

Judaism A Very Short Introduction

Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction Russian Literature: A Very Short Introduction Theology: A Very Short Introduction Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Leadership The Bible Everything Stuart Britain The Future: A Very Short Introduction Freud: A Very Short Introduction The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction Emotion: A Very Short Introduction A Very Short Introduction to Everything Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction Biography: A Very Short Introduction German Literature Social Psychology Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction Science Fiction Robert J. C. Young Catriona Kelly David Ford Timothy Gowers Gary Thomas Keith Grint John Riches John Morrill Jennifer M. Gidley Anthony Storr Linda Greenhouse Dylan Evans Oxford University Press Christopher Harvie Hermione Lee Nicholas Boyle Richard J. Crisp Julian Stallabrass David Seed

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Contemporary Art: A Very Short Introduction Science Fiction *Robert J. C. Young Catriona Kelly David Ford Timothy Gowers Gary Thomas Keith Grint John Riches John Morrill Jennifer M. Gidley Anthony Storr Linda Greenhouse Dylan Evans Oxford University Press Christopher Harvie Hermione Lee Nicholas Boyle Richard J. Crisp Julian Stallabrass David Seed*

this innovative and lively book is quite unlike any other introduction to postcolonialism robert young examines the political social and cultural after effects of decolonization by presenting situations experiences and testimony rather than going through the theory at an abstract level he situates the debate in a wide cultural context discussing its importance as an historical condition with examples such as the status of aboriginal people of those dispossessed from their land algerian raï music postcolonial feminism and global social and ecological movements above all young argues postcolonialism offers a political philosophy of activism that contests the current situation of global inequality and so in a new way continues the anti colonial struggles of the past about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this book is intended to capture the interest of anyone who has been attracted to russian culture through the greats of russian literature either through the texts themselves or encountering them in the cinema or opera rather than a conventional chronology of russian literature the book will explore the place and importance of literature of all sorts in russian culture how and when did a russian national literature come into being what shaped its creation how have the

russians regarded their literary language the book will uses the figure of pushkin the russian shakespeare as a recurring example as his work influenced every russian writer who came after him whether poets or novelists it will look at such questions as why russian writers are venerated how they've been interpreted inside russia and beyond and the influences of such things as the folk tale tradition orthodox religion and the west about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this is an introduction to the subject of academic theology its basic approach is interrogative raising key questions so as to lead into a range of selected topics such as knowledge community salvation god prayer and evil

this book aims to explain in clear non technical language what it is that mathematicians do and how that differs from and builds on the mathematics that most people are familiar with from school it is the ideal introduction for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of mathematics

from the schools of ancient times to the present day gary thomas explores how and why education has evolved has it has examining education worldwide he explains the way schools work noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world delving into some of the big questions thomas explores the history of education in this very short introduction considering various styles such as progressive versus formal he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists including piaget and vygotsky looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching he considers the

ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students he finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

the subject of leadership raises many questions what is it how does it differ from management and command are leaders born or bred who are the leaders do we actually need leaders inevitably the answers are provocative and partial leadership is a hugely important topic of debate there are constant calls for greater or stronger leadership but what this actually means how we can evaluate it and why it s important are not very clear in this very short introduction keith grint prompts the reader to rethink their understanding of what leadership is he examines the way leadership has evolved from its earliest manifestations in ancient societies highlighting the beginnings of leadership writings through plato sun tzu machiavelli and others to consider the role of the social economic and political context undermining particular modes of leadership exploring the idea that leaders cannot exist without followers and recognising that we all have diverse experiences and assumptions of leadership grint looks at the practice of management its history future and influence on all aspects of society about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging

topics highly readable

this study explores the importance of the bible in different communities and cultures and attempts to explain why it has such a variety of uses and interpretations

sample sections from the very short introductions series are presented in this encapsulation of human knowledge

first published as part of the best selling the oxford illustrated history of britain john morrill s very short introduction to stuart britain sets the revolution into its political religious social economic intellectual and cultural contexts it thus seeks to integrate what most other surveys pull apart it gives a graphic account of the effects of a century long period during which population was growing inexorably and faster than both the food supply and the employment market it looks at the failed attempts of successive governments to make all those under their authority obedient members of a unified national church it looks at how charles i blundered into a civil war which then took on a terrifying momentum of its own the result was his trial and execution the abolition of the monarchy the house of lords the bishops the prayer book and the celebration of christmas as a result everything else that people took for granted came up for challenge and this book shows how painfully and with what difficulty order and obedience was restored vividly illustrated and full of startling detail this is an ideal introduction to those interested in getting into the period and also contains much to challenge and stimulate those who already feel at home in stuart england about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and

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from the beginning of time humans have been driven by both a fear of the unknown and a curiosity to know we have always yearned to know what lies ahead whether threat or safety scarcity or abundance throughout human history our forebears tried to create certainty in the unknown by seeking to influence outcomes with sacrifices to gods preparing for the unexpected with advice from oracles and by reading the stars through astrology as scientific methods improve and computer technology develops we become ever more confident of our capacity to predict and quantify the future by accumulating and interpreting patterns from the past yet the truth is there is still no certainty to be had in this very short introduction jennifer gidley considers some of our most burning questions what is the future is the future a time yet to come or is it a utopian place does the future have a history is there only one future or are there many possible futures she asks if the future can ever be truly predicted or if we create our own futures both hoped for and feared by our thoughts feelings and actions and concludes by analysing how we can learn to study the future about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

sigmund freud the founder of psychoanalysis developed a totally new way of looking at human nature only now with the hindsight of the half century since his death can we assess his true legacy to current thought as an experienced psychiatrist himself anthony storr offers a lucid and objective look at freud s major theories evaluating whether they have stood the test of time and in the process examines freud himself in light of his own ideas an excellent introduction to

freud s work this book will appeal to all those broadly curious about psychoanalysis psychology and sociology about the series combining authority with wit accessibility and style very short introductions offer an introduction to some of life s most interesting topics written by experts for the newcomer they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics from philosophy to freud quantum theory to islam

for 30 years pulitzer prize winning journalist linda greenhouse chronicled the activities of the u s supreme court and its justices as a correspondent for the new york times in this very short introduction she draws on her deep knowledge of the court s history and of its written and unwritten rules to show readers how the supreme court really works greenhouse offers a fascinating institutional biography of a place and its people men and women who exercise great power but whose names and faces are unrecognized by many americans and whose work often appears cloaked in mystery how do cases get to the supreme court how do the justices go about deciding them what special role does the chief justice play what do the law clerks do how does the court relate to the other branches of government greenhouse answers these questions by depicting the justices as they confront deep constitutional issues or wrestle with the meaning of confusing federal statutes throughout the author examines many individual supreme court cases to illustrate points under discussion ranging from marbury v madison the seminal case which established judicial review to the recent district of columbia v heller 2008 which struck down the district of columbia s gun control statute and which was surprisingly the first time in its history that the court issued an authoritative interpretation of the second amendment to add perspective greenhouse also compares the court to foreign courts revealing interesting differences for instance no other country in the world has chosen to bestow life tenure on its judges the second edition of greenhouse s very short introduction

tracks the changes in the court's makeup over the last eight years, considers the landmark decisions of the Obama and Trump eras, and reexamines the precarious fates of such precedents as *Roe v. Wade*. A superb overview packed with telling details, this volume offers a matchless introduction to one of the pillars of American government.

Was love invented by European poets in the Middle Ages, or is it part of human nature? Will winning the lottery really make you happy? Is it possible to build robots that have feelings? In this very short introduction, Dylan Evans explores these and many other intriguing questions in this guide to the latest thinking about the emotions, drawing on a wide range of scientific research from anthropology and psychology to neuroscience and artificial intelligence. Evans takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the human heart, discussing the evolution of emotions and their biological basis, the science of happiness, and the role that emotions play in memory and decision making. Greeted by critics as a pop science classic when it was first published in 2001, the book has now been thoroughly revised and updated to incorporate new developments in our understanding of emotions, including new sections addressing the neural basis of empathy and the emotional impact of films. About the series: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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Here is a sharp but subtle account of one hundred years of remarkable economic and social change and an even more

remarkable political stability Britain in 1789 was overwhelmingly rural agrarian and almost half Celtic by 1914 when it faced its greatest test since the defeat of Napoleon it was largely urban and English the authors highlight the forces behind Britain's rise to its imperial zenith the effects of the industrial revolution caused cities to swell enormously London for example grew from about 1 million people to over 6 million abroad the British Empire was reaching its apex while at home the world came to marvel at the Great Exhibition

Biographies are one of the most popular and best selling of the literary genres why do people like them what does a biography do and how does it work this very short introduction examines different types of biographies why certain people and historical events arouse so much interest and how they are compared with history and fiction

German writers from Luther and Goethe to Heine Brecht and Günter Grass have had a profound influence on the modern world this very short introduction presents an engrossing tour of the course of German literature from the late Middle Ages to the present focussing especially on the last 250 years emphasizing the economic and religious context of many masterpieces of German literature it highlights how they can be interpreted as responses to social and political changes within an often violent and tragic history the result is a new and clear perspective which illuminates the power of German literature and the German intellectual tradition and its impact on the wider cultural world about the series the very short introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

social psychology is the quest to understand how our behaviour is influenced by those around us richard crisp introduces the reader to the history of social psychology covering the thinkers discussions and the debates which have shaped its first 120 years and looks forward to the cutting edge ideas in the discipline

contemporary art has never been so popular but the art world is changing in a landscape of increasing globalization there is growing interest in questions over the nature of contemporary art today and the identity of who is controlling its future in the midst of this contemporary art continues to be a realm of freedom where artists shock break taboos flout generally received ideas and switch between confronting viewers with works of great emotional profundity and jaw dropping triviality in this very short introduction julian stallabrass gives a clear view on the diverse and rapidly moving scene of contemporary art exploring art s striking globalisation from the 1990s onwards he analyses how new regions and nations such as china have leapt into astonishing prominence over turning the old euro american dominance on aesthetics showing how contemporary art has drawn closer to fashion and the luxury goods market as artists have become accomplished marketers of their work stallabrass discusses the reinvention of artists as brands this new edition also considers how once powerful art criticism has mutated into a critical and performative writing at which many artists excel above all behind the insistent rhetoric of freedom and ambiguity in art stallabrass explores how big business and the super rich have replaced the state as the primary movers of the contemporary art scene especially since the financial crisis and become a powerful new influence over the art world about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and

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science fiction has proved notoriously difficult to define it has been explained as a combination of romance science and prophecy as a genre based on an imagined alternative to the reader's environment and as a form of fantastic fiction and historical literature it has also been argued that science fiction narratives are the most engaged socially relevant and responsive to the modern technological environment this very short introduction doesn't offer a history of science fiction but instead ties examples of science fiction to different historical moments in order to demonstrate how science fiction has evolved over time david seed looks not only at literature but also at drama and poetry as well as film examining recurrent themes in science fiction he looks at voyages into space the concept of the alien and alternative social identities the role of technology in science fiction and its relation to time in the past present and future about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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Introduction

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