new translation of Seneca’s brilliant essay, plus two Senecan letters on the same theme, complete with the original Latin on facing pages and an inviting introduction.

With devastating satiric wit, skillfully captured in this translation, Seneca lampoons the ways we squander our time and fail to realize how precious it is. We don’t allow people to steal our money, yet we allow them to plunder our time, or else we give it away ourselves in useless, idle pursuits. Seneca also describes how we can make better use of our brief days and years. In the process, he argues, we can make our lives longer, or even everlasting, because to live a *real* life is to attain a kind of immortality.

A counterweight to the time-sucking distractions of the modern world, *How to Have a Life* offers priceless wisdom about making our time—and our lives—count.



## How to Innovate

Aristotle

9780691213736

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

November 2021

Princeton University Press

**What we can learn about fostering innovation and creative thinking from some of the most inventive people of all times—the ancient Greeks**

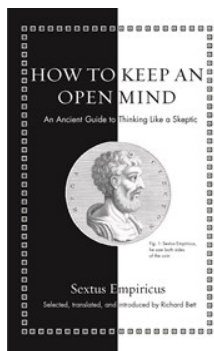
When it comes to innovation and creative thinking, we are still catching up with the ancient Greeks. Between 800 and 300 BCE, they changed the world with astonishing inventions—democracy, the alphabet, philosophy, logic, rhetoric, mathematical proof, rational medicine, coins, architectural canons, drama, lifelike sculpture, and competitive athletics. None of this happened by accident. Recognizing the power of the new and trying to understand and promote the conditions that make it possible, the Greeks were the first to write about innovation and even the first to record a word for forging something new. In short, the Greeks “invented” innovation itself—and they still have a great deal to teach us about it.

*How to Innovate* is an engaging and entertaining introduction to key ideas about—and examples of—innovation and creative thinking from ancient Greece. Armand D’Angour provides lively new translations of selections from Aristotle, Diodorus, and Athenaeus, with the original Greek text on facing pages. These writings illuminate and illustrate timeless principles of creating something new—borrowing or adapting existing ideas or things, cross-fertilizing disparate elements, or criticizing and disrupting current conditions.

From the true story of Archimedes’s famous “Eureka!” moment, to Aristotle’s thoughts on physical change and political innovation, to accounts of how disruption and competition drove invention in Greek warfare and the visual arts, *How to Innovate* is filled with valuable insights about how change happens—and how to bring it about.



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## How to Keep an Open Mind

Sextus Empiricus

9780691206042

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

April 2021

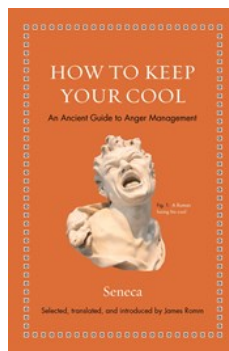
Princeton University Press

### How ancient skepticism can help you attain tranquility by learning to suspend judgment

Along with Stoicism and Epicureanism, Skepticism is one of the three major schools of ancient Greek philosophy that claim to offer a way of living as well as thinking. *How to Keep an Open Mind* provides an unmatched introduction to skepticism by presenting a fresh, modern translation of key passages from the writings of Sextus Empiricus, the only Greek skeptic whose works have survived.

While content in daily life to go along with things as they appear to be, Sextus advocated—and provided a set of techniques to achieve—a radical suspension of judgment about the way things really are, believing that such nonjudging can be useful for challenging the unfounded dogmatism of others and may help one achieve a state of calm and tranquility. In an introduction, Richard Bett makes the case that the most important lesson we can draw from Sextus's brand of skepticism today may be an ability to see what can be said on the other side of any issue, leading to a greater open-mindedness.

Complete with the original Greek on facing pages, *How to Keep an Open Mind* offers a compelling antidote to the closed-minded dogmatism of today's polarized world.



## How to Keep Your Cool

Seneca

9780691181950

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

February 2019

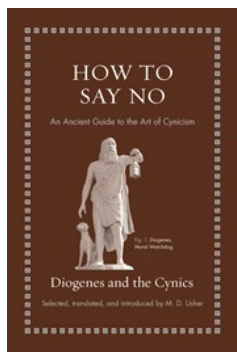
Princeton University Press

### Timeless wisdom on controlling anger in personal life and politics from the Roman Stoic philosopher and statesman Seneca

In his essay “On Anger” (*De Ira*), the Roman Stoic thinker Seneca (c. 4 BC–65 AD) argues that anger is the most destructive passion: “No plague has cost the human race more dear.” This was proved by his own life, which he barely preserved under one wrathful emperor, Caligula, and lost under a second, Nero. This splendid new translation of essential selections from “On Anger,” presented with an enlightening introduction and the original Latin on facing pages, offers readers a timeless guide to avoiding and managing anger. It vividly illustrates why the emotion is so dangerous and why controlling it would bring vast benefits to individuals and society.

Drawing on his great arsenal of rhetoric, including historical examples (especially from Caligula's horrific reign), anecdotes, quips, and soaring flights of eloquence, Seneca builds his case against anger with mounting intensity. Like a fire-and-brimstone preacher, he paints a grim picture of the moral perils to which anger exposes us, tracing nearly all the world's evils to this one toxic source. But he then uplifts us with a beatific vision of the alternate path, a path of forgiveness and compassion that resonates with Christian and Buddhist ethics.

Seneca's thoughts on anger have never been more relevant than today, when uncivil discourse has increasingly infected public debate. Whether seeking personal growth or political renewal, readers will find, in Seneca's wisdom, a valuable antidote to the ills of an angry age.



## How to Say No

Diogenes

9780691229850

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

October 2022

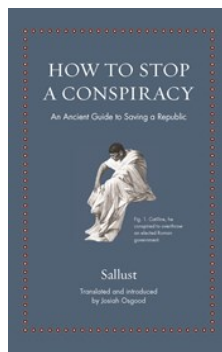
Princeton University Press

### An entertaining and enlightening collection of ancient writings about the philosophers who advocated simple living and rejected unthinking conformity

The Cynics were ancient Greek philosophers who stood athwart the flood of society's material excess, unexamined conventions, and even norms of politeness and thundered “No!” Diogenes, the most famous Cynic, wasn't shy about literally extending his middle finger to the world, expressing mock surprise that “most people go crazy over a finger.” When asked why he was called Diogenes the Dog, he replied “because I fawn on those who give, I bark at those who don't, and I bite scoundrels.” *How to Say No* is a delightful collection of brief ancient writings about Cynicism that captures all the outrageousness, wit, and wisdom of its remarkable cast of characters—from Diogenes in the fourth century BCE to the column-stander Symeon Stylites in late antiquity.

With their “less is more” approach to life, the Cynics speak urgently to our world of climate change, economic uncertainty, and psychic malaise. Although the Cynics weren't writers, their memorable utterances and behavior were recorded by their admirers and detractors, and M. D. Usher offers fresh new translations of appealing selections from this body of writing—ranging from street sermons and repartee to biography and snapshots of Cynics in action.

Complete with introductions to the volume and each selection as well as the original Greek and Latin on facing pages, this lively book demonstrates why the Cynics still retain their power to surprise us and make us laugh—and to make us think and question how we live.



## How to Stop a Conspiracy

Sallust

9780691212364

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

May 2022

Princeton University Press

### An energetic new translation of an ancient Roman masterpiece about a failed coup led by a corrupt and charismatic politician

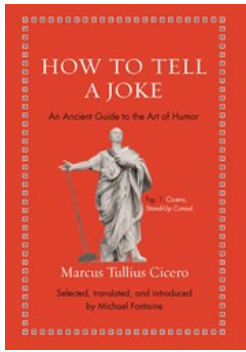
In 63 BC, frustrated by his failure to be elected leader of the Roman Republic, the aristocrat Catiline tried to topple his elected government. Backed by corrupt elites and poor, alienated Romans, he fled Rome while his associates plotted to burn the city and murder its leading politicians. The attempted coup culminated with the unmasking of the conspirators in the Senate, a stormy debate that led to their execution, and the defeat of Catiline and his legions in battle. In *How to Stop a Conspiracy*, Josiah Osgood presents a brisk, modern new translation of the definitive account of these events, Sallust's *The War with Catiline*—a brief, powerful book that has influenced how generations of readers, including America's founders, have thought about coups and political conspiracies.

In a taut, jaw-dropping narrative, Sallust pleurably combines juicy details about Catiline and his louche associates with highly quotable moral judgments and a wrenching description of the widespread social misery they exploited. Along the way, we get unforgettable portraits of the bitter and haunted Catiline, who was sympathetic to the plight of Romans yet willing to destroy Rome; his archenemy Cicero, who thwarts the conspiracy; and Julius Caesar, who defends the conspirators and is accused of being one of them.

Complete with an introduction that discusses how *The War with Catiline* has shaped and continues to shape our understanding of how republics live and die, and featuring the original Latin on facing pages, this volume makes Sallust's gripping history more accessible than ever before.



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## How to Tell a Joke

Marcus Tullius Cicero

9780691206165

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

March 2021

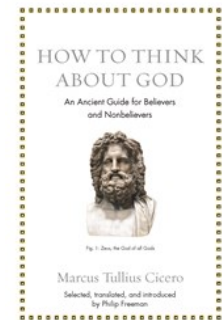
Princeton University Press

### Timeless advice about how to use humor to win over any audience

Can jokes win a hostile room, a hopeless argument, or even an election? You bet they can, according to Cicero, and he knew what he was talking about. One of Rome's greatest politicians, speakers, and lawyers, Cicero was also reputedly one of antiquity's funniest people. After he was elected commander-in-chief and head of state, his enemies even started calling him "the stand-up Consul." *How to Tell a Joke* provides a lively new translation of Cicero's essential writing on humor alongside that of the later Roman orator and educator Quintilian. The result is a timeless practical guide to how a well-timed joke can win over any audience.

As powerful as jokes can be, they are also hugely risky. The line between a witty joke and an offensive one isn't always clear. Cross it and you'll look like a clown, or worse. Here, Cicero and Quintilian explore every aspect of telling jokes—while avoiding costly mistakes. Presenting the sections on humor in Cicero's *On the Ideal Orator* and Quintilian's *The Education of the Orator*, complete with an enlightening introduction and the original Latin on facing pages, *How to Tell a Joke* examines the risks and rewards of humor and analyzes basic types that readers can use to write their own jokes.

Filled with insight, wit, and examples, including more than a few lawyer jokes, *How to Tell a Joke* will appeal to anyone interested in humor or the art of public speaking.



## How to Think about God

Marcus Tullius Cicero

9780691183657

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

November 2019

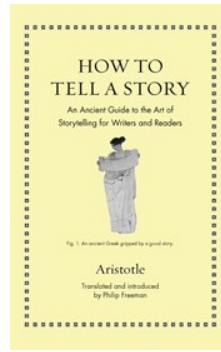
Princeton University Press

### A vivid and accessible new translation of Cicero's influential writings on the Stoic idea of the divine

Most ancient Romans were deeply religious and their world was overflowing with gods—from Jupiter, Minerva, and Mars to countless local divinities, household gods, and ancestral spirits. One of the most influential Roman perspectives on religion came from a nonreligious belief system that is finding new adherents even today: Stoicism. How did the Stoics think about religion? In *How to Think about God*, Philip Freeman presents vivid new translations of Cicero's *On the Nature of the Gods* and *The Dream of Scipio*. In these brief works, Cicero offers a Stoic view of belief, divinity, and human immortality, giving eloquent expression to the religious ideas of one of the most popular schools of Roman and Greek philosophy.

*On the Nature of the Gods* and *The Dream of Scipio* are Cicero's best-known and most important writings on religion, and they have profoundly shaped Christian and non-Christian thought for more than two thousand years, influencing such luminaries as Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Dante, and Thomas Jefferson. These works reveal many of the religious aspects of Stoicism, including an understanding of the universe as a materialistic yet continuous and living whole in which both the gods and a supreme God are essential elements.

Featuring an introduction, suggestions for further reading, and the original Latin on facing pages, *How to Think about God* is a compelling guide to the Stoic view of the divine.



## How to Tell a Story

Aristotle

9780691205274

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

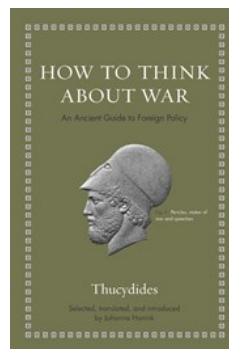
May 2022

Princeton University Press

### An inviting and highly readable new translation of Aristotle's complete *Poetics*—the first and best introduction to the art of writing and understanding stories

Aristotle's *Poetics* is the most important book ever written for writers and readers of stories—whether novels, short fiction, plays, screenplays, or nonfiction. Aristotle was the first to identify the keys to plot, character, audience perception, tragic pleasure, and dozens of other critical points of good storytelling. Despite being written more than 2,000 years ago, the *Poetics* remains essential reading for anyone who wants to learn how to write a captivating story—or understand how such stories work and achieve their psychological effects. Yet for all its influence, the *Poetics* is too little read because it comes down to us in a form that is often difficult to follow, and even the best translations are geared more to specialists than to general readers who simply want to grasp Aristotle's profound and practical insights. In *How to Tell a Story*, Philip Freeman presents the most readable translation of the *Poetics* yet produced, making this indispensable handbook more accessible, engaging, and useful than ever before.

In addition to its inviting and reliable translation, a commentary on each section, and the original Greek on facing pages, this edition of the *Poetics* features unique bullet points, chapter headings, and section numbers to help guide readers through Aristotle's unmatched introduction to the art of writing and reading stories.



## How to Think about War

Thucydides

9780691190150

£13.99 • \$16.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

February 2019

Princeton University Press

### An accessible modern translation of essential speeches from Thucydides's *History* that takes readers to the heart of his profound insights on diplomacy, foreign policy, and war

Why do nations go to war? What are citizens willing to die for? What justifies foreign invasion? And does might always make right? For nearly 2,500 years, students, politicians, political thinkers, and military leaders have read the eloquent and shrewd speeches in Thucydides's *History of the Peloponnesian War* for profound insights into military conflict, diplomacy, and the behavior of people and countries in times of crisis. *How to Think about War* presents the most influential and compelling of these speeches in an elegant new translation by classicist Johanna Hanink, accompanied by an enlightening introduction, informative headnotes, and the original Greek on facing pages. The result is an ideally accessible introduction to Thucydides's long and challenging *History*.

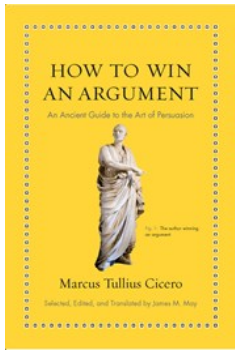
Thucydides intended his account of the clash between classical Greece's mightiest powers—Athens and Sparta—to be a "possession for all time." Today, it remains a foundational work for the study not only of ancient history but also contemporary politics and international relations. *How to Think about War* features speeches that have earned the *History* its celebrated status—all of those delivered before the Athenian Assembly, as well as Pericles's funeral oration and the notoriously ruthless "Melian Dialogue." Organized by key debates, these complex speeches reveal the recklessness, cruelty, and realpolitik of Athenian warfighting and imperialism.

The first English-language collection of speeches from Thucydides in nearly half a century, *How to Think about War* takes readers straight to the heart of this timeless thinker.





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## How to Win an Argument

Marcus Tullius Cicero

9780691164335

£14.99 • \$17.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient &

Classical

October 2016

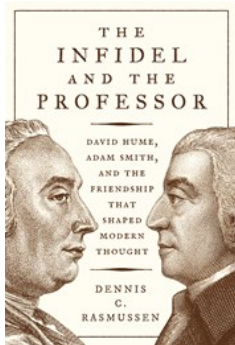
Princeton University Press

### Timeless techniques of effective public speaking from ancient Rome's greatest orator

All of us are faced countless times with the challenge of persuading others, whether we're trying to win a trivial argument with a friend or convince our coworkers about an important decision. Instead of relying on untrained instinct—and often floundering or failing as a result—we'd win more arguments if we learned the timeless art of verbal persuasion, rhetoric. *How to Win an Argument* gathers the rhetorical wisdom of Cicero, ancient Rome's greatest orator, from across his works and combines it with passages from his legal and political speeches to show his powerful techniques in action. The result is an enlightening and entertaining practical introduction to the secrets of persuasive speaking and writing—including strategies that are just as effective in today's offices, schools, courts, and political debates as they were in the Roman forum.

*How to Win an Argument* addresses proof based on rational argumentation, character, and emotion; the parts of a speech; the plain, middle, and grand styles; how to persuade no matter what audience or circumstances you face; and more. Cicero's words are presented in lively translations, with illuminating introductions; the book also features a brief biography of Cicero, a glossary, suggestions for further reading, and an appendix of the original Latin texts.

Astonishingly relevant, this unique anthology of Cicero's rhetorical and oratorical wisdom will be enjoyed by anyone who ever needs to win arguments and influence people—in other words, all of us.



## The Infidel and the Professor

Dennis C. Rasmussen

9780691192284

£16.99 • \$19.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Modern

June 2019

Princeton University Press

### The story of the greatest of all philosophical friendships—and how it influenced modern thought

David Hume is arguably the most important philosopher ever to have written in English, but during his lifetime he was attacked as “the Great Infidel” for his religious skepticism and deemed unfit to teach the young. In contrast, Adam Smith, now hailed as the founding father of capitalism, was a revered professor of moral philosophy. Remarkably, Hume and Smith were best friends, sharing what Dennis Rasmussen calls the greatest of all philosophical friendships. *The Infidel and the Professor* tells the fascinating story of the close relationship between these towering Enlightenment thinkers—and how it influenced their world-changing ideas. It shows that Hume contributed more to economics—and Smith contributed more to philosophy—than is generally recognized. The result is a compelling account of a great friendship that had great consequences for modern thought.



## In the Ruins of Neoliberalism

Wendy Brown

9780231193856

£20.00 • \$25.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Movements / Critical Theory

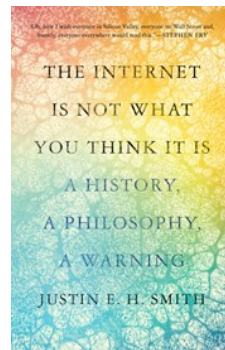
July 2019

Columbia University Press

Across the West, hard-right leaders are surging to power on platforms of ethno-economic nationalism, Christianity, and traditional family values. Is this phenomenon the end of neoliberalism or its monstrous offspring?

*In the Ruins of Neoliberalism* casts the hard-right turn as animated by socioeconomically aggrieved white working- and middle-class populations but contoured by neoliberalism's multipronged assault on democratic values. From its inception, neoliberalism flirted with authoritarian liberalism as it warred against robust democracy. It repelled social-justice claims through appeals to market freedom and morality. It sought to de-democratize the state, economy, and society and re-secure the patriarchal family. In key works of the founding neoliberal intellectuals, Wendy Brown traces the ambition to replace democratic orders with ones disciplined by markets and traditional morality and democratic states with technocratic ones.

Yet plutocracy, white supremacy, politicized mass affect, indifference to truth, and extreme social disinhibition were no part of the neoliberal vision. Brown theorizes their unintentional spurring by neoliberal reason, from its attack on the value of society and its fetish of individual freedom to its legitimization of inequality. Above all, she argues, neoliberalism's intensification of nihilism coupled with its accidental wounding of white male supremacy generates an apocalyptic populism willing to destroy the world rather than endure a future in which this supremacy disappears.



## The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is

Justin E. H. Smith

9780691235219

£13.99 • \$16.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

August 2023

Princeton University Press

### An original deep history of the internet that tells the story of the centuries-old utopian dreams behind it—and explains why they have died today

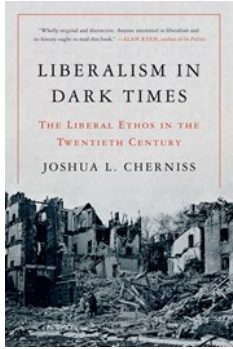
Many think of the internet as an unprecedented and overwhelmingly positive achievement of modern human technology. But is it? In *The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is*, Justin Smith offers an original deep history of the internet, from the ancient to the modern world—uncovering its surprising origins in nature and centuries-old dreams of radically improving human life by outsourcing thinking to machines and communicating across vast distances. Yet, despite the internet's continuing potential, Smith argues, the utopian hopes behind it have finally died today, killed by the harsh realities of social media, the global information economy, and the attention-destroying nature of networked technology.

Ranging over centuries of the history and philosophy of science and technology, Smith shows how the “internet” has been with us much longer than we usually think. He draws fascinating connections between internet user experience, artificial intelligence, the invention of the printing press, communication between trees, and the origins of computing in the machine-driven looms of the silk industry. At the same time, he reveals how the internet's organic structure and development root it in the natural world in unexpected ways that challenge efforts to draw an easy line between technology and nature.

Combining the sweep of intellectual history with the incisiveness of philosophy, *The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is* cuts through our daily digital lives to give a clear-sighted picture of what the internet is, where it came from, and where it might be taking us in the coming decades.



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## Liberalism in Dark Times

Joshua L. Cherniss

9780691220932

£22.00 • \$27.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

February 2023

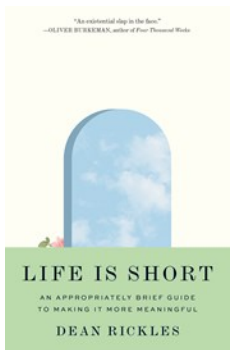
Princeton University Press

**A timely defense of liberalism that draws vital lessons from its greatest midcentury proponents**

Today, liberalism faces threats from across the political spectrum. While right-wing populists and leftist purists righteously violate liberal norms, theorists of liberalism seem to have little to say. In *Liberalism in Dark Times*, Joshua Cherniss issues a rousing defense of the liberal tradition, drawing on a neglected strand of liberal thought.

Assaults on liberalism—a political order characterized by limits on political power and respect for individual rights—are nothing new. Early in the twentieth century, democracy was under attack around the world, with one country after another succumbing to dictatorship. While many intellectuals dismissed liberalism as outdated, unrealistic, or unworthy, a handful of writers defended and reinvigorated the liberal ideal, including Max Weber, Raymond Aron, Albert Camus, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Isaiah Berlin—each of whom is given a compelling new assessment here.

Building on the work of these thinkers, Cherniss urges us to imagine liberalism not as a set of policies but as a temperament or disposition—one marked by openness to complexity, willingness to acknowledge uncertainty, tolerance for difference, and resistance to ruthlessness. In the face of rising political fanaticism, he persuasively argues for the continuing importance of this liberal ethos.



## Life Is Short

Dean Rickles

9780691240596

£18.99 • \$22.95

Hardcover

Philosophy

October 2022

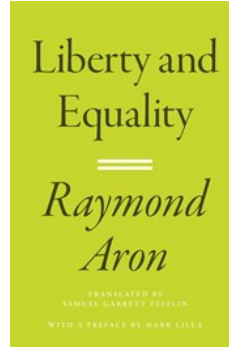
Princeton University Press

**Why life's shortness—more than anything else—is what makes it meaningful**

Death might seem to render pointless all our attempts to create a meaningful life. Doesn't meaning require transcending death through an afterlife or in some other way? On the contrary, Dean Rickles argues, life without death would be like playing tennis without a net. Only constraints—and death is the ultimate constraint—make our actions meaningful. In *Life Is Short*, Rickles explains why the finiteness and shortness of life is the essence of its meaning—and how this insight is the key to making the most of the time we do have.

*Life Is Short* explores how death limits our options and forces us to make choices that forge a life and give the world meaning. But people often live in a state of indecision, in a misguided attempt to keep their options open. This provisional way of living—always looking elsewhere, to the future, to other people, to other ways of being, and never committing to what one has or, alternatively, putting in the time and energy to achieve what one wants—is a big mistake, and *Life Is Short* tells readers how to avoid this trap.

By reminding us how extraordinary it is that we have any time to live at all, *Life Is Short* challenges us to rethink what gives life meaning and how to make the most of it.



## Liberty and Equality

Raymond Aron

9780691226767

£16.99 • \$19.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Political

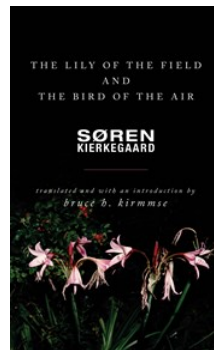
November 2023

Princeton University Press

**An invaluable reflection on the essence of liberal democracy—and an ideal introduction to the work of political philosopher Raymond Aron**

*Liberty and Equality* is the first English translation of the last lecture delivered at the Collège de France by Raymond Aron, one of the most influential political and social thinkers of the twentieth century. In this important work, the most prominent French liberal intellectual of the Cold War era presents his views on the core values of liberal democracy: liberty and equality. At the same time, he provides an ideal introduction to key aspects of his thought.

Ranging from Soviet ideology to Watergate, Aron reflects on root concepts of democracy and representative government, articulates a notion of liberty or freedom as equal right as distinct from equal outcome, and discusses different kinds of liberties: personal, political, religious, and social. In search of a common truth or at least a common good, and analyzing what he perceives as the crisis of liberal democracies, Aron opens a space for reexamining the relation between liberty and equality.



## The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air

Søren Kierkegaard

9780691180830

£10.99 • \$12.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Religious

April 2018

Princeton University Press

**A masterful new translation of one of Kierkegaard's most engaging works**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his followers to let go of earthly concerns by considering the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Søren Kierkegaard's short masterpiece on this famous gospel passage draws out its vital lessons for readers in a rapidly modernizing and secularizing world. Trenchant, brilliant, and written in stunningly lucid prose, *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air* (1849) is one of Kierkegaard's most important books. Presented here in a fresh new translation with an informative introduction, this profound yet accessible work serves as an ideal entrée to an essential modern thinker.

*The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air* reveals a less familiar but deeply appealing side of the father of existentialism—unshorn of his complexity and subtlety, yet supremely approachable. As Kierkegaard later wrote of the book, "Without fighting with anybody and without speaking about myself, I said much of what needs to be said, but movingly, mildly, upliftingly."

This masterful edition introduces one of Kierkegaard's most engaging and inspiring works to a new generation of readers.



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LOSING OURSELVES  
LEARNING TO LIVE WITHOUT A SELF

## Losing Ourselves

Jay L. Garfield

9780691220574

£13.99 • \$16.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Buddhist

November 2023

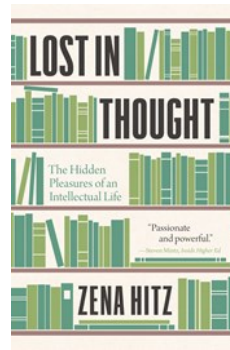
Princeton University Press

### Why you don't have a self—and why that's a good thing

In *Losing Ourselves*, Jay Garfield, a leading expert on Buddhist philosophy, offers a brief and radically clear account of an idea that at first might seem frightening but that promises to liberate us and improve our lives, our relationships, and the world. Drawing on Indian and East Asian Buddhism, Daoism, Western philosophy, and cognitive neuroscience, Garfield shows why it is perfectly natural to think you have a self—and why it actually makes no sense at all and is even dangerous. Most importantly, he explains why shedding the illusion that you have a self can make you a better person.

Examining a wide range of arguments for and against the existence of the self, *Losing Ourselves* makes the case that there are not only good philosophical and scientific reasons to deny the reality of the self, but that we can lead healthier social and moral lives if we understand that we are selfless persons. The book describes why the Buddhist idea of no-self is so powerful and why it has immense practical benefits, helping us to abandon egoism, act more morally and ethically, be more spontaneous, perform more expertly, and navigate ordinary life more skillfully. Getting over the self-illusion also means escaping the isolation of self-identity and becoming a person who participates with others in the shared enterprise of life.

The result is a transformative book about why we have nothing to lose—and everything to gain—by losing our selves.



## Lost in Thought

Zena Hitz

9780691229195

£13.99 • \$16.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

August 2021

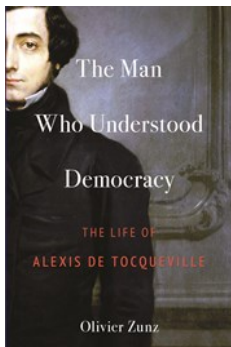
Princeton University Press

### An invitation to readers from every walk of life to rediscover the impractical splendors of a life of learning

In an overloaded, superficial, technological world, in which almost everything and everybody is judged by its usefulness, where can we turn for escape, lasting pleasure, contemplation, or connection to others? While many forms of leisure meet these needs, Zena Hitz writes, few experiences are so fulfilling as the inner life, whether that of a bookworm, an amateur astronomer, a birdwatcher, or someone who takes a deep interest in one of countless other subjects. Drawing on inspiring examples, from Socrates and Augustine to Malcolm X and Elena Ferrante, and from films to Hitz's own experiences as someone who walked away from elite university life in search of greater fulfillment, *Lost in Thought* is a passionate and timely reminder that a rich life is a life rich in thought.

Today, when even the humanities are often defended only for their economic or political usefulness, Hitz says our intellectual lives are valuable not despite but because of their practical uselessness. And while anyone can have an intellectual life, she encourages academics in particular to get back in touch with the desire to learn for its own sake, and calls on universities to return to the person-to-person transmission of the habits of mind and heart that bring out the best in us.

Reminding us of who we once were and who we might become, *Lost in Thought* is a moving account of why renewing our inner lives is fundamental to preserving our humanity.



## The Man Who Understood Democracy

Olivier Zunz

9780691254142

£22.00 • \$26.95

Trade Paperback

Biography & Autobiography / Philosophers

November 2023

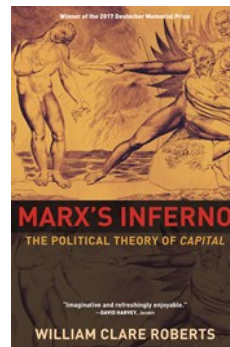
Princeton University Press

### A definitive biography of the French aristocrat who became one of democracy's greatest champions

In 1831, at the age of twenty-five, Alexis de Tocqueville made his fateful journey to America, where he observed the thrilling reality of a functioning democracy. From that moment onward, the French aristocrat would dedicate his life as a writer and politician to ending despotism in his country and bringing it into a new age. In this authoritative and groundbreaking biography, leading Tocqueville expert Olivier Zunz tells the story of a radical thinker who, uniquely charged by the events of his time, both in America and France, used the world as a laboratory for his political ideas.

Placing Tocqueville's dedication to achieving a new kind of democracy at the center of his life and work, Zunz traces Tocqueville's evolution into a passionate student and practitioner of liberal politics across a trove of correspondence with intellectuals, politicians, constituents, family members, and friends. While taking seriously Tocqueville's attempts to apply the lessons of *Democracy in America* to French politics, Zunz shows that the United States, and not only France, remained central to Tocqueville's thought and actions throughout his life. In his final years, with France gripped by an authoritarian regime and America divided by slavery, Tocqueville feared that the democratic experiment might be failing. Yet his passion for democracy never weakened.

Giving equal attention to the French and American sources of Tocqueville's unique blend of political philosophy and political action, *The Man Who Understood Democracy* offers the richest, most nuanced portrait yet of a man who, born between the worlds of aristocracy and democracy, fought tirelessly for the only system that he believed could provide both liberty and equality.



## Marx's Inferno

William Clare Roberts

9780691180816

£22.00 • \$27.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

March 2018

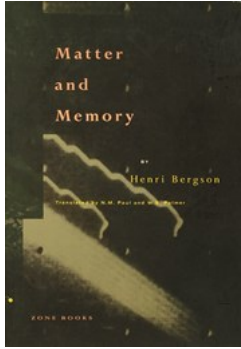
Princeton University Press

*Marx's Inferno* reconstructs the major arguments of Karl Marx's *Capital* and inaugurates a completely new reading of a seminal classic. Rather than simply a critique of classical political economy, William Roberts argues that *Capital* was primarily a careful engagement with the motives and aims of the workers' movement. Understood in this light, *Capital* emerges as a profound work of political theory. Placing Marx against the background of nineteenth-century socialism, Roberts shows how *Capital* was ingeniously modeled on Dante's *Inferno*, and how Marx, playing the role of Virgil for the proletariat, introduced partisans of workers' emancipation to the secret depths of the modern "social Hell." In this manner, Marx revised republican ideas of freedom in response to the rise of capitalism.

Combining research on Marx's interlocutors, textual scholarship, and forays into recent debates, Roberts traces the continuities linking Marx's theory of capitalism to the tradition of republican political thought. He immerses the reader in socialist debates about the nature of commerce, the experience of labor, the power of bosses and managers, and the possibilities of political organization. Roberts rescues those debates from the past, and shows how they speak to ever-renewed concerns about political life in today's world.



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## Matter and Memory

Henri Bergson

9780942299052

£22.00 • \$26.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

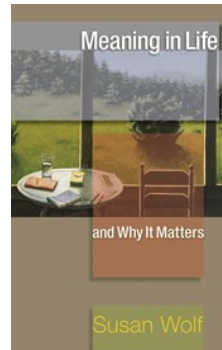
September 1988

Zone Books

“Since the end of the last century,” Walter Benjamin wrote, “philosophy has made a series of attempts to lay hold of the ‘true’ experience as opposed to the kind that manifests itself in the standardized, denatured life of the civilized masses. It is customary to classify these efforts under the heading of a philosophy of life. Towering above this literature is Henri Bergson’s early monumental work *Matter and Memory*.”

Along with Husserl’s *Ideas* and Heidegger’s *Being and Time*, Bergson’s work represents one of the great twentieth-century investigations into perception and memory, movement and time, matter and mind. Arguably Bergson’s most significant book, *Matter and Memory* is essential to an understanding of his philosophy and its legacy.

This new edition includes an annotated bibliography prepared by Bruno Paradis.



## Meaning in Life and Why It Matters

Susan Wolf

9780691154503

£20.00 • \$23.95

Trade Paperback

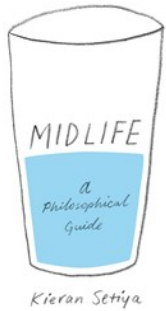
Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

March 2012

Princeton University Press

### A fresh reflection on what makes life meaningful

Most people, including philosophers, tend to classify human motives as falling into one of two categories: the egoistic or the altruistic, the self-interested or the moral. According to Susan Wolf, however, much of what motivates us does not comfortably fit into this scheme. Often we act neither for our own sake nor out of duty or an impersonal concern for the world. Rather, we act out of love for objects that we rightly perceive as worthy of love—and it is these actions that give meaning to our lives. Wolf makes a compelling case that, along with happiness and morality, this kind of meaningfulness constitutes a distinctive dimension of a good life. Written in a lively and engaging style, and full of provocative examples, *Meaning in Life and Why It Matters* is a profound and original reflection on a subject of permanent human concern.



## Midlife

Kieran Setiya

9780691183282

£13.99 • \$16.95

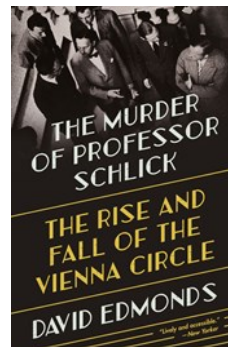
Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

September 2018

Princeton University Press

How can you reconcile yourself with the lives you will never lead, with possibilities foreclosed, and with nostalgia for lost youth? How can you accept the failings of the past, the sense of futility in the tasks that consume the present, and the prospect of death that blights the future? In this self-help book with a difference, Kieran Setiya confronts the inevitable challenges of adulthood and middle age, showing how philosophy can help you thrive. You will learn why missing out might be a good thing, how options are overrated, and when you should be glad you made a mistake. You will be introduced to philosophical consolations for mortality. And you will learn what it would mean to live in the present, how it could solve your midlife crisis, and why meditation helps. Ranging from Aristotle, Schopenhauer, and John Stuart Mill to Virginia Woolf and Simone de Beauvoir, as well as drawing on Setiya’s own experience, *Midlife* combines imaginative ideas, surprising insights, and practical advice. Writing with wisdom and wit, Setiya makes a wry but passionate case for philosophy as a guide to life.



## The Murder of Professor Schlick

David Edmonds

9780691211961

£14.99 • \$17.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / History & Surveys

March 2022

Princeton University Press

### From the author of *Wittgenstein's Poker* and *Would You Kill the Fat Man?*, the story of an extraordinary group of philosophers during a dark chapter in Europe's history

On June 22, 1936, the philosopher Moritz Schlick was on his way to deliver a lecture at the University of Vienna when Johann Nelböck, a deranged former student of Schlick’s, shot him dead on the university steps. Some Austrian newspapers defended the madman, while Nelböck himself argued in court that his onetime teacher had promoted a treacherous Jewish philosophy. David Edmonds traces the rise and fall of the Vienna Circle—an influential group of brilliant thinkers led by Schlick—and of a philosophical movement that sought to do away with metaphysics and pseudoscience in a city darkened by fascism, anti-Semitism, and unreason.

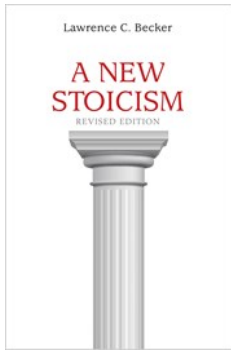
The Vienna Circle’s members included Otto Neurath, Rudolf Carnap, and the eccentric logician Kurt Gödel. On its fringes were two other philosophical titans of the twentieth century, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Karl Popper. The Circle championed the philosophy of logical empiricism, which held that only two types of propositions have cognitive meaning, those that can be verified through experience and those that are analytically true. For a time, it was the most fashionable movement in philosophy. Yet by the outbreak of World War II, Schlick’s group had disbanded and almost all its members had fled. Edmonds reveals why the Austro-fascists and the Nazis saw their philosophy as such a threat.

*The Murder of Professor Schlick* paints an unforgettable portrait of the Vienna Circle and its members while weaving an enthralling narrative set against the backdrop of economic catastrophe and rising extremism in Hitler’s Europe.





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## A New Stoicism

Lawrence C. Becker

9780691177212

£20.00 • \$24.95

Trade Paperback

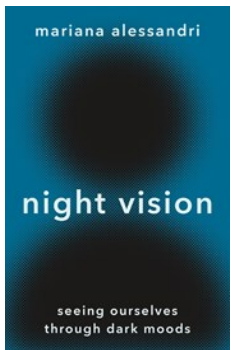
Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

August 2017

Princeton University Press

What would stoic ethics be like today if stoicism had survived as a systematic approach to ethical theory, if it had coped successfully with the challenges of modern philosophy and experimental science? *A New Stoicism* proposes an answer to that question, offered from within the stoic tradition but without the metaphysical and psychological assumptions that modern philosophy and science have abandoned. Lawrence Becker argues that a secular version of the stoic ethical project, based on contemporary cosmology and developmental psychology, provides the basis for a sophisticated form of ethical naturalism, in which virtually all the hard doctrines of the ancient Stoics can be clearly restated and defended.

Becker argues, in keeping with the ancients, that virtue is one thing, not many; that it, and not happiness, is the proper end of all activity; that it alone is good, all other things being merely rank-ordered relative to each other for the sake of the good; and that virtue is sufficient for happiness. Moreover, he rejects the popular caricature of the stoic as a grave figure, emotionally detached and capable mainly of endurance, resignation, and coping with pain. To the contrary, he holds that while stoic sages are able to endure the extremes of human suffering, they do not have to sacrifice joy to have that ability, and he seeks to turn our attention from the familiar, therapeutic part of stoic moral training to a reconsideration of its theoretical foundations.



## Night Vision

Mariana Alessandri

9780691215457

£22.00 • \$27.95

Hardcover

Philosophy

May 2023

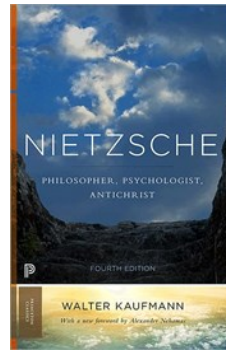
Princeton University Press

**A philosopher's personal meditation on how painful emotions can reveal truths about what it means to be truly human**

Under the light of ancient Western philosophies, our darker moods like grief, anguish, and depression can seem irrational. When viewed through the lens of modern psychology, they can even look like mental disorders. The self-help industry, determined to sell us the promise of a brighter future, can sometimes leave us feeling ashamed that we are not more grateful, happy, or optimistic. *Night Vision* invites us to consider a different approach to life, one in which we stop feeling bad about feeling bad.

In this powerful and disarmingly intimate book, Existentialist philosopher Mariana Alessandri draws on the stories of a diverse group of nineteenth- and twentieth-century philosophers and writers to help us see that our suffering is a sign not that we are broken but that we are tender, perceptive, and intelligent. Thinkers such as Audre Lorde, Maria Lugones, Miguel de Unamuno, C. S. Lewis, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Søren Kierkegaard sat in their anger, sadness, and anxiety until their eyes adjusted to the dark. Alessandri explains how readers can cultivate "night vision" and discover new sides to their painful moods, such as wit and humor, closeness and warmth, and connection and clarity.

*Night Vision* shows how, when we learn to embrace the dark, we begin to see these moods—and ourselves—as honorable, dignified, and unmistakably human.



## Nietzsche

Walter A. Kaufmann

9780691160269

£22.00 • \$26.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

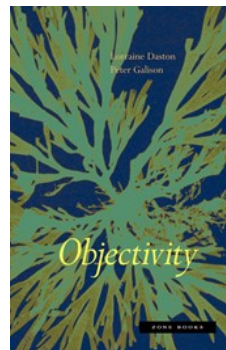
October 2013

Princeton University Press

This classic is the benchmark against which all modern books about Nietzsche are measured. When Walter Kaufmann wrote it in the immediate aftermath of World War II, most scholars outside Germany viewed Nietzsche as part madman, part proto-Nazi, and almost wholly unphilosophical. Kaufmann rehabilitated Nietzsche nearly single-handedly, presenting his works as one of the great achievements of Western philosophy.

Responding to the powerful myths and countermyths that had sprung up around Nietzsche, Kaufmann offered a patient, evenhanded account of his life and works, and of the uses and abuses to which subsequent generations had put his ideas. Without ignoring or downplaying the ugliness of many of Nietzsche's proclamations, he set them in the context of his work as a whole and of the counterexamples yielded by a responsible reading of his books. More positively, he presented Nietzsche's ideas about power as one of the great accomplishments of modern philosophy, arguing that his conception of the "will to power" was not a crude apology for ruthless self-assertion but must be linked to Nietzsche's equally profound ideas about sublimation. He also presented Nietzsche as a pioneer of modern psychology and argued that a key to understanding his overall philosophy is to see it as a reaction against Christianity.

Many scholars in the past half century have taken issue with some of Kaufmann's interpretations, but the book ranks as one of the most influential accounts ever written of any major Western thinker. Featuring a new foreword by Alexander Nehamas, this Princeton Classics edition of Nietzsche introduces a new generation of readers to one of the most influential accounts ever written of any major Western thinker.



## Objectivity

Lorraine Daston

9781890951795

£28.00 • \$32.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Epistemology

July 2010

Zone Books

Objectivity has a history, and it is full of surprises. In *Objectivity*, Lorraine Daston and Peter Galison chart the emergence of objectivity in the mid-nineteenth-century sciences — and show how the concept differs from alternatives, truth-to-nature and trained judgment. This is a story of lofty epistemic ideals fused with workaday practices in the making of scientific images.

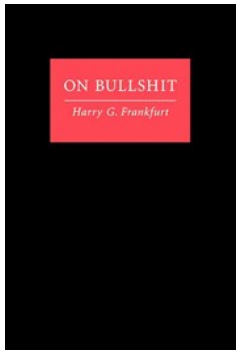
From the eighteenth through the early twenty-first centuries, the images that reveal the deepest commitments of the empirical sciences — from anatomy to crystallography — are those featured in scientific atlases: the compendia that teach practitioners of a discipline what is worth looking at and how to look at it. Atlas images define the working objects of the sciences of the eye: snowflakes, galaxies, skeletons, even elementary particles.

Galison and Daston use atlas images to uncover a hidden history of scientific objectivity and its rivals. Whether an atlas maker idealizes an image to capture the essentials in the name of truth-to-nature or refuses to erase even the most incidental detail in the name of objectivity or highlights patterns in the name of trained judgment is a decision enforced by an ethos as well as by an epistemology.

As Daston and Galison argue, atlases shape the subjects as well as the objects of science. To pursue objectivity — or truth-to-nature or trained judgment — is simultaneously to cultivate a distinctive scientific self wherein knowing and knower converge. Moreover, the very point at which they visibly converge is in the very act of seeing not as a separate individual but as a member of a particular scientific community. Embedded in the atlas image, therefore, are the traces of consequential choices about knowledge, persona, and collective sight. *Objectivity* is a book addressed to any one interested in the elusive and crucial notion of objectivity — and in what it means to peer into the world scientifically.



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## On Bullshit

Harry G. Frankfurt

9780691122946

£7.99 • \$9.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

January 2005

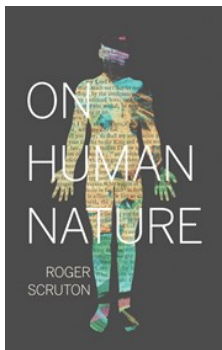
Princeton University Press

A #1 *New York Times* bestseller

One of the most salient features of our culture is that there is so much bullshit. Everyone knows this. Each of us contributes his share. But we tend to take the situation for granted. Most people are rather confident of their ability to recognize bullshit and to avoid being taken in by it. So the phenomenon has not aroused much deliberate concern. We have no clear understanding of what bullshit is, why there is so much of it, or what functions it serves. And we lack a conscientiously developed appreciation of what it means to us. In other words, as Harry Frankfurt writes, "we have no theory."

Frankfurt, one of the world's most influential moral philosophers, attempts to build such a theory here. With his characteristic combination of philosophical acuity, psychological insight, and wry humor, Frankfurt proceeds by exploring how bullshit and the related concept of humbug are distinct from lying. He argues that bullshitters misrepresent themselves to their audience not as liars do, that is, by deliberately making false claims about what is true. In fact, bullshit need not be untrue at all.

Rather, bullshitters seek to convey a certain impression of themselves without being concerned about whether anything at all is true. They quietly change the rules governing their end of the conversation so that claims about truth and falsity are irrelevant. Frankfurt concludes that although bullshit can take many innocent forms, excessive indulgence in it can eventually undermine the practitioner's capacity to tell the truth in a way that lying does not. Liars at least acknowledge that it matters what is true. By virtue of this, Frankfurt writes, bullshit is a greater enemy of the truth than lies are.



## On Human Nature

Roger Scruton

9780691183039

£12.99 • \$14.95

Trade Paperback

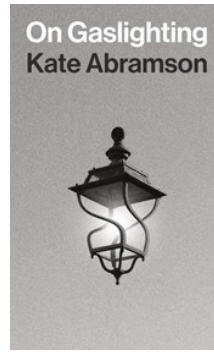
Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

October 2018

Princeton University Press

A brief, radical defense of human uniqueness from acclaimed philosopher Roger Scruton

In this short book, acclaimed writer and philosopher Roger Scruton presents an original and radical defense of human uniqueness. Confronting the views of evolutionary psychologists, utilitarian moralists, and philosophical materialists such as Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett, Scruton argues that human beings cannot be understood simply as biological objects. We are not only human animals; we are also persons, in essential relation with other persons, and bound to them by obligations and rights. Scruton develops and defends his account of human nature by ranging widely across intellectual history, from Plato and Averroës to Darwin and Wittgenstein. The book begins with Kant's suggestion that we are distinguished by our ability to say "I"—by our sense of ourselves as the centers of self-conscious reflection. This fact is manifested in our emotions, interests, and relations. It is the foundation of the moral sense, as well as of the aesthetic and religious conceptions through which we shape the human world and endow it with meaning. And it lies outside the scope of modern materialist philosophy, even though it is a natural and not a supernatural fact. Ultimately, Scruton offers a new way of understanding how self-consciousness affects the question of how we should live. The result is a rich view of human nature that challenges some of today's most fashionable ideas about our species.



## On Gaslighting

Kate Abramson

9780691249384

£20.00 • \$24.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

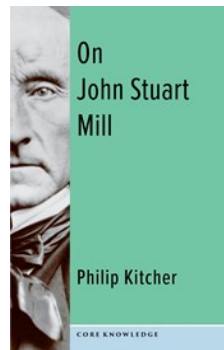
March 2024

Princeton University Press

A philosopher examines the complicated phenomenon of gaslighting

"Gaslighting" is suddenly in everyone's vocabulary. It's written about, talked about, tweeted about, even sung about (in "Gaslighting," by the Chicks). It's become shorthand for being manipulated by someone who insists that up is down, hot is cold, dark is light—someone who isn't just lying about such things, but trying to drive you crazy. The term has its origins in a 1944 film in which a husband does exactly that to his wife, his crazy-making efforts symbolized by the rise and fall of the gaslights in their home. In this timely and provocative book, Kate Abramson examines gaslighting from a philosophical perspective, investigating it as a distinctive moral phenomenon.

Gaslighting, Abramson writes, is best understood as a form of interpersonal interaction, a particular way of fundamentally undermining someone. The gaslighter, Abramson argues, aims to make his target experience herself as incapable of reasoning, perceiving, or reacting in ways that would allow her to form appropriate beliefs, perceptions, or emotions in the first place. He seeks not only to induce in her this unmoored sense of herself but also to make it a reality. Using examples and analysis, Abramson gives an account of gaslighting and its immorality, and argues that such a discussion can help us understand other aspects of social life—from racism and sexism to the structure of interpersonal trust.



## On John Stuart Mill

Philip Kitcher

9780231204156

£12.99 • \$14.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Movements / Utilitarianism

January 2023

Columbia University Press

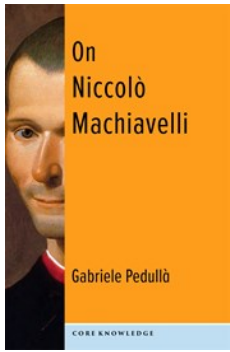
John Stuart Mill expressed many of the central tenets of liberalism with unsurpassed clarity and enduring influence. Yet Mill's apparent victory in the marketplace of ideas has numbed us to the power of his arguments. To many readers today, his views can seem utterly familiar, even banal.

Sharing insights from teaching Mill for many years, the eminent philosopher Philip Kitcher makes a cogent case for why we should read this nineteenth-century thinker now. He portrays Mill as a conflicted humanist who wrestled with problems that are equally urgent in our own time. Kitcher reflects on Mill's ideas in the context of contemporary ethical, social, and political issues such as COVID mandates, gun control, income inequality, gay rights, and climate change. More broadly, he shows, Mill's writings help us cultivate our own capacities for critical thought and ethical decision making.

Inviting readers into a conversation with Mill, this book shows that he supplies tools for thinking that are as valuable today as they were in the nineteenth century.



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## On Niccolò Machiavelli

Gabriele Pedullà

9780231205559

£12.99 • \$14.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

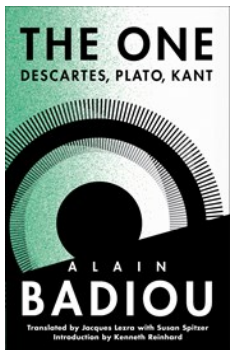
October 2023

Columbia University Press

Five hundred years after his death, Niccolò Machiavelli still draws an astonishing range of contradictory characterizations. Was he a friend of tyrants? An ardent republican loyal to Florence's free institutions? The father of political realism? A revolutionary populist? A calculating rationalist? A Renaissance humanist? A prophet of Italian unification? A theorist of mixed government? A forerunner to authoritarianism? The master of the dark arts of intrigue?

This book provides a vivid and engaging introduction to Machiavelli's life and works that sheds new light on his originality and relevance. Gabriele Pedullà—a leading Italian expert and acclaimed writer—offers fresh readings of the Florentine thinker's most famous writings, *The Prince* and the *Discourses on Livy*, as well as lesser-known texts. A new and often surprising Machiavelli emerges: one closer to his time but also better suited to inform our own. Pedullà's portrait of Machiavelli highlights his close attention to social and emotional bonds, staunch opposition to oligarchy, keen awareness of the economic side of power dynamics, and strong preference for history over philosophy as a guide for leaders.

This book recovers the excitement Machiavelli roused in his first readers for a twenty-first-century audience, capturing his capacity to provoke, both then and now, with unconventional ideas and startling insights.



## The One

Alain Badiou

9780231194129

£30.00 • \$35.00

Hardcover

Philosophy / Metaphysics

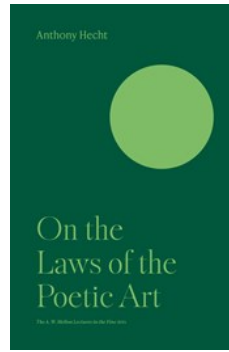
July 2023

Columbia University Press

Alain Badiou's 1983–1984 lecture series on “the One” is the earliest of his seminars that he has chosen to publish. It focuses on the philosophical concept of oneness in the works of Descartes, Plato, and Kant—a crucial foil for his signature metaphysical concept, the multiple. Badiou declares that there is no “One”: there is no fundamental unit of being; being is inherently multiple.

What is novel in Badiou's view of multiplicity is his reliance on mathematics, and set theory in particular. A set is a collection of things—yet, as he observes, it often is taken to “count as one” operationally for the purposes of mathematical transformations. In this seminar, distinguishing between “the One” and “counting as one” emerges as essential to Badiou's ontological project. His analysis of reflections on oneness in Descartes, Plato, and Kant prefigures core arguments of his defining work, *Being and Event*.

Showing the seeds of Badiou's key ideas and later thought, *The One* features singular readings, breathtaking theorizations, and frequently astonishing offhand remarks.



## On the Laws of the Poetic Art

Anthony Hecht

9780691252810

£30.00 • \$35.00

Trade Paperback

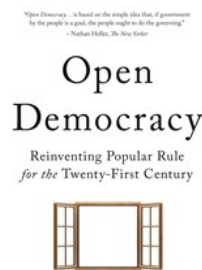
Philosophy / Aesthetics

August 2023

Princeton University Press

**A magisterial exploration of poetry's place in the fine arts by one of the twentieth century's leading poets**

In this book, eminent poet Anthony Hecht explores the art of poetry and its relationship to the other fine arts. While the problems he treats entail both philosophic and theoretical discussion, he never allows abstract speculation to overshadow his delight in the written texts that he introduces, or in the specific examples of painting and music to which he refers. After discussing literature's links with painting and music, Hecht investigates the theme of paradise and wilderness, especially in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. He then turns to the question of public and private art, exploring the ways in which all the arts participate in balances between private and public modes of discourse, and between an exclusive or elitist role and the openly political. Beginning with a discussion of architecture as an illustration of a more general theme of discord and balance, the penultimate lecture probes the inner contradictions of works of art and our reactions to them, while the final piece concerns art and morality.



Hélène Landemore

## Open Democracy

Hélène Landemore

9780691212395

£20.00 • \$23.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

March 2022

Princeton University Press

**"Open Democracy envisions what true government by mass leadership could look like."—Nathan Heller, *New Yorker***

**How a new model of democracy that opens up power to ordinary citizens could strengthen inclusiveness, responsiveness, and accountability in modern societies**

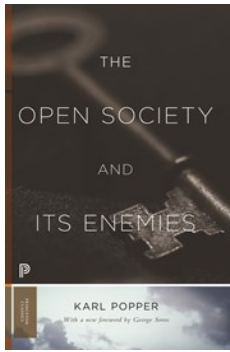
To the ancient Greeks, democracy meant gathering in public and debating laws set by a randomly selected assembly of several hundred citizens. To the Icelandic Vikings, democracy meant meeting every summer in a field to discuss issues until consensus was reached. Our contemporary representative democracies are very different. Modern parliaments are gated and guarded, and it seems as if only certain people—with the right suit, accent, wealth, and connections—are welcome. Diagnosing what is wrong with representative government and aiming to recover some of the lost openness of ancient democracies, *Open Democracy* presents a new paradigm of democracy in which power is genuinely accessible to ordinary citizens.

Hélène Landemore favors the ideal of “representing and being represented in turn” over direct-democracy approaches. Supporting a fresh nonelectoral understanding of democratic representation, Landemore recommends centering political institutions around the “open mini-public”—a large, jury-like body of randomly selected citizens gathered to define laws and policies for the polity, in connection with the larger public. She also defends five institutional principles as the foundations of an open democracy: participatory rights, deliberation, the majoritarian principle, democratic representation, and transparency.

*Open Democracy* demonstrates that placing ordinary citizens, rather than elites, at the heart of democratic power is not only the true meaning of a government of, by, and for the people, but also feasible and, today more than ever, urgently needed.



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## The Open Society and Its Enemies

Karl R. Popper

9780691210841

£25.00 • \$29.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

September 2020

Princeton University Press

**A landmark defense of democracy that has been hailed as one of the most important books of the twentieth century**

One of the most important books of the twentieth century, *The Open Society and Its Enemies* is an uncompromising defense of liberal democracy and a powerful attack on the intellectual origins of totalitarianism. An immediate sensation when it was first published, Karl Popper's monumental achievement has attained legendary status on both the Left and Right. Tracing the roots of an authoritarian tradition represented by Plato, Marx, and Hegel, Popper argues that the spirit of free, critical inquiry that governs scientific investigation should also apply to politics. In a new foreword, George Soros, who was a student of Popper, describes the "revelation" of first reading the book and how it helped inspire his philanthropic Open Society Foundations.



## Painting as an Art

Richard Wollheim

9780691252292

£42.00 • \$50.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Aesthetics

August 2023

Princeton University Press

**One of the twentieth century's most influential texts on philosophical aesthetics**

*Painting as an Art* is acclaimed philosopher Richard Wollheim's encompassing vision of how to view art. Transcending the traditional boundaries of art history, Wollheim draws on his three great passions—philosophy, psychology, and art—to present an illuminating theory of the very experience of art. He shows how to unlock the meaning of a painting by retrieving—almost reenacting—the creative activity that produced it. In order to fully appreciate a work of art, Wollheim argues, critics must bring a much richer conception of human psychology than they have in the past. This classic book points the way to discovering what is most profound and subtle about paintings by major artists such as Titian, Bellini, and de Kooning.



## Parfit

David Edmonds

9780691225234

£28.00 • \$32.00

Hardcover

Biography & Autobiography / Philosophers

April 2023

Princeton University Press

**From the bestselling coauthor of *Wittgenstein's Poker*, an entertaining and illuminating biography of a brilliant philosopher who tried to rescue morality from nihilism**

Derek Parfit (1942–2017) is the most famous philosopher most people have never heard of. Widely regarded as one of the greatest moral thinkers of the past hundred years, Parfit was anything but a public intellectual. Yet his ideas have shaped the way philosophers think about things that affect us all: equality, altruism, what we owe to future generations, and even what it means to be a person. In *Parfit*, David Edmonds presents the first biography of an intriguing, obsessive, and eccentric genius.

Believing that we should be less concerned with ourselves and more with the common good, Parfit dedicated himself to the pursuit of philosophical progress to an extraordinary degree. He always wore gray trousers and a white shirt so as not to lose precious time picking out clothes, he varied his diet as little as possible, and he had only one serious non-philosophical interest: taking photos of Oxford, Venice, and St. Petersburg. In the latter half of his life, he single-mindedly devoted himself to a desperate attempt to rescue secular morality—morality without God—by arguing that it has an objective, rational basis. For Parfit, the stakes could scarcely have been higher. If he couldn't demonstrate that there are objective facts about right and wrong, he believed, his life was futile and all our lives were meaningless.

Connecting Parfit's work and life and offering a clear introduction to his profound and challenging ideas, *Parfit* is a powerful portrait of an extraordinary thinker who continues to have a remarkable influence on the world of ideas.



## Pathologies of Reason

Axel Honneth

9780231146272

£20.00 • \$24.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Movements / Critical Theory

August 2023

Columbia University Press

Axel Honneth has been instrumental in advancing the work of the Frankfurt School of critical theorists, rebuilding their effort to combine radical social and political analysis with rigorous philosophical inquiry. These eleven essays reclaim the relevant themes of the Frankfurt School, which counted Theodor W. Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Walter Benjamin, Jürgen Habermas, Franz Neumann, and Albrecht Wellmer as members. They also engage with Kant, Freud, Alexander Mitscherlich, and Michael Walzer, whose work on morality, history, democracy, and individuality intersects with the Frankfurt School's core concerns.

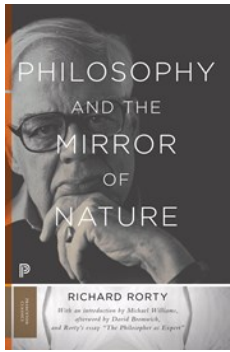
Collected here for the first time in English, Honneth's essays pursue the unifying themes and theses that support the methodologies and thematics of critical social theory, and they address the possibilities of continuing this tradition through radically changed theoretical and social conditions. According to Honneth, there is a unity that underlies critical theory's multiple approaches: the way in which reason is both distorted and furthered in contemporary capitalist society. And while much is dead in the social and psychological doctrines of critical social theory, its central inquiries remain vitally relevant.

Is social progress still possible after the horrors of the twentieth century? Does capitalism deform reason and, if so, in what respects? Can we justify the relationship between law and violence in secular terms, or is it inextricably bound to divine justice? How can we be free when we're subject to socialization in a highly complex and in many respects unfree society? For Honneth, suffering and moral struggle are departure points for a new "reconstructive" form of social criticism, one that is based solidly in the empirically grounded, interdisciplinary approach of the Frankfurt School.





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## Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature

Richard Rorty

9780691178158

£18.99 • \$22.95

Trade Paperback

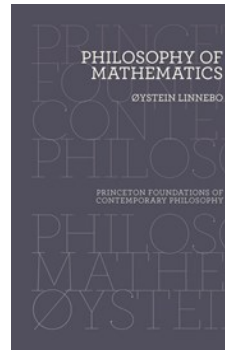
Philosophy / History & Surveys

October 2017

Princeton University Press

When it first appeared in 1979, *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature* hit the philosophical world like a bombshell. In it, Richard Rorty argued that, beginning in the seventeenth century, philosophers developed an unhealthy obsession with the notion of representation: comparing the mind to a mirror that reflects reality. Rorty's book is a powerful critique of this imagery and the tradition of thought that it spawned.

Today, the book remains a must-read and stands as a classic of twentieth-century philosophy. Its influence on the academy, both within philosophy and across a wide array of disciplines, continues unabated. This edition includes new essays by philosopher Michael Williams and literary scholar David Bromwich, as well as Rorty's previously unpublished essay "The Philosopher as Expert."



## Philosophy of Mathematics

Øystein Linnebo

9780691202297

£22.00 • \$25.95

Trade Paperback

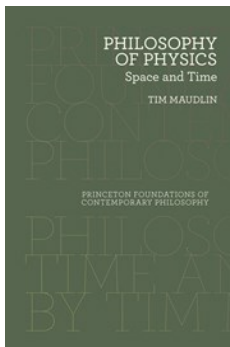
Philosophy

March 2020

Princeton University Press

**A sophisticated, original introduction to the philosophy of mathematics from one of its leading thinkers**

Mathematics is a model of precision and objectivity, but it appears distinct from the empirical sciences because it seems to deliver nonexperiential knowledge of a nonphysical reality of numbers, sets, and functions. How can these two aspects of mathematics be reconciled? This concise book provides a systematic, accessible introduction to the field that is trying to answer that question: the philosophy of mathematics. Øystein Linnebo, one of the world's leading scholars on the subject, introduces all of the classical approaches to the field as well as more specialized issues, including mathematical intuition, potential infinity, and the search for new mathematical axioms. Sophisticated but clear and approachable, this is an essential book for all students and teachers of philosophy and of mathematics.



## Philosophy of Physics

Tim Maudlin

9780691165714

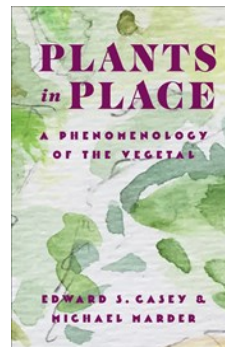
£20.00 • \$24.95

Trade Paperback

Science / Philosophy & Social Aspects

May 2015

Princeton University Press



## Plants in Place

Edward S. Casey

9780231213455

£22.00 • \$26.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Movements / Phenomenology

December 2023

Columbia University Press

### Philosophical foundations of the physics of space-time

This concise book introduces nonphysicists to the core philosophical issues surrounding the nature and structure of space and time, and is also an ideal resource for physicists interested in the conceptual foundations of space-time theory. Tim Maudlin's broad historical overview examines Aristotelian and Newtonian accounts of space and time, and traces how Galileo's conceptions of relativity and space-time led to Einstein's special and general theories of relativity. Maudlin explains special relativity with enough detail to solve concrete physical problems while presenting general relativity in more qualitative terms. Additional topics include the Twins Paradox, the physical aspects of the Lorentz-FitzGerald contraction, the constancy of the speed of light, time travel, the direction of time, and more.

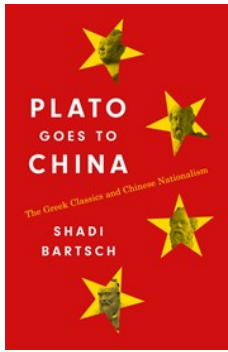
- Introduces nonphysicists to the philosophical foundations of space-time theory
- Provides a broad historical overview, from Aristotle to Einstein
- Explains special relativity geometrically, emphasizing the intrinsic structure of space-time
- Covers the Twins Paradox, Galilean relativity, time travel, and more
- Requires only basic algebra and no formal knowledge of physics

Plants are commonly considered immobile, in contrast to humans and other animals. But vegetal existence involves many place-based forms of change: stems growing upward, roots spreading outward, fronds unfurling in response to sunlight, seeds traveling across wide distances, and other intricate relationships with the surrounding world. How do plants as sessile, growing, decaying, and metamorphosing beings shape the places they inhabit, and how are they shaped by them? How do human places interact with those of plants—in lived experience; in landscape painting; in cultivation and contemplation; in forests, fields, gardens, and cities?

Examining these questions and many more, *Plants in Place* is a collaborative study of vegetal phenomenology at the intersection of Edward S. Casey's phenomenology of place and Michael Marder's plant-thinking. It focuses on both the microlevel of the dynamic constitution of plant edges or a child's engagement with moss and the macrolevel of habitats that include the sociality of trees. This compelling portrait of plants and their places provides readers with new ways to appreciate the complexity and vitality of vegetal life. Eloquent, descriptively rich, and insightful, the book also shows how the worlds of plants can enhance our understanding and experience of place more broadly.



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## Plato Goes to China

Shadi Bartsch

9780691229591

£28.00 • \$33.00

Hardcover

Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient & Classical

January 2023

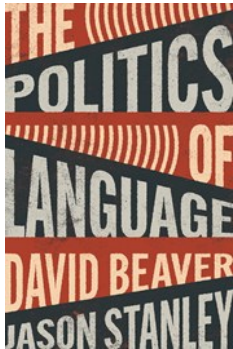
Princeton University Press

**The surprising story of how Greek classics are being pressed into use in contemporary China to support the regime's political agenda**

As improbable as it may sound, an illuminating way to understand today's China and how it views the West is to look at the astonishing ways Chinese intellectuals are interpreting—or is it misinterpreting?—the Greek classics. In *Plato Goes to China*, Shadi Bartsch offers a provocative look at Chinese politics and ideology by exploring Chinese readings of Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, and other ancient writers. She shows how Chinese thinkers have dramatically recast the Greek classics to support China's political agenda, diagnose the ills of the West, and assert the superiority of China's own Confucian classical tradition.

In a lively account that ranges from the Jesuits to Xi Jinping, Bartsch traces how the fortunes of the Greek classics have changed in China since the seventeenth century. Before the Tiananmen Square crackdown, the Chinese typically read Greek philosophy and political theory in order to promote democratic reform or discover the secrets of the success of Western democracy and science. No longer. Today, many Chinese intellectuals use these texts to critique concepts such as democracy, citizenship, and rationality. Plato's "Noble Lie," in which citizens are kept in their castes through deception, is lauded; Aristotle's *Politics* is seen as civic brainwashing; and Thucydides's criticism of Athenian democracy is applied to modern America.

What do antiquity's "dead white men" have left to teach? By uncovering the unusual ways Chinese thinkers are answering that question, *Plato Goes to China* opens a surprising new window on China today.



## The Politics of Language

Jason Stanley

9780691181981

£35.00 • \$39.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Political

November 2023

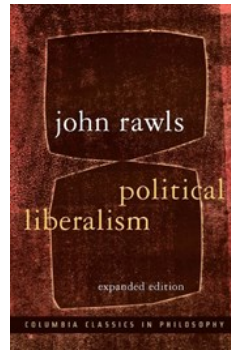
Princeton University Press

**A provocative case for the inherently political nature of language**

In *The Politics of Language*, David Beaver and Jason Stanley present a radical new approach to the theory of meaning, offering an account of communication in which political and social identity, affect, and shared practices play as important a role as information. This new view of language, they argue, has dramatic consequences for free speech, democracy, and a range of other areas in which speech plays a central role.

Drawing on a wealth of disciplines, *The Politics of Language* argues that the function of speech—whether in dialogue, larger group interactions, or mass communication—is to attune people to something, be it a shared reality, emotion, or identity. Reconceptualizing the central ideas of pragmatics and semantics, Beaver and Stanley apply their account to a range of phenomena that defy standard frameworks in linguistics and philosophy of language—from dog whistles and covert persuasion to echo chambers and genocidal speech. The authors use their framework to show that speech is inevitably political because all communication is imbued with the resonances of particular ideologies and their normative perspectives on reality.

At a time when democracy is under attack, authoritarianism is on the rise, and diversity and equality are being demanded, *The Politics of Language* offers a powerful new vision of the language of politics, ideology, and protest.



## Political Liberalism

John Rawls

9780231130899

£22.00 • \$26.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

March 2005

Columbia University Press

This book continues and revises the ideas of justice as fairness that John Rawls presented in *A Theory of Justice* but changes its philosophical interpretation in a fundamental way. That previous work assumed what Rawls calls a "well-ordered society," one that is stable and relatively homogenous in its basic moral beliefs and in which there is broad agreement about what constitutes the good life. Yet in modern democratic society a plurality of incompatible and irreconcilable doctrines—religious, philosophical, and moral—coexist within the framework of democratic institutions. Recognizing this as a permanent condition of democracy, Rawls asks how a stable and just society of free and equal citizens can live in concord when divided by reasonable but incompatible doctrines?

This edition includes the essay "The Idea of Public Reason Revisited," which outlines Rawls' plans to revise *Political Liberalism*, which were cut short by his death.

"An extraordinary well-reasoned commentary on *A Theory of Justice*...a decisive turn towards political philosophy."

—*Times Literary Supplement*



## Private Government

Elizabeth Anderson

9780691192246

£16.99 • \$19.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

April 2019

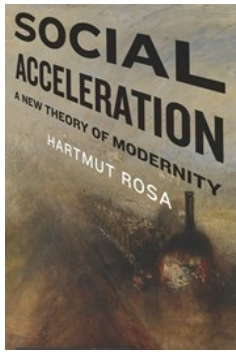
Princeton University Press

**Why our workplaces are authoritarian private governments—and why we can't see it**

One in four American workers says their workplace is a "dictatorship." Yet that number almost certainly would be higher if we recognized employers for what they are—private governments with sweeping authoritarian power over our lives. Many employers minutely regulate workers' speech, clothing, and manners on the job, and employers often extend their authority to the off-duty lives of workers, who can be fired for their political speech, recreational activities, diet, and almost anything else employers care to govern. In this compelling book, Elizabeth Anderson examines why, despite all this, we continue to talk as if free markets make workers free, and she proposes a better way to think about the workplace, opening up space for discovering how workers can enjoy real freedom.



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## Social Acceleration

Hartmut Rosa

9780231148351

£28.00 • \$32.00

Trade Paperback

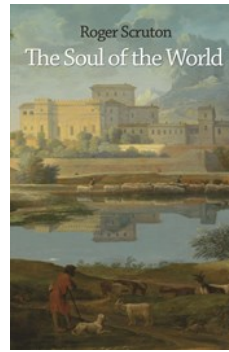
Philosophy / Movements / Deconstruction

June 2015

Columbia University Press

Hartmut Rosa advances an account of the temporal structure of society from the perspective of critical theory. He identifies three categories of change in the tempo of modern social life: technological acceleration, evident in transportation, communication, and production; the acceleration of social change, reflected in cultural knowledge, social institutions, and personal relationships; and acceleration in the pace of life, which happens despite the expectation that technological change should increase an individual's free time.

According to Rosa, both the structural and cultural aspects of our institutions and practices are marked by the "shrinking of the present," a decreasing time period during which expectations based on past experience reliably match the future. When this phenomenon combines with technological acceleration and the increasing pace of life, time seems to flow ever faster, making our relationships to each other and the world fluid and problematic. It is as if we are standing on "slipping slopes," a steep social terrain that is itself in motion and in turn demands faster lives and technology. As Rosa deftly shows, this self-reinforcing feedback loop fundamentally determines the character of modern life.



## The Soul of the World

Roger Scruton

9780691169286

£14.99 • \$17.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

March 2016

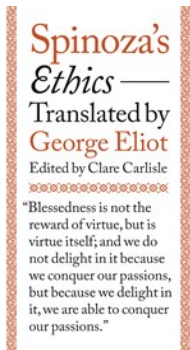
Princeton University Press

### A compelling defense of the sacred from acclaimed philosopher Roger Scruton

In *The Soul of the World*, renowned philosopher Roger Scruton defends the experience of the sacred against today's fashionable forms of atheism. He argues that our personal relationships, moral intuitions, and aesthetic judgments hint at a transcendent dimension that cannot be understood through the lens of science alone. To be fully alive—and to understand what we are—is to acknowledge the reality of sacred things. Rather than an argument for the existence of God, or a defense of the truth of religion, the book is an extended reflection on why a sense of the sacred is essential to human life—and what the final loss of the sacred would mean. In short, the book addresses the most important question of modernity: what is left of our aspirations after science has delivered its verdict about what we are?

Drawing on art, architecture, music, and literature, Scruton suggests that the highest forms of human experience and expression tell the story of our religious need, and of our quest for the being who might answer it, and that this search for the sacred endows the world with a soul. Evolution cannot explain our conception of the sacred; neuroscience is irrelevant to our interpersonal relationships, which provide a model for our posture toward God; and scientific understanding has nothing to say about the experience of beauty, which provides a God's-eye perspective on reality.

Ultimately, a world without the sacred would be a completely different world—one in which we humans are not truly at home. Yet despite the shrinking place for the sacred in today's world, Scruton says, the paths to transcendence remain open.



## Spinoza's Ethics

Benedictus de Spinoza

9780691193243

£22.00 • \$27.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

January 2020

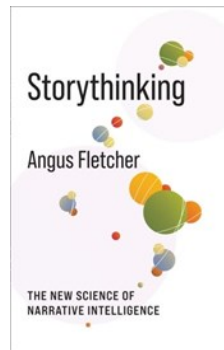
Princeton University Press

### An authoritative edition of George Eliot's elegant translation of Spinoza's greatest philosophical work

In 1856, Marian Evans completed her translation of Benedict de Spinoza's *Ethics* while living in Berlin with the philosopher and critic George Henry Lewes. This would have become the first edition of Spinoza's controversial masterpiece in English, but the translation remained unpublished because of a disagreement between Lewes and the publisher. Later that year, Evans turned to fiction writing, and by 1859 she had published her first novel under the pseudonym George Eliot. This splendid edition makes Eliot's translation of the *Ethics* available to today's readers while also tracing Eliot's deep engagement with Spinoza both before and after she wrote the novels that established her as one of English literature's greatest writers.

Clare Carlisle's introduction places the *Ethics* in its seventeenth-century context and explains its key philosophical claims. She discusses George Eliot's intellectual formation, her interest in Spinoza, the circumstances of her translation of the *Ethics*, and the influence of Spinoza's ideas on her literary work. Carlisle shows how Eliot drew on Spinoza's radical insights on religion, ethics, and human emotions, and brings to light surprising affinities between Spinoza's austere philosophy and the rich fictional worlds of Eliot's novels.

This authoritative edition demonstrates why George Eliot's translation remains one of the most compelling and philosophically astute renderings of Spinoza's Latin text. It includes notes that indicate Eliot's amendments to her manuscript and that discuss her translation decisions alongside more recent English editions.



## Storythinking

Angus Fletcher

9780231206938

£20.00 • \$25.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

June 2023

Columbia University Press

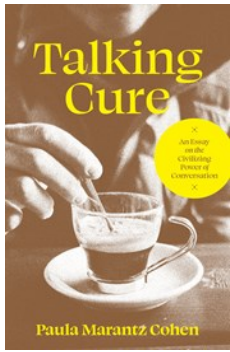
Every time we think ahead, we are crafting a story. Every daily plan—and every political vision, social movement, scientific hypothesis, business proposal, and technological breakthrough—starts with “what if?” Linking causes to effects, considering hypotheticals and counterfactuals, asking how other people will react: these are the essence of narrative. So why do we keep overlooking story's importance to intelligence in favor of logic?

This book explains how and why our brains think in stories. Angus Fletcher, an expert in neuroscientific approaches to narrative, identifies this capacity as “storythinking.” He demonstrates that storythinking is fundamental to what makes us human. Artificial intelligence can perform symbolic logic, rational deduction, and mathematical calculation, but it is incapable of deliberating in narrative. Drawing on new research in neuroscience and narrative theory, Fletcher explores the nature of imagination, innovation, and creativity. He provides concise answers to big questions: How does storythinking work? Why did it evolve? How can it misfire? What problems can it solve?

Revealing the significance of storythinking from science to business to philosophy, this book also provides ways for readers to harness its power to script better tomorrows.



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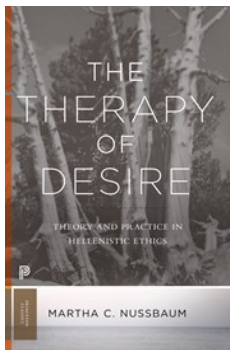
**Talking Cure**  
Paula Marantz Cohen  
9780691238500  
£20.00 • \$24.95  
Hardcover  
Philosophy / Social  
March 2023  
Princeton University Press

**An invigorating exploration of the pleasures and social benefits of conversation**

*Talking Cure* is a timely and enticing excursion into the art of good conversation. Paula Marantz Cohen reveals how conversation connects us in ways that social media never can and explains why simply talking to each other freely and without guile may be the cure to what ails our troubled society.

Drawing on her lifelong immersion in literature and culture and her decades of experience as a teacher and critic, Cohen argues that we learn to converse in our families and then carry that knowledge into a broader world where we encounter diverse opinions and sensibilities. She discusses the role of food in encouraging conversation, the challenges of writing dialogue in fiction, the pros and cons of Zoom, the relationship of conversation to vaudeville acts, and the educational value of a good college seminar where students learn to talk about ideas. Cohen looks at some of the famous groups of writers and artists in history whose conversation fed their creativity, and details some of the habits that can result in bad conversation.

Blending the immediacy of a beautifully crafted memoir with the conviviality of an intimate gathering with friends, *Talking Cure* makes a persuasive case for the civilizing value of conversation and is essential reading for anyone interested in the chatter that fuels culture.



**The Therapy of Desire**  
Martha C. Nussbaum  
9780691181028  
£22.00 • \$26.95  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / History & Surveys / Ancient &  
Classical  
May 2018  
Princeton University Press

The Epicureans, Skeptics, and Stoics practiced philosophy not as a detached intellectual discipline but as a worldly art of grappling with issues of daily and urgent human significance. In this classic work, Martha Nussbaum maintains that these Hellenistic schools have been unjustly neglected in recent philosophic accounts of what the classical "tradition" has to offer. By examining texts of philosophers such as Epicurus, Lucretius, and Seneca, she recovers a valuable source for current moral and political thought and encourages us to reconsider philosophical argument as a technique through which to improve lives. Written for general readers and specialists, *The Therapy of Desire* addresses compelling issues ranging from the psychology of human passion through rhetoric to the role of philosophy in public and private life.



**The Terrible Children of Modernity**  
Peter Sloterdijk  
9780231175333  
£25.00 • \$30.00  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Movements / Critical Theory  
February 2024  
Columbia University Press

Peter Sloterdijk is among the most acclaimed and widely read philosophers of the past half-century. Called "Germany's most controversial thinker" by the *New Yorker*, he has challenged and provoked readers worldwide with extraordinarily ambitious and wide-ranging works of philosophical and cultural critique. In *The Terrible Children of Modernity*, Sloterdijk offers a magisterial and profound investigation into the vicissitudes of historical change and the nature of modernity.

For Sloterdijk, modernity is defined by its need to break with the past. Moderns are perpetual rebels who seek to sever the ties of tradition and forms of inheritance that bind generations and eras together. With deep philosophical, historical, and literary range, he traces this antinegenealogical experiment from the French Revolution onward, from Madame de Pompadour and Napoleon through Nietzsche, Marx, Wagner, the Dadaists, and Deleuze. Acutely aware of the destructive potential of cultural discontinuities, Sloterdijk is no less critical of the "fathers" who condemn change than the "terrible children" who seek a drastic rupture with their predecessors. Equally concerned with the grand sweep of history and our current predicaments, he instead calls for new ways to live together in the intersubjectivity of the human condition. Incisive and daring, breathtaking in its scope, this account of youthful rebellion against tradition asks us to reimagine the ethics of genealogy.



**Think Least of Death**  
Steven Nadler  
9780691233956  
£14.99 • \$17.95  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Individual Philosophers  
May 2022  
Princeton University Press

**From Pulitzer Prize-finalist Steven Nadler, an engaging guide to what Spinoza can teach us about life's big questions**

In 1656, after being excommunicated from Amsterdam's Portuguese-Jewish community for "abominable heresies" and "monstrous deeds," the young Baruch Spinoza abandoned his family's import business to dedicate his life to philosophy. He quickly became notorious across Europe for his views on God, the Bible, and miracles, as well as for his uncompromising defense of free thought. Yet the radicalism of Spinoza's views has long obscured that his primary reason for turning to philosophy was to answer one of humanity's most urgent questions: How can we lead a good life and enjoy happiness in a world without a providential God? In *Think Least of Death*, Pulitzer Prize-finalist Steven Nadler connects Spinoza's ideas with his life and times to offer a compelling account of how the philosopher can provide a guide to living one's best life.

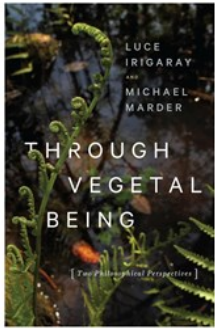
In the *Ethics*, Spinoza presents his vision of the ideal human being, the "free person" who, motivated by reason, lives a life of joy devoted to what is most important—improving oneself and others. Untroubled by passions such as hate, greed, and envy, free people treat others with benevolence, justice, and charity. Focusing on the rewards of goodness, they enjoy the pleasures of this world, but in moderation. "The free person thinks least of all of death," Spinoza writes, "and his wisdom is a meditation not on death but on life."

An unmatched introduction to Spinoza's moral philosophy, *Think Least of Death* shows how his ideas still provide valuable insights about how to live today.





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## Through Vegetal Being

Luce Irigaray

9780231173872

£25.00 • \$29.00

Trade Paperback

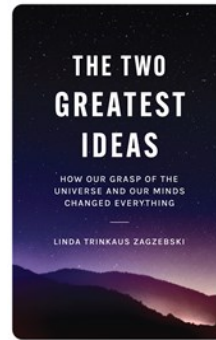
Philosophy / Movements / Deconstruction

July 2016

Columbia University Press

Blossoming from a correspondence between Luce Irigaray and Michael Marder, *Through Vegetal Being* is an intense personal, philosophical, and political meditation on the significance of the vegetal for our lives, our ways of thinking, and our relations with human and nonhuman beings. The vegetal world has the potential to rescue our planet and our species and offers us a way to abandon past metaphysics without falling into nihilism. Luce Irigaray has argued in her philosophical work that living and coexisting are deficient unless we recognize sexual difference as a crucial dimension of our existence. Michael Marder believes the same is true for vegetal difference.

Irigaray and Marder consider how plants contribute to human development by sustaining our breathing, nourishing our senses, and keeping our bodies and minds alive. They note the importance of returning to ancient Greek tradition and engaging with Eastern teachings to revive a culture closer to nature. As a result, we can reestablish roots when we are displaced and recover the vital energy we need to improve our sensibility and relation to others. This generative discussion points toward a more universal way of becoming human that is embedded in the vegetal world.



## The Two Greatest Ideas

Linda Trinkaus Zagzebski

9780691240794

£17.99 • \$21.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / History & Surveys

June 2023

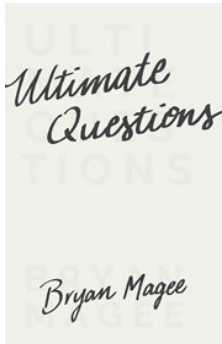
Princeton University Press

**Two simple yet tremendously powerful ideas that shaped virtually every aspect of civilization**

This book is a breathtaking examination of the two greatest ideas in human history. The first is the idea that the human mind can grasp the universe. The second is the idea that the human mind can grasp itself. Acclaimed philosopher Linda Zagzebski shows how the first unleashed a cultural awakening that swept across the world in the first millennium BCE, giving birth to philosophy, mathematics, science, and virtually all the major world religions. It dominated until the Renaissance, when the discovery of subjectivity profoundly transformed the arts and sciences. This second great idea governed our perception of reality up until the dawn of the twenty-first century.

Zagzebski explores how the interplay of the two ideas led to conflicts that have left us ambivalent about the relationship between the mind and the universe, and have given rise to a host of moral and political rifts over the deepest questions human beings face. Should we organize civil society around the ideal of living in harmony with the world or that of individual autonomy? Zagzebski explains how the two greatest ideas continue to divide us today over issues such as abortion, the environment, free speech, and racial and gender identity.

This panoramic book reveals what is missing in our conception of ourselves and the world, and imagines a not-too-distant future when a third great idea, the idea that human minds can grasp each other, will help us gain an idea of the whole of reality.



## Ultimate Questions

Bryan Magee

9780691178127

£10.99 • \$12.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy

September 2017

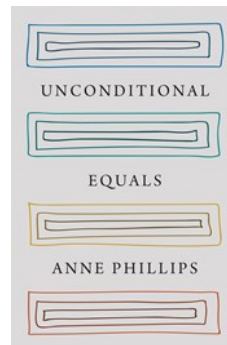
Princeton University Press

**How to live meaningfully in the face of the unknowable**

We human beings had no say in existing—we just opened our eyes and found ourselves here. We have a fundamental need to understand who we are and the world we live in. Reason takes us a long way, but mystery remains. When our minds and senses are baffled, faith can seem justified—but faith is not knowledge. In *Ultimate Questions*, acclaimed philosopher Bryan Magee provocatively argues that we have no way of fathoming our own natures or finding definitive answers to the big questions we all face.

With eloquence and grace, Magee urges us to be the mapmakers of what is intelligible, and to identify the boundaries of meaningfulness. He traces this tradition of thought to his chief philosophical mentors—Locke, Hume, Kant, and Schopenhauer—and shows why this approach to the enigma of existence can enrich our lives and transform our understanding of the human predicament. As Magee puts it, “There is a world of difference between being lost in the daylight and being lost in the dark.”

The crowning achievement to a distinguished philosophical career, *Ultimate Questions* is a deeply personal meditation on the meaning of life and the ways we should live and face death.



## Unconditional Equals

Anne Phillips

9780691226163

£18.99 • \$22.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

May 2023

Princeton University Press

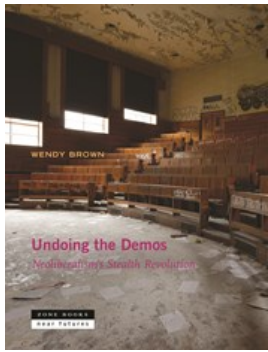
**Why equality cannot be conditional on a shared human “nature” but has to be for all**

For centuries, ringing declarations about all men being created equal appealed to a shared human nature as the reason to consider ourselves equals. But appeals to natural equality invited gradations of natural difference, and the ambiguity at the heart of “nature” enabled generations to write of people as equal by nature while barely noticing the exclusion of those marked as inferior by their gender, race, or class. Despite what we commonly tell ourselves, these exclusions and gradations continue today. In *Unconditional Equals*, political philosopher Anne Phillips challenges attempts to justify equality by reference to a shared human nature, arguing that justification turns into conditions and ends up as exclusion. Rejecting the logic of justification, she calls instead for a genuinely unconditional equality.

Drawing on political, feminist, and postcolonial theory, *Unconditional Equals* argues that we should understand equality not as something grounded in shared characteristics but as something people enact when they refuse to be considered inferiors. At a time when the supposedly shared belief in human equality is so patently not shared, the book makes a powerful case for seeing equality as a commitment we make to ourselves and others, and a claim we make on others when they deny us our status as equals.



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## Undoing the Demos

Wendy Brown

9781935408543

£16.99 • \$19.95

Trade Paperback

Political Science / Political Economy

November 2017

Zone Books

Neoliberal rationality — ubiquitous today in statecraft and the workplace, in jurisprudence, education, and culture — remakes everything and everyone in the image of *homo oeconomicus*. What happens when this rationality transposes the constituent elements of democracy into an economic register? In vivid detail, Wendy Brown explains how democracy itself is imperiled.

The demos disintegrates into bits of human capital; concerns with justice cede to the mandates of growth rates, credit ratings, and investment climates; liberty submits to the imperative of human capital appreciation; equality dissolves into market competition; and popular sovereignty grows incoherent. Liberal democratic practices may not survive these transformations. Radical democratic dreams may not either.

In an original and compelling theoretical argument, Brown explains how and why neoliberal reason undoes the political form and political imaginary it falsely promises to secure and reinvigorate. Through meticulous analyses of neoliberalized law, political practices, governance, and education, she charts the new common sense.

*Undoing the Demos* makes clear that, far from being the lodestar of the twenty-first century, a future for democracy depends upon it becoming an object of struggle and rethinking.



## The Way of Nature

Zhuangzi

9780691179742

£18.99 • \$22.95

Paperback - with flaps

Philosophy / Eastern

July 2019

Princeton University Press

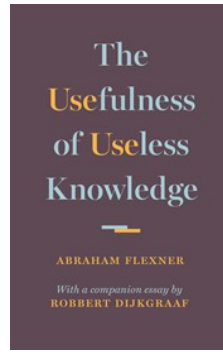
**A delightfully illustrated selection of the great Daoist writings of Zhuangzi by bestselling cartoonist C. C. Tsai**

C. C. Tsai is one of Asia's most popular cartoonists, and his editions of the Chinese classics have sold more than 40 million copies in over twenty languages. This volume presents Tsai's delightful graphic adaptation of the profound and humorous Daoist writings of Zhuangzi, some of the most popular and influential in the history of Asian philosophy and culture.

*The Way of Nature* brings together all of Tsai's beguiling cartoon illustrations of the *Zhuangzi*, which takes its name from its author. The result is a uniquely accessible and entertaining adaptation of a pillar of classical Daoism, which has deeply influenced Chinese poetry, landscape painting, martial arts, and Chan (Zen) Buddhism.

Irreverent and inspiring, *The Way of Nature* presents the memorable characters, fables, and thought experiments of Zhuangzi like no other edition, challenging readers to dig beneath conventional assumptions about self, society, and nature, and pointing to a more natural way of life. Through practical insights and far-reaching arguments, Zhuangzi shows why returning to the spontaneity of nature is the only sane response to a world of conflict.

A marvelous introduction to a timeless classic, this book also features an illuminating foreword by Edward Slingerland. In addition, Zhuangzi's original Chinese text is artfully presented in narrow sidebars on each page, enriching the book for readers and students of Chinese without distracting from the self-contained English-language cartoons. The text is skillfully translated by Brian Bruya, who also provides an introduction.



## The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge

Abraham Flexner

9780691174761

£8.99 • \$10.95

Hardcover

Science / Philosophy & Social Aspects

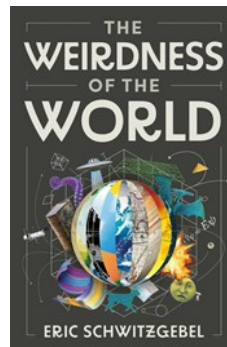
February 2017

Princeton University Press

**A short, provocative book about why "useless" science often leads to humanity's greatest technological breakthroughs**

A forty-year tightening of funding for scientific research has meant that resources are increasingly directed toward applied or practical outcomes, with the intent of creating products of immediate value. In such a scenario, it makes sense to focus on the most identifiable and urgent problems, right? Actually, it doesn't. In his classic essay "The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge," Abraham Flexner, the founding director of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and the man who helped bring Albert Einstein to the United States, describes a great paradox of scientific research. The search for answers to deep questions, motivated solely by curiosity and without concern for applications, often leads not only to the greatest scientific discoveries but also to the most revolutionary technological breakthroughs. In short, no quantum mechanics, no computer chips.

This brief book includes Flexner's timeless 1939 essay alongside a new companion essay by Robbert Dijkgraaf, the Institute's current director, in which he shows that Flexner's defense of the value of "the unobstructed pursuit of useless knowledge" may be even more relevant today than it was in the early twentieth century. Dijkgraaf describes how basic research has led to major transformations in the past century and explains why it is an essential precondition of innovation and the first step in social and cultural change. He makes the case that society can achieve deeper understanding and practical progress today and tomorrow only by truly valuing and substantially funding the curiosity-driven "pursuit of useless knowledge" in both the sciences and the humanities.



## The Weirdness of the World

Eric Schwitzgebel

9780691215679

£28.00 • \$32.00

Hardcover

Philosophy / Mind & Body

January 2024

Princeton University Press

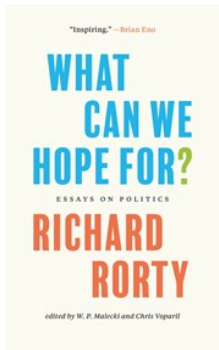
**How all philosophical explanations of human consciousness and the fundamental structure of the cosmos are bizarre—and why that's a good thing**

Do we live inside a simulated reality or a pocket universe embedded in a larger structure about which we know virtually nothing? Is consciousness a purely physical matter, or might it require something extra, something nonphysical? According to the philosopher Eric Schwitzgebel, it's hard to say. In *The Weirdness of the World*, Schwitzgebel argues that the answers to these fundamental questions lie beyond our powers of comprehension. We can be certain only that the truth—whatever it is—is weird. Philosophy, he proposes, can aim to open—to reveal possibilities we had not previously appreciated—or to close, to narrow down to the one correct theory of the phenomenon in question. Schwitzgebel argues for a philosophy that opens.

According to Schwitzgebel's "Universal Bizarreness" thesis, every possible theory of the relation of mind and cosmos defies common sense. According to his complementary "Universal Dubiety" thesis, no general theory of the relationship between mind and cosmos compels rational belief. Might the United States be a conscious organism—a conscious group mind with approximately the intelligence of a rabbit? Might virtually every action we perform cause virtually every possible type of future event, echoing down through the infinite future of an infinite universe? What, if anything, is it like to be a garden snail? Schwitzgebel makes a persuasive case for the thrill of considering the most bizarre philosophical possibilities.



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## What Can We Hope For?

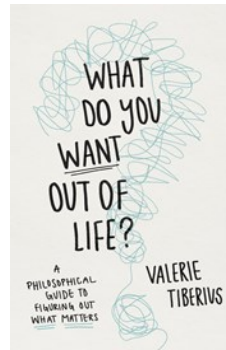
Richard Rorty  
9780691222905  
£14.99 • \$17.95  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Political  
October 2023  
Princeton University Press

**Prescient essays about the state of our politics from the philosopher who predicted that a populist demagogue would become president of the United States**

Richard Rorty, one of the most influential intellectuals of recent decades, is perhaps best known today as the philosopher who, almost two decades before the 2016 U.S. presidential election, warned of the rise of a Trumpian strongman in America. *What Can We Hope For?* gathers nineteen of Rorty's essays on American and global politics, including four previously unpublished and many lesser-known and hard-to-find pieces.

In these provocative and compelling essays, Rorty confronts the critical challenges democracies face at home and abroad, including populism, growing economic inequality, and overpopulation and environmental devastation. In response, he offers optimistic and realistic ideas about how to address these crises. He outlines strategies for fostering social hope and building an inclusive global community of trust, and urges us to put our faith in trade unions, universities, bottom-up social campaigns, and bold political visions that thwart ideological pieties.

Driven by Rorty's sense of emergency about our collective future, *What Can We Hope For?* is filled with striking diagnoses of today's political crises and creative proposals for solving them.



## What Do You Want Out of Life?

Valerie Tiberius  
9780691240688  
£22.00 • \$27.95  
Hardcover  
Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy  
January 2023  
Princeton University Press

**A short guide to living well by understanding better what you really value—and what to do when your goals conflict**

What do you want out of life? To make a lot of money—or work for justice? To run marathons—or sing in a choir? To have children—or travel the world? The things we care about in life—family, friendship, leisure activities, work, our moral ideals—often conflict, preventing us from doing what matters most to us. Even worse, we don't always know what we really want, or how to define success. Blending personal stories, philosophy, and psychology, this insightful and entertaining book offers invaluable advice about living well by understanding your values and resolving the conflicts that frustrate their fulfillment.

Valerie Tiberius introduces you to a way of thinking about your goals that enables you to reflect on them effectively throughout your life. She illustrates her approach with vivid examples, many of which are drawn from her own life, ranging from the silly to the serious, from shopping to navigating prejudice. Throughout, the book emphasizes the importance of interconnectedness, reminding us of the profound influence other people have on our lives, our goals, and how we should pursue them. At the same time, the book offers strategies for coping with obstacles to realizing your goals, including gender bias and other kinds of discrimination.

Whether you are changing jobs, rethinking your priorities, or reconsidering your whole life path, *What Do You Want Out of Life?* is an essential guide to helping you understand what really matters to you and how you can thoughtfully pursue it.

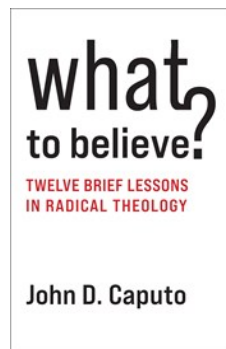


## What Is Sexual Difference?

Mary C. Rawlinson  
9780231202732  
£30.00 • \$35.00  
Trade Paperback  
Philosophy / Individual Philosophers  
June 2023  
Columbia University Press

Luce Irigaray has written that “sexual difference is one of the major philosophical issues, if not the issue, of our age.” Spanning metaphysics, phenomenology, and psychoanalysis, her work examines how sexual difference structures being and subjectivity, organizes our experience of the world, and affects the images and discourses involved in knowledge production and practical action. No other philosopher has paid such careful attention to the consequences of the elision of sexual difference in philosophical thought. However, at a time when notions of sexual and gender difference are hotly contested, Irigaray's thought has often been dismissed as essentialist or reductively binary.

This book brings together leading scholars to consider the philosophical implications of Irigaray's writing on sexual difference, particularly for issues of gender and race. Their essays directly confront the charge of essentialism, exploring how Irigaray's thought opens new possibilities for understanding the complexity of gender identities, including nonbinary and trans experiences as well as alternative configurations of masculinity and femininity. Though Irigaray is sometimes accused of a failure to appreciate racial difference, contributors show the productive role of her work in thinking race. This book also illuminates how Irigaray's work provides creative practices that help realign human experience and our relations with nature and each other.



## What to Believe?

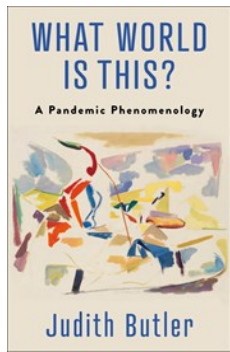
John D. Caputo  
9780231210959  
£22.00 • \$28.00  
Trade Paperback  
Religion / Philosophy  
August 2023  
Columbia University Press

If you no longer “believe in God,” the Supreme Being of classical theology, or you never did in the first place, is there anything you still ought to believe, anything you should cherish unconditionally, no matter what? In this lively and accessible book, addressed to believers, “recovering” believers, disbelievers, nonbelievers, and “nones” alike—to anyone in search of what they really do believe—the acclaimed philosopher and theologian John D. Caputo seeks out what there is to believe, with or without religion.

Writing in a lucid and witty style, Caputo offers a bold account of a “radical theology” that is anything but what the word *theology* suggests to most people. His point of departure is autobiographical, describing growing up in the world of pre-Vatican II Catholicism, serving as an altar boy, and spending four years in a Catholic religious order after high school. Caputo places Augustine's *Confessions*, Tillich's *Dynamics of Faith*, and Jacques Derrida and postmodern theory in conversation in the service of what he calls the “mystical sense of life.” He argues that radical theology is not simply an academic exercise but describes a concrete practice immediately relevant to the daily lives of believers and nonbelievers alike. *What to Believe?* is an engaging introduction to radical theology for all readers curious about what religion can mean today.



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## What World Is This?

Judith Butler

9780231208291

£14.99 • \$17.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Movements / Phenomenology

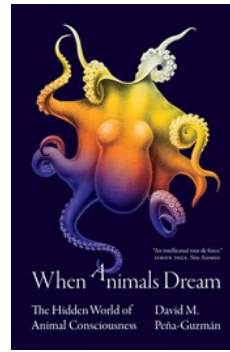
November 2022

Columbia University Press

The pandemic compels us to ask fundamental questions about our place in the world: the many ways humans rely on one another, how we vitally and sometimes fatally breathe the same air, share the surfaces of the earth, and exist in proximity to other porous creatures in order to live in a social world. What we require to live can also imperil our lives. How do we think from, and about, this common bind?

Judith Butler shows how COVID-19 and all its consequences—political, social, ecological, economic—have challenged us to reconsider the sense of the world that such disasters bring about. Drawing on the work of Max Scheler, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and critical feminist phenomenology, Butler illuminates the conditions in which we seek to make sense of our disorientation, precarity, and social bonds. *What World Is This?* offers a new account of interdependency in which touching and breathing, capacities that amid a viral outbreak can threaten life itself, challenge the boundaries of the body and selfhood. Criticizing notions of unlimited personal liberty and the killing forces of racism, sexism, and classism, this book suggests that the pandemic illuminates the potential of shared vulnerabilities as well as the injustice of pervasive inequalities.

Exposing and opposing forms of injustice that deny the essential interrelationship of living creatures, Butler argues for a radical social equality and advocates modes of resistance that seek to establish new conditions of livability and a new sense of a shared world.



## When Animals Dream

David M. Peña-Guzmán

9780691227061

£14.99 • \$17.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

September 2023

Princeton University Press

### A spellbinding look at the philosophical and moral implications of animal dreaming

Are humans the only dreamers on Earth? What goes on in the minds of animals when they sleep? *When Animals Dream* brings together behavioral and neuroscientific research on animal sleep with philosophical theories of dreaming. It shows that dreams provide an invaluable window into the cognitive and emotional lives of nonhuman animals, giving us access to a seemingly inaccessible realm of animal experience.

David Peña-Guzmán uncovers evidence of animal dreaming throughout the scientific literature, suggesting that many animals run “reality simulations” while asleep, with a dream-ego moving through a dynamic and coherent dreamscape. He builds a convincing case for animals as conscious beings and examines the thorny scientific, philosophical, and ethical questions it raises. Once we accept that animals dream, we incur a host of moral obligations and have no choice but to rethink our views about who animals are and the interior lives they lead.

A mesmerizing journey into the otherworldly domain of nonhuman consciousness, *When Animals Dream* carries profound implications for contemporary debates about animal cognition, animal ethics, and animal rights, challenging us to regard animals as beings who matter, and for whom things matter.



## When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People

Steven Nadler

9780691227955

£15.99 • \$18.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Epistemology

April 2023

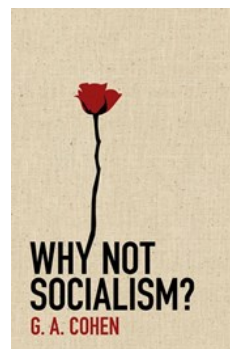
Princeton University Press

### Why the tools of philosophy offer a powerful antidote to today's epidemic of irrationality

There is an epidemic of bad thinking in the world today. An alarming number of people are embracing crazy, even dangerous ideas. They believe that vaccinations cause autism. They reject the scientific consensus on climate change as a “hoax.” And they blame the spread of COVID-19 on the 5G network or a Chinese cabal. Worse, bad thinking drives bad acting—it even inspired a mob to storm the U.S. Capitol. In this book, Steven Nadler and Lawrence Shapiro argue that the best antidote for bad thinking is the wisdom, insights, and practical skills of philosophy. *When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People* provides an engaging tour through the basic principles of logic, argument, evidence, and probability that can make all of us more reasonable and responsible citizens.

*When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People* shows how we can more readily spot and avoid flawed arguments and unreliable information; determine whether evidence supports or contradicts an idea; distinguish between merely believing something and knowing it; and much more. In doing so, the book reveals how epistemology, which addresses the nature of belief and knowledge, and ethics, the study of moral principles that should govern our behavior, can reduce bad thinking. Moreover, the book shows why philosophy's millennia-old advice about how to lead a good, rational, and examined life is essential for escaping our current predicament.

In a world in which irrationality has exploded to deadly effect, *When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People* is a timely and essential guide for a return to reason.



## Why Not Socialism?

G. A. Cohen

9780691143613

£8.99 • \$10.95

Hardcover

Philosophy / Political

September 2009

Princeton University Press

### A compelling case for why it's time for socialism

Is socialism desirable? Is it even possible? In this concise book, one of the world's leading political philosophers presents with clarity and wit a compelling moral case for socialism and argues that the obstacles in its way are exaggerated.

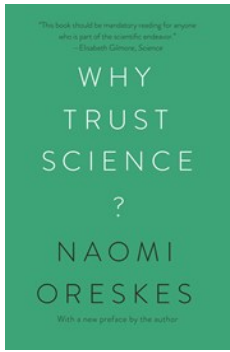
There are times, G. A. Cohen notes, when we all behave like socialists. On a camping trip, for example, campers wouldn't dream of charging each other to use a soccer ball or for fish that they happened to catch. Campers do not give merely to get, but relate to each other in a spirit of equality and community. Would such socialist norms be desirable across society as a whole? Why not? Whole societies may differ from camping trips, but it is still attractive when people treat each other with the equal regard that such trips exhibit.

But, however desirable it may be, many claim that socialism is impossible. Cohen writes that the biggest obstacle to socialism isn't, as often argued, intractable human selfishness—it's rather the lack of obvious means to harness the human generosity that is there. Lacking those means, we rely on the market. But there are many ways of confining the sway of the market: there are desirable changes that can move us toward a socialist society in which, to quote Albert Einstein, humanity has “overcome and advanced beyond the predatory stage of human development.”





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## Why Trust Science?

Naomi Oreskes

9780691212265

£15.99 • \$18.95

Trade Paperback

Science / Philosophy & Social Aspects

April 2021

Princeton University Press

### Why the social character of scientific knowledge makes it trustworthy

Are doctors right when they tell us vaccines are safe? Should we take climate experts at their word when they warn us about the perils of global warming? Why should we trust science when so many of our political leaders don't? Naomi Oreskes offers a bold and compelling defense of science, revealing why the social character of scientific knowledge is its greatest strength—and the greatest reason we can trust it. Tracing the history and philosophy of science from the late nineteenth century to today, this timely and provocative book features a new preface by Oreskes and critical responses by climate experts Ottmar Edenhofer and Martin Kowarsch, political scientist Jon Krosnick, philosopher of science Marc Lange, and science historian Susan Lindee, as well as a foreword by political theorist Stephen Macedo.



## Wollstonecraft

Sylvana Tomaselli

9780691241753

£18.99 • \$22.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

September 2022

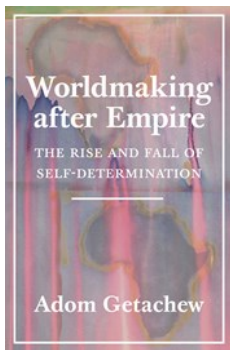
Princeton University Press

### A compelling portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft that shows the intimate connections between her life and work

Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, first published in 1792, is a work of enduring relevance in women's rights advocacy. However, as Sylvana Tomaselli shows, a full understanding of Wollstonecraft's thought is possible only through a more comprehensive appreciation of Wollstonecraft herself, as a philosopher and moralist who deftly tackled major social and political issues and the arguments of such figures as Edmund Burke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Adam Smith. Reading Wollstonecraft through the lens of the politics and culture of her own time, this book restores her to her rightful place as a major eighteenth-century thinker, reminding us why her work still resonates today.

The book's format echoes one that Wollstonecraft favored in *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*: short essays paired with concise headings. Under titles such as "Painting," "Music," "Memory," "Property and Appearance," and "Rank and Luxury," Tomaselli explores not only what Wollstonecraft enjoyed and valued, but also her views on society, knowledge and the mind, human nature, and the problem of evil—and how a society based on mutual respect could fight it. The resulting picture of Wollstonecraft reveals her as a particularly engaging author and an eloquent participant in enduring social and political concerns.

Drawing us into Wollstonecraft's approach to the human condition and the debates of her day, *Wollstonecraft* ultimately invites us to consider timeless issues with her, so that we can become better attuned to the world as she saw it then, and as we might wish to see it now.



## Worldmaking after Empire

Adom Getachew

9780691202341

£22.00 • \$27.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Political

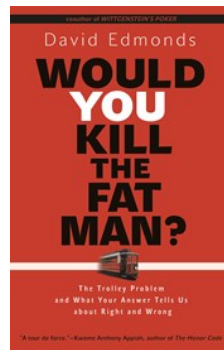
April 2020

Princeton University Press

Decolonization revolutionized the international order during the twentieth century. Yet standard histories that present the end of colonialism as an inevitable transition from a world of empires to one of nations—a world in which self-determination was synonymous with nation-building—obscure just how radical this change was. Drawing on the political thought of anticolonial intellectuals and statesmen such as Nnamdi Azikiwe, W.E.B. Du Bois, George Padmore, Kwame Nkrumah, Eric Williams, Michael Manley, and Julius Nyerere, this important new account of decolonization reveals the full extent of their unprecedented ambition to remake not only nations but the world.

Adom Getachew shows that African, African American, and Caribbean anticolonial nationalists were not solely or even primarily nation-builders. Responding to the experience of racialized sovereign inequality, dramatized by interwar Ethiopia and Liberia, Black Atlantic thinkers and politicians challenged international racial hierarchy and articulated alternative visions of worldmaking. Seeking to create an egalitarian postimperial world, they attempted to transcend legal, political, and economic hierarchies by securing a right to self-determination within the newly founded United Nations, constituting regional federations in Africa and the Caribbean, and creating the New International Economic Order.

Using archival sources from Barbados, Trinidad, Ghana, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, *Worldmaking after Empire* recasts the history of decolonization, reconsiders the failure of anticolonial nationalism, and offers a new perspective on debates about today's international order.



## Would You Kill the Fat Man?

David Edmonds

9780691165639

£12.99 • \$14.95

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Ethics & Moral Philosophy

February 2015

Princeton University Press

### From the bestselling coauthor of *Wittgenstein's Poker*, a fascinating tour through the history of moral philosophy

A runaway train is racing toward five men who are tied to the track. Unless the train is stopped, it will inevitably kill all five men. You are standing on a footbridge looking down on the unfolding disaster. However, a fat man, a stranger, is standing next to you: if you push him off the bridge, he will topple onto the line and, although he will die, his chunky body will stop the train, saving five lives. Would you kill the fat man?

The question may seem bizarre. But it's one variation of a puzzle that has baffled moral philosophers for almost half a century and that more recently has come to preoccupy neuroscientists, psychologists, and other thinkers as well. In this book, David Edmonds, coauthor of the bestselling *Wittgenstein's Poker*, tells the riveting story of why and how philosophers have struggled with this ethical dilemma, sometimes called the trolley problem. In the process, he provides an entertaining and informative tour through the history of moral philosophy. Most people feel it's wrong to kill the fat man. But why? After all, in taking one life you could save five. As Edmonds shows, answering the question is far more complex—and important—than it first appears. In fact, how we answer it tells us a great deal about right and wrong.



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## Xunzi

Xunzi

9780691169316

£25.00 • \$29.95

Trade Paperback

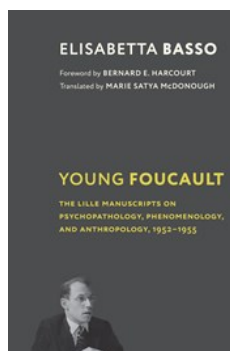
Philosophy

March 2016

Princeton University Press

This is the first complete, one-volume English translation of the ancient Chinese text *Xunzi*, one of the most extensive, sophisticated, and elegant works in the tradition of Confucian thought. Through essays, poetry, dialogues, and anecdotes, the *Xunzi* presents a more systematic vision of the Confucian ideal than the fragmented sayings of Confucius and Mencius, articulating a Confucian perspective on ethics, politics, warfare, language, psychology, human nature, ritual, and music, among other topics. Aimed at general readers and students of Chinese thought, Eric Hutton's translation makes the full text of this important work more accessible in English than ever before.

This edition features an introduction, a timeline of early Chinese history, a list of important names and terms, cross-references, explanatory notes, a bibliography, and an index.



## Young Foucault

Elisabetta Basso

9780231205856

£25.00 • \$30.00

Trade Paperback

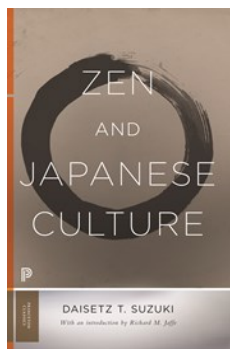
Philosophy / Movements / Critical Theory

November 2022

Columbia University Press

In the 1950s, long before his ascent to international renown, Michel Foucault published a scant few works. His early writings on psychology, psychopathology, and anthropology have been dismissed as immature. However, recently discovered manuscripts from the mid-1950s, when Foucault was a lecturer at the University of Lille, testify to the significance of the work that the philosopher produced in the years leading up to the “archaeological” project he launched with *History of Madness*.

Elisabetta Basso offers a groundbreaking and in-depth analysis of Foucault's Lille manuscripts that sheds new light on the origins of his philosophical project. She considers the epistemological style and methodology of these writings as well as their philosophical context and the scholarly networks in which Foucault was active, foregrounding his relationship to existential psychiatry. *Young Foucault* blurs the boundaries between biography and theory, exploring the transformations—and, at times, contradictions—that characterize the intellectual trajectory of a philosopher who, as Foucault himself put it, “turned to psychology, and from psychology to history.” Retracing the first steps of the philosopher's intellectual journey, Basso shows how Foucault's early writings provide key insights into his archaeological work of the 1960s. Assembling a vast array of archival sources—including manuscripts, reading notes, notes for lectures and conferences, and correspondence—this book develops a new and deeper understanding of Foucault's body of work.



## Zen and Japanese Culture

Richard M. Jaffe

9780691182964

£22.00 • \$26.95

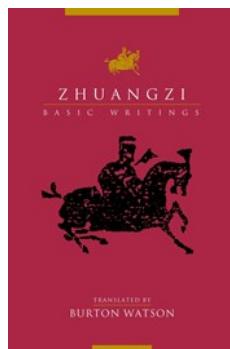
Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Zen

February 2019

Princeton University Press

*Zen and Japanese Culture* is a classic that has influenced generations of readers and played a major role in shaping conceptions of Zen's influence on Japanese traditional arts. In simple and poetic language, Daisetz Suzuki describes Zen and its historical evolution. He connects Zen to the philosophy of the samurai, and subtly portrays the relationship between Zen and swordsmanship, haiku, tea ceremonies, and the Japanese love of nature. Suzuki uses anecdotes, poetry, and illustrations of silk screens, calligraphy, and architecture. The book features an introduction by Richard Jaffe that acquaints readers with Suzuki's life and career and analyzes the book's reception in light of contemporary criticism, especially by scholars of Japanese Buddhism. *Zen and Japanese Culture* is a valuable source for those wishing to understand Zen in the context of Japanese life and art, and remains one of the leading works on the subject.



## Zhuangzi: Basic Writings

Zhuangzi

9780231129596

£22.00 • \$28.00

Trade Paperback

Philosophy / Taoist

April 2003

Columbia University Press

Only by inhabiting Dao (the Way of Nature) and dwelling in its unity can humankind achieve true happiness and freedom, in both life and death. This is Daoist philosophy's central tenet, espoused by the person—or group of people—known as Zhuangzi (369?–286? BCE) in a text by the same name. To be free, individuals must discard rigid distinctions between right and wrong, and follow a course of action not motivated by gain or striving. When one ceases to judge events as good or bad, man-made suffering disappears, and natural suffering is embraced as part of life.

Zhuangzi elucidates this mystical philosophy through humor, parable, and anecdote, using non sequitur and even nonsense to illuminate truths beyond the boundaries of ordinary logic. Boldly imaginative and inventively written, the *Zhuangzi* floats free of its historical period and society, addressing the spiritual nourishment of all people across time. One of the most justly celebrated texts of the Chinese tradition, the *Zhuangzi* is read by thousands of English-language scholars each year, yet, until now, only in the Wade-Giles romanization. Burton Watson's conversion to pinyin in this book brings the text in line with how Chinese scholars, and an increasing number of other scholars, read it.

<hr/>	<b>The Accursed Share, Volume I</b>	Page 1	<hr/>	<b>After Kant</b>	Page 1
<hr/>	<b>Against Democracy</b>	Page 1	<hr/>	<b>Against Happiness</b>	Page 1
<hr/>	<b>Alienation</b>	Page 2	<hr/>	<b>Art and Posthistory</b>	Page 2
<hr/>	<b>Be Not Afraid of Life</b>	Page 2	<hr/>	<b>Bergsonism</b>	Page 2
<hr/>	<b>A Book Forged in Hell</b>	Page 3	<hr/>	<b>The Case for Animal Rights</b>	Page 3
<hr/>	<b>The Collected Dialogues of Plato</b>	Page 3	<hr/>	<b>The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume I</b>	Page 3
<hr/>	<b>The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume II</b>	Page 4	<hr/>	<b>Complete Works of Aristotle, Volume 1</b>	Page 4
<hr/>	<b>Complete Works of Aristotle, Volume 2</b>	Page 4	<hr/>	<b>The Complete Works of Zhuangzi</b>	Page 4
<hr/>	<b>The Currency of Politics</b>	Page 5	<hr/>	<b>Dao De Jing</b>	Page 5
<hr/>	<b>Dark Ecology</b>	Page 5	<hr/>	<b>Dark Matters</b>	Page 5
<hr/>	<b>The Entanglement</b>	Page 6	<hr/>	<b>The Essential Kierkegaard</b>	Page 6
<hr/>	<b>Ethics in the Real World</b>	Page 6	<hr/>	<b>The Ethics of Identity</b>	Page 6
<hr/>	<b>Evil in Modern Thought</b>	Page 7	<hr/>	<b>The Expanding Circle</b>	Page 7
<hr/>	<b>Failures of Forgiveness</b>	Page 7	<hr/>	<b>Fear and Trembling and The Sickness Unto Death</b>	Page 7
<hr/>	<b>The Good-Enough Life</b>	Page 8	<hr/>	<b>The Great Guide</b>	Page 8
<hr/>	<b>Grief</b>	Page 8	<hr/>	<b>Hannah Arendt and Isaiah Berlin</b>	Page 8
<hr/>	<b>Heretics!</b>	Page 9	<hr/>	<b>How to Be a Bad Emperor</b>	Page 9
<hr/>	<b>How to Be a Farmer</b>	Page 9	<hr/>	<b>How to Be a Friend</b>	Page 10
<hr/>	<b>How to Be a Leader</b>	Page 10	<hr/>	<b>How to Be Content</b>	Page 10
<hr/>	<b>How to Be Free</b>	Page 10	<hr/>	<b>How to Be Healthy</b>	Page 11

<hr/>	<b>How to Care about Animals</b>	Page 11	<hr/>	<b>How to Die</b>	Page 11
<hr/>	<b>How to Do the Right Thing</b>	Page 11	<hr/>	<b>How to Do Things with Emotions</b>	Page 9
<hr/>	<b>How to Drink</b>	Page 12	<hr/>	<b>How to Flourish</b>	Page 12
<hr/>	<b>How to Focus</b>	Page 12	<hr/>	<b>How to Give</b>	Page 12
<hr/>	<b>How to Grieve</b>	Page 13	<hr/>	<b>How to Grow Old</b>	Page 13
<hr/>	<b>How to Have a Life</b>	Page 13	<hr/>	<b>How to Innovate</b>	Page 13
<hr/>	<b>How to Keep an Open Mind</b>	Page 14	<hr/>	<b>How to Keep Your Cool</b>	Page 14
<hr/>	<b>How to Say No</b>	Page 14	<hr/>	<b>How to Stop a Conspiracy</b>	Page 14
<hr/>	<b>How to Tell a Joke</b>	Page 15	<hr/>	<b>How to Tell a Story</b>	Page 15
<hr/>	<b>How to Think about God</b>	Page 15	<hr/>	<b>How to Think about War</b>	Page 15
<hr/>	<b>How to Win an Argument</b>	Page 16	<hr/>	<b>In the Ruins of Neoliberalism</b>	Page 16
<hr/>	<b>The Infidel and the Professor</b>	Page 16	<hr/>	<b>The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is</b>	Page 16
<hr/>	<b>Liberalism in Dark Times</b>	Page 17	<hr/>	<b>Liberty and Equality</b>	Page 17
<hr/>	<b>Life Is Short</b>	Page 17	<hr/>	<b>The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air</b>	Page 17
<hr/>	<b>Losing Ourselves</b>	Page 18	<hr/>	<b>Lost in Thought</b>	Page 18
<hr/>	<b>The Man Who Understood Democracy</b>	Page 18	<hr/>	<b>Marx's Inferno</b>	Page 18
<hr/>	<b>Matter and Memory</b>	Page 19	<hr/>	<b>Meaning in Life and Why It Matters</b>	Page 19
<hr/>	<b>Midlife</b>	Page 19	<hr/>	<b>The Murder of Professor Schlick</b>	Page 19
<hr/>	<b>A New Stoicism</b>	Page 20	<hr/>	<b>Nietzsche</b>	Page 20
<hr/>	<b>Night Vision</b>	Page 20	<hr/>	<b>Objectivity</b>	Page 20



On Bullshit	Page 21	On Gaslighting	Page 21
On Human Nature	Page 21	On John Stuart Mill	Page 21
On Niccolò Machiavelli	Page 22	On the Laws of the Poetic Art	Page 22
The One	Page 22	Open Democracy	Page 22
The Open Society and Its Enemies	Page 23	Painting as an Art	Page 23
Parfit	Page 23	Pathologies of Reason	Page 23
Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature	Page 24	Philosophy of Mathematics	Page 24
Philosophy of Physics	Page 24	Plants in Place	Page 24
Plato Goes to China	Page 25	Political Liberalism	Page 25
The Politics of Language	Page 25	Private Government	Page 25
Professor of Apocalypse	Page 26	Pure Immanence	Page 26
Religion and Nothingness	Page 26	The Seducer's Diary	Page 26
Social Acceleration	Page 27	The Soul of the World	Page 27
Spinoza's Ethics	Page 27	Storythinking	Page 27
Talking Cure	Page 28	The Terrible Children of Modernity	Page 28
The Therapy of Desire	Page 28	Think Least of Death	Page 28
Through Vegetal Being	Page 29	The Two Greatest Ideas	Page 29
Ultimate Questions	Page 29	Unconditional Equals	Page 29
Undoing the Demos	Page 30	The Usefulness of Useless Knowledge	Page 30
The Way of Nature	Page 30	The Weirdness of the World	Page 30

<hr/>	<b>What Can We Hope For?</b>	Page 31	<hr/>	<b>What Do You Want Out of Life?</b>	Page 31
<hr/>	<b>What Is Sexual Difference?</b>	Page 31	<hr/>	<b>What to Believe?</b>	Page 31
<hr/>	<b>What World Is This?</b>	Page 32	<hr/>	<b>When Animals Dream</b>	Page 32
<hr/>	<b>When Bad Thinking Happens to Good People</b>	Page 32	<hr/>	<b>Why Not Socialism?</b>	Page 32
<hr/>	<b>Why Trust Science?</b>	Page 33	<hr/>	<b>Wollstonecraft</b>	Page 33
<hr/>	<b>Worldmaking after Empire</b>	Page 33	<hr/>	<b>Would You Kill the Fat Man?</b>	Page 33
<hr/>	<b>Xunzi</b>	Page 34	<hr/>	<b>Young Foucault</b>	Page 34
<hr/>	<b>Zen and Japanese Culture</b>	Page 34	<hr/>	<b>Zhuangzi: Basic Writings</b>	Page 34