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*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

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Business & Management / Education & Teaching

[**Teaching by Heart: One Professor's Journey to Inspire** by Thomas J. DeLong \(Harvard Business Review Press\)](#)

Some teachers influence a lifetime of learning – they have special wisdom, a unique spirit, and a deep commitment to their students. A connection with a student is more

than an exchange of ideas and subsequent grades. These connections have the ability to inspire thoughts and actions well beyond the classroom.

[Teaching by Heart](#) summarizes the author's key insights gained from more than forty years of teaching and managing. It illustrates how teachers can both lift people up and let them down. It proposes that the best teachers are also leaders, and the best leaders are also teachers.

In examining how to lead and teach, Thomas J. DeLong takes readers inside his own head and heart. He notes that teachers often focus more on their inadequacies and missteps than on their strengths and unique talents. He explains why this is so by dissecting and analyzing his own experiences – using himself as a case study.

DeLong is the Baker Foundation Professor of Management Practice in the Organizational Behavior unit at Harvard Business School.

[Teaching by Heart](#)'s goal is to help readers learn about the intricacies of teaching and managing, and to impart lessons about how teachers can create a unique teaching atmosphere. To do this, DeLong analyzes the process of creating a curriculum, preparing for an eighty-minute class, managing the fifteen minutes before class begins, and evaluating the nature of the teaching experience after the session concludes. Along the way, he connects specific classroom behaviors with leadership issues – in organizations, in teams, and in personal relationships.

Throughout [Teaching by Heart](#), DeLong discusses why empathy and authenticity matter. When teachers embrace this mindset, students have the opportunity to have a unique learning experience. Teachers and managers learn how to create moments of transformation for students.

Teachers, he says, must push back any doubt, reach into their hearts, and realize they've been guided to this career for a reason: To provide hope. To enlighten. And to inspire the next generation of learners.

Whether teachers, students, business leaders, or anyone interested in teaching picks up this book, they'll learn:

- What makes a classroom session unique – from preparation to presentation.
- The characteristics of a great teacher, and how they intersect with those of a leader.
- To dissect provocative questions like What happens on multiple levels while I am teaching? And How do I manage my biases, including having "favorite" students?
- How the author's own experience has influenced and impacted his life.
We should all know what makes teachers great, and how they can move us to think about our own roles as leaders. Tom DeLong is the right person

to do this. I'm struck by his honesty and willingness to show, in captivating detail, his own vulnerability – a radical act that will alter readers of [Teaching by Heart](#). – Ophelia Dahl, Cofounder and Chair, Board of Directors, Partners in Health

Tom DeLong lives at the intersection of the art and science of teaching and leading. Anyone facing leadership challenges will learn unique approaches on how to teach and lead to enhance their organization. [Teaching by Heart](#) is a must-read. – David A. Thomas, President, Morehouse College

Tom DeLong has written a beautiful, powerful, and inspiring book. It's both a memoir and an instruction manual – a how-to guide for great teaching and a testament to the unparalleled joy that both teaching and learning can bring. Every teacher, regardless of their students' age or the subject matter they teach, should read this book. – Debora L. Spar, Professor, Harvard Business School; former President, Barnard College

The one characteristic that all of Tom DeLong's classes have in common is the extent to which students are touched emotionally. All of us are lucky Tom has taken the time to share the secrets that come from forty years of masterful teaching. – Leonard A. Schlesinger, Professor, Harvard Business School; President Emeritus, Babson College

[Teaching by Heart](#) is both a compelling personal story and a feast of insights into teaching, learning, and leading. While I've been the beneficiary of Tom's perceptive advice over the last two decades, it was still thought provoking to experience the rich, holistic framework that underlies his wise counsel. You can't put this book down. – Martha S. Samuelson, CEO and Chairman, Analysis Group

I've never met another teacher like Tom DeLong. He possesses qualities rarely seen at any level in academia or the business world: a generosity of spirit, an eagerness for deep interaction, and a willingness to show his own vulnerability. This book will enable readers to learn the invaluable skill of leading, teaching, and inspiring simultaneously. – C. Allen Parker, General Counsel, Wells Fargo

Those who pick up this book will be instructed, entertained, and inspired. Moving, thought-provoking, and penned by a Harvard Business School professor who has taught 15,000 MBAs, [Teaching by Heart](#) will encourage anyone to look within themselves and realize their ability to teach meaningful lessons at any stage in their career – and in their life. <>

[Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#), 1st edition edited by Alex Gorod, Leonie Hallo, Vernon Ireland & Indra Gunawan (**Complex and Enterprise Systems Engineering**: An Auerbach Book, CRC Press)

As a result of expanding complexity, today's projects often fail and project managers are faced with more complex tasks, requiring skills from across many disciplines. The pace of change is fast and accelerating, creating an urgent need for a paradigm shift. The rise in the sharing economy, now ubiquitous in day-to-day experience, reflects the general move toward a more collaborative world. Smart cities and the Internet of Things (IoT) reflect this increase in interconnectedness, and the implications of this transformation are only now beginning to be explored.

[Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#) enhances learning about complex project management principles and practices through the introduction and discussion of a portfolio of tools presented as an evolving toolbox. The book has four editors. Alex Gorod is a Professor at the University of Adelaide and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Zicklin School of Business, City University of New York. Leonie Hallo is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide and a Co-director of the Complex Systems Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab (CSIEL). Vernon Ireland is currently a Professor and Foreign Expert in the Faculty of Construction Management and Real Estate, Chongqing University. He is an Emeritus Professor in Complex Systems, The University of Adelaide and directed numerous projects over the years. Indra Gunawan is an Associate Professor in Complex Project Management, and the Director of Postgraduate Project Management Programme in the Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation Centre (ECIC), Faculty of the Professions, the University of Adelaide, Australia.

Throughout the book, industry practitioners examine the toolsets that are part of the toolbox to develop a broader understanding of complex project management challenges and the available tools to address them. This approach establishes a dynamic, structured platform for a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the modern, rapidly changing, multifaceted business environment to teach the next generation of project managers to successfully cope with the ever increasing complexity of the 21st century.

The preface of [Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#) says that over the years of teaching and researching in the field, the editors became aware of the current shortage of current project management tools for dealing with the growing number of complex projects and their increasing degree of complexity. In addition, it became evident that there was a lack of an evolving repository for the tools. The editors subsequently agreed that it would be helpful to draw from global experts their very best

wisdom on the tools for use in their domains of interest. In turn, the initiative has resulted in this collection of 23 chapters, representing the latest thinking about tools for complex project managers and how to access them.

Each chapter in [Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#) provides an important and useful toolset for managers of complex projects. As complexity is increasing, tools must evolve and the toolbox will also be developing, offering new benefits in the future. The initial set of toolsets found in the book is just a snapshot, and additional tools will emerge to meet rising challenges.

Present limitations in complex project management include:

- The range of available tools to manage complex projects is insufficient.
- The existing tools are static and not self-updating or self-organizing.
- Traditional tools are typically used in a stand-alone fashion, and many were designed for different purposes.
- Many existing tools were created during a less complex time period and lack the ability to deal with systemic issues because they are reductionist in nature.

[Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#) addresses these and other issues by bringing together a broad array of the latest tools suited to dealing with complex projects, thus providing project managers with current practical options and in-depth perspectives in one location. In addition, the book discusses the evolving toolbox concept as a virtual platform for managing tools. The platform is open to the external environment, making it possible for tools to interact and integrate as well as to evolve systemically in response to their usage and application by project managers. This system will operate as a cloud, containing multiple toolsets for various purposes. While individual tools may not be sufficient to solve a complex project, the collaborative smart cloud with continually updating toolsets brings more resources to finding a more feasible resolution to such problems.

Association for Project Management (APM) research, in 'Conditions for Project Success', found that only 22% of projects are wholly successful. There is a desperate need to use the full variety of systems approaches to improve the management of complex projects. That is exactly what is encouraged in this volume. – Michael Jackson, University of Hull, UK

This unique book utilizes leading-edge non-linear science as the basis for the next generation of project management tools: an evolving set of new applications that professionals can apply to highly complex situations. – Benjamin Lichtenstein, University of Massachusetts, Boston

This book presents a wide range of innovative techniques by experts from around the world that will greatly advance the ability of practitioners to

successfully manage complex projects across various domains, including the construction industry. – Kunhui Ye, Chongqing University, China

The collection of toolsets and the evolving toolbox approach discussed in [Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#) represent a step forward in the ability of project managers to manage complex projects more successfully. In addition, the material can have a significant impact on education, helping prepare next-generation engineers and project managers to be more effective in addressing non-traditional challenges.

[Evolving Toolbox for Complex Project Management](#) is timely, and yet it is still a toolbox-in-progress. No doubt in this digital age, new approaches and ideas will be quickly developed and could also be part of future compilations. Nevertheless, the information and resources included in the book will bring significant value to project managers seeking more contemporary and effective ways to manage complex projects. <>

Education & Teaching / Mental Health

[Teaching Hope and Resilience for Students Experiencing Trauma: Creating Safe and Nurturing Classrooms for Learning](#) by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, & Rachele S. Savitz (Teachers College Press)

Huge numbers of our students are caught in storms of trauma – whether stemming from abuse, homelessness, poverty, discrimination, violent neighborhoods, or fears of school shootings or family deportations. [Teaching Hope and Resilience for Students Experiencing Trauma](#) is a practical book focusing on actions that teachers can take to facilitate learning for these students.

Authors are Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey and Rachele S. Savitz. Fisher is a professor and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership at San Diego State University and a teacher leader at Health Sciences High and Middle College. Frey is a professor of educational leadership at San Diego State University and a teacher leader at Health Sciences High and Middle College. Savitz is assistant professor of adolescent literacy at Clemson University.

Identifying positive, connected teacher-student relationships as foundational, the authors offer direction for creating an emotionally safe classroom environment in which students find a refuge from trauma and a space in which to process events. [Teaching Hope and Resilience for Students Experiencing Trauma](#) shows how social and emotional learning can be woven into the school day; how literacies can be used to help students see a path through challenges; how to empower learners through debate, civic action, and service learning; and how to use the vital nature of the school community as an agent of change.

Teaching Hope and Resilience for Students Experiencing Trauma:

- Makes a clear case for the need and responsibility of schools to equip students with tools to learn despite the trauma in their lives.
- Shows practical classroom instructional and curricular interactions that address trauma while advancing student academic learning.
- Uses literacy and civic action as pathways to empowerment.
- Provides a method and tools for developing a coherent plan for creating a trauma-sensitive school.

The chapters in [Teaching Hope and Resilience for Students Experiencing Trauma](#) serve as a road map for creating uniformly excellent classrooms and schools.

Chapter 1 focuses on the fundamental importance of teacher-student relationships. These are foundational to the learning that follows, as personal regard and responsiveness signal to children that they matter.

Chapter 2 addresses the ways in which social and emotional learning can be woven into the school day. Whether teachers intend to or not, they teach their students social and emotional learning (SEL) in every interaction. This chapter begins with a discussion of identity and agency and extends to prosocial skills necessary for peer relationships, bullying prevention, and suicide prevention approaches.

Chapter 3 turns its attention to the ways in which literacies can be levers to maximize learning, especially for traumatized youth. Through the use of powerful and purposeful reading of informational and narrative texts, discussion of sensitive and broad student concerns about topics like violence and deportation, writing as catharsis and inquiry, the chapter explores ways to simultaneously teach and heal.

Chapter 4 is dedicated to teaching through learner empowerment. One of the most debilitating side effects of trauma is loss of agency. This chapter engages with notions of debate, civics, and service learning as pathways for taking back control.

Chapter 5 discusses the vital nature of the school community as an agent of change. Families and communities possess the collective power to restore and inspire. Trauma-sensitive schools are a vital conduit for organizing efforts, supporting families experiencing trauma, and mobilizing community resources.

*The authors' central vision of a hope-filled school is elegantly simple but never naïve or simplistic. Their many concrete recommendations for practice reveal how that vision might be enacted flexibly, in context-sensitive ways. – Kelly Chandler-Olcott, Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith
Professor for Teaching Excellence, Syracuse University*

[Teaching Hope and Resilience for Students Experiencing Trauma](#) will serve as a roadmap for creating uniformly consistent and excellent classrooms and schools that better serve children who experience trauma in their lives. <>

Entertainment & Sports / Recreation / Fishing

[The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide](#), revised edition by Tom Rosenbauer (Lyons Press)

[The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide](#) will teach anyone how to tie flies. All the important techniques are illustrated with color photographs, from starting the thread on the hook to whip finishing. The book lays the basic groundwork by explaining simple tying techniques, and then progresses to detailed tying instructions for some of the most popular, modern patterns. How to choose and prepare the correct material and all the tying steps for each fly are detailed in large, color photographs.

Author Tom Rosenbauer has been a fly fisher for four decades, and was tying flies commercially at age fourteen. He is a marketing manager with the Orvis Company in Manchester, Vermont.

Even if readers have no previous tying experience, they will be able to tie dries, nymphs, streamers, saltwater offerings, and bass bugs after just a few sessions with [The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide](#). The tier is then advised how to progress to similar patterns using the same basic techniques. Also included is a huge reference of fly patterns – more than four hundred flies from the Orvis catalog are shown in full color, along with the tying recipes and proportions for each one.

Rosenbauer asks why we need another fly-tying book or a major revision of a book that has been around for years. He says he feels that some people still learn better from books, studying photographs in detail and taking their time, instead of constantly hitting the pause button or worse yet, sitting through an introduction to a video on how the originator invented the fly.

On the other hand, there are many skills that are difficult to learn in a book but that a video can teach in seconds. He demonstrates how to accomplish a whip finish in step-by-step photographs in this book because he feels obligated to, but he says he would be the first to suggest that readers either take a basic fly-tying class or watch a video if they don't get the whip finish in a few minutes of studying the photographs. He feels books and videos complement each other in a magical way that was never available to tiers in the past.

[The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide](#) is divided into three parts: The first part teaches readers the basics of tying flies, assuming they have never faced a fly-tying vise and the only tying they have done is lacing their shoes or attaching a fly to a leader. The second part shows how to tie some popular and effective flies. The third part of the book offers the recipes for every fly in the 2018 Orvis fly offering, plus many others. Once readers master

the basic patterns in the book, they can move on to the world of fly tying by finding the ones in the pattern index they want to try. Rosenbauer has marked each fly in the pattern index with a difficulty level so they don't get frustrated attempting patterns beyond their skills.

Readers' first flies will catch fish, because fish are far less picky about style than fishing buddies.

If you're a beginning fly angler, you should make [The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide](#) your bible. – The Frederick News-Post

[The Orvis Fly-Tying Guide](#), drawing from the Orvis Company's vast resources and teaching experience and written by an author whose name is synonymous with Orvis, has become the bible for fly-tyers of all skill levels. <>

Esoteric / Occult / History / Renaissance / Philosophy

[The Greater and Lesser Worlds of Robert Fludd](#): **Macrocosm, Microcosm, and Medicine**, 1st edition by Joscelyn Godwin (Inner Traditions)

[The Greater and Lesser Worlds of Robert Fludd](#) is an illustrated reference book on a seminal figure of occult philosophy and Renaissance thought.

One of the last Renaissance men, Robert Fludd (1574-1637) was one of the great minds of the early modern period. A physician by profession, he was also a Christian Hermetist, a Rosicrucian, an alchemist, astrologer, musician, and inventor. His drive to encompass the whole of human knowledge – from music to alchemy, from palmistry to fortification – resulted in a series of books remarkable for their hundreds of engravings, a body of work recognized as the first example of a fully-illustrated encyclopedia.

In [The Greater and Lesser Worlds of Robert Fludd](#), scholar and linguist Joscelyn Godwin explains Fludd's theories on the correspondence between the macrocosm of elements, planets, stars, and subtle and divine beings and the microcosm of the human being and its creative activities. He shows how Fludd's two worlds – the macrocosm and the microcosm – along with Paracelsus's medical principles and the works of Hermes Trismegistus provided the foundation for his search for the cause and cure of all diseases.

Godwin taught at Cleveland State University for two years before joining the Colgate University Music Department in 1971.

[The Greater and Lesser Worlds of Robert Fludd](#):

- Explains Fludd's thoughts on cosmic harmonies, divination, the kabbalah, astrology, geomancy, alchemy, the Rosicrucians, and multiple levels of existence.

- Includes more than 200 of Fludd's illustrations, representing the whole corpus of Fludd's iconography, each one accompanied by Godwin's expert commentary.
- Explores Fludd's medical work as an esoteric Paracelsian physician and his theories on the macrocosm of elements, planets, stars, and subtle and divine beings and the microcosm of the human being and its creative activities, including material never before translated.

[The Greater and Lesser Worlds of Robert Fludd](#) shares many passages translated for the first time from Fludd's Latin, allowing him to speak for himself. Godwin also analyzes Fludd's writings in defense of alchemy and the Rosicrucians.

Joscelyn Godwin has written a clearly expressed explanation and analysis of Robert Fludd's enigmatic, voluminous encyclopedic works. This definitive volume will always be essential for understanding in detail what Fludd's massive tomes encompassed. – William H. Huffman, Ph.D., author of *Robert Fludd and the End of the Renaissance*

Beautifully written, this book allows the reader to skim or go deep with no danger of sinking. Never apologizing for Fludd's idiosyncrasies and excesses, Godwin gets one thinking as Fludd did and hoped others would.

– Thomas Willard, Ph.D., professor of English at the University of Arizona

This lavishly illustrated book is the definitive guide to Robert Fludd's remarkable attempt at a grand synthesis of all human knowledge.

Joscelyn Godwin's superb scholarship and crystal-clear prose are without equal. – Glenn Alexander Magee, Ph.D., editor of *The Cambridge Handbook of Western Mysticism and Esotericism*

Robert Fludd attempted to embrace the whole of nature and man and of theory and practice in his volumes on the macrocosm, the microcosm,

and medicine and worked out his ideas through striking images. Joscelyn Godwin, in this masterly book, lays out the whole of Fludd's world in all its

splendor. – Charles Burnett, Ph.D., professor of the history of Islamic influences in Europe at the Warburg Institute

Highly illustrated, an essential reference for scholars of Renaissance thinkers, traditional cosmology, metaphysics, and the Western esoteric tradition, [The Greater and Lesser Worlds of Robert Fludd](#) offers intimate access to Fludd's worlds and gives one a feel for an epoch in which magic, science, philosophy, spirituality, and imagination could still cohabit and harmonize within a single mind. <>

History / British / Biographies & Memoirs

[Walter Raleigh: Architect of Empire](#) by Alan Galloway (Basic Books)

Sir Walter Raleigh (often spelled *Raleigh*) was a favorite of Queen Elizabeth. She showered him with estates and political appointments. He envisioned her becoming empress of a universal empire. She gave him the opportunity to lead the way.

In [Walter Raleigh](#), Alan Gallay shows that, while Raleigh may be best known for founding the failed Roanoke colony, his historical importance vastly exceeds that enterprise. Inspired by the mystical religious philosophy of hermeticism, Raleigh led English attempts to colonize in North America, South America, and Ireland. He believed that the answer to English fears of national decline resided overseas – and that colonialism could be achieved without conquest. Gallay reveals how Raleigh launched the English Empire and an era of colonization that shaped Western history for centuries after his death.

Gallay is the Lyndon B. Johnson chair of United States history at Texas Christian University and the author of several books including *The Indian Slave Trade*, which won the Bancroft Prize.

In [Walter Raleigh](#) Gally offers a new origin story for the English Empire. Gally reconstructs the strange brew of science, mysticism, poetry, utopianism, and militarism against Spain, to demonstrate how the English saw colonies and empires as not only their future but the central fact of human history.

Contrary to popular opinion, Raleigh believed colonialism to be a means for bringing different cultures into contact for the betterment of all. He perceived overseas expansion in utopian terms, imagining a scenario where the colonized and the colonizer would form a relationship of mutual benefit, unlike the Spanish, who abused, enslaved, and killed native peoples.

[Walter Raleigh](#) reveals how Raleigh laid the foundations of the English Empire. He thought in the Americas natives blessed by God would reveal the mysteries of the universe. He envisioned an empire in which English settlers and American Indians became allies and England would not interfere with their way of life.

Raleigh's insistence on intellectual liberation, even within the walls of the world's most famous prison, is what lingers after reading Gally's masterfully researched biography. He was, we learn, a free spirit in the truest sense and not such a loser after all. – Washington Examiner
If Americans know of Sir Walter Raleigh today, it is as the founder of the 'Lost Colony' of Roanoke, which disappeared without a trace a few years after it was established on the North Carolina coast. Some, perhaps, associate him with his quixotic quest for the golden city of 'El Dorado' in the South American jungle. But such wispy associations fail to do justice to the colonial visionary, swashbuckling pirate, poet, courtier and alleged traitor whom Alan Gally has vividly conjured in [Walter Raleigh: Architect of Empire](#) a richly researched and engagingly written biography. – Wall Street Journal

[Gally] manages to convey the enormous sense of how the gallant courtier, alchemist, humanist, and author helped create the cult of the

goddess queen – who summarily ejected him out of her orbit. An enriching, sympathetic consideration of an extraordinary character in the fraught time of Tudor England. – Kirkus Reviews

A good choice for those already familiar with the broad strokes of Elizabethan England, and for readers seeking to expand their knowledge of Raleigh's life and works. – Library Journal

*In this lively and accessible biography of the pirate, scientist, poet, and courtier Walter Raleigh, Alan Gallay challenges us to rethink what we know about Elizabethan colonialism. Gallay whisks his readers to London and to Ireland, to Roanoke and to Guiana, in a whirl of activity that shows us the global reach as well as the limits of Raleigh's ambitions and ingenuity. – Rebecca Anne Goetz, author of *The Baptism of Early Virginia: How Christianity Created Race**

*Alan Gallay offers us a myth-busting view of Walter Raleigh, and he does not disappoint. He delves deeply into Raleigh's world to show how this complex, multi-talented, and surprisingly enlightened man paved the way for the creation of the British empire and the era of European colonization. Meticulously researched, [Walter Raleigh](#) is an impressive achievement that highlights its subject's importance to history. – Roger Crowley, author of *The Accursed Tower: The Fall of Acre and the End of the Crusades**

*Never again will readers see Sir Walter Raleigh as the man who gallantly laid down his cape in the mud so a queen could pass. Alan Gallay has breathed vision and depth into a man who was, indeed, one of the greatest courtiers, politicians, explorers, poets, alchemists, and hermeticists of his day.... – Nancy E. van Deusen, author of *Global Indios: The Indigenous Struggle for Justice in Sixteenth-Century Spain**

*It is hard to know which is better: Sir Walter Raleigh as fascinating subject of global biography or Alan Gallay as gifted biographer. Together, they make for a big, important, and gloriously good book about the nature of power in the early modern world. – Marcus Rediker, author of *The Slave Ship: A Human History**

An absorbing and surprising biography, [Walter Raleigh](#) offers a new origin story for the English Empire. Deeply compelling and full of fascinating detail, it tells the story of colonization and of the English Empire. As Gallay shows, although England rejected much of Raleigh's vision, his legacies can be seen in surprising places. <>

History / Germany / Nazi

[Creating Hitler's Germany: The Birth of Extremism](#) by Tim Heath (Pen and Sword)

Germany's defeat in the First World War and the Treaty of Versailles that followed were national disasters, with far-reaching consequences not just for the country but for the

world itself. Weaving the stories of three German families from the beginning of Germany's territorial aspirations of the First World War to the shattered dream of a thousand-year Reich in the Second World War, Tim Heath's [Creating Hitler's Germany](#) opens a multitude of untapped resources to explore the darkest recesses of German social and military history.

Born in to a military family, Heath's interest in history led him to research the air war of the Second World War, focusing on the German Luftwaffe and writing extensively for *The Armourer Magazine*.

[Creating Hitler's Germany](#) presents a nation's journey not only through everyday life and war, but through its own conscience, pain and inevitable search for some form of absolution from its past.

[Creating Hitler's Germany](#) was not written with the intention of producing chronological analysis of Germany throughout its most troubled, if not the darkest, period in its history but to try and understand what social and political factors influenced its aggression through the earlier part of the twentieth century. From testimonies in the form of personal letters, notes and diary entries, plus first-hand accounts, [Creating Hitler's Germany](#) not only attempts to understand Germany's pursuit of world domination but also its journey to genocide. It also examines Germany's eventual destruction and the reciprocal genocide that was visited upon the country at the close of the Second World War in 1945.

The previously unpublished story of Werner, Hilde and Alexander Kohlman provides a unique introduction to the work and, along with the private diaries and letters of young Jewish socialite Melitta Jorg, contributions from the private family archives of Albert and Emira Friest, Ingrid and Andreas Hoess, Paulina Rischner and Ursula and Rudi Metschuldt, plus many other first-hand accounts. These sources make [Creating Hitler's Germany](#) essential reading if one is to understand the embryo of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

These unheard voices, reminiscences and collective experiences of a generation conceived upon a bed of bayonets are still a source of fascination and, sometimes, revulsion. Germany was a nation with the deep resentment that resulted from Versailles woven into its social fabric. After 1918 the country found itself caught in a trap and, like a desperate wild animal in the same predicament, was ready to chew through a snared limb in order to free itself. The foundations for the rise of a dictatorship, such as that of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party, were in a sense set by those nations who had emerged victorious from the First World War.

There are many essential lessons to be learned in order to prevent such catastrophes occurring again. [Creating Hitler's Germany](#) represents a nation's journey not only through everyday life and the war but also through its own conscience, pain and inevitable search for some form of absolution from its past.

For thousands of Germans, the birth of Hitler's Third Reich represented hope and salvation from the despair of Versailles. However, it soon came to represent abuse, suffering, discrimination, fear, intimidation and mass murder. Why did so many follow such a fratricidal regime so willingly to their own destruction? Why did many otherwise good men become murderers in the heat of battle? And why have so few spoken out on the reciprocal genocide visited upon the Germans themselves at the closing stages of the Second World War? The answers, or at least some of them, will be discovered within the pages of [Creating Hitler's Germany](#) as they are given by those who were there.

The compelling, sometimes shocking first-person accounts will draw YAs into this illuminating history. – Sara Jorgensen, Booklist
Heath stitches together a social history of Nazi Germany. Heath's writing is sometimes clichéd ("When the bear awakes, and angrily shows its teeth, only the foolhardy will not turn and run"), and readers may find his description of the ending stages of WWII as a "reciprocal genocide of Germans" outlandish. But for those new to the subject, this is a solid, concise introduction to German experience under Hitler. – Publishers Weekly

If we do not learn the lessons of history we will be doomed to repeat the behaviors, national and personal, that have resulted in the tragedies of the past. One outstanding 20th century example is how Germany was treated at the end of World War I and how she was treated at the end of World War II - that latter treatment having prevented a World War III for the past 75 years. Exceptionally well written, organized and presented, Tim Heath's [Creating Hitler's Germany: The Birth of Extremism](#) is very highly recommended for community and academic library 20th century history collections. – Midwest Book Review

[Creating Hitler's Germany](#), a rich narrative, is unequalled in its mix of life, love and tragedy, all intertwined with the horrors of war, as witnessed by those who were there and who lived to tell the tale. It is real, painful and incredibly human – an essential history to further understand the mindset of Germany during the most tumultuous years of the nation's history. <>

History / Jews

[Genius & Anxiety: How Jews Changed the World, 1847-1947](#) by Norman Lebrecht (Scribner)

[Genius & Anxiety](#) is a unique chronicle of the years 1847-1947, the century when the Jewish people changed the world.

In a hundred-year period, a handful of men and women changed the way we see the

world. Many of them are well known – Marx, Freud, Proust, Einstein, Kafka. Others have vanished from collective memory despite their enduring importance in our daily lives. Without Karl Landsteiner, for instance, there would be no blood transfusions or major surgery. Without Paul Ehrlich, no chemotherapy. Without Siegfried Marcus, no motor car. Without Rosalind Franklin, genetic science would look very different. Without Fritz Haber, there would not be enough food to sustain life on earth.

What do these visionaries have in common? They all had Jewish origins. They all had a gift for thinking in original, even earth-shattering ways. In 1847 the Jewish people made up less than 0.25% of the world's population, and yet they saw what others could not. How? Why?

Renowned author Norman Lebrecht has devoted half of his life to pondering and researching the mindset of the Jewish intellectuals, writers, scientists, and thinkers who turned the tides of history. In [Genius & Anxiety](#), Lebrecht begins with the Communist Manifesto in 1847 and ends in 1947, when Israel was founded.

Of the handful of men and women who changed the way we see the world, about half were Jewish. In [Genius & Anxiety](#), Lebrecht explores how the particularly Jewish characteristics and experiences of countless notable figures enabled them to see what others could not. Encompassing nearly every major Jewish figure and event during a century of cultural ascendancy whose contributions impact our daily lives, this book is a celebration of Jewish genius, made all the more timely and necessary by a disturbing rise in anti-Semitism around the globe.

Beginning with the death of Mendelssohn and the birth of political anti-Semitism, [Genius & Anxiety](#) traces a century of Jewish experience, exploring how the teachings of the Talmud combined with religious prejudice and persecution on both an individual and global scale to cultivate an entirely unique way of experiencing the world, and a pressure to do so before the next great crisis inevitably arose. The existential angst of being Jewish in an anti-Semitic world became a motivating factor instead of a limitation; outsider status led to 'out-of-the-box' thinking.

While Lebrecht does not argue Jewish exceptionalism, he explores how uniquely Jewish circumstances often enabled otherwise ordinary people to display uncommon ingenuity in the face of a problem. But even as Jews changed the world around them during this century, it changed them, too – and continues to change them, as it becomes ever more clear that anti-Semitism is alive and well decades after a post-war world tried to convince us otherwise.

[A] thrilling and tragic history... Mr. Lebrecht is especially good on the ironies and chain-reaction intimacies that make a people and a past. –

The Wall Street Journal

Chemotherapy, the theory of relativity, great literature, blood transfusions, political theory, even Google are among the accomplishments of Jewish

men and women, and they're all celebrated in this lively, enlightening history. – Washington Post, "Best Books of December"

An altogether brilliant and serious but approachable and readable popular history and survey of an extraordinary century of Jewish achievement... [This] book is unfailingly urbane and anecdotal at the same time it is punctilious about the facts. Lebrecht is hearteningly scrupulous about separating legends that cling like barnacles to the drier and more prosaic and inarguable facts of history. – Buffalo News

Like Jewish destiny itself, Lebrecht's analysis is multi-dimensional, complex, and rich in substance. – The Times of Israel

Claims to have 'changed the world' tend to be exaggerations, but Lebrecht's subtitle, **How Jews Changed the World 1847-1947**, seems understated. The world wasn't changed, it was remade... [Narrated] by a sprightly raconteur, with anecdotes and jokes, digressions and embellishments. Lebrecht piles them high in a ziggurat of enthusiasm for those 'who changed the way we see the world.' – The Times (UK)

An absorbing, well-told story of Jewish achievement that is a pleasure to read... Written with passion and authority, this book shows how these great minds always took a different point of view – and changed how we see the world. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review

A unique perspective on the role of Jews in European intellectual life, this will be of interest to music and art history readers, as well as those interested in Jewish history. – Library Journal

Invoking heroic, creative, courageous images through the large panorama and the small vignette, Lebrecht... teases out more than 100 years of Jewish lore in this dense, entertaining work. – Bookreporter.com

Urgent and moving history. – The Spectator (UK)

[Genius & Anxiety](#) is a robust, magnificent volume, beautifully designed, an urgent and necessary celebration of Jewish genius and contribution. By confronting lies with truth and prejudice with knowledge, it shines a light on the contributions of one remarkable culture, without which the world would look very different today. <>

History / 19th Century / Asia

[Mapping the Great Game: Explorers, Spies and Maps in 19th-century Asia](#) by Riaz Dean (Casemate Publishers)

When Great Britain and Imperial Russia faced off in Central Asia in the 19th century, it became a top priority to chart parts of the region previously left blank on maps.

[Mapping the Great Game](#) follows the explorers, spies and map-makers who braved the dangers of travel and terrain in order to create maps of Afghanistan, Turkestan and Tibet; thus enabling the Great Game to be played.

Author Riaz Dean has traveled much of the area described in [Mapping the Great Game](#), including the two halves of what was once Turkestan, and on the Roof of the World which divides them. He collects old maps and books about the exploration of this region; and has written of the ancient Silk Road and its mapping.

The Great Game raged through the wilds of Central Asia during the 19th century, as Imperial Russia and Great Britain jostled for power. Tsarist armies gobbled up large tracts of Turkestan, advancing inexorably towards their ultimate prize, India. Britain, however, would never give up its 'jewel in the crown' and would go to war in Afghanistan to stop Russia dominating this 'buffer state'. Later, it would invade Tibet to stop its neighbors being used as a base to launch an attack on the subcontinent.

These rivals understood well that the first need of an army in a strange land is a reliable map; prompting desperate efforts to explore and spy out uncharted regions. Two distinct groups would rise to this challenge: a band of army officers, who would become the classic Great Game players; and an obscure group of natives employed by the Survey of India, known as the Pundits.

According to Dean in [Mapping the Great Game](#), while 'the game' played out, a self-educated cartographer named William Lambton began mapping the Great Arc, attempting to measure the actual shape of the Indian subcontinent.

Although the ultimate prize of the Great Game played out between Great Britain and Imperial Russia in the 19th century was India, most of the intrigue and action took place along its northern frontier. Maps and knowledge of the enemy were crucial elements in Britain's struggle to defend the 'jewel in the crown.'

The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India had been founded in the 18th century with the aim of creating a detailed map of the country. While most people today are readily able to identify the world's highest mountain, few know of the man, George Everest, after whom it was named, or the accomplishment that earned him this singular honor. Under his leadership, the Survey of India mapped the Great Arc, which was then lauded as 'one of the greatest works in the whole history of science,' though it cost more in monetary terms and human lives than many contemporary Indian wars. Much of the work of the Survey was undertaken by the native Indians Pundits, who were trained to explore, spy out and map Central Asia and Tibet. They did this at great personal risk and with meager resources, while traveling entirely on foot. They would be the first to reveal the mysteries of the forbidden city of Lhasa, and discover the true course of Tibet's mighty Tsangpo River. They were the greatest group of explorers the world has seen in recent history – yet they remain the classic unsung heroes of the British Raj.

The story of the extraordinary pioneers who explored much of Asia during the 19th century to fill in large portions of its map, and spy out the region for military reasons is often forgotten. In [Mapping the Great Game](#), Dean brings to life the epic adventures of

these explorers and cartographers, and the impact of their work on the Great Game. Dean's vivid account of their exploits, their adventurous spirit and their tenacity in the face of great adversity, all set within the context of the Great Game and the Survey of India, brings them the attention they deserve. <>

History / Politics / Philosophy

[How to Think Politically: Sages, Scholars and Statesmen Whose Ideas Have Shaped the World](#) by Graeme Garrard & James Bernard Murphy (Bloomsbury Continuum)

What is truly at stake in politics? Nothing less than how we should live, as individuals and as communities. [How to Think Politically](#) goes beyond the surface headlines, the fake news and the hysteria to explore the timeless questions posed and answers offered by a diverse group of the 30 greatest political thinkers who have ever lived.

Authors are Graeme Garrard and James Bernard Murphy. Garrard has taught political thought at Cardiff University since 1995 and at the Harvard Summer School since 2006. Murphy is Professor of Government at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, where he has taught since 1990.

In each brief chapter of [How to Think Politically](#), the authors paint a vivid portrait of these often prescient, always compelling political thinkers, showing how their ideas grew out of their own dramatic lives and times and evolved beyond them.

As Garrard and Murphy point out in the introduction, it is fashionable today to describe politics as a swamp. Much of the time politics is just a low-down, dirty business, an `evil-smelling bog, as one nineteenth-century British politician (the prime minister Lord Rosebery) called it. So shameful is political maneuvering that it has largely been conducted behind closed doors.

This common view of politics is partially true, but it is not the whole truth. Perhaps more than in any other arena, politics shows humans at their worst and their best. We are all too familiar now with the worst; [How to Think Politically](#) reminds readers of the best in an age when it is not often apparent, but when it needs to be, given what is at stake. Garrard and Murphy show how politics is actually a place where ideas and ideals meet concrete reality, and where great words and great deeds mix with base motives and low intrigue. Politics is the arena in which the fate of the planet will be decided. That is why, as citizens, people have a responsibility to engage with politics.

But even a superficial glance at the state of contemporary politics will dispel any illusion that the explosion of information has led to wiser citizens or politicians or improved the quality of public debate. If anything, misinformation is winning out over knowledge.

[How to Think Politically](#) helps readers to move beyond political information to acquire knowledge and, from there, wisdom. Information is about facts and is specific.

Knowledge is more general and implies understanding and analysis. Wisdom is the highest and deepest form of insight into the reality of something. Garrard and Murphy invite readers to eavesdrop upon a set of conversations among the wisest students of politics in history. In 30 short chapters they introduced a diverse and fascinating cast of characters, ranging from Confucius, the wandering sage of ancient China, to Arne Naess, the modern mountaineer and ecologist, from Al-Farabi, the Muslim imam, to Hannah Arendt, the exiled German Jewish intellectual, and from Plato, the Greek philosopher, to John Rawls, the American professor.

[How to Think Politically](#) interweaves stories from the life and times of each thinker with discussion of their key insights about politics, broadly understood. All of them attempted to distill the political information of their age into genuine knowledge and to turn that knowledge into general wisdom about how to live well, as individuals and as communities. The authors have chosen 30 of the wisest and most influential political thinkers in history – from Asia, Africa, Europe and America. They conclude each chapter with reflections on the wisdom that each sage offers for today's political challenges.

With over 50 years of scholarship and teaching between them, Garrard and Murphy have synthesized vast amounts of historical data and philosophical reflection into a single volume. Rather than bury readers with more facts, in [How to Think Politically](#) they introduce readers to many of the greatest political minds and ideas in history to stimulate their interest and spark their imagination.

Ideas matter; it's been said that madmen in authority distill their frenzy from academic scribblers of years past. This is a wonderful introduction to history's most influential scribblers, filled with clear explanations and engaging detail. – Steven Pinker, author of Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress

The authors have written a kind of Plutarch's Lives of the great political philosophers. Their lively and engaging style make even the most abstract ideas come alive. This is a book that can be read and enjoyed by all. – Steven B. Smith, Alfred Cowles Professor of Political Science, Yale University, author of Political Philosophy

An elegant meditation on political power ... Garrard and Murphy take a self-critical view of citizenship, insisting that "you may not care about politics, but politics cares about you. – Eric Beerbohm, Professor of Government, Harvard University

This book offers an excellent preparation for those who seek to distinguish the best from the worst in political life. – Michael D. Gillespie, Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Duke University

Now more than ever we need to be reminded that politics can be a noble, inspiring and civilizing art. And if we want to understand today's political world, we need to understand the foundations of politics and its architects. [How to Think Politically](#) is the perfect guide to both. <>

History / Science / Technology

[The History of the American Space Shuttle](#) by Dennis R. Jenkins (Schiffer Publishing Ltd.)

The flight campaign for the American space shuttle began on April 12, 1981, with the launch of STS-1 from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, and ended on July 21, 2011, with wheels stop of STS-135. During the 30 years and 135 missions in between, the program experienced triumphs and tragedies, amazed the world with its orbital exploits, and was frequently the subject of admiration, condemnation, pride, and despair. [The History of the American Space Shuttle](#) provides a detailed overview of the history of winged spacecraft and the development of the vehicle called the 'space shuttle,' and includes a technical description of the orbiter, main engines, external tank, and solid rocket boosters.

Author Dennis R. Jenkins worked as a contractor to NASA for 33 years, mostly on the Space Shuttle Program in a variety of engineering and management roles. He is the recipient of the American Astronautical Society's 2018 Ordway Award for Sustained Excellence in Spaceflight History.

Several pages are dedicated to each of the 135 missions flown by the American space shuttle, including technical data, crew names, and photos of each mission. The *Challenger* and *Columbia* accidents are discussed, along with a discussion of what NASA did to fix the flaws and continue flying. [The History of the American Space Shuttle](#) concludes by covering the retirement of the vehicle and the delivery of the four remaining orbiters to their final display sites.

As told in [The History of the American Space Shuttle](#), the men who created the American space shuttle did so with grand ambitions, but the exercise must be looked at in the context of time. Although the concept of space travel was ancient, its practice was little more than a decade old. In fact, when the initial studies that led to the space shuttle began, the United States had completed fewer than two dozen manned space flights; indeed, the maiden voyage of *Columbia* was only the thirtieth American manned orbital flight. It was a small experience base upon which to begin an ambitious program.

The space shuttle was born of the age-old dream to fly into space, an expectation put on hold during the 1960s due to the limited throw-capability of the early ballistic missiles that were hastily converted into launch vehicles at the beginning of the space race. Mostly because of time constraints, the capsules continued when John Kennedy

committed the United States to landing on the moon by the end of the 1960s. Only after that goal was satisfied did engineers return to the dream of flying into space. The United States was riding high on its successes, and visions of space stations and the space shuttles that serviced them were firmly planted in the minds of engineers, science fiction writers, and the public. Almost religiously, Arthur C. Clarke and Stanley Kubrick furthered these dreams to the music of the *An der schonen blauen Donau* in the movie **2001: A Space Odyssey**.

Unfortunately, some within NASA seriously oversold the space shuttle, promising unrealistic economies and capabilities. Various mission manifests were predicting as many as one flight per week. In retrospect, it was obvious the vehicle could never live up to the hype, but somehow it seemed appropriate at the time. Regardless, the space shuttle was an engineering triumph; a reusable spacecraft that could carry heavy payloads up and bring back satellites or other heavy downmass.

The most important, and oft-overlooked, downside was that NASA had not evolved, organizationally or culturally, to manage an operational program. The agency, as the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), had been established in 1917 to conduct fundamental research and had morphed into the organization that put men on the moon. But that did not mean it was capable of managing a complex operational vehicle on a sustainable basis. The development culture led to a standing army that would never be economically efficient, while inexperience and lapses in judgment contributed to two fatal accidents. Much of the space shuttle legacy, unfortunately, is in how NASA operated it rather than the capabilities of the vehicle itself.

As told in [The History of the American Space Shuttle](#), regardless of the expectations and circumstances, the space shuttle accomplished remarkable things. These included launching significant payloads such as the Hubble Space Telescope and assembling the International Space Station. During its thirty-year flight campaign, the space shuttle carried more crew members to orbit than all other launch systems, worldwide, combined. It carried more than 3.5 million pounds of cargo up and essentially everything that has ever been brought back down. Perhaps more importantly, the space shuttle taught scientists invaluable lessons about how to operate spacecraft on the ground and in space. They learned about inspection, maintenance, and refurbishment; about extravehicular activities; and about troubleshooting and repair. Unfortunately, they also learned about tragedy.

[The History of the American Space Shuttle](#) provides a detailed yet concise overview of the American Space Shuttle program, which will appeal to a more general audience than the specialized books that are available. <>

Literature & Fiction

[The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories](#) by Christopher Booker (Bloomsbury Continuum)

This book at last provides a comprehensive answer to the age-old riddle of whether there are only a small number of 'basic stories' in the world. Using a wealth of examples, from ancient myths and folk tales via the plays and novels of great literature to the popular movies and TV soap operas of today, [The Seven Basic Plots](#) shows that there are seven archetypal themes which recur throughout every kind of storytelling.

But that is only the prelude to an investigation into how and why we are 'programmed' to imagine stories in these ways, and how they relate to the inmost patterns of human psychology. Drawing on a vast array of examples, from Proust to detective stories, from the *Marquis de Sade* to *E.T.*, Christopher Booker in [The Seven Basic Plots](#) leads readers through the extraordinary changes in the nature of storytelling over the past 200 years, and why so many stories have 'lost the plot' by losing touch with their underlying archetypal purpose.

Booker writes for the *Sunday Telegraph* and is the bestselling author of *The Real Global Warming Disaster*, *The Great Deception* and *Scared to Death*. He was the founding editor of the satirical magazine *Private Eye*.

Booker analyses why evolution has given us the need to tell stories and illustrates how storytelling has provided a uniquely revealing mirror to mankind's psychological development over the past 5000 years. Booker says that what [The Seven Basic Plots](#) sets out to show is that the making of these patterns serves a far deeper and more significant purpose in readers' lives than they have realized: indeed one whose importance can scarcely be exaggerated. And the first crucial step towards bringing this into view is to recognize that, wherever men and women have told stories, all over the world, the stories emerging to their imaginations have tended to take shape in remarkably similar ways.

While writing a book on a quite different subject, Booker says he found his attention focusing on a small number of particular stories. They included a Shakespeare play, *Macbeth*; Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita*; a 1960s French film, Truffaut's *Jules et Jim*; the Greek myth of Icarus; and the German legend of Faust. On the face of it, these stories might not seem to have much in common. But what haunted him was the way that, at a deeper level, they all seemed to unfold around the same general pattern. Each begins with a hero, or heroes, in some way unfulfilled. The mood at the beginning of the story is one of anticipation, as the hero seems to be standing on the edge of some great adventure or experience. In each case he finds a focus for his ambitions or desires, and for a time seems to enjoy almost dream-like success. Macbeth becomes king; Humbert embarks on his affair with the bewitching Lolita; Jules and Jim, two young men in pre-First World War Paris, meet the girl of their dreams; Icarus discovers that he can fly; Faust is given access by the devil to all sorts of magical experiences. But

gradually the mood of the story darkens. The hero experiences an increasing sense of frustration. There is something about the course he has chosen which makes it appear doomed, unable to resolve happily. More and more he runs into difficulty; everything goes wrong; until that original dream has turned into a nightmare. Finally, seemingly inexorably, the story works up to a climax of violent self-destruction. The dream ends in death.

Booker says as one `basic plot' after another emerged to view, each with its own particular structure, he eventually found himself with just one intractable pile of stories which did not seem to fit any of the patterns he had been looking at. Then the penny dropped that all these stories were in fact shaped by the same basic plot, one he had not even considered before (which he has called `Voyage and Return'). And at this point he found himself brought up against the possibility which is the basis of [The Seven Basic Plots](#). Although he had long been familiar with that old teasing notion that there are only a handful of basic plots to stories, he had never taken it any more seriously than most people. He was now having to accept that, to a remarkable extent, it might actually be true.

But the further his investigation proceeded, the more clearly two things emerged. The first was that there are indeed a small number of plots which are so fundamental to the way we tell stories that it is virtually impossible for any storyteller ever entirely to break away from them.

The second was that, the more familiar we become with the nature of these shaping forms and forces lying beneath the surface of stories, pushing them into patterns and directions which are beyond the storyteller's conscious control, the more we find that we are entering a realm to which recognition of the plots themselves proves only to have been the gateway. We are in fact uncovering nothing less than a kind of hidden, universal language: a nucleus of situations and figures which are the very stuff from which stories are made. And once we become acquainted with this symbolic language, and begin to catch something of its extraordinary significance, there is literally no story in the world which cannot then be seen in a new light: because we have come to the heart of what stories are about and why we tell them.

[The Seven Basic Plots](#) is divided into four parts.

Part one, `The Seven Gateways to the Underworld', examines each of the seven `basic plots' in turn. At first sight, each is quite distinctive. But as we work through the sequence, we gradually come to see how they have certain key elements in common; and how each is in fact presenting its own particular view of the same central preoccupation which lies at the heart of storytelling.

Part two, `The Complete Happy Ending', looks more generally at what all these main story-types have in common. In particular we find that there are not only basic plots to

stories but a cast of basic figures who reappear through stories of all kinds, each with their own defining characteristics. As we explore the values which each of these archetypal figures represents, and how they are related, this opens up an entirely new perspective on the essential drama with which storytelling is ultimately concerned.

The third part of [The Seven Basic Plots](#), 'Missing the Mark', which concentrates almost entirely on stories from the last 200 years, explores how and why it is possible, in a storyteller's imagination, for a story to 'go wrong'; or, as we say, 'lose the plot'. Readers see how, in the past two centuries, something extraordinary and highly significant has happened to storytelling in the western world.

This third part of [The Seven Basic Plots](#) ends with a chapter on what are arguably the two most centrally puzzling stories produced by the Western imagination, Sophocles's *Oedipus Tyrannos* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Only at this point have we at last completed the groundwork which is necessary to looking at the deepest questions of all. Just why in the course of our biological evolution has our species developed the capacity to create these patterns of images in our heads? What real purpose does it serve? And how do stories relate to what we call 'real life'?

These are the questions the book looks at in the fourth section of [The Seven Basic Plots](#), 'Why We Tell Stories', which begins with two very significant types of story which we have not looked at before. This relates myths about the creation of the world and the 'fall from innocence' to the evolution of human consciousness and our relations with nature and instinct. We see how a proper understanding of why we tell stories sheds an extraordinary new light on almost every aspect of human existence: on our psychology; on morality; on the patterns of history and politics, and the nature of religion; on the underlying pattern and purpose of our individual lives.

The last two chapters, the longest in [The Seven Basic Plots](#), attempt to use all we have learned about storytelling to reinterpret the psychological evolution of mankind since the dawn of civilization. The first, 'Of Gods and Men,' takes the story from the cave-paintings of Lascaux up to the French Revolution and the rise of Romanticism. The final chapter takes the story through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries up to the present day, ending with the film version of *The Lord of the Rings* and the second Gulf War of 2003. [The Seven Basic Plots](#) then ends with a brief epilogue touching on one of the greatest stories ever written, Plato's Parable of the Cave.

If you have any interest in fiction and the way it works, you will enjoy this exploration of the seven basic plots and how they have been adapted and developed across the centuries. – Writing Magazine

This magisterial volume really does offer readers a genuinely fresh and exciting perspective on virtually every tale ever told. – Bookmark, July 2005

Fantastically entertaining – The Times

This book... has mind-expanding properties. Not only for anyone interested in literature, but also for those fascinated by wider questions of how human beings organise their societies and explain the outside world to their inmost selves, it is fascinating. – Katherine Sale, FT

Christopher Booker's mammoth account of plot types, archetypes, their role in literary history and where Western culture has gone horribly wrong. – Times Literary Supplement

His prose is a model of clarity, and his lively enthusiasm for fictions of every description is infectious... [The Seven Basic Plots](#) is... one of the most diverting works on storytelling I've ever encountered. – Dennis Dutton, The Washington Post

This is the most extraordinary, exhilarating book. It always seemed to me that 'the story' was God's way of giving meaning to crude creation. Booker now interprets the mind of God, and analyses not just the novel – which will never to me be quite the same again – but puts the narrative of contemporary human affairs into a new perspective. If it took its author a lifetime to write, one can only feel gratitude that he did it. – Fay Weldon, novelist

This is literally an incomparable book, because there is nothing to compare it with. It goes to the heart of man's cultural evolution through the stories we have told since storytelling began. It illuminates our nature, our beliefs and our collective emotions by shining a bright light on them from a completely new angle. Original, profound, fascinating – and on top of it all, a really good read. – Sir Antony Jay, co-author of Yes, Minister

I have been quite bowled over by Christopher Booker's new book. It is so well planned with an excellent beginning and the contrasts and comparisons throughout are highly entertaining as well as informative and most original – and always extremely readable. – John Bayley

Booker's knowledge and understanding of imaginative literature is unrivalled, his essays on the great authors both illuminating and stimulating. This is a truly important book, an accolade often bestowed and rarely deserved in our modern age. – Dame Beryl Bainbridge

It's hard not to admire the commitment of any writer whose book has taken 34 years to evolve. And there can be no doubting that Christopher

Booker's 700-page, exhaustive examination of "Why we tell stories" – the book's subtitle – is a labour of love. – Gordon Parsons, The Morning Star

One of the most brilliant books of recent years. – Bel Mooney, Times

Remarkable, monumental, [The Seven Basic Plots](#) is a seminal book opening up in an entirely new way our understanding of the real purpose storytelling plays in our lives and will be a talking point for years to come. <>

Politics / Communication

[Beyond Contempt](#): How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide by Erica Etelson (New Society Publishers)

Liberal and progressive frustration, grief, and alarm over Trump's destructive political agenda and behavior have prompted mounting disdain for Trump supporters and other conservatives. This reaction is contributing to political polarization and unwittingly serving to strengthen Trump's hand as he sows divisiveness and hatred. [Beyond Contempt](#) teaches liberals how they can talk with, and listen to, Trump supporters without blowing a fuse.

In [Beyond Contempt](#), Erica Etelson shows readers how to communicate respectfully, passionately, and effectively across the political divide without soft-pedaling their beliefs. Etelson is a writer, community activist, and certified Powerful Non-Defensive Communication (PNDC) facilitator. A former human rights attorney, she has advocated in support of welfare recipients, prisoners, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and environmental activists.

Using PNDC skill sets, readers can express themselves in ways that inspire open-minded consideration instead of triggering defensive reaction. Providing detailed instruction and dozens of examples of how to discuss hot button topics, [Beyond Contempt](#) is a guide to productive dialogue that can defuse hostility, build trust, and open hearts and minds in unexpected ways.

Etelson says that [Beyond Contempt](#) represents her personal choice in how to communicate with people whose beliefs she views as harmful, dangerous, or irrational. As an able-bodied, white, straight, financially secure, native-born, Jewish woman, she says she is safe from many of the threats Trump has ramped up. This book is an invitation, not a prescription.

The first half of [Beyond Contempt](#) delves into the dynamics of contempt, how and why it arises, and how people respond to being treated with contempt. Etelson shows how contempt toward Trump voters often goes hand in hand with indifference toward the well-being of faltering white working-class communities.

If, after reading the first three chapters of [Beyond Contempt](#), readers believe that scolding and scolding Trump supporters is counterproductive, then the second half of the book invites them to try a different mode of expression.

Several years ago, Etelson says she chanced upon the work of Sharon Strand Ellison, creator of a novel communication approach called Powerful Non-Defensive Communication (PNDC). Ellison has trained thousands of educators, attorneys, government officials, and corporate and nonprofit leaders. She has worked extensively with Ellison to apply PNDC to the current political divide. Much of the material in the second half of the book comes courtesy of Ellison's genius in phrasing questions and statements in ways that can open hearts and minds or, at least, not seal them shut.

For the most part, the communication guidance in [Beyond Contempt](#) applies to one-on-one conversations with ordinary people with whom readers would like to be able to talk without blowing their stack. It can also be helpful in interactions with people in positions of power (and their staff) when their strategy includes dialogue or negotiation. Lastly, there are some takeaways for media commentators and activists writing or speaking on divisive topics.

[Beyond Contempt](#) is not a call for genteel manners or meekness. It's an invitation to reclaim and reimagine a democratic notion of civility that facilitates public discourse through listening, understanding, and deliberating. So long as the United States is a democracy, liberals will share it with conservatives – their choice is whether to communicate with them in a manner that fosters understanding and goodwill, or that stirs up hatred.

What Etelson says she values so deeply about PNDC is that it empowers people to speak their truth without blaming, denigrating, and gratuitously antagonizing others. Liberals can stand up, sit in, speak up, shut down; they can march, strike, and boycott. They can disrupt institutions that treat human and ecological crises with indifference. They have an array of tactics at their disposal, and if they wield them not as weapons of war but as tools for promoting understanding and prompting action, they'll be of greater value.

Whether you're debating a talk show host, co-worker, or "Fox addicted" Uncle Ralph at Thanksgiving, this book will teach you how to reach people's minds and hearts without wounding them in ways that produce the opposite result you wanted. Brilliant!! – Thom Hartmann, NY Times bestselling author and America's #1 progressive talk show host

Read this book! Connection is the deep strategy for winning in politics... and in life. [Beyond Contempt](#) shows us ways to align our communication style with our values of inclusion, open-mindedness, and kindness. – Joan

Blades, co-founder, Living Room Conversations, MomsRising, and MoveOn.org

Etelson channels her first-hand experience going door-to-door in this insightful exploration of how to connect with people, bridge divides, and communicate effectively across differences. She highlights the principles our canvassers practice every night: rather than tell voters what they believe is wrong, start by listening, treat people with respect, and introduce new information. – Matt Morrison, executive director, Working America, AFL-CIO

Etelson's book is a true gem. It poignantly and compellingly captures the disdainful attitudes and counterproductive conversational strategies that many progressives employ when talking to conservative people. There are numerous clarifying examples provided to help support the sharp and probing analysis, as well as numerous gems of insight about the predicament we are in. The extremely illustrative and practical suggestions in the second half of the book about what folks can do is wonderful. The book helped improve both my thinking about the divide and the language that I will use when trying to nudge other progressives toward greater compassion and effectiveness. [Beyond Contempt](#) is an excellent resource for any liberal who wants to heal our divided nation or to pursue the goal of becoming more persuasive with conservatives. – David Campt, principal, The White Ally Toolkit, an initiative of The Dialogue Company

*An extraordinary work, simultaneously sharply critical and brilliantly optimistic. [Beyond Contempt](#) makes the profound case that style is content, and the quality of our rhetoric matters. Here's a brilliant book that maintains that the goal for progressives is not merely recovery of leadership and power, but the creation of frameworks of logic and values that are consistent with our longer term goals. This is a revelatory work, positive and brilliant. – Jerry Mander, founder, International Forum on Globalization, and author, *The Capitalist Papers*, and *In the Absence of the Sacred**

[Beyond Contempt](#) carries a profound message that is beyond the scope of any brand of partisan politics. It is a map for how to create sustainable societal change from a place of integrity that aligns with the kind of world we want to create. – Fareen Jamal, lawyer, accredited mediator, past chair, Ontario Bar Association (OBA) Family Law Section, 2014 OBA Heather MacArthur Memorial Young Lawyers Award

Erica Etelson has the courage to hold up the mirror – first, to look at herself with unflinching honesty, and then to invite the rest of us to see how our disdain exacerbates the divide. She does not stop there, thankfully, but goes on to offer us a solution – a tool for changing our attitude so that we can be curious, direct, true to ourselves, and kinder to others. Erica Etelson can be our guide back to humanity. I hope you will take the mirror, and then follow her lead. – Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, associate dean, Experiential Education, co-director, Center on Dispute Resolution, Quinnipiac University School of Law

In a political environment marred by Trump's extreme impropriety, it's easy for progressives to lose sight of our own role in deepening the divide. [Beyond Contempt](#) shows us why treating all people with respect is essential to our democracy and the key to building a winning coalition for 2020 and beyond. – Karin Tamerius, MD, founder, Smart Politics

Holding the powerful accountable is more important than ever and is best achieved with a measure of humility. A must-have guide to productive dialogue, [Beyond Contempt](#) is an invitation to learn how to communicate across the great divide with integrity, passion, and compassion. It shows readers how to imbue their words with the power to defuse hostility, build connection, and, just maybe, discover that somewhere in the great divide there exists an island of common ground where they can break bread together as fallible, complicated humans.

[Beyond Contempt](#) is for liberals and progressives who want to be able to communicate with the tens of millions of Americans who approve of Donald Trump and some or all of the views he represents. If readers have been avoiding Trump supporters since 2016 or have an outrage hangover, this book is for them. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Biographies & Memoirs

[Pope Francis: A Voice for Mercy, Justice, Love, and Care for the Earth](#) by Barbara E. Wall & Massimo Faggioli (Orbis Books)

In April 2018, noted scholars from around the world gathered at Villanova University for an unprecedented historical and theological analysis of Francis' papacy, focusing on such topics as his interpretation of Vatican II and his concern for social justice and global ecological crises. [Pope Francis](#) is the result of that work.

Among the sixteen eminent contributors whose addresses are included in [Pope Francis](#) are Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin, Óscar Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga, Antonio Spadaro, SJ, Austen Ivereigh, Margaret S. Archer, John O'Malley, and Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, SJ. Editors are Barbara E. Wall and Massimo Faggioli. Wall is vice president for mission and ministry and associate professor of philosophy at Villanova University. Faggioli is professor of theology and religious studies at Villanova University.

Faithful to the Augustinian and Catholic identity of Villanova University, the conference was imagined as a contribution to the national and international discussions on the pontificate of the first non-European and non-Mediterranean pope in church history. But it was also a contribution to the Catholic mission of the university and to the life of the diocesan church in Philadelphia, the Catholic Church in the United States, and the Order of St. Augustine.

The chapters in [Pope Francis](#) locate the pontificate of Pope Francis within the tradition of his predecessors and the retrieval of Vatican II in response to the major issues and crises of the world – a response grounded in the gospel and actions of Jesus Christ.

In "Reconciling Doctrine, Theology, Spirituality, and Pastoral," in [Pope Francis](#), John O'Malley provides a firsthand glimpse of the energy of Vatican II in the history of the church. Pope Francis, according to O'Malley, has retrieved the pastoral commitment of Vatican II and continues to renew this commitment in word and deed.

Massimo Faggioli's "Pope Francis's Interpretation of Vatican II" stresses the "recovery of a Catholic universality that is free from Latin universalism and not about a cultural resistance to modernity and postmodernity." Readers also see in Pope Francis a retrieval of the emphasis on the poor and the 'preferential option for the poor,' which is consistent with Vatican II and the tradition of CST.

Francis has called the church to address the realities of forced migration and the rights of immigrants. According to Cardinal Óscar Maradiaga, Pope Francis's life has always been rooted in the spirituality and popular religious devotions of the Argentinian church. In addition, Pope Francis is about spiritual reform, just as St. Francis was in the thirteenth century.

According to Antonio Spadaro, "The pontificate of Francis is a pontificate of spiritual discernment. He is guiding the church through the Spiritual Exercises." There is also the thread of 'Christian humanism' that, according to Thomas Massaro, emphasizes "the flexible open-endedness of 'finding God in all things,' and fervent dedication to the 'service of faith and the promotion of justice.'"

Marcus Mescher in [Pope Francis](#) refers to 'Francis's pedagogy of mercy' – mercy that is essential for healing wounds and mediating justice. Austen Ivereigh takes up the issue of a 'people-of-God' ecclesiology that incarnates mercy and calls for conversion in "our ways of praying, of managing power and money, of exercising authority, and how we relate to each other and to our world." Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator reflects on how Pope Francis is perceived in Africa. Francis's ecclesiology is not self-referential but an 'outward-looking ecclesiology.' He commends Pope Francis's leadership style, which calls people to action that transforms the Christian church into a church that pursues mercy, justice, love, and care for the earth.

Christophere Ngolele in [Pope Francis](#) addresses the complexity of the ecological crisis and calls on the rich cultural traditions of many peoples, especially the African wisdom tradition. The latter stands as an appropriate partner to *Laudato si'* because it is, Ngolele says, "an environmental ethics that is based on recognition and sacred care." The paradigm shift that occurs in *Laudato si'* is consistent with the thinking of recent popes on ecological concerns, which evinces a turn from attitudes of dominion to a more receptive, open attitude to the sacredness and dignity of all creation.

In the chapter "The Concept of Nature from *Rerum novarum* to *Laudato si'*," Barbara Wall continues the process of locating *Laudato si'* within the tradition of CST and uses the principle of the common good as an operative principle for the transformation of humankind's relationship with creation and the continued growth and fruition of the common good.

Margaret Archer responds to Pope Francis's call to reach out and assist those in need of housing and hospitality. Readers find inspiration and admiration in the decision to form a charity for resettlement of families, which, legally, socially, and culturally, had many hurdles to overcome.

Annie Selak suggests that there are missing voices in *Amoris laetitia*, and that all could benefit from the "role of narrative and experience in American case law," which provides "an example of a system that straddles universal and particular demands, all while grounded in lived experience."

John Sniegocki provides an explanation of Pope Francis's views on possible economic alternatives that reflect the principles of CST.

Lastly, in [Pope Francis](#) Jason Eberl emphasizes Pope Francis's impact on many crises in bioethics, stating, "Although we have emphasized the continuity of Pope Francis's bioethical teachings with his predecessors, he has advocated for and exemplified an apparent shift in the church's approach to bioethical issues, changing the tone from mere condemnation to an emphasis on mercy and joy."

The widely popular and deeply loved Pope Francis also has his critics. This volume offers background, analysis, and appreciation of the depth, vision, integrity, and relevance of this leader, who continually displays his profound knowledge of and steadfast commitment to Catholic tradition as he engages the urgently pressing issues of our times. – Dennis Doyle, professor of religious studies, University of Dayton, and author of The Catholic Church in a Changing World

Noted scholars from around the world came to Villanova University for an unprecedented historical and theological analysis of Francis's papacy. [Pope Francis](#) is the highly regarded, inspiring, result. <>

[Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody](#): **The Making of a Black Theologian** by James H. Cone (Orbis Books)

As Martin Luther King said, we must learn to live together as human beings, treating each other with dignity and respect, or we will perish together as fools. There is no other choice. I choose life. – from the book

He's still on fire. His spirit will be strong. It will be transfigured. It will be transformed. We will never forget our brother. Let's live our lives in such a way that we remain in the tradition of our brother James Cone. – Cornel West, from the Foreword

James H. Cone is widely recognized as the founder of Black Liberation Theology – a synthesis of the Gospel message embodied by Martin Luther King, Jr., and the spirit of Black pride embodied by Malcolm X. Prompted by the Detroit riots and the death of King, Cone, a young theology professor, was impelled to write his first book, *Black Theology and Black Power*, followed by *A Black Theology of Liberation*. With these works he established himself as one of the most prophetic and challenging voices of our time. Cone (1938-2018) was the Bill and Judith Moyers Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary. His books include *A Black Theology of Liberation*, *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or a Nightmare*, and *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, winner of the 2018 Grawemeyer Award in Religion. This year he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In [Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody](#) – his powerful and passionate memoir – his final work – Cone describes the obstacles he overcame to find his voice, to respond to the signs of the times, and to offer a voice for those – like the parents who raised him in Bearden, Arkansas in the era of lynching and Jim Crow – who had no voice. Recounting lessons learned both from critics and students, and the ongoing challenge of his models King, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin, he describes his efforts to use theology as a tool in the struggle against oppression and for a better world.

Cone's autobiography is extremely readable, written in his clear and precise prose. Like the man himself, there is not an ounce of rhetorical fat.

[Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody](#) is the story of James Cone, the scholar; a man aware of his rightful place in the canon of American theology.... It is the story of how, as Cone writes, 'black theology found me and gave me voice.' – Yolanda Pierce, in *Religion and Politics*

If there was ever a time we needed James Cone with his powerful prophetic voice to call down thunder, that time is now.... [Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody](#) testifies to a message that we sorely need. If we fail to

listen to Cone and allow his words to live in our hearts and our actions, we fall short of our Christian vocation to love our neighbors and to liberate the captives, the marginalized, and the oppressed. – Christian Century

You hold in your hands James Cone's master work, his last and first, his final song. – J. Kameron Carter, author, Race: A Theological Account

This praise-song and blessing from Cone, one of laser-sharp fire and incisive passion, gives the reader a window into the soul of a theologian. A must read. – Emilie M. Townes, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Most academic theologians write and speak. James Cone roared. His distinctive and disruptive voice spurred a tectonic shift in theological discourse and on the landscape of theological education. Here is his inspiring story! – Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Ebenezer Baptist Church

His life and work continue to push us, rouse us, inspire us to integrity in thought, speech, and action in authentic achievement of beloved community. We praise God that James Cone testified what the Lord did for him! – M. Shawn Copeland, Boston College

James Cone wrote theology in the searing, radiant, liberationist spirit of James Baldwin. His memoir of what set him on fire, how he wrote and taught theology, and mined his inspirations is riveting, stylish, scalding, and luminous. – Gary Dorrien, author, Breaking White Supremacy: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Black Social Gospel

This is James Cone's story of how he found his voice and what he used it to say. The result is both eloquent and unflinching in its condemnation of white supremacy. There is redemption in this book, but it is never cheap. – Tom F. Driver, Union Theological Seminary

¡Alabanza hermano James! for providing an intimate, intelligent, and insightful testimony to the power of liberation from the underside of a Eurocentric white-supremacist theology. ¡Gracias! for your faithful witness through word and action. – Miguel A. De La Torre, Iliff School of Theology

[Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody](#) is the final masterpiece from the genius architect of Black Liberation theology and the greatest theologian of the twentieth century. – Anthony G. Reddie, The University of South Africa and editor, Black Theology: An International Journal

These are some of the final words of our Father, the one who brought many of us into the struggle for black theological liberation. This memoir must find its way into the hands of future generations of students who

need to know that before they found 'the struggle' there was a theologian named Cone already deeply committed to it. – Willie James Jennings, Yale University

By telling the story of his life and the ideas that emanated from his experiences, James H. Cone gives us all permission to interrogate critically and clearly our own experiences and their social locations. His memoir should be required reading for all thinking Christians who seek to make a difference in the world. – Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, Colby College

This readable and inspiring volume tells the story of Black Theology and provides a window into the soul of a theologian. Bold and haunting, [Said I Wasn't Gonna Tell Nobody](#) is a must-read for everyone who wants to arouse the voice of the oppressed.

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Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Psychology

[The Bondage Breaker](#)®, large print, revised by Neil T. Anderson (Harvest House Publishers)

Are you one of those Christians who lives in bondage to fear, depression, habits you can't break, thoughts or inner voices you can't elude, or sinful behavior you can't escape? God has made every provision for you to be alive and free in Christ. – from the book

Harmful habits, negative thinking, and irrational feelings can all lead to sinful behavior and keep readers in bondage. If readers feel trapped by any of these strongholds they are not alone – they can break free using [The Bondage Breaker](#).

Neil Anderson has brought hope to countless thousands facing similar spiritual attacks. In this significantly revised and updated edition of [The Bondage Breaker](#), printed in a 12-point font, he offers a holistic approach to spiritual warfare that is rooted in the Word of God. As readers read stories of others who have been locked in spiritual battles, they will learn the underlying whys and hows behind these attacks and discover the truths that sets people free in Jesus.

Dr. Anderson is Founder and President Emeritus of Freedom in Christ Ministries, with representation in over 70 countries. Formerly a professor of practical theology at Talbot School of Theology, he is the author or co-author of 70 books.

Anderson says that if God has given people everything they need to mature in Christ (2 Peter 1:3), then why aren't more Christians growing in Christ? Some are no more like Him now than they were 20 years ago. People should be able to say, every year, "I am more loving, patient, and kind and experiencing more joy, peace, and self-control than I was last year." If they can't say that, then they are not growing.

According to Paul, he says, some Christians are not even able to receive good biblical instruction because of unresolved personal and spiritual conflicts in their lives. What is needed is some way to resolve these personal and spiritual conflicts through genuine repentance and faith in God. That is the purpose of [The Bondage Breaker](#).

In [The Bondage Breaker](#), Anderson clarifies the nature of spiritual conflicts and outline how they can be resolved in Christ. Part One explains readers' position, protection, and authority in Christ. Part Two warns of their vulnerability to temptation, accusation, and deception. Part Three shares how people can help others experience their freedom in Christ.

I have been a disciple-making pastor for over four decades. Twenty years ago I discovered Dr. Anderson's teachings and they revolutionized my approach to ministry. Life is a spiritual battle, not a Sunday school picnic – and Neil's message is a practical way to win this battle.... Read, study, and learn from this book. – David Jenkins, pastor, Evangelical Free Church

Over the years I have tried a number of different approaches to discipleship. Some have been more successful than others. However, I have found the Freedom in Christ approach to be the most consistently effective aid to practical Christian discipleship. I have been using Freedom in Christ material for over 15 years now, and it is still proving to be fruitful. – John Groves, pastor, Hope Church, Winchester

We have found the Freedom in Christ resources to be invaluable for our church community. We introduced FIC two years ago to our pastors and leaders. Since then we've had well over 400 people go through FIC, with amazing testimonies of healing and freedom impacting people's lives. Freedom in Christ will continue to be a major part of Bayside Church's Pathway of Discipleship. We highly recommend this book and the Freedom in Christ course. – Rob and Christie Buckingham, senior ministers, Bayside Church, Melbourne

God has gifted Dr. Anderson with the ability to systematize truth in a way that touches the intellect and transforms the heart. I have introduced his teachings in France, Switzerland, and Belgium. The response has been overwhelming, and lives have been revolutionized. – Dr. Walter Stuart, missionary to France and adjunct professor at Tyndale Theological Seminary, Holland, and Geneva Bible Institute, Switzerland

We have found the truth that Dr. Anderson teaches and the way in which he presents the message are absolutely vital to effective and sustained discipleship. The message and method of Freedom In Christ Ministries are crucial in helping both new Christians and those who have known Christ

longer to walk in freedom in Christ and to make reproducing disciples. That is why we recommend this book to help carry out our Lord's mandate to make disciples of all peoples. – Dr. Rick and Laurel Langston, International School of Theology, Singapore

The message of Freedom in Christ Ministries has touched thousands of lives in South Africa and it has liberated me as a pastor. Just knowing that I am not responsible FOR others, but responsible TO others, in terms of ministry, and knowing that I am accepted, secure, and significant in Christ has taken off the pressure of trying to have a 'successful' ministry. All that God desires is that I be a godly minister of the gospel. – Rev. Jonothan Christie, Methodist minister, South Africa

The Freedom in Christ course connects the truth of God's Word to our everyday reality, allowing for a precious time of discussion on relevant issues. Individuals are given the opportunity to examine themselves, and are shown from God's Word how they can overcome the challenges of life. – Majlind Gegprifti, Kisha Rilindja (The Reborn Church), Tirana, Albania

I had already read Victory Over the Darkness and The Bondage Breaker before I attended Dr. Anderson's Discipleship Counseling conference in Chennai, India. I was personally and richly blessed by the balanced blend of psychological and spiritual truth, along with a healthy acknowledgment of spiritual forces. I was able to relate the teaching to the needs of my people and their various struggles. – Rev. Johh Simeon, senior pastor,

Anderson in [The Bondage Breaker](#) introduces readers to the One who has already overcome the darkness and secured their freedom: Jesus Christ, the Bondage Breaker. This popular and bestselling book, now in large print format, is also easy to read. <>

Science / Archaeology

[Death Revisited](#): The excavation of three Bronze Age barrows and surrounding landscape at Apeldoorn-Wieselseweg by Arjan Louwen & David Fontijn (Sidestone Press)

[Death Revisited](#) presents a group of small and inconspicuous barrows that were recently discovered in the forest of Apeldoorn, the Netherlands. They are part of an extensive barrow landscape of which little was yet known. Fieldwork carried out in and around them yielded a wealth of new data.

This special place was anchored around a site that probably had a particular significance in the Late Neolithic, and where special rituals were carried out during the Bronze Age, resulting in the construction of an enigmatic row of pits – rituals the likes of

which have not previously been attested around barrows in the Netherlands, but which are known elsewhere in Europe. The dead were buried at locations that were probably only later covered by monuments. During the Bronze Age (between the 18th and 15th centuries BC) the mounds of this small barrow group were used as collective graves for what was probably perceived as one specific 'community of ancestors.'

Author Arjan Louwen has worked in commercial archaeology, carrying out archaeological fieldwork throughout the Netherlands. Since 2012 Louwen has been working at Leiden University replacing Professor Dr. David Fontijn in several of his teaching tasks and working on the publication of the latest barrow excavation of the ancestral mounds project. In addition to Louwen and Fontijn, the book has six other contributors.

The burial practices in the mounds show strong similarities and it is argued in [Death Revisited](#) that these barrows were each other's successors, representing the funeral history of people who wished to unite their forebears in death as one unproblematic whole without distinctions. The fieldwork showed that even small-scale, partial excavations of a seemingly minor barrow group can inform researchers on the significance of the extensive barrow landscapes they are part of – a knowledge that can help them to understand the prehistoric legacy of the Netherlands and to protect it for the future as heritage.

According to [Death Revisited](#), barrows are the most common prehistoric monuments that can still be found in the European landscape today. Once erected as burial markers during prehistory, burial mounds have since served as important anchors in the landscape. Burial mounds built in the 3rd millennium BC were sometimes used to bury the dead until the 1st millennium BC. Occasionally, these monuments were also used in Roman times and the Middle Ages, and were sometimes shrouded in superstition and folklore until the 19th century AD. In prehistory, the erection of burial mounds must have been an important act: their visibility almost guaranteed a long history. Strangely enough, however, little is known regarding why the graves of certain decedents were marked with a monument, while those of others were not. Even less is known about the remarkably 'loose' spatial planning of burial mounds. Walking through the Veluwe, present-day visitors see burial mounds almost everywhere, without seeing tight clusters like readers imagine a real graveyard to be.

One of the important discoveries that have been made in the last ten years is that there were many more burial mounds than researchers thought possible. In the Netherlands there were already thousands known and registered as monuments, but with the rise of high quality LIDAR images, large numbers of 'new' mounds have been found. The open accessibility of high resolution elevation models, available for the entirety of the Netherlands, has led to many new discoveries, especially in forested areas that are difficult to access and where visibility of elevations is hindered by trees and brush.

[Death Revisited](#) presents research into such a discovery: a group of three mounds, two of which are so insignificant in height that they hardly stood out and could only be interpreted as 'possible' burial mounds with great uncertainty. Excavations of some of these mounds, however, showed that researchers are not only dealing with Bronze Age barrows, but above all that there can be surprisingly many graves in apparently insignificant mounds.

The contents and authors of [Death Revisited](#) include:

1. Introduction – David Fontijn, Arjan Louwen
2. Research plan and methodology – Cristian van der Linde, Arjan Louwen
3. Physical geography and site formation processes – Arjan Louwen
4. Archaeological and historical context – Arjan Louwen
5. Landscape research: results – Arjan Louwen, Cristian van der Linde, Marieke Doorenbosch, Hans Huisman
6. The surroundings of the four barrows of AMK-Monument 145 – Arjan Louwen, David Fontijn & Cristian van der Linde
7. Mound 1 – Arjan Louwen, Quentin Bourgeois & David Fontijn
8. Mound 2 – Arjan Louwen, David Fontijn, Cristian van der Linde, Maurits Pruysen, Liesbeth Smits & Erica van Hees
9. Mound 3 – Arjan Louwen, David Fontijn, Cristian van der Linde, Patrick Valentijn, Liesbeth Smits & Erica van Hees
10. The surroundings of the Wieselseweg barrow group – Arjan Louwen, David Fontijn & Cristian van der Linde
11. Revisiting death. The funerary landscape of Apeldoorn-Wieselseweg – David Fontijn & Arjan Louwen

Research into the surroundings as revealed in [Death Revisited](#) showed that even in a soil archive that has been strongly disturbed by forestry activities, there are still important archaeological traces that offer researchers remarkable insights into the organization of a Bronze Age funerary landscape. Within the more comprehensive research into the nature and significance of barrow landscapes from later prehistory, the burial mounds along the Wieselseweg offer interesting research opportunities. <>

Science / Forensic / Anthropology

[Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology: Bonified Skeletons, 1st edition](#) edited by Heather M. Garvin & Natalie R. Langley (CRC Press)

[Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology](#) is an edited volume of previously unpublished forensic anthropology case studies contributed by a diverse set of US and international practitioners. These unique cases provide a valuable opportunity to learn from experience and better prepare students and practitioners for future encounters.

Every forensic anthropology case is unique, and practitioners are routinely faced with new challenges and unexpected outcomes. Introductory forensic anthropology courses and texts generally present best practice for handling conventional cases. In

practice, however, forensic anthropologists frequently must improvise, and all practitioners have encountered cases where they obtained surprising results from laboratory analyses, or the results did not conform to known case information. This edited volume combines the experiences of a diverse array of forensic anthropologists to expose students and practitioners to cases encountered, methods employed, and conclusions drawn by others in the field.

Editors are Heather M. Garvin and Natalie R. Langley. Garvin, a Diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology, a Fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and a Member of the American Association of Physical Anthropology, is Associate Professor of Anatomy at Des Moines University. Langley, a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and a member of the American Association of Anatomists and American Association of Clinical Anatomists, is Associate Professor of Anatomy at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science. The volume has 65 contributors.

Key features of [Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology](#) include:

- Full-color photographs illustrate the scenes and skeletal features.
- "Lessons Learned" sections for each case study emphasize take-away points.
- Thought-provoking "Discussion Questions" encourage readers to think critically and facilitate group discussions.
- Actual case experiences by diverse array of forensic anthropologists who discuss innovative methods and unique challenges.

[Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology](#) is organized broadly into five sections: I. Biological Profile and Positive Identification; II. Forensic Taphonomy; III. Skeletal Trauma; IV. Human Rights and Mass Disasters; V. Other Considerations.

Cases were selected for their application of new resources and methods, the experiential knowledge they offer to readers, and their link to pertinent issues in the field. Section I (Biological Profile and Positive Identification) presents six cases dealing with the challenges of identifying unknown remains. Several cases demonstrate innovative or resourceful means for arriving at an identification (e.g., social media, medical implants, biomechanical analyses of long bones). Others discuss conflicting results from metric and macromorphoscopic data, the challenges of ancestry estimation in an increasingly globalized society, and the value of multidisciplinary collaborations to produce information leading to the identity of the decedent.

The cases in Section II (Forensic Taphonomy) showcase the broad range of taphonomic agents that may complicate forensic analyses and recovery efforts, including fire, water, corrosive agents, and unusual scavengers. In some instances, the remains displayed alterations characteristic of multiple taphonomic agents that had to be sorted to decipher the circumstances leading to the observed condition. These case studies also illustrate failed attempts to obscure and dispose of bodies, the ability of

forensic anthropologists to identify signs of trauma despite taphonomic modifications, and how with proper documentation the circumstances around the death can be unraveled.

Section III (Trauma) illustrates the role of the forensic anthropologist in assessing skeletal trauma and contributing information toward the cause and manner of death. The cases emphasize the use of biomechanics and anatomical knowledge for interpreting skeletal trauma (e.g., weapon class, sequencing of injuries, and direction of impact). Several cases also discuss the information forensic anthropologists can contribute to the hypothesized circumstances around the death and testimony corroboration.

Section IV (Human Rights/Mass Disasters) cases were contributed primarily by international authors. They reflect the global scope of forensic anthropology and its unique capacity to address mass burials and mass disasters. Challenges faced during recovery efforts and analyses are highlighted, especially those due to extreme environments, international logistics, and commingled scenarios. The cases also draw attention to forensic anthropology's service to humanity in sorting out the past and bringing justice and closure after many years.

Section V (Other Considerations) further illustrates the diverse competencies required to execute casework successfully, including knowledge of the scientific method; communication, teamwork, and leadership skills; flexibility and innovation; and tacit knowledge of various subject areas (e.g., taphonomy, archaeology, skeletal biology, human variation, and cultural anthropology). One chapter describes the ritualistic use of human remains, another focuses on the need to contextualize injury patterns, and a third highlights the importance of interagency collaboration in a case involving pack rat nests and multiple aliases. The final chapter describes the typical distribution of forensic cases at one medical examiner's offices.

Although each case was attributed to a specific section of [Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology](#), readers will find that many cases have relevance to multiple sections, reflective of the complex nature of forensic casework. Despite the diversity of practitioners and case scenarios, several common threads are present throughout the book: the benefits of multidisciplinary collaborations, the value of hypothesis testing, and the importance of avoiding confirmation bias in casework. At the end of each chapter, the authors summarize the main lessons they took away from the case in a Lessons Learned section. Several Discussion Questions that encourage critical thinking are also included for each chapter, facilitating further conversations and debates.

[Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology](#) both prepares aspiring forensic anthropologists and informs current practitioners. This text exposes them to a diverse array of case examples they may not otherwise encounter, sharing experiential knowledge and contributing to the advancement the field. The cases are interesting and unique,

detailing how specific challenges contribute to the body of forensic anthropological knowledge and practice. They are sure to spur rich discussions among colleagues, enabling collective growth as a discipline. <>

Science / Religion

[Darwin's God: Evolution and the Problem of Evil](#) by Cornelius G. Hunter (Wipf & Stock)

Rarely, it seems, do the stories of history fall into neat categories for our consumption. According to [Darwin's God](#), the stories of history require a certain amount of care and attention if we want to really understand them. When the necessary care is missing, the result is an overly simplified and inaccurate rendition. One such story in dire need of some care is science's theory of evolution.

Author Cornelius G. Hunter was senior vice president of Seagull Technology, Inc., a high tech firm in Silicon Valley. He is currently engaged in molecular biophysics post-doctoral and engineering research.

Hunter in [Darwin's God](#) says that evolution is more than just a scientific theory, if only because of its tremendous influence in areas outside of science. It is probably the most influential idea ever generated by science. From public policy to the pulpit, and in most things in between, one can find influences from evolution. But despite its influence, evolution is not well understood. Over its first one hundred and forty years, evolution has undergone a great variety of often opposing descriptions. And these descriptions routinely leave out important details, the shades of gray that readers need to understand evolution.

For some people evolution is nothing more than good science; others say it is bad science. Some say it is a description of reality, a great triumph of Western thought; others say it is philosophically flawed, relying on either tautological or nonfalsifiable ideas. Some say evolution proves materialism, while others say it presupposes materialism. Some say evolution is God's creation tool; others say it excludes God. To be sure, within evolution's broad boundaries one can find instances of many of these things. But at its core, according to Hunter in [Darwin's God](#), evolution is none of these things.

Evolution is neither atheism in disguise nor merely science at work. There are shades of gray in the story of evolution, and it is these subtleties that reveal the true essence of evolution. The story of evolution is not simple, but it is important, for readers need a better understanding of this most influential idea of our time. [Darwin's God](#) is the story of evolution, including its scientific and its nonscientific aspects. Evolution cannot be fully understood without exploring both aspects, for between them there is considerable overlap and exchange. Scientific reasoning is often beholden to the presuppositions of the day, and this is certainly true for evolution. Hence this is not a story about science or

philosophy or religion but rather a story about how all these influences come together in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

Chapters in [Darwin's God](#) include:

1. Where Science Meets Religion
2. Comparative Anatomy
3. Small-Scale Evolution
4. The Fossil Record
5. One Long Argument
6. Modernism before Darwin
7. The Victorians
8. Evolution and Metaphysics
9. Blind Presuppositionalism

Cornelius Hunter brilliantly supports his thesis that Darwinism is a mixture of metaphysical dogma and biased scientific observation, that at its core, evolution is about God, not science. – Phillip E. Johnson, author, *Darwin on Trial*

Biophysicist Cornelius Hunter argues perceptively that the main supporting pole of the Darwinian tent has always been a theological assertion: 'God wouldn't have done it that way.' Rather than demonstrating that evolution is capable of the wonders they attribute to it, Darwinists rely on a man-made version of God to argue that He never would have made life with the particular suite of features we observe. In lucid and engaging prose, Hunter shines a light on Darwinian theology, making plain what is too often obscured by technical jargon. – Michael J. Behe, Lehigh University

This wonderfully insightful book will prove pivotal in the current reassessment of Darwinian evolution. Darwinists argue that evolution has to be true because no self-respecting deity would have created life the way we find it. Hunter unmaskes this theological mode of argumentation and argues convincingly that it is not merely incidental but indeed essential to how Darwinists justify evolution. – William A. Dembski, Baylor University

A fascinating study of a much overlooked aspect of the origins controversy. – Stephen C. Meyer, Whitworth College

Engaging and insightful, [Darwin's God](#) shows the necessary connections between evolution and metaphysics. <>

Travel / British / Biographies & Memoirs

[The Viking Isles: Travels in Orkney and Shetland](#) by Paul Murton (Birlinn, Casemate)

Author Paul Murton has long had a love of the Viking north – the island groups of Orkney and Shetland and the old counties of Caithness and Sutherland – which, for centuries, were part of the Nordic world as depicted in the great classic the ***Orkneyinga Saga***. Today this fascinating Scandinavian legacy can be found everywhere – in physical remains, place-names, local traditions and folklore, and much else besides.

[The Viking Isles](#) is a personal account of Murton's travels in the Viking north. Full of observation, history, anecdote and encounters with those who live there, it also serves as a practical guide to the many places of interest. From a sing-along with the Shanty Yell Boys to fishing off Muckle Flugga, from sword dancing with the men of Papa Stour to a Norwegian pub crawl in Lerwick, Murton paints a vivid picture of these lands and their people, and explores their extraordinary rich heritage.

For centuries Orkney and Shetland were part of the Nordic World Today. But there is far more to the islands than this. As well as remarkable monuments including Neolithic stone circles and settlements, medieval churches and castles, and naval defenses from the Second World War – they boast magnificent scenery and are rich in wildlife.

In this book, Murton travels through the islands, from Mucicle Flugga in the north to Stroma in the south. Murton is well known as a documentary film maker whose work includes *Grand Tours of Scotland* and *Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands* (4 series). He grew up in rural Argyll and has been an inveterate traveler since his teenage years.

Murton in [The Viking Isles](#) says he has felt the call of the Northern Isles – Orkney and Shetland – since childhood. This fascination for him most likely has to do with his father's Norwegian background. When he was a boy, his father introduced him to the delights of the higher latitudes. Sailing with him among the islands of Norway's fjord-riven west coast or tramping the snowfields of the Hardangervidda in spring were experiences that put him in touch with nature and the unique quality of northern air and northern light.

Shetland – or the Shetland Isles – is often described as the most northerly outpost of the British Isles, a distinction which can give the impression of a bleak, subarctic remoteness. But, for the 22,500 or so people who live there, the islands are home. And, as anyone who has been there will tell readers, Shetland is a well-connected place of surprising and rugged beauty, with a history to capture the imagination. True, the weather can be wild, the summers short and the winters ferocious, but there is a warmth among the people which counters even the most challenging days. And, anyone who thinks that island people are insular should prepare to revise their preconceptions. Shetlanders are among the most outgoing folk in the whole of the UK, despite being branded as remote. However, geographic reality cannot be denied. Shetlanders live a long way from the rest of Scotland.

According to [The Viking Isles](#) Shetland has a history of human settlement going back at least 5,000 years. Although evidence of earlier human occupation may have been lost to rising sea levels, fine examples of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artifacts and structures have survived across the archipelago, which consists of 35 islands over 40 hectares and dozens of stacks and rocky skerries strung out along a deeply indented coastline of bays, known as *wicks*, and arms of the sea, known as *voes*. The most southerly point of the main island of Shetland is Sumburgh Head. From there, the nearest point on the Scottish mainland is Dunnet Head in Caithness, lying 166 kilometers across the sea to the southeast. Edinburgh is more than 450 kilometers away to the south as the crow flies. But Bergen in Norway is much closer – a mere 366 kilometers across the sea to the east. And it's the proximity and influence of this Nordic neighbor that has helped give Shetland its unique identity. Invaders from Norway poured into Shetland from about AD 800, obliterating the native Pictish culture. What happened to the original inhabitants is a matter of much speculation. Were they driven out of the islands completely, displaced to poorer land as some place-names suggest, or were they absorbed by intermarriage with the invading Vikings, whose culture reigned supreme for six centuries?

Today the Norse legacy lives on just beneath the surface and is perhaps most noticeable in Shetland place-names and the dialect of the islands, which both derive from Norn – the old language of the Vikings whose deep-rooted culture has survived in various guises. Norn was still spoken in parts of Shetland up until the 18th century and a recent genetic survey has shown that 60 percent of Shetland men can trace their ancestry back to a western Norwegian lineage.

Although sovereignty was lost to Scotland in the 15th century, many Norwegians continued to regard Shetland as essentially part of their world – and still do. As Murton tells the story in [The Viking Isles](#), as a teenager sitting with his father in the half-light on their rocky skerry, this seemed entirely natural. Accordingly, they made plans to sail one year to discover the Viking connection for themselves. Sadly, Murton never got to make that trip with his father.

Full of observation, history, anecdote and encounters with those who live there, [The Viking Isles](#) also serves as a wonderfully vivid introduction and a practical guide to the many places of interest in Orkney and Shetland. <>

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