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*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

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Bibliography

Supply Chain Management: A Logistics Perspective, 11th edition by C. John Langley, Jr., Robert A. Novack, Brian Gibson, & John J. Coyle (Cengage)

Supply Chain Management: A Logistics Perspective, 11th edition blends logistics theory with practical applications. The latest content highlights emerging issues, technology developments, and global changes in the constantly evolving field of supply chain management today. This edition examines today's real companies and how public and private organizations are responding to the continual pressure to modernize and transform their supply chains. Updated features and short cases offer hands-on managerial experience as students examine the key decisions and circumstances that supply chain managers face daily. New profiles introduce each chapter with real organizations, people, or events that emphasize the relevance of what students are learning. Technology-focused features and global content examine key areas where change is occurring and provide a perspective on how today's changes impact current and future supply chains.

Authors are C. John Langley Jr., Robert Novack, Brian J. Gibson and John J. Coyle. Langley is Clinical Professor of Supply Chain Management in the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University and also serves as Director of Development in the Center for Supply Chain Research. Novack is an Associate Professor of Business Logistics in the Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems at Penn State University. Gibson is Executive Director of the Center for Supply Chain Innovation and the Wilson Family Professor of Supply Chain Management at Auburn University. Coyle is Professor Emeritus of Logistics and Supply Chain Management in the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University.

The authors of the **11th edition** of **Supply Chain Management** feel that the past several years have elevated the utility of the term 'disruptive innovation' to disruptive levels. The supply chain world is finding it necessary to develop new responses to issues like these on an almost daily basis. Also, the growing presence and impacts of the 'Amazon effect' have challenged many types of organizations to go back to the drawing board to re-think and to re-conceptualize the purposes, structure, and functioning of their supply chains. These realities have significantly elevated the need for the effective execution of change management in businesses and their supply chains.

Through the change, logistics and supply chain management has played an increasingly important role to improve organizational efficiency, effectiveness, and competitiveness. Additionally, and in an increasing number of organizations, supply chains have gained recognition at the board level, and supply chain and logistics capabilities have become recognized as prerequisites for overall organizational success. Many supply chains are now regarded as being key ingredients of overall organizational success.

This **11th edition** of **Supply Chain Management** is designed to introduce the fundamentals of supply chain management, and also to focus on how supply chains can drive internal value for organizations. Also, a key element of success is the ability of organizations to align their supply chain strategies and operations with those of supplier and customer organizations. Similar to the phenomenon it takes to win in any team sport, a requirement for success is a focus on end-to-end supply chain management. While every supply chain organization has unique skills and capabilities, the ultimate

viability of the supply chain depends on its ability to identify and achieve more pervasive goals relating to delivering value to the end user customer, consumer, warfighter, etc.

Part I – Supply Chain Foundations provides a framework for an appreciation and understanding of supply chain management as it has developed and expanded to meet the challenges of the last 30 years.

Part II – Supply Chain Fundamentals. The underlying fundamentals of supply chains can be visualized in the so-called SCOW Model that provides a solid conceptual view of the key ingredients of a supply chain. The content of this section continues in the spirit of the SCOW model, with each chapter exploring individual critical components of the model.

Part III – Cross-Chain Logistics Processes of [Supply Chain Management](#) takes an in-depth look at the major supply chain process areas that are essential to achieving the objectives of customer order fulfillment. Referred to as ‘cross-chain logistics processes,’ these areas of competency are major contributors to successfully executing the delivery of raw materials, components, and finished goods, consistent with customer and consumer requirements. While perhaps not as ‘glamorous’ as some other aspects of supply chain management, the topics covered in this chapter are nevertheless components of successful supply chains.

Part IV – Supply Chain Challenges and Future Directions of [Supply Chain Management](#) examines the strategic issues and challenges that face supply chain managers as organizations strive to remain competitive in the global economy. Issues that have been receiving increasing attention by supply chain professionals and academics are covered, including supply chain alignment, performance measurement and financial analysis, technology and governing principles of supply chain management. The concluding chapter also provides in-depth commentaries on several topics that are of contemporary and future interest to achieving the goals of supply chain management and overall business success.

Features of [Supply Chain Management](#) include:

- Learning Objectives at the beginning of each chapter providing students with an overall perspective of chapter material and also serving to establish a baseline for a working knowledge of the topics that follow.
- Supply Chain Profiles as the opening vignettes at the beginning of each chapter that introduce students to the chapter's topics through familiar, real-world companies, people, and events.
- On the Line features – applied, concrete examples that provide students with hands-on managerial experience of the chapter topics.
- End-of-chapter summaries and study questions reinforcing material presented in each chapter.
- Short cases at the end of each chapter building upon what students have learned with questions that follow the cases sharpening critical thinking skills.

The Web site contains three essential resources for [Supply Chain Management](#):

- The Instructors Manual includes chapter outlines, answers to end-of-chapter study questions, commentaries on end-of-chapter short cases and end-of-text comprehensive cases, and teaching tips.
- A convenient Test Bank offers a variety of true/false, multiple-choice, and essay questions for each chapter.
- PowerPoint slides cover the main chapter topics and contain graphics from the main text.

Using a reader-friendly style and a straightforward, interesting approach, [Supply Chain Management](#) blends logistics theory with practical applications. Updated features and short cases offer hands-on managerial experience as students examine the key decisions and circumstances that supply chain managers face daily. Technology-focused features and global content examine key areas where change is occurring and provide a meaningful perspective on how today's changes impact current and future supply chains. <>

Business & Management / Law

[The Small Business Start-Up Kit: A Step-by-Step Legal Guide, 11th edition](#) by Peri Pakroo J.D. (Nolo)

Want to start a business? Don't know where to begin? [The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) shows readers how to set up a small business in their state, while clearing state and local bureaucratic hurdles.

The author, Peri Pakroo, is a business author and coach, specializing in creative and smart strategies for self-employment and small business. She has started, participated in, and consulted with start-up businesses for more than 20 years.

[The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) contains everything readers need to start a business, from creating a solid business plan and selecting a marketable name to business contracts, taxes, and reaching customers online. This **11th edition** is updated with the latest legal and tax rules affecting small businesses, plus social media and e-commerce trends. Pakroo says she loves helping people who want to take their careers into their own hands by creating their own ventures. From studying law and small business to being self-employed for 20-some years, she has developed a systematic approach to building ventures big and small. In [The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) she breaks down the major systems that business people need to master, and offer them strategies to grow their business in line with their own goals and vision. There's no one-size-fits-all formula to starting a business, so she tries to offer guidance that does not assume what readers' goals are and provides tools that empower them to pursue their vision, on their terms. Pakroo shows readers how to:

- Choose between an LLC and other business structures.
- Write an effective business plan.
- Pick a winning business name and protect it.
- Get the proper licenses and permits.
- Manage finances and taxes.
- Hire and manage staff.
- Market their business effectively, online and off.

[The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) includes access to cash flow projection and profit/loss forecast worksheets, and state-specific business resources.

Pakroo says she doesn't mean to imply that starting a successful business is easy. She knows there are a million different details to work out – how readers will produce their product or service, how much they will charge, what marketing strategies to use, how to manage cash flow – and they need to nail all of this down before they stand to make a dime. They will likely find that very few, if any, other businesspeople have done exactly what they are setting out to do, so they will have to answer a lot of questions on their own. It can be scary and lonely – and while exhilarating, it's almost always stressful.

However, instead of feeling overwhelmed, readers can take heart in the fact that there are some tried-and-true methods to radically boost their chances of success. Perhaps the most powerful of these is to establish systems for important tasks like managing finances, marketing the products or services, hiring staff, and so on. From simple systems like checklists and procedures put in writing, to complex software used to manage projects or clients, thoughtful systems can make a huge difference in how a business runs.

When efficient systems are in place – for example, readers have clear, step-by-step procedures for entering receipts into their bookkeeping software, planning the year's marketing initiatives, or performing annual reviews for employees – valuable mental time is freed up. When they and their managers aren't constantly reinventing the wheel with their operations, they can think about really important things, like what industry changes are on the horizon, what trends are happening with customer tastes, or how to distinguish their company from its competition.

Unlike many other small business guides, [The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) won't spend readers' precious time quizzing them on whether they really want to start a business after all. If they need more help deciding, they should buy a different book. If, on the other hand, they want a book that cuts to the chase and explains systematically what they need to do to plan and launch a business officially and legally, this book is for them. It's organized so they can skip around to whatever topics they are grappling with; they don't need to read the book from cover to cover. If they are already knowledgeable about a topic or they have already taken care of a particular task, they can either skip those chapters or use them as a guide to evaluate what they have already done.

*Peri Pakroo has created the perfect legal resource for small business owners who want to create a strong, viable and ethical business. It will save you time, energy and legal fees! – Pamela Slim, author, *Escape from Cubicle Nation* and *Body of Work**

Peri walks you through many of the most intimidating aspects of running a small business with solid, tested strategies for success. – Damian Taggart, Chief Business Development Officer, Meow Wolf

[The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) not only helped me launch my multifaceted business both practically and successfully, it helped me appropriately prepare for that launch (and guided me through those first several months of confusion, uncertainty, and excitement). Peri generously offers her experience and expertise to readers as she clearly addresses everything from choosing the right business name to paying taxes to hiring employees. I could not have opened my art gallery or formalized my freelance services without this book, nor would I dare embark on any other business ventures without it! – Nancy Zastudil, Owner/Director, The Necessarian, LLC (DBA Central Features Contemporary Art)

Answers important questions, including whether to incorporate and how to price merchandise. – Real Simple Magazine

Covers a wide range of topics, from selecting a marketable name to small business laws, taxes and contracts. – Miami Herald

Step-by-step legal guide that covers a wide range of topics... – Kansas City Star

Very strongly recommended... simply outstanding business instructional guide... – The Bookwatch

[The Small Business Start-Up Kit](#) is a one-stop guide to starting a small business. It offers an easy-to-understand, step-by-step approach to all the important tasks an entrepreneur

needs to tackle. The book helps readers build an efficient operation that, over time, will free them from day-to-day business tasks so they can focus their energies on big-picture strategic development, which is at the heart of the role of business owner. <>

Cooking, Food & Wine / History / Environment

[Lost Feast](#): Culinary Extinction and the Future of Food by Lenore Newman (ECW Press)

When we humans love foods, we love them a lot. In fact, we have often eaten them into extinction, whether it is the megafauna of the Paleolithic world or the passenger pigeon of the last century. In [Lost Feast](#), food expert Lenore Newman sets out to look at the history of the foods we have loved to death and what that means for the culinary paths we choose for the future.

Newman is the Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley. She is the author of the acclaimed *Speaking in Cod Tongues: A Canadian Culinary Journey*.

Whether it's chasing down the luscious butter of local Icelandic cattle or looking at the impacts of modern industrialized agriculture on the range of food varieties we can put in our shopping carts, Newman's intelligent gaze in [Lost Feast](#) finds insight and humor at every turn. Bracketing the chapters that look at the history of our relationship to specific foods, Newman enlists an ecologist friend and fellow cook in a series of 'extinction dinners' designed to recreate meals of the past or to illustrate how we might be eating in the future.

Newman's jaunts through the animal kingdom alternate with themed meals with her friend Dan as she ponders how historical extinctions are linked to our current food systems, what we can do about it, and how humans must follow the example of the famed New York 'pizza rat,' and adapt to the food that comes their way. – Booklist
Edifying and entertaining... Never didactic and cautiously optimistic, Newman recognizes that there is hard work ahead to recalibrate the North American diet. She builds a compelling case for us human superpredators to rethink our food choices, and to be healthier for the environment and our fellow inhabitant species. [Lost Feast](#) is enjoyable reading about a serious topic. – Foreword Reviews, starred review
Free-wheeling look at the flora and fauna we've eaten into oblivion. – Toronto Star
An interesting and thought-provoking adventure alongside an engaging, wry-humored narrator, the book forces the reader to consider humans' role in historic plant and animal extinctions, as well as how we might approach food more reasonably moving forward. – Civil Eats

If you've ever wondered about the impact the human appetite has had on plants and animals, [Lost Feast](#): Culinary Extinction and the Future of Food by Lenore Newman is for you. – WVNews

[Lost Feast](#) is a rollicking exploration of the history and future of our favorite foods. Part culinary romp, part environmental wake-up call, the book makes a critical contribution to our understanding of food security today. Readers will never look at what's on their plates in quite the same way again. <>

Cooking, Food & Wine

[The Noodle Soup Oracle](#): Hundreds of Possibilities for the World's Favorite Comfort Food

written and illustrated by Michele Humes (Running Press)

Author and illustrator Michele Humes' [The Noodle Soup Oracle](#) isn't a traditional noodle soup cookbook. It's a mix-and-match guide to building the dish readers want to eat. Humes is a writer and an artist. Her wide-ranging experience in the food world has included stints as a line cook, a food stylist, a culinary illustrator, a constructor of food-themed crosswords, and a journalist.

In her twenties, Humes went to culinary school and trained in a very refined sort of French cooking, but she found nothing in the classical French kitchen to quite match the rush of well-being she got from a bowl of brothy noodles. The rewards of this dish aren't just the warm, soothing, sensory ones; they're in the very versatility of its composition.

According to Humes, first, cooks choose their noodle. Next, they pick their soup, whether it's a broth from scratch or one that starts from a box or can. Finally, they decide on the proteins, vegetables, and flourishes that will give their bowl color and character – the 'Oracle' shows them the best way to prep nearly any topping they can dream up.

[The Noodle Soup Oracle](#) includes full-page illustrations of noodle bowls composed from the modular recipes in the book.

As Humes points out, "the goal of this book is to radically expand the notion of what 'noodle soup' can mean." Within its pages, cooks will find tried-and-true flavor combinations and start-to-finish bowl recipes to entice and inspire. Humes encourages cooks to add to them, subtract from them, and shatter the boundaries between ramen, saimin, and pho, to find their very own perfect noodle soup.

Humes says she was raised in Hong Kong, on noodle soup. Her mother still lives there. She says her mother always comforted her – and herself – with noodle soup.

In the beginning, noodle soup was a Chinese dish. Over the centuries, noodle soup traveled through Asia on the same trade routes that carried silk, tea, and spices; today, it's eaten from Tokyo to Tashkent, across a territory spanning some 4,000 miles. Every region has imprinted noodle soup with its own distinct character.

Humes invites readers to approach this book the way they might a street vendor's noodle cart in old Hong Kong. Peer into it, see what tempts them, and build the bowl that sounds good to them in that moment. Then, come back another day and construct an entirely new one. Whatever they create, take heart in the knowledge that they are participating in a venerable tradition. The goal of [The Noodle Soup Oracle](#) is to radically expand the notion of what 'noodle soup' can mean, showcasing the much freer way it is prepared in homes across Asia.

[The Noodle Soup Oracle](#) is a resource for every level of noodle soup engagement. If readers have three hours to spare on a Sunday afternoon, it will guide them through making a broth from scratch. If it's 8 o'clock on a Tuesday night, it will show them the quickest way to perk up that half-used carton of chicken stock in the fridge. Even if their starting point is a packet of instant ramen, there are ways to make it nourishing and beautiful.

[The Noodle Soup Oracle](#) is a complete course in designing one's own noodle soup. It's structured a little differently from a traditional cookbook. Start-to-finish instructions for preparing any one bowl make up a relatively small part of the book; instead, it's centered on mix-and-match combinations for noodles, broths, and toppings. It's up to readers to combine them into the dish they want to eat.

First, readers choose their noodle. The Noodles chapter talks them through the major types and how to pair and prepare them. Next, pick the soup. The Broths chapter has recipes they can make from scratch, versions that start with a box or a can, and no judgment either way. Finally, decide what will go on top. The Toppings chapter deals with the proteins, vegetables, accents, and flourishes that will give their bowl color and character.

The broth and topping recipes in [The Noodle Soup Oracle](#) can be mixed and matched infinitely, but some combinations are more harmonious than others. Building a Balanced Bowl is a guide to deciding which elements work together and which don't. It may take a little practice before cooks feel confident freestyling a noodle soup – until they do, they can consult the Complete Bowls chapter for step-by-step recipes for tried-and-tested combinations. <>

Health / Public / Research

[Bedside and Community](#): 50 Years of Contributions to the Health of Albertans from the University of Calgary by Diana J. Mansell, Frank W. Stahnisch, & Paula Larsson (University of Calgary Press)

[Bedside and Community](#) is the inside story of fifty years of health care and health research at the University of Calgary. Drawing on the first-person accounts of researchers, administrators, faculty, and students along with archival research, and faculty histories, this collection celebrates the significant contributions the University of Calgary has made to the health of Albertans. With contributions from the Cummings School of Medicine, the Faculty of Nursing, Faculty of Kinesiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Environmental Design, Department of Psychology, and Indigenous Health Initiatives [Bedside and Community](#) is a truly collaborative history.

Editors are Diana J. Mansell, Frank W. Stahnisch, and Paula Larsson. Mansell is a Canadian Nurse Historian now retired from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. Stahnisch is the Alberta Medical Foundation/ Hannah Professor in the History of Medicine and Health Care at the University of Calgary. Larsson is an Oxford-based scholar of health history with a focus on intersections of ethnicity, health and policy. The book has 14 contributors.

Addressing the links between departments, the relationship between the university and the community, and evolving research and teaching methods, [Bedside and Community](#) places the University of Calgary within a wider national context and shows how it has addressed the unique health needs of Southern Alberta.

Contents of [Bedside and Community](#) include:

Foreword – Dr. David Bright, Professor of History, Niagara College

Introduction – Paula Larsson, Frank W. Stahnisch, and Diana Mansell

1. The Faculty of Medicine and its Response to the Changing Health-Care Context in the Province of Alberta, 1966-2016 – Frank W. Stahnisch
2. A History of Aboriginal Health Research within the Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, 1966-2016 – Paula Larsson and Wilfreda E. Thurston
3. The Transformation of the Concept of Nursing – Diana Mansell
4. Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Calgary and its Contribution to Health Care in Alberta – Henderikus J. Stain and H. Lorraine Radtke
5. The "Then" and "Now": From Physical Education to Kinesiology at the University of Calgary – Patricia K. Doyle-Baker

6. Environmental Design: Creating Healthy Spaces and Places – Barbara Dupuis, David Monteyne, and Brian Sinclair
7. The University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: At the Interface of Animal and Human Health – Alastair Cribb

Discussion – Paula Larsson, Frank W. Stahnisch and Diana Mansell

[Bedside and Community](#) traces the life story of a satellite campus of the University of Alberta that began humbly in one building on the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art (now the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology) campus and grew into Calgary's own university. It commemorates the hard work and the enduring spirit of the people of Alberta who built the University of Calgary and also formed it into the community health resource that it has become today.

According to David Bright in the foreword, how public moneys are allocated within the health-care system, to what end, and with what effect are critical questions that never find a final, fixed answer, but remain, rather, subject to ongoing public and political debate. Among the various institutions that have spearheaded this discourse at the provincial, regional, and local levels are the medical faculties and related departments within Canada's universities.

The seven chapters that comprise [Bedside and Community](#) shed light on one corner of this debate. Marking the fiftieth anniversary of the University of Calgary, this collection explores its many and varied contributions to the evolution of public health care in Calgary, and indeed beyond, since the mid-1960s. The authors embrace a variety of approaches and perspectives as they chronicle the University of Calgary's role across a wide range of topics, such as the changing function of the Faculty of Medicine within the public health-care system, shifts in the concept of nursing, controversies within Aboriginal health research, developments within clinical psychology and kinesiology, and the emergence of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

What also emerges from the chapters of this book – from their different approaches, themes, and concerns – is the broad changes that occurred within the public health service from the 1960s to the present day. As is perhaps implied by the book's title, [Bedside and Community](#), the fundamental shift was from where health care was delivered to how it has been conceived. Institutions such as hospitals have always been identified with the provision of treatment, in a remedial sense, but what arises from these essays repeatedly is the tension between cure and prevention. Is the public health-care system's primary function to treat patients – to stave off death – or to prevent them from becoming patients in the first place? Again, there is no clear answer. What this book does make clear, however, is that the story of public health care in Calgary – and by extension, in Alberta – cannot be told as an upwards trajectory from failure to success. Instead, as the editors note in the introduction, the historical record was "far from a gentle progression upwards to a pinnacle of success," but instead featured many "sudden leaps forward and hesitant steps backward". If this is true, then what the chapters also reveal is that two decades in particular stand out as critical in the evolution of Alberta's public health-care system. The first was the 1970s. The 1970s were, in general, a time of turmoil and unrest in Canada, but the advances made in public health care also made the decade a pivotal era in Alberta's history.

The second decade that stands out is the 1990s. What readers see in the 1990s is a shift in how public health care was perceived. For example, in 1994 the Calgary Regional Health Authority was established, later to be replaced by the broader Alberta Health

Services in 2008. Also created in this decade were the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, the Office of Gender and Equality, the Joint Doctoral Program in Psychology, and the switch from the Faculty of Sports Medicine to that of Kinesiology at the University of Calgary. These all reflected changes in tone, approach, and focus when it came to the delivery of and research into public health. Once again, as the editors point out in their concluding discussion, the effect was that the University of Calgary's Faculty of Medicine "went from a faculty that trained physicians for local communities to one that trains physicians through local communities".

This is a shift in emphasis, a shift in tense. From object to subject, from past to present. It is also a shift in locus: from the bedside to the community. In the end, these essays are a testament both to what has been achieved in the realm of public health care over the past half-century and also what remains to be done. Whether the public necessarily gets the public health-care system it deserves – and that it has paid for – is moot, but it is up to that same public to demand that this system prevails. Bright in the foreword says that the chapters in [Bedside and Community](#) play a critical role in informing the public of their duty in this regard.

Medical faculties elsewhere may learn from the distinctive experience of the health sciences at the University of Calgary with its pioneering emphasis on primary care and interdisciplinarity. – Edward Shorter, Jason A. Hannah Professor of the History of Medicine, University of Toronto

With a pioneering focus on primary care and commitment to interdisciplinary connections, the University of Calgary has made strides in health research, health education, and community outreach. [Bedside and Community](#) tells the story of a tradition of excellence that will light the way to future outreach and discovery. While each chapter offers insight and analysis that readers will find useful and interesting in their own right, taken as a whole they also raise some important questions about the nature and function of public health care in Alberta. <>

History / Conspiracy Theories

[Assassinations: The Plots, Politics, and Powers behind History-Changing Murders](#) by Nick Redfern (Visible Ink Press)

Coups, conspiracies, and covert plots. Political executions, mafia hits, and business betrayals. Cover-ups, powerful interests, and hidden motives. Spies, hired killers, and witless dupes. From ancient treachery, murders, and mysterious deaths like the Egyptian pharaoh Ramses III and Julius Caesar to the recent slayings, suspicious deaths, and hits on JFK, MLK, RFK, and rock stars, [Assassinations: The Plots, Politics, and Powers behind History-Changing Murders](#) reveals the hidden agendas, the guns-for-hire, the mysterious intermediaries, and the stories behind the untimely deaths of the rich, famous, and influential.

The author is Nick Redfern who works full time as an author, lecturer, and journalist. He writes about a wide range of unsolved mysteries, including UFOs, alien encounters, government conspiracies, Bigfoot, and the Loch Ness Monster.

From the cunning, calculating, government-trained warriors to the psychopathic, homegrown freelancers, readers find them all in [Assassinations](#). Exposed are the hidden agendas as well as the open warfare, the cynical preparations and devastating aftermaths. Readers find themselves immersed in a world that is filled with killings made

to seem like suicides, murders designed to look like heart attacks or overdoses, and accidents that, in reality, were carefully orchestrated deaths.

- Did Lee Harvey Oswald really kill JFK? Or was Oswald the patsy he claimed to be?
- Was Jack the Ripper, who terrified London in 1888, a madman or a ruthless secret agent of the British government?
- Did the United States' first secretary of defense, James Forrestal, kill himself, or was he thrown out of a window to his death in May 1949?
- Did Marilyn Monroe take her own life in August 1962 or was a contract put out on her?
- What led to the demise of Danny Casolaro, an investigative journalist who, at the time of his death in 1991, was investigating a powerful cabal known as "The Octopus"?
- Was Diana, Princess of Wales, the victim of a car accident or of a carefully orchestrated plot?
- Can sound waves and microwaves kill people at the flick of a switch?
- Was John Lennon's murder not at all what it appeared to be?

These questions and many more are answered in [Assassinations](#). With more than 120 photos and graphics, this tome is richly illustrated. Its bibliography and extensive index add to its usefulness.

Readers will find it all in [Assassinations](#): the deluded fools looking for fame and the conned suckers framed by sinister powers. Exposed are the hidden interests behind the slayings in this deep dive into high stakes killings and conspiracies. <>

History / Islam / Women / Religion & Spirituality

[A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) by Hossein Kamaly (Oneworld Publications)

From the first believer, Khadija, and the other women who witnessed the formative years of Islam, to award-winning mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani and the late architect Zaha Hadid, author Hossein Kamaly celebrates the lives and groundbreaking achievements of extraordinary women in the history of Islam.

Kamaly is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary. A scholar of the Middle East, focusing on the history of ideas, he has previously taught at Barnard College and Columbia University, and is the author of *God and Man in Tehran*.

Beginning in seventh-century Mecca and Medina, [A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) takes readers around the globe, through eleventh-century Yemen and Khorasan, and into sixteenth-century Spain, Istanbul and India. From there to nineteenth-century Persia and the African savannah, to twentieth-century Russia, Turkey, Egypt and Iraq, before reaching present day London.

The women of [A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) are: Khadija, Fatima, Aisha, Rabia al-Adawiyya, Fatima of Nishapur, Queen Arwa, Terken Khatun, Shajara'-al-Durr, Sayyida al-Hurra, Pari Khanum, Nur Jahan, Safiye Sultan, Tajul-Alain Safiatuddin Syah, Tahereh, Nana Asmau, Mukhlisa Bubi, Halide Edip, Noor Inayat Khan, Umm Kulthum, Zaha Hadid, and Maryam Mirzakhani.

Kamaly says the idea of writing [A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) occurred to him on a Christmas morning in London. In the middle of a conversation about women as agents of historical change in the world, his friend showed him a copy of *A History of Britain in 21 Women*.

[A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) is an invitation to think about the history of Islam in general, and women's active and decisive presence in this history. Beginning in seventh-century Arabia, where Islam first took root, the narrative continues to the here and now, as hundreds of millions of humans across the globe claim Islam as their own. To the skeptic who presumes that Islam, like several other of the world's religions, has allotted to women the 'silent' roles of motherhood and homemaking, organizing a history of Islam around them may seem an inconceivable or futile undertaking. Do domestic tasks merit the attention of the historian? They should. Reducing women's history to silence signals poor analysis anywhere and at any time in history. Women's history is human history.

Kamaly invites readers on an exciting intellectual journey that aims to set the historical record straight. The point of departure is that in the past and today women have shaped many aspects of the history of Islam and deserve a more central place in the historical narrative. With all these examples from the past, fostering even more visible and more effective roles for women in the present and future of Islam is a quintessential issue of our time.

[A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) presents interlinked episodes in the history of Islam through biographical sketches of twenty-one women. Kamaly says he uses the twenty-one biographies as guideposts. The terrain covered is vast: from the Arabian Peninsula and India to Spain, North Africa, and Nigeria; from Egypt and Syria to Turkey, Indonesia, and Russia; from Iran and Iraq to the United Kingdom and the United States. The women highlighted, who include religious exemplars and political authorities, are too diverse to represent a single ideal or ideal type, and they seldom appear together in general histories of Islam.

Because he wants [A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) to serve as a broad-based invitation to learn more about the role of women in the history of Islam, Kamaly says he has steered away from the controversy that surrounds some of them and tried to be faithful to primary sources while also drawing on contemporary scholarship. The chronological sequence of biographies in this book moves from five religious exemplars to eight rulers to four women involved in faith movements in the colonial era, and lastly to four whose involvement with Islam remains arguably tangential to their careers in the modern world. This succession roughly reflects the evolution of the history of Islam in available sources.

With grace and erudition, Kamaly vividly captures key moments in the long and varied history of the Muslim world, bringing to life some of the extraordinary women – from early believers to mystic poets, medieval queens to ruling consorts, Sufi spies to nationalist singers, Iraqi architects to Iranian mathematicians – who made that history and transformed our world. – Lila Abu-Lughod, Joseph L. Bottenwieser Professor, Columbia University, and author of *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?*

This book takes readers on a thrilling journey into the lives of twenty-one women in Islamic history. In tightly written, lucid, and highly readable chapters, Kamaly offers an informative and rich survey of some of the key women who crafted and shaped the history of Islam from its very foundations to our modern age. This book is a rich source for any reader interested in the history of Islam, and it should be required reading in any introductory course on Muslims and their religion or culture. – Khaled Abou El Fadl, Omar and Azmeralda Alfi, Distinguished Professor in Islamic Law, UCLA School of Law

In a highly readable and engaging book, Hossein Kamaly invites us to rethink the history of Islam by narrating the lives and achievements of twenty-one remarkable women,

from the birth of the religion to the present. This is a much-needed corrective to conventional masculinist Muslim history. – Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Professorial Research Associate, SOAS, University of London

[A History of Islam in 21 Women](#) is the story of Islam as never presented before, celebrating the lives and groundbreaking achievements of twenty-one remarkable women, setting the record straight. <>

History / U.S. / Civil War / Crafts & Hobbies / Quilting

[Civil War Quilts](#), 2nd edition by Pamela Weeks & Don Beld (Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.)

In [Civil War Quilts](#), the stories of fourteen extraordinary Civil War quilts and the women who made them bring readers face to face with the drama of war and its effect on thousands of lives.

Authors are Pamela Weeks and Don Beld. Weeks, Curator of the New England Quilt Museum, has been a quilter, fiber artist, quilt historian, and state-juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen. For eight years she was the executive director of ABC Quilts, where the mission was to send handmade quilts to babies and young children born HIV-positive or drug affected, around the world. Beld was a quilter whose quilts, lectures, and exhibits have helped many realize that quilters are the folk-art historians of their time who capture in cloth the important events and people of our nation's history.

Each of these quilts tells stories of struggle and survival. [Civil War Quilts](#) contains patterns and information for making 'block by block' or 'potholder' quilts, with traceable quilt block patterns with templates for hand piecing or rotary cutting for machine piecing. Also included is information on reproduction fabrics and how to participate in modern soldier-related community service quilting.

The stories of fourteen extraordinary Civil War quilts and the women who made them will bring readers face to face with the drama of war and its effect on thousands of lives. This **second edition** of [Civil War Quilts](#) also features a lively discussion of the Jane Stickle quilt, one of the most famous quilts made during the Civil War.

With 170 color photos and engaging text, this book tells the stories of extraordinary antique Civil War quilts and the women who made them. Some of the quilts tell love stories, others relate the determination of women seeking an active role in the war effort, and still others reflect patriotism and creative abilities of people caring about others. In addition, information for making traditional-style 19th century bindings and potholder quilts, plus over 45 block patterns for making reproduction Civil War era quilts are provided.

With patterns rich in personal histories and strong visuals, Weeks continues to deliver, and then some. [Civil War Quilts](#) is a must-read for Civil War enthusiasts and quilters seeking accurate information on reproducing Civil War quilts. This book will be cherished by all serious quilters, historians, and Civil War enthusiasts. <>

Literature & Fiction

[The Recipe for Revolution: A Novel](#) by Carolyn Chute (*School on Heart's Content Road Series*: Grove Press)

Bestselling author Carolyn Chute received *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year for the *School on Heart's Content Road*. She has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Thornton Wilder Fellowship.

Although a series, the books in the *School on Heart's Content Road Series* stand alone and do not need to be read in any order.

In [The Recipe for Revolution](#), a *New York Times* Editors Choice, it's September 1999 and the world is on the cusp of a new millennium. In rural Maine, Gordon St. Onge, known as 'The Prophet', presides over his controversial Settlement, a place rumored to be a cult, where his many wives and children live off the grid and off the land. Out in greater America, Bruce Hummer, the aging CEO of multinational corporation Duotron Lindsey, lays off workers by the thousands. Meanwhile, the newest member of the Settlement, fifteen year old Brianna Vandermast, is fired up and ready for change. Disillusioned with the covert local militia, she and other Settlement teens form the True Maine Militia. Putting her visionary ideas into practice, Bree pens 'The Recipe', an incendiary revolutionary document that winds up in the hands of wealthy elites, including Bruce Hummer.

When a chance drinking session during an airport layover brings Bruce and Gordon together, Hummer – in a confounding moment – gives Gordon a mysterious brass key, one turn of which has the potential to make heads roll and spark the unrest that is stirring in Egypt, Maine. As word of 'The Recipe' spreads, myriad factions of anti-corporate revolt from across the country arrive at The Settlement wanting to make Gordon their poster boy. Gordon soon finds himself at the center of an uprising, the effects of which ripple beyond Settlement life in [The Recipe for Revolution](#).

The events of the novel take place circa Y2K, but Chute's concerns seem very 2020: how reality is named, created, fragmented, trolled, distorted... the writing is often wicked gorgeous. And it's been her career long passion, this ongoing searing critique of profit's god-sized system. In place of a traditional plot, Chute allows characters to slowly emerge, exert a kind of magnetic pull and then recede. It feels like the literary equivalent of a big choir with occasional soloist. – New York Times Book Review
[C]haracters and relationships drive this novel with a fierce political vision that feels uniquely tailored for our times. – Booklist

Essential reading.... [The] third volume in Chute's blistering series about the Settlement, a radical, politically incorrect collective of the disorderly and disaffected in rural Maine. – Kirkus Reviews

In [The Recipe for Revolution](#) Chute portrays politics, class, love, and friendship with acuity and complexity, giving readers a pulsating, relevant book for today's America.

<>

Philosophy / Politics / Current Events / History

[On Diversity: The Eclipse of the Individual in a Global Era](#) by Russell Jacoby (Seven Stories Press)

It could be argued – and esteemed historian of ideas Russell Jacoby does so in [On Diversity](#) – that the less diversity there is, the more we talk about it.

Jacoby teaches history at UCLA. His *The Last Intellectuals: American Culture in the Age of Academe* introduced into the lexicon the term 'public intellectual' and is considered one of the essential texts of American letters.

Jacoby in [On Diversity](#) asks, what does the term 'diversity' actually mean? Where does it come from? What are its intellectual precedents? Moreover, how do we square our recognition of the importance of diversity with the fact that the world is becoming more and more homogeneous?

Chapters include:

1. The Myth of Diversity
2. A Diversity Crisis!": Sneakers, Species, and Speech
3. Playing with Diversity
4. Diversity and its Vicissitudes: Across the Centuries
5. Diversity and its Vicissitudes: The Modern Period

In fine prose and lucid argument, Jacoby puts our volatile present into historical context. Examining diversity (or lack thereof) in language, fashion, childhood experience, political structure, and the history of ideas, Jacoby in [On Diversity](#) offers a penetrating analysis of our cultural moment.

[On Diversity](#) is philosophically generous, occasionally witty, tightly reasoned and engagingly written. – Barton Swaim, *Wall Street Journal*

Russell Jacoby has written a cogent and provocative essay on the paradoxes of identity, and he asks questions that yield no comforting answers. Does a concern with diversity of cultures strengthen diversity of thought? Has the global scaling-up of American mass society left us with more groups and fewer individuals? A highly personal inquiry into the jargon of authenticity, this book is also a fascinating history of a central modern idea. – David Bromwich, Sterling Professor of English, Yale University, and author of *American Breakdown*

In this book, as he has throughout his career, Russell Jacoby asks the necessary questions, the ones few other contemporary writers care to pose. How is it, he wonders, that the explosion of officially sanctioned 'diversity' has been accompanied by a decline of individuality? His answer takes us on a scintillating journey through the history of ideas, including Constant, Herder, Tocqueville, Mill, Herzen, Burckhardt, Durkheim, Randolph Bourne, Walter Benjamin, and many others. [On Diversity](#) is first-rate intellectual history and penetrating cultural criticism. – George Scialabba, author of *Low Dishonest Decades* and *What Are Intellectuals Good For?*

Russell Jacoby is the best kind of intellectual provocateur, a philosopher skeptic who knows that the pursuit of justice does not in itself yield truth and often enough yields falsehood. In [On Diversity](#), he tackles some of the core pieties of our time, and drives home a central paradox, that the shibboleth of diversity cloaks a world of increasingly soulless uniformity. Immensely learned yet unfailingly lucid, Jacoby will make you think harder than you ever have about things you thought you knew. – Sean Wilentz, George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of American History at Princeton University and award-winning author most recently of *No Property in Man*

Russell Jacoby's new book offers an implacable and unprecedented dose of resistance to an unreflective mantra. Without denying group-based injustice in American life, Jacoby bracingly affirms the importance of the individual distinction that our classic thinkers identified as the ultimate aspiration for an age of accelerating conformity in how we raise our children, what we wear, and how we talk. A must-read. – Samuel Moyn, Henry R. Luce Professor of Jurisprudence and Professor of History, Yale University, and author of *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World*

Jacoby in [On Diversity](#) offers a surprising and penetrating analysis of our cultural moment, and invites readers to participate in the most dangerous and liberating act: stop and think. <>

Philosophy / Political Thought

[Spinoza, Volume 3](#) by Antonio Negri, translated by Ed Emery (**Then and Now Series**: Polity Press)

[Spinoza, Volume 3](#) is the third and final volume of the **Then and Now** series of writings by Antonio Negri examining how Spinoza's thought constitutes a radical break with past ideas and an essential tool for envisaging a form of politics beyond capitalism. Negri shows how Spinoza's ideas have facilitated radical renewal from their beginnings to the present day. It was the democratic freedoms and spirit of solidarity fostered in the Netherlands of the seventeenth century that allowed Spinoza to develop a radically new form of thought, redefining notions of the state and outlining a republican alternative to absolutist monarchy.

Negri is former Professor of State Theory at the University of Padua.

It was in our own era, Negri argues in [Spinoza, Volume 3](#) that the rediscovery of Spinoza was critical in reinvigorating political theory. Instead of acquiescing to the economic order of capitalism and abandoning the class struggle, Spinoza's ideas enable us to reconstruct a revolutionary perspective. His treatment of concepts such as multitude, necessity, and liberty have given us new ways of looking critically at the present, revealing that power must always be seen as a question of antagonism and class struggle.

Part 1 of [Spinoza, Volume 3](#) brings together three essays in which, through a critical reading of a number of authors, Negri suggests that we might see 1968 as a 'good moment', propitious to the operation – conducted by a number of 'joyous Spinozans', thanks to Spinoza's thought – of affirming democratic thought and of encouraging struggles open to the desire for happiness. The studies by Matheron, Deleuze and Guerout, followed by those of Macherey, Balibar and Moreau as well as by his own, were fundamental to that moment.

Negri emphasizes how materialism, seen through the epistemological and ontological lens of Spinozism, was able to abandon its traditional foundation in dialectic and to embark on a project that was simultaneously constitutive and subjective. Thus Spinozism corresponds to a call for insurrection and to the new figure of class struggle that, from 1968 on, was no longer willing to squeeze through metaphysical straits towards teleological destinations.

Negri outlines the general horizon in which his work on Spinoza took shape. The first part of [Spinoza, Volume 3](#) retraces the elements of this general perspective, examining in particular the relationship between Spinoza and Deleuze. Negri emphasizes that this relationship was fundamental in creating the fabric on which Delpze and Guattari enacted the critique of contemporaneous capitalism; in their reading of Spinoza we find a verification of his rupture with the historical and philosophical tradition.

There is the world as it is. Negri speaks of disutopia, by which he means the capacity to derive, from within contingency, the relation between the difficulty of living and the dynamic of emancipation, and yet also – and above all – the passion to follow the traces of the potenza of being and to carry out the never-ending project of organizing the infinite.

Part 2 of [Spinoza, Volume 3](#) ('Spinoza Today'), addresses problems related to a number of Spinozist concepts that have found a new life in the contemporary world: concepts such as 'the potenza to act', 'multitude', 'necessity' and 'freedom', 'immateriality', as well as other, more familiar concepts such as justice, love and hate. The rereading of these concepts in a Spinozist light opens new possibilities for understanding the present, which began and was defined after 1968, then developed in postmodernity. The Spinozist lexicon and ontology give readers access to novelties that the end of modernity presents, and also to the often equivocal figures of postmodernity. He offers new critical openings to complement the effort to understand the present that he developed in his more recent books – especially those written together with Michael Hardt.

Part 3 of [Spinoza, Volume 3](#) ('Spinoza in the Seventeenth Century') gives readers another history, no longer in the present but in the past: the seventeenth century. Negri republishes here an article written in 1966, 'Problems of the historiography of the modern state: France 1610-1650', which analyzes the birth of the modern state. In this article he shows how the humanist Renaissance had expressed a radical revolution in values and how, in the first half of the seventeenth century, the emergence of the modern individual, the emergence of productive singularities and the first images of their collective essence came up against insurmountable obstacles. The essays in Part 3, in addition to illustrating the historical antecedents of Spinoza's thinking about the state, open the way to a series of comparisons with theoretical positions in Marxism that accompanied Negri's researches into the seventeenth century. 'Politics of immanence, politics of transcendence', the chapter that opens Part 3, provides an introduction to the great bifurcation of the seventeenth century, summarizes it and projects it forward to the present day.

The writings that make up [Spinoza, Volume 3](#) – some written from prison as Negri fought for his own freedom – provide an important account of the enduring relevance of Spinoza's thought. It will be of great interest to students and scholars of philosophy and political theory, as well anyone interested in radical politics today. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Art & Architecture

[Places of Light: The Gift of Cathedrals to the World](#) by Gernot Candolini & Jennifer Brandon (Mount Tabor Books: Paraclete Press)

Gernot Candolini and Jennifer Brandon in [Places of Light](#) invite readers to experience some of the exemplary cathedrals of Europe and North America. They offer glimpses into the spiritual, visionary, and artistic beauty and mastery of these spaces.

Candolini is a designer and builder of labyrinths, and a retreat leader. Brandon delights in sharing the unique overlap of faith and music with others on the pilgrim road – in Europe, the Holy Land, and in her own neighborhood in Indianapolis.

Readers read the stories connected to these sacred spaces: like the reconciliation crusade of Vézelay, the destruction of Cluny, and the origins of Sagrada Familia. They explore the architectural and artistic elements that make these churches what they are: the power of light, the 'smiling stones,' the crypt, and the music.

The scholarly definition of a cathedral is a church where a bishop teaches from the cathedra, a special chair in the altar area, but the poetic definition is a large church that is a spiritual center for its community. In [Places of Light](#), the word 'cathedral' is meant in the wide, poetic sense with full understanding that some of the holy spaces

featured do not carry the distinction of a 'cathedral.' Some of the mentioned buildings are basilicas, like Vézelay or Guadalupe, while others are simply large churches, like Ulm or Orleans, and the Hagia Sophia is now a museum.

Candolini and Brandon say it is their intention for writing this book is that it may be like a 'hyphen' between the readers and the cathedrals and churches – a 'heart warmer' and a song for the eyes and the soul that speak the words: There is a story and a history about the contact between us and God, and its message is this: we have a home. The authors invite readers to peek inside these awe-inspiring holy spaces – into the beautiful physical structures, into the history that called them into being, and into the heart stories of the people who had the courage to see the process through. They say that it would be a bold statement indeed to suggest that they could offer answers about why these magnificent places have continued to be compelling to each generation over the last millennia. They believe that the answers are as diverse and dynamic as those who wander across a threshold and find themselves in a place that is wholly other. Instead, they have noticed that there are common threads and themes that connect these buildings, that inspire readers to ask better questions, and cause them to wonder anew at the ever-unfolding relationship between God and the People of God.

The beginnings of [Places of Light](#) go back to a book first published in Germany; that earlier edition contained only the chapters of European cathedrals. In the first English edition, the text of the chapters on the European cathedrals has been expanded, and chapters of places from the American continent have been added. Their hope is only that these few examples will encourage readers to find more favorites and add them to their own inner book of powerful places that shelter or inspire their soul.

Cathedrals are among the masterpieces of human architecture. Their size and grandeur are impressive and fascinating. Beyond their primary task of being the seat for religious liturgies and celebrations, cathedrals tend to attract people on the most ordinary of days. The compelling nature of these gentle giants continues as the seeker moves among the pillars; witnesses the harmonious beauty and clarity of light, the mastery of craftsmanship, and the great language of art and images; and ponders the abundance of perspectives and impressions. Even from the point of entry into the cathedral, visitors are surrounded by the powerful stories and presence of spiritual ancestors, which often give people a sense of their own being and place within the Greater Story, a sense that their soul is at home.

Cathedrals stand at the crossroads of history, witnessing wealth and artistic power and the overwhelming desire to create something beautiful and magnificent. Cathedrals have experienced the storms of history and survived them differently. Despite the iconoclasts of the Huguenot wars, the French Revolution, and the two world wars during which many cathedrals were damaged and some were even completely destroyed or demolished, most have survived the turmoil of conflicts and changing values surprisingly well.

*Cathedrals magnetize one's spiritual compass. [Places of Light](#) opens the historic portals of twenty cathedrals for a broader understanding and deeper appreciation of the numerous, nameless and bold visionaries who dared to express in glass and stone messages for the human spirit. – The Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress, Honorary Canon of Grace Cathedral; author of *Walking a Sacred Path**

[Places of Light](#) deserves to be read slowly. It is that beautiful. Candolini and Brandon offer much more than a glowing visual pilgrimage of cathedrals. The accompanying

prose is a testament to the human spirit and the journey of the soul in life. They wisely claim (in reference to cathedral crypts) that 'Sometimes dark, deep quiet is just the environment needed to see clearly.' – Paula D'Arcy, author of *Gift of the Red Bird and Stars at Night*

This beautifully written book takes readers on a journey through some of the great cathedrals of the world – from Chartres to Hagia Sophia to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Each page is full of sensory details and insights into Christian architecture, history, spirit, and community. Equally insightful are thematic chapters on features such as rose windows, the role of light, pilgrimage, and celebration. This is a book of joy and inspiration. – Frank Burch Brown, Senior Editor in Religion and the Arts, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion*; F.D. Kershner Professor of Religion and the Arts, Emeritus, Christian Theological Seminary

Readers of [Places of Light](#) embark on a pilgrimage through the great cathedrals of the world. With beautiful images and descriptive texts, its pages will fan the flame of curiosity that already dwells within many. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Catholic / Liberation

[Voice of the Voiceless: The Four Pastoral Letters and Other Statements](#) by Saint Óscar Romero, with reflections by Jon Sobrino & Ignacio Martin-Baro, with an introduction by William E. Lee (Orbis Books)

It has been forty years since the assassination of (now) Saint Óscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador.

In the three short years of St. Romero's episcopal ministry he emerged as a courageous prophet, a voice for those who had no voice, and truly a saint for our time. His outspoken defense of the poor and his refusal to keep silent in the face of violent repression earned him powerful enemies. In making an option for the poor, he was prepared to face 'the same fate as the poor.' Still, his witness and his theological message remain: a gift and a challenge to the church he loved.

Nowhere is that theological and pastoral vision more clearly expressed than in the four pastoral letters he released from 1977 to 1980, available in [Voice of the Voiceless](#). Along with other documents, including his address at Georgetown, his Louvain address on "The Political Dimension of the Faith from the Perspective of the Option for the Poor," and his last homily, they represent one of the most powerful expressions of church teaching in our time: an application of the gospel to the challenges of history, especially in situations marked by injustice, inequality, and violence. These documents, sealed by his own blood, are a timeless call to follow the Good News of Jesus, wherever it leads.

According to Michael E. Lee, associate professor of theology at Fordham University in the introduction to [Voice of the Voiceless](#), there are various ways that the history of Christianity is remembered. One could focus on doctrinal developments, innovative philosophical thinking, popular movements, significant historical events that define each era. When remembering the Roman Catholic Church of the twentieth century, there is no doubt that the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) will stand out, and given the global direction of the church's growth, the Second Meeting of the Latin American Bishops' Conference at Medellin (1968) will also be a landmark to remember.

As important as these events are, though, their meaning isn't fully clear unless the concrete lives of people that lived, struggled, and gave flesh to their ideas are part of

the story. There are always those figures who seem to capture the essence of a particular period. This is where the figure of Saint Óscar Arnulfo Romero enters. Though his ministry as Archbishop of San Salvador lasted only three years, from February 1977 to March 1980, its significance goes far beyond them. St. Romero is emblematic of the dramatic changes that took place in Catholic thought in the twentieth century and, perhaps more important, how its pastoral engagement with the challenges of the modern world introduced new ways of envisioning what Christian faith and the church should look like.

Though he never published a theological book nor taught a theological course in a university, Óscar Romero left behind a remarkable theological legacy. His October 2018 canonization as a saint signals an important part of that legacy, providing a fresh example of holiness in the modern world. Like other great saints, Óscar Romero demonstrated the vitality of the gospel in his historical context. Thus, his life, and particularly the three years that he served as Archbishop of San Salvador, have generated well-deserved attention. However, in conjunction with that life was profound thinking about God, Christ, the church, and salvation. In many ways, St. Romero not only demonstrated a distinctive way of living the gospel, but he also showed how that way of living was nourished by, and in turn gave impetus to, new depths of thinking the gospel in the modern world.

In addition to his Sunday cathedral homilies, that way of thinking is best illustrated in the texts collected in [Voice of the Voiceless](#). They span the length of his tenure as Archbishop of San Salvador and demonstrate how theological reflection and pastoral life nurtured each other during that time. Principal among these texts are his second, third, and fourth pastoral letters. Influenced by the inductive methodology of 'see-judge-act,' the letters show how Romero's theology responded to the signs of his times. Moreover, because each was written for August 6 – Feast of the Transfiguration and the national feast day of El Salvador – in the respective years of his ministry, the letters provide yearly markers for how Romero's thinking was advancing over that time. Serving as a prelude to his more important theological thinking, **the first pastoral letter**, "The Easter Church" (April 1977), illustrates the profound changes that Romero was going through as he began his role as archbishop. Though its deductive method (beginning with abstract ideas that Romero then applies to reality) would vanish in subsequent letters, this text clearly shows the seeds that would later blossom. If church documents represent important seeds, then Romero's brief mention of Fr. Rutilio Grande's assassination signals the very ground – a persecuted church – in which his theology emerged. From that summer of 1977 on, as paramilitary groups would attempt to terrorize catechists and priests into silence, Romero would be pondering the relationship between the church and the world, and about how Christian faith should be lived in the modern world, even in the face of great cost.

It is with **the second pastoral letter**, "The Church, the Body of Christ in History," that we see the theological keys to all of Romero's thinking. At its heart, this letter realizes that the church's mission is lived out in historical circumstances that call for a dynamic reading of the gospel. It takes Vatican II's image of the church as the sacrament of salvation to mean that the church must be present in the world as its servant, and it must respond to its great challenges, such as the reality of poverty. The old image of the church as set apart from the world and of Christian faith as fleeing the world can no longer work. In Romero's eyes, the church must rid itself of these elitist dualisms and

immerse itself in what Vatican II called "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties" of this world.

Romero focuses on three actions that the church must carry out to be the body of Christ in history. It must proclaim the Reign of God – especially to the poor; call everyone to conversion; and finally, denounce sin. The accusations Romero lists in the second letter are ones he would face throughout his ministry: that the church is preaching hatred, that it has become Marxist, that it is meddling in politics. Painfully, these accusations came not just from outsiders in the government, oligarchy, or military. They were made by fellow believers who could not conceive of God's transcendence in the way Romero did. They could not conceive of the church's unity based on putting faith into practice and not just on verbal confession.

According to the introduction to [Voice of the Voiceless](#), as his ministry moved into its second year, Romero wrote his **third pastoral letter**, "The Church and Popular Political Organizations," a document that explicitly relies on the theology laid out in the previous letter but deepens the way such theology could be understood in practical, pastoral situations. In a time when the so-called popular organizations were giving voice to the demands of the people and their aspirations for liberation, many Christians from the base communities were asking what their roles should be. Romero crafts a nuanced position. On the one hand, he forcefully states the church's support for efforts to organize and its solidarity with aspirations for justice. As he had affirmed a year earlier, the church has a religious mission, but it must be lived out in history. At the same time, the church's support for the organizations should not be equated with uncritical promotion. There can be unity without identity. He clarifies a point that he would have to reiterate constantly: the church's mission is by its nature political, but should not be equated with party politics. As much as he supported the legitimate aspirations of those in the popular organizations, he would continually warn their members not to make their organization, their party, their ideology into an idol.

Romero's third and final year as archbishop saw his pastoral skills put to the test as the country was descending into civil war. In this crucible, Romero drew on the third meeting of the Latin American Bishops that had taken place in Puebla, Mexico, at the beginning of 1979 for perhaps the most important theological notion that he would use to guide his church: the preferential option for the poor. In its essence, this is a response to the biblical injunction of Christ that "as often as you did it for one of the least ones, you did it for me" (Mt. 25). That idea led Romero in his **fourth pastoral letter** to describe the church's role as "being 'the voice of the voiceless,' a defender of the rights of the poor, a promoter of every just aspiration for liberation, a guide, an empowerer, a humanizer of every legitimate struggle to achieve a more just society, a society that prepares the way for the true kingdom of God in history."

According to Lee in [Voice of the Voiceless](#), ultimately, Romero's theology can be described as incarnational. He recognized how faith, how the church, needed to make itself present – to take flesh – in the world. Of course, a real incarnation must take place in a real world, and the way to get to that real world was in the reality of the poor. Negatively, their situation unmasked the presence of sin and those idolatries (of wealth, national security, or one's own political party) that meant terrible suffering for so many people. Positively, the reality of the poor animated the church to ensure that the gospel it proclaimed was truly good news to human beings. To act in compassion and solidarity, to admit one's own failings, to listen and appreciate the dignity and gifts of

others – these were the qualities that Romero advocated for his church and tried to embody.

[Voice of the Voiceless](#) provides readers a way to understand Romero's theological development and contributions precisely as they were cultivated – alongside his remarkable pastoral work. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Culture / Worldview

[Post-Christian: A Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture](#) by Gene Edward Veith Jr. (Crossway)

As described in [Post-Christian](#), we live in a post-Christian world. Contemporary thought – claiming to be 'progressive' and 'liberating' – attempts to place human beings in God's role as creator, lawgiver, and savior.

[Post-Christian](#) demonstrates how the Christian worldview stands firm in a world dedicated to constructing its own knowledge, morality, and truth. Gene Edward Veith Jr. points out the problems with how today's culture views humanity, God, and even reality itself. He offers ways believers can live out their faith in a secularist society as a way to recover reality, rebuild culture, and revive faith.

Veith is provost and professor of literature emeritus at Patrick Henry College. He previously worked as the culture editor of *World* magazine.

[Post-Christian](#) is not an update but a sequel to *Postmodern Times*, Veith's previous book, offering a new "Christian guide to contemporary thought and culture." His approach is not to trace down all of these movements, many of which are highly transitory and have already faded from history. Rather, he looks at our times as being post-Christian, what readers are left with when they abandon the Christian worldview. Modernism, with its scientific materialism and trust in evolutionary progress, is post-Christian. So is postmodernism, which accurately recognizes the failures and weaknesses of modernism, but which has turned to alternative but equally non-Christian ways of approaching life. We still have modernists around today, as well as postmodernists and digimodernists, posthumanists, and the rest.

The problem with the term, post-Christian, is that it implies that Christianity is somehow over. It is not. In fact, the various alternatives throw the superiority – and the truth – of Christianity in high relief. And some cutting-edge observers are heralding the emergence of something completely different: the postsecular.

[Post-Christian](#) is divided into four parts, addressing four major facets of contemporary thought and culture: (1) how we relate to reality, including chapters on constructivism, science, and technology; (2) how we relate to our bodies, focusing mainly on issues of sex and having children; (3) how we relate to other people, including issues of culture and politics; (4) and how we relate to God, with discussions of the persistence of religion (or spirituality) even among those who claim not to be religious.

Each of these sections has an 'arc,' a consistent sequence of development. In each of these four sections, Veith describes the current picture and give its historical and cultural context. He also shows the problems with the current state of affairs that even today's secularists are admitting. The last chapter in each section suggests how Christians can offer solutions to those problems. The entire book also has an arc, a movement from the consequences of secularism to the prospects for a postsecular society.

[Post-Christian](#) is a provocative overview of the challenges Christians at the whipping post face. As the sea of faith temporarily recedes, fewer people have the confidence to debate ideas, raise children, and build institutions. Gene Veith explains the problems of constructing our own worlds, exalting barrenness, and building society without community. Some leaders say we'll survive by secularizing the church, but this book shows a better way: pray and work for a new reformation. – Marvin Olasky, Editor in Chief, *WORLD Magazine*

No one has taught me how to think like a Christian more than Gene Veith. [Post-Christian](#) just may be the magnum opus of a writer and thinker who has already contributed a body of work of immeasurable worth to the church. This book is a library in miniature for the Christian who wants to navigate the post-Christian world biblically, thoughtfully, and faithfully. It should be on the shelf in every Christian home. – Karen Swallow Prior, author, *On Reading Well* and *Fierce Convictions*

Gene Veith's [Post-Christian](#) is a logical, cogent, sensible, no-spin, facts-based, unapologetic analysis of the zeitgeist in Western culture. Which is to say, it's not very politically correct. But that's a good thing! In this post-truth, reality-denying cultural moment, we need the grounded sanity this book provides. Highly informative and well-researched, *Post-Christian* is a treasure trove of wisdom and a valuable resource for the church's revitalization. – Brett McCracken, Senior Editor, The Gospel Coalition; author, *Uncomfortable* and *Hipster Christianity*

In the barrage of books attempting to make sense of our particular cultural moment, few authors exhibit the range of thought and clarity of mind that is on display in [Post-Christian](#). Gene Veith is a competent guide through the maze of exhausted ideas that characterize late modernity. Science, technology, sex, politics, religion – nothing has escaped the corrosive effects of the attempt to abandon Christianity. This is, however, not a book of despair but of hope. As Veith reminds us, the truths of the Christian faith continually reassert themselves, for they are rooted in reality itself. – Mark T. Mitchell, Dean of Academic Affairs, Patrick Henry College

A timely and practical book, [Post-Christian](#) provides undaunted hope in a Post-Christian world. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / History

[In Stone and Story: Early Christianity in the Roman World](#) by Bruce W. Longenecker (Baker Academic)

A beautifully designed, full-color textbook, [In Stone and Story](#) introduces the Roman background of the New Testament by immersing students in the life and culture of the thriving first-century towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, which act as showpieces of the world into which the early Christian movement was spreading. Bruce W.

Longenecker, a leading scholar of the ancient world of the New Testament, discusses first-century artifacts in relation to the life stories of people from the Roman world. The book includes discussion questions, maps, and 175 color photographs. Additional resources are available through Textbook eSources.

Longenecker is professor of religion and W. W. Melton Chair of Religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books.

According to Longenecker, a little painting on the wall of a small house in Pompeii is one of the most delightful artifacts among the many treasures buried by the volcanic

eruption of Mount Vesuvius in the late first century. The painting depicts two little cupids pulling rings and a mirror out of a jewelry box and examining them with curiosity. That charming vignette can serve as an analogy of what transpires in [In Stone and Story](#). Like those two cupids, the chapters of the book pull out selected archaeological resources from the treasure chest of Vesuvian artifacts, examining them for what they reveal about the ancient Roman world. Moreover, when configured in relation to selected texts of early Christianity, those artifacts (graffiti, inscriptions, statues, temples, paintings, and tombs) help to foster fresh angles of vision regarding the slow but steady rise of early Jesus-devotion within its earliest historical contexts. Relating texts of the early Jesus-movement to selected Vesuvian resources offers the opportunity to explore ways in which Jesus-devotion was getting a foothold within that world and, at times, infusing fresh resources into it.

In the process, readers of [In Stone and Story](#) may learn as much about Pompeii as they do about the early followers of Jesus and the theological library they bequeathed to the world (that is, the New Testament). That will be no bad thing, since understanding how an ancient urban center 'worked' will inevitably help to highlight the issues of Christianity's emergence within similar urban centers throughout the Mediterranean world of the first century.

Chapter 2 highlights a central feature of Roman society what has been called 'the fire in the bones' of those who lived in the world the text explores. This chapter stands at the outset of the journey because it is the glue that holds together many aspects of the case studies that follow. Having registered that central feature of the first-century world, the subsequent chapter (chapter 3) lays out a few of the 'tools' necessary to access the first-century world. With those preliminaries in hand, the chapters that follow in [In Stone and Story](#) explore life in a Vesuvian town in order to capture a sense of the world in which Christianity began to emerge, telling its controversial stories about new opportunities to live meaningfully.

Toggling between Roman urban culture (as mediated through archaeological evidence) and various forms of the early Jesus-movement (as mediated through New Testament texts), Bruce Longenecker provides a lively introduction to the formative social, material, and moral world of the early Christians. – Paula Fredriksen, author of *When Christians Were Jews: The First Generation*

A masterful treatment of the material culture from Pompeii and Herculaneum and the role of that material in informing us about early Jesus-worship. Although this lavishly illustrated book is written for an interested nonprofessional audience, I found new insights and perspectives that will shape my own research and teaching. – Steven L. Tuck, Miami University; author of *Pompeii: Daily Life in an Ancient Roman City*
This clearly written and beautifully illustrated work masterfully interweaves the texts from earliest Christianity with the rich archaeological remains of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Longenecker is careful both to introduce the reader to everything needed to grasp such connections and also to note where they are absent. Simply as an introduction to everyday life in the Roman empire, this book is of great value. – Luke Timothy Johnson, Emory University (emeritus)

Longenecker has made an outstanding contribution to understanding the development of early Christianity in the Roman world. His thematic approach offers innovative opportunities for teaching and learning. I know of no other book like it, and I am eager to discuss its rich contents with students. – Margaret Y. MacDonald, Saint Mary's University

Longenecker uses the evidence from Pompeii to craft a fascinating account of the rise of early Christianity within its broader Roman context. – Joanne Berry, Swansea University; author of *The Complete Pompeii*

Longenecker expertly employs the findings from Pompeii not only to produce an engaging picture of the social, religious, economic, and political life of this town but also to show how a detailed understanding of ancient urban life casts light on the activities and beliefs of early Jesus-followers, who in some respects fit comfortably into ancient society and in other respects offered different perspectives on social relationships, piety, politics, and commerce. An excellent teaching resource. – John S. Kloppenborg, University of Toronto

Readers of [In Stone and Story](#) will find a stimulating journey of discovery and will also come to a better understanding of the early Jesus-movement as the Vesuvian towns become increasingly familiar. <>

Teaching & Learning / English / Conversation

[Classroom Talk for Social Change: Critical Conversations in English Language Arts](#) by Melissa Schieble, Amy Vetter, & Kahdeidra Monét Martin, with a foreword by Rebecca Rogers (Teachers College Press)

[Classroom Talk for Social Change](#) encourages teachers to engage students in noticing and discussing harmful discourses about race, gender, and other identities. The authors take readers through a framework that includes knowledge about power, a critical learner stance, critical pedagogies, critical talk moves, and vulnerability. The text features in-depth classroom examples from six secondary English language arts classrooms. Each chapter offers specific ways in which teachers can begin and sustain critical conversations with their students, including the creation of teacher inquiry groups that use transcript analysis as a learning tool.

Authors are Melissa Schieble, Amy Vetter and Kahdeidra Monét Martin. Schieble is an associate professor of English education at Hunter College of the City University of New York. Vetter is a professor in English education in the School of Education at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Martin is a presidential research fellow and doctoral candidate in Urban Education at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Features of [Classroom Talk for Social Change](#) include:

- Strategies that educators can use to facilitate conversations about critical issues.
- In-depth classroom examples of teachers doing this work with their students.
- Questions, activities, and resources that foster self-reflection.
- Tools for engaging in transcript analysis of classroom conversations.
- Suggestions for developing inquiry groups focused on critical conversations.

[Classroom Talk for Social Change](#) offers a framework for facilitating critical conversations that focus on building knowledge about power, privilege, and oppression; creating a space for students' perspectives; and developing talk moves that begin and sustain critical discussions. However, facilitating critical conversations about issues that teachers and their students are passionate about is hard work and requires a holistic view, not merely a list of steps. Teachers will have to ask themselves tough questions and commit to reflect on them throughout their personal and professional lives as educators.

Students need tools to notice, analyze, and reflect on how ideologies about race, ability, and gender (for example) circulate in everyday life and how these messages are either oppressive or liberating. Critical conversations give students language to speak back to injustices they encounter in and outside of school. Thus, critical conversations help teachers educate students for full participation in a diverse democracy.

The authors of [Classroom Talk for Social Change](#) say that to iterate these practices over time is to take an inquiry approach to critical conversations. They learned about critical conversations through their work with six middle and high school ELA teachers who were committed to learning more about how they facilitate them. Through examples from critical conversations from these six teachers' classrooms, lesson ideas, suggested readings, and critical discussion of theories and related research, they help readers build awareness of classroom talk during critical conversations so that they too can improve their practice over time.

[Classroom Talk for Social Change](#) *impressively builds on a lineage of scholarship committed to classroom inquiry through talk in a way that helps fellow educators to visualize why and how classroom talk matters. The authors position critical conversations at the nexus of critical literacy, dialogic teaching, and culturally sustaining teaching.* – from the Foreword by Rebecca Rogers, Curators' Distinguished Research Professor, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Drawing on rich theoretical and empirical scholarship, the authors make a compelling case for the central role of critical conversations in today's diverse classrooms. This book provides teachers with a framework for embracing difficult questions about power and privilege, illustrating how engaging students in such questions provides vital preparation for participation in democracy. – Amanda Haertling Thein, associate dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs and professor of language, literacy, and culture at the College of Education, University of Iowa

Readers learn how to foster critical conversations in English language arts classrooms with [Classroom Talk for Social Change](#). <>

Teaching & Learning / Poetry / K-12

[Text Structures From Poetry, Grades 4-12: Lessons to Help Students Read, Analyze, and Create Poems They Will Remember](#), 1st edition by Gretchen S. Bernabei & Laura Van Prooyen (Corwin Literacy: Corwin)

Poetry is a joyful art form, but how do teachers teach students to joyfully read, analyze, and write poems? In [Text Structures From Poetry, Grades 4-12](#), award-winning educator Gretchen Bernabei teams up with noted poet Laura Van Prooyen to light the path. Bernabei, winner of NCTE's James Moffett Award in 2010, has been teaching kids to write in middle school and high school classrooms for more than thirty years. Prooyen has more than 20 years experience teaching poetry and writing in a wide variety of academic settings.

In [Text Structures From Poetry, Grades 4-12](#), fifty unique and engaging lessons each include a mentor poem that serves as a model for young writers, a diagram that illustrates the text structure of the poem, and inspiring examples of student poems written to emulate the mentor poem.

Centered around 50 classroom-proven lesson and poem pairs, the mentor texts represent a broad range of voices in contemporary poetry and the canon. These

lessons show educators how to 'pop the hood' on a poem to discover what makes it work, using text structures to unlock the engine of a poem. This method enables educators to engage students in reading and re-reading a poem closely to identify how the parts of the poem relate to each other to create movement, and to leverage what students have learned so they can write their own evocative poems.

Easy-to-use instructional resources enhance instructor and student understanding and include

- Teaching notes for unlocking the text structure of a poem and the engine that makes it work.
- Tips for exploring fixed forms, meter, and rhyme scheme.
- Suggestions for instructional sequences that weave reading and writing together.
- Ideas for guiding students as they produce, revise, and polish their poems.
- An "Author Fun Facts" section that includes messages from the contemporary poets.

Bernabei and Prooyen advise teachers to teach their students to learn about poetry using the magic of poems themselves, and lead the way to a rewarding love of poetry for teachers and students alike. They advise readers to look through the contents and shop for a poem that looks good to them, or browse through the Lessons, looking at their structures to help them decide which ones to choose.

The Lessons in [Text Structures From Poetry, Grades 4-12](#) show readers how to have students read and write a poem. Using unique and engaging lessons, the book teaches teachers how to ignite a love of poetry in students using the magic of poems themselves. <>

Travel / Geology / Montana

[Roadside Geology of Montana](#), 2nd edition by Don W. Hyndman & Robert C. Thomas, illustrated by Chelsea M. Feeney (**Roadside Geology Series**: Mountain Press)

The **Roadside Geology** series originated in 1972 with *Roadside Geology of the Northern Rockies*. Fourteen years later, the Big Sky portion of that book was updated to become **Roadside Geology of Montana**, a bright-yellow field guide that soon graced bookshelves across the state. Now, nearly 50 years after the first book, Mountain Press is releasing this completely revised full-color **second edition**, [Roadside Geology of Montana](#), that, like so many things in Montana, is big. But consider this: no other place in the world has such amazingly diverse and well-exposed rocks with such dramatic stories.

Authors are Donald W. Hyndman and Robert C. Thomas. Hyndman is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Montana (UM) in Missoula. Recognized as a Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Scholar by UM, he is also a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union. Thomas is a Professor of Geology in the Environmental Sciences Department at the University of Montana Western in Dillon. A Montana Regents Professor and Teaching Scholar, Montana Educator of the Year, and Carnegie US Professor, he is also a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and recipient of their Distinguished Service Award.

The new edition of the [Roadside Geology of Montana](#) leads readers into a land of incredible geologic diversity. For example, Montana lies at the northern edge of the Yellowstone caldera, the world's largest and most violent volcano. A lot of what the world knows about dinosaurs and their demise came from fossils discovered in

Montana's badlands. What began with panning for gold in the 1860s led to 1-mile-deep mines in Butte that supplied 60 percent of the world's copper by 1898. The world's largest ice-age floods left ripples up to 50 feet high as Glacial Lake Missoula catastrophically drained from western Montana. With [Roadside Geology of Montana](#) as a guide, readers will discover these and other world-class geologic features around every bend in the road.

Hyndman and Thomas say that if readers look under the greenery, the spectacular scenery of Montana is supported by rocks that have an amazing history that began more than 3 billion years ago. That mountain, the river, the distinctive rock formation – how did they get there and when? Many geological processes operate so slowly that people never see them happen, others, suddenly and unexpectedly. Why? Unraveling the story has been a daunting but incredibly fascinating task for geologists, but their efforts have uncovered the underlying framework and processes, exposing them in ways that everyone can all understand.

Looking back, Hyndman and Thomas say they couldn't have imagined how much would be learned about the geology of Montana in the last thirty-odd years. Yes, the rocks are still there, at least most of them. Some have been removed by construction, and some new ones have been exposed. People have learned so much that the once-scattered pieces of the story now nicely stitch together to make a coherent and straightforward historical account.

Most of what has been learned is thanks to thousands of geologists of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and US Geological Survey, along with university faculty and students not only in Montana but all over the country. Petroleum and mining geologists have enhanced our understanding as they seek out petroleum and valuable minerals, analyzing the geological environment to understand the context and processes involved in their formation.

When Dave Alt and Don Hyndman wrote the previous edition of [Roadside Geology of Montana](#), the understanding of plate tectonics, the ongoing movement of Earth's handful of lithospheric plates, was still in its infancy. Those plates pull apart, collide, and shift laterally, in different places and at different times. These processes lead to the formation of mountains and valleys, rise of plateaus, and depression of broad areas below sea level where they collect new sediments. We now have a good idea of what has caused such big changes and when. This **second edition** analyzes and simplifies this vast trove of information for people who are not geologists while also trying to keep the information scientifically correct and up-to-date for geologists seeking a basic background in Montana geology.

Readers will find that this edition of [Roadside Geology of Montana](#) increases their interest and enjoyment in exploring Montana. Entirely new, up-to-date color geological maps are simplified from new detailed maps from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and the US Geological Survey. The book maintains the same general approach as the first: an introductory chapter to outline the broad view of geology of the region, followed by three separate large chapters that describe the rocks and geology along every major highway in the state; however, the text is almost entirely rewritten. <>

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