Frankfurt 2026

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Ernesto Fazioli & Morena Poltronieri

The Silent Alphabet of the Tarot

The Fascinating History of a Deck of Cards

What transformed a deck of playing cards, originally created to amuse Renaissance courts, into one of the most complex symbolic systems of the modern age? From a simple "game of triumphs" (*Ludus Triumphorum*) to a tool for exploring one's inner self, the Tarot has spanned centuries, changing in appearance whilst retaining its visual power intact. By analysing its most famous historical variants – the refined Visconti pack, the enigmatic Sola-Busca motifs, the Marseille version – this book traces the Tarot's slow yet steady metamorphosis on a journey that combines philosophy and evolutionary psychology. From their playful origins to the secrets of alchemy and Hermeticism, the Arcana reveal themselves to be a veritable "silent alphabet", capable of influencing art and literature and reflecting the depths of the human soul.

Ernesto Fazioli coordinates the International Tarot Museum and the Hermetic Studies Academy and is a member of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE).

Morena Poltronieri founded the International Tarot Museum and is a member of the Hermetic Studies Academy's scientific committee and the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE).

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 340

Domenico Losurdo

China and the West

From the Opium Wars to Decolonization

Edited and prefaced by Emiliano Alessandroni

A posthumous work recovered from the documents of Losurdo's archive

Organized in five chapters, the underlying thesis of the book is that the 1949 Chinese revolution was not just an internal class struggle, but a struggle for recognition by an entire people wronged by a century of colonial humiliation. The defence of Chinese sovereignty and technological development are interpreted as the necessary continuation of the resistance against imperialism, aimed at breaking the West's technological and political monopoly.
In a volume rich in historical and philosophical references, Losurdo analyses the objective conditions in which the country found itself operating and the epochal challenges it faced.

Domenico Losurdo (1941-2018) was a major Italian political philosopher and professor emeritus at the University of Urbino; he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Fluminense Federal University in Niterói-Rio de Janeiro. His works are best-sellers worldwide and in Italy.

History of Thought • pp. 200

Worldwide English rights optioned

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: DOMENICO LOSURDO

The Left Force, or the Great Absentee

Crisis, Society of the Spectacle and War

1989's promises of a world of well-being and peace did not come true. Even in the most developed countries, the economic crisis marked the return of mass poverty and exacerbated social inequality. On an international level, one "small war" was followed by another, causing each time tens of thousands of deaths for the country affected. When the danger of large-scale conflicts – and the potential crossing of the nuclear threshold – loomed, the need for an opposition force was felt more than ever: however, in the West the left force was absent. How to explain it? Through an original, unscrupulous analysis destined to arouse controversy, the author guides the reader analysing the world that emerged after 1989, showing which mechanisms the "Society of the Spectacle" used to legitimize war and war politics, and how they worked to build the alternative.

pp. 304

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A World with No War

The Idea of Peace, from Past Promises to Today's Tragedies

In 1989 a world without war seemed to be within reach of humanity; today we are not only plagued by terrorism and local conflicts, but also live under the threat of a third world war. How did this situation come about? The author provides a novel and engaging account of the idea of peace, from the French Revolution to the present day. The text, highlighting the role of great intellectuals (Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Constant, Comte, Spencer, Marx, Popper, etc.) and important statesmen (Washington, Robespierre, Napoleon, Wilson, Lenin, Bush, Sr., etc.), addresses the major issues of our times. Is it even possible to imagine a world without warfare? Can we rely on non-violence? What is the specific role of women? Does democracy authentically guarantee peace, or can it be transformed into a belligerent ideology?

pp. 384

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The Issue of Communism

History and Future of an Idea

Introduction by Giorgio Grimaldi

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Marxism, particularly in the West, entered an apparently irreparable crisis. To overcome this dire yet reversible situation, the author, without taking sides, develops an historical-philosophical appraisal of both the Soviet experience and Marxism as a whole. But the author also takes a further step: he attempts to identify what Marxism is capable of building in the distant future.

pp. 208

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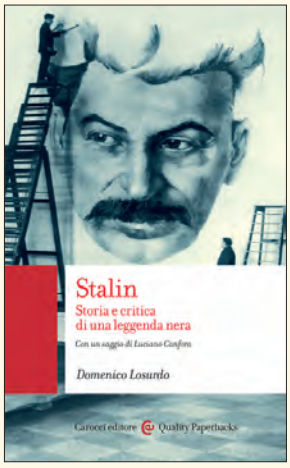
Stalin

History and Critique of a Dark Legend

With an essay by Luciano Canfora



There was a time when eminent statesmen (such as Churchill and De Gasperi) and renowned intellectuals (such as Cross, Arendt, Bobbio, Thomas Mann, Kojève and Laski) expressed respect, fondness and even admiration for Stalin and the country he led. With the outbreak of the Cold War and the release of the Khrushchev Report, Stalin became a "monster", comparable perhaps only to Hitler. The stark contrast offered by different images of Stalin should impel historians not to absolutize one of those images, but rather re-appraise each and every one of them. And that is what Losurdo does in this historical, historiographical and philosophical essay, as he examines the tragedies of the 20th century within a comparative perspective, contextualizing and deconstructing many accusations leveled against Stalin.

pp. 384

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Marcello Mustè

Gramsci's Thought

Exploiting new documentary sources and an innovative philological method, the author presents an intellectual biography of Gramsci, offering an original interpretation of his entire body of work, from his early formative years to the final observations of his Prison Notebooks. The Gramsci who emerges from this analysis is quite different from the exclusively "national" thinker to whom we are accustomed. The keen attention he paid to the global changes of his time and to historical and political interdependence highlights the strong link between his theoretical project—namely, the philosophy of praxis—and the concept of hegemony, thereby underscoring his deserved status as a great classic of 20th-century political and philosophical thought.

Marcello Mustè teaches Theoretical Philosophy at the Sapienza University in Rome and is a member of the scientific boards of the Gramsci Foundation and Italy's National Edition of Antonio Gramsci's Writings.

History of Thought • pp. 276

Rosita Di Peri

Contemporary Lebanon

History, Politics, Society (3rd edition)

The third, revised, and updated edition of this book examines the complex political trajectory of contemporary Lebanon, from the French mandate to the events following Hamas's attacks on Israel on October 7, 2023. The author explains how, today as in the past, the country's religious makeup shapes its internal balance of power and international relations. In Lebanon, democratic institutions have always coexisted with a communal system. It is precisely this "confessional democracy" – with its extraordinary capacity for adaptation – that is the key to interpreting a period marked by overlapping crises: the 2018 elections, the 2019 protests, the 2020 financial default and explosion at the port of Beirut, right up to the outbreak of ongoing armed conflict with Israel in 2024. The country is in the throes of multiple crises, which this book captures in all their complexity.

Rosita Di Peri teaches Political Science and International Relations at the University of Turin.

History · pp. 272

Aldo Ferrari

History of the Caucasus

A Eurasian Frontier from Antiquity to the Present Day

A mosaic of peoples, languages and traditions, the Caucasus has for millennia been the turbulent bridge between the Near East and the Eurasian steppes. Following two centuries of Soviet hegemony and the ensuing forced unity, this region has once again become a "frontier" zone. Today, caught between the legacy of the past and new geopolitical ambitions, the Caucasus remains a crucial crossroads affecting the fate of the contemporary world. This book—in a new, expanded, and updated edition—traces the historical events that have shaped this region from antiquity to the present day, thus providing essential insights into one of the most significant areas of the international scene.

Aldo Ferrari teaches Armenian, Caucasian, Mongolian and Turkic Studies at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice, where he also coordinates the Politics and International Relations Observatory.

History · pp. 264

RELATED TITLES

Lorenzo Pubblici

A History of the Mongols: From the Steppes to an Empire (13th-15th Centuries)

pp. 368
ISBN 9788829020591

Lorenzo Pubblici

Kievan Rus': At the Medieval Crossroads of Europe and Asia

pp. 204
ISBN 9788829030439

Marco Rocco

Bellum

Twelve Battles in Ancient Rome

Behind the myth of the *Pax Romana*, celebrated as the pinnacle of imperial stability, lies the reality of an unrelenting, ruthless war machine. By cross-referencing historical sources, archaeological data, and ethnographic evidence, the author explores 12 decisive episodes in Rome's expansion from the 4th century BCE to the 2nd century CE. A description of little-known events transports readers to the heart of the action: commanders' strategic decisions, troop movements on the battlefield, and the bloody outcomes of combat. This military history reveals how Rome's greatness was, first and foremost, the upshot of a quest for limitless domination.

Marco Rocco holds a PhD in Ancient History and publishes widely about history.

Classical World · pp. 268

Roberta Capotorti & Eleonora Sparvoli

Proust Through Time

Over a Century's Worth of Readings, Interpretations, and Critical Perspectives

Initially dismissed as overly mundane, Marcel Proust has emerged from the purgatory of prejudice to become a literary icon. Proust's work is a metamorphic "world-text", capable of transforming itself by responding to the critical needs of new generations, from the rise of gender studies to the insights of narrative medicine. From the initial reviews of his early work *Les Plaisirs et les Jours*, through the canonisation of *la Recherche*, to the successful editions of other earlier works, this book provides an overview of Proustian scholarship, going far beyond a mere chronological reconstruction. His work's reception becomes, in fact, the lens through which to observe some of the most significant cultural shifts of the past 130 years–a shifting reception, where themes once considered scandalous or obvious flaws in craftsmanship now reveal an unlimited revolutionary potential.

Roberta Capotorti teaches French Culture at the University of Milan.

Eleonora Sparvoli teaches French Literature at the University of Milan.

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 276

Filippo Coarelli

Lost Contexts

Archaeology, Epigraphy, Art History

The tomb of Servius Tullius, the Portland Vase, a portrait from Delphi: taking as his starting point an object, a topographical puzzle or an inscription, the author conducts in-depth investigations across various contexts of the ancient world, ranging from Greece and Rome to the Garden of Bomarzo. With a precise, deductive approach, this book explains how an array of disciplines is essential for deciphering fragmentary evidence. Numerous images and floor plans guide readers on this fascinating journey into the past.

Filippo Coarelli is professor emeritus of Roman Antiquities at the University of Perugia and a member of Italy's Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

Archaeology · pp. 344

Stefania De Pascale

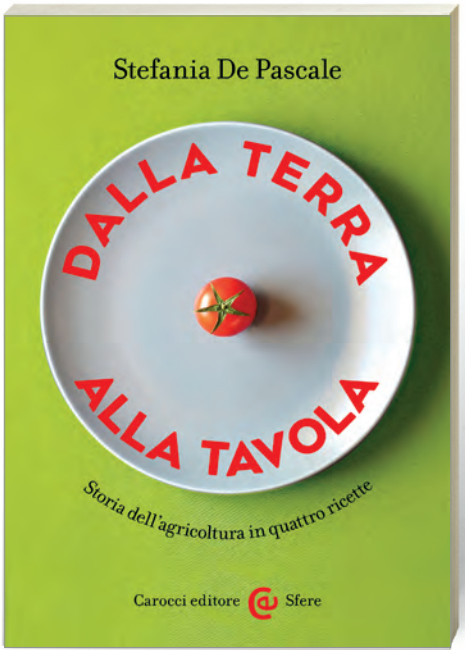
From Land to Table

A History of Agriculture in Four Recipes

Featuring original illustrations by Ulderico Iorillo

What lies behind the everyday act of sitting down to eat? A plate of pasta and potatoes, Milanese-style risotto, polenta and beans, or a marinara pizza are much more than mere icons of Italian culinary tradition: they are the culmination of millennia-long developments, botanical discoveries, and technological innovations that have shaped human civilisation. Telling the story of four dishes that symbolise Italian cuisine, this book guides readers on a journey of discovery into agriculture, understood as a living science in constant flux. Focusing on familiar plant-based ingredients, the author skilfully weaves together gastronomy, research, and revolutionary ideas, underscoring how Italy's culinary past is inextricably linked to the present's main global ecological and social challenges. Readers will enjoy this original exploration that views kitchens as laboratories of global history and attain a deeper understanding of what we eat and why.

Stefania De Pascale teaches Agronomy at the Federico II University in Naples and is a writer of popular science.



Science • pp. 252

Andrea Parravicini

Homo Sapiens in the Mirror

Human Evolution Amidst Science and Philosophy

With a preface by Telmo Pievani

The author explores human evolution and, using a philosophical perspective, investigates the meaning of recent discoveries in palaeoanthropology, archaeology, and genetics. With a rigorous yet straightforward approach, he guides readers through the science of our origins, where the object and subject of research reflect and evolve together. Addressing the emergence of bipedalism, language, large brains, and technical and symbolic behaviour, the book offers an updated and lucid overview of our species' complex identity and the unknowns of our future.

Andrea Parravicini holds a PhD in Theoretical Philosophy from the University of Milan.

Science · pp. 428

Worldwide English Rights with the author

Francesca Rohr Vio (ed.)

Ancient Rome's Other Half

A History of Women and Their Identity

Who were the women of ancient Rome truly? For centuries, classical sources have handed down descriptions distorted by the male gaze, confining women to the role of exemplary figures and misrepresenting their true nature by using stereotypes blending idealisation and prejudice. Today, contemporary sensibilities and advances in gender studies call for a critical re-examination to dismantle such one-sided views and restore the true complexity of women's status. This collection of essays, written by leading female specialists, reveals a multifaceted reality: the roles of women in religious cults, political engagement, the legal sphere, education, and business management. The world of Roman women displays an unexpected dynamism, which is finally coming to light thanks to this thorough, up-to-date reconstruction.

Francesca Rohr Vio teaches History of Women in Ancient Rome at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice.

Classical World · pp. 260

Maria Chiara Scappaticcio

Voices of Pompeii

Latin and Literary Culture

This book serves as a guide to interpreting the thousands of Latin fragments scattered throughout Pompeii. Inscriptions, graffiti, and paintings—comprising love dedications, electoral propaganda, convivial instructions, mythical tales, and unearthed texts—reveal the city as a complex social reality, underpinned by a rich and multifaceted written culture. The urban landscape thus emerges as a vibrant cultural venue, deeply connected to Rome and its great literature, within the broader context of the ancient Mediterranean.

Maria Chiara Scappaticcio teaches Latin Language and Literature at the Federico II University in Naples.

Classical World · pp. 228

Worldwide English and French Rights are with the author

Tommaso Braccini (ed.)

The Classics Today

The Ancients in Contemporary Culture

This surprising book reveals the presence of classics in contemporary culture, even in the latter's most popular facets. The Ancients are among us... and not only in ruins or monuments. Greeks and Romans appear where we least expect them: comics, advertising, rock music, television series, cartoons, fashion, video games, social media, as well as poetry, novels, cinema, opera, dance, theatre... not to mention neologisms and the fascinating world of fakes. They are everywhere!

Tommaso Braccini teaches Greek Language and Literature and Classical Philology at the University of Siena.

Classical World • pp. 316

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Adventures and Misadventures of the Classics

pp. 152
ISBN 9788829027156

Winner of the 2025 edition of the Mondello International Literary Prize

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The Greeks, the Romans and… Laughter

pp. 212
ISBN 9788829010424

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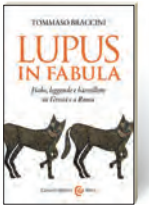


Lupus in Fabula

pp. 224
ISBN 978884309351 9

Alessandro Bellassai

The Male Empire

Patriarchy in the Contemporary Age

This book offers a critical history of masculinities in the 19th and 20th centuries and describes the genealogies and transformations of the patriarchal order in the contemporary era. Drawing on cutting-edge international scholarship, the author analyses misogyny, homophobia, the crisis of masculinity, and reactions to feminist movements: many of today's cultural and political tensions have their roots in the historical transformations of gender identities and relations.

Alessandro Bellassai teaches Gender History and Contemporary European History at the University of Bologna.

History · pp. 292

Giovanni Collamati

The Anglo-Saxon Middle Ages

From Roman Britannia to the Norman Conquest

Without the Anglo-Saxon Middle Ages, neither the English language nor the kingdom where it is spoken today would exist. With a meticulous, wide-ranging perspective – spanning from late Roman Britannia to the Norman conquest of 1066 –, the author explores the layering of cultures that shaped the British Isles: the legacy of Rome, the Celtic roots, the Germanic heritage of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, the unification under the Christian faith, the trauma of the Viking raids, and the protracted construction of a collective identity. Key figures such as Alfred the Great, the Venerable Bede, and Æthelred the Unready emerge in all their complexity, alongside legends – from Arthur to the burnt cakes of Athelney – which the author places in their historical context.

Giovanni Collamati teaches Medieval History at the Universidad CEU San Pablo in Madrid.

History · pp. 232

NEW EDITION

Lorenzo Tanzini & Francesco Paolo Tocco

The Middle Ages in the Mediterranean Sea

A Thousand Years Between East and West

For too long, the Middle Ages have been narrated solely from a Western viewpoint. This new edition, completely revised and updated, offers a comprehensive and innovative reinterpretation of the Middle Ages by adopting a radically Mediterranean perspective. The authors transcend Eurocentric boundaries and track the legacy of Roman civilization in all its forms: not only in the Latin-Germanic West, but also in the Byzantine Empire and the vast Islamic world. Addressing crucial phenomena such as migration, social transformations, and cultural encounters, this book depicts the Middle Ages as an elaborate laboratory that shaped political, economic, cultural, and religious themes for the entire Mediterranean basin.

Lorenzo Tanzini teaches Medieval History at the University of Cagliari.

Francesco Paolo Tocco teaches Medieval History at the University of Messina.

History · pp. 460

RELATED TITLES

Giovanna Fiume

Privateering in the Mediterranean

pp. 304

ISBN 9788829029112 Worldwide Spanish Rights sold

PREVIOUS EDITION SOLD MORE THAN 3.000 COPIES

Leonardo Rapone (ed.)

The European Right in the 21st Century

Legacies and Variations

The European political landscape is undergoing a profound transformation: across the continent, new right-wing movements are emerging and breaking with the past. These forces stand in stark contrast both to traditional moderate and conservative parties and to the extremist factions that emerged after the Second World War. Through an analysis of various national contexts, this book explores this collection of movements, highlighting their local specificities and, at the same time, the strong transnational ties that unite them within a shared framework. The author provides an essential contribution to understanding the development of a phenomenon that is radically redefining the continent's democratic balance.

Leonardo Rapone formerly taught Contemporary History at the Tuscia University in Viterbo and heads the journal "Studi Storici" and the 1910–1926 Writings section of Italy's National Edition of Antonio Gramsci's Writings.

History · pp. 292

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Five Years That Feel like Centuries: Antonio Gramsci From Socialism to Communism (1914-1919)

pp. 424
ISBN 9788843060900
Portuguese (Brazil) and Spanish (Argentina) rights sold

Serena Di Nepi

The Rome Ghetto

History of a Jewish Community

Established by papal decree in 1555—and abolished only with the unification of Italy in 1870—for over three centuries the Rome ghetto represented the most tangible symbol of the conditions imposed on the Jewish community by the Papal State. The ghetto's history is a tale of resistance and adaptation. The author masterfully describes this complex and multi-layered history: from the pain of segregation to the brief surge of liberty in 1798 during the Jacobin Republic, to the definitive achievement of freedom with the closure of the ghetto in a city that had become Italy's capital. It is the story of a community that, in the very heart of the Pope's city, knew how to resist, adjust, and tenaciously defend its religious and cultural identity.

Serena Di Nepi teaches Modern History at the Sapienza University of Rome.

History · pp. 172

RELATED TITLES

Giancarlo Lacerenza

The Jews in Ancient Italy

pp. 376

ISBN 9788829030170

Giacomo Todeschini

The Jews in Medieval Italy

pp. 268

ISBN 9788843090808

Marina Caffiero

History of the Jews in Modern Italy

pp. 256

ISBN 9788843074129

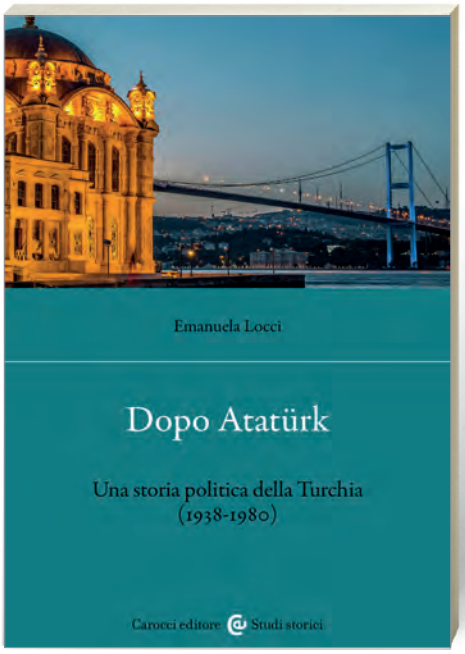
Emanuela Locci

After Atatürk

A Political History of Türkiye (1938-1980)

This book reconstructs the history of Türkiye between 1938 and 1980, highlighting the most significant historical events and the biographies of its protagonists. The author offers a clear overview of the country's many political transitions: from the one-party system to a multi-party system, from neutrality in World War II to its strategic role during the Cold War, and finally to the coups d'état between 1960 and 1980.

Emanuela Locci is a research fellow in Contemporary History at the University of Turin.



History · pp. 240

Simone Lombardo

The Siege of Venice (1380)

The Lagoon Clash with Genoa

In 1379-80, Venice faced one of the gravest threats to its very existence: Genoa had brought the conflict for the conquest of the Levant from the sea to the lagoon. The Genoese amphibious siege of Chioggia had lasted almost a year and had seen the first use of naval artillery, ships deliberately scuttled to hinder the enemy's advance through the canals, starvation in the streets, and trench warfare. As the author explains, even though the "Serenissima" emerged victorious and secure in its Adriatic possessions, the war redefined the balance of power in the Mediterranean.

Simone Lombardo is a fellow at the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies-Villa I Tatti in Florence.

History's Greatest Sieges • pp. 192

Omar Coloru

The Siege of Tyre (332 BCE)

Alexander the Great's Epic Feat

Alexander the Great's siege of Tyre in 332 BCE was a wartime event destined to become a model for military history. With a stroke of genius worthy of an epic, Alexander managed to tame the sea, transforming it into dry landhe built a pier to reach the island of Tyre, the rich Phoenician city that no army had previously managed to conquer. This book guides readers through the siege that—by combining engineering genius, military ferocity, a spirit of revenge, and religious propaganda—etched the very model of the perfect war into history and military memory.

Omar Coloru teaches ancient Greek History at the University of Bari.

History's Greatest Sieges · pp. 116

Paolo Grillo

The Siege of Milan (1162)

The Triumph of Barbarossa

In 1176, in Legnano, the League of Lombard Communes decisively halted the military assault with which Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa was attempting to subdue northern Italy. However, the victors still cherished the memory of 1162, when imperial troops besieged Milan, razed it to the ground, and deported its population, thus striking at the city in its thriving businesses and its proud municipal freedom. The author reconstructs the political and military events of Barbarossa's ephemeral triumph, paying particular attention to the plight of the civilian population, both perpetrator and victim of a merciless war.

Paolo Grillo teaches History of Medieval Italy at the University of Milan.

History's Greatest Sieges · pp. 176

Stefano Gasparri

The Siege of Pavia (773-774)

Charlemagne's Conquest of the Lombard Kingdom

Between 773 and 774 CE, the final chapter of the Lombard kingdom unfolded beneath the walls of Pavia. The siege laid by Charlemagne against King Desiderius was not merely a military event, but also a decisive turning point that brought an end to a political era spanning two centuries and shifted the centre of power in Italy towards the heart of the Carolingian Empire. In this rigorous and compelling narrative, the author reconstructs the drama of those months, sheds light on its many protagonists, and analyses the consequences of a defeat that redefined the identity of the Italian peninsula.

Stefano Gasparri is professor emeritus of Medieval History at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice.

History's Greatest Sieges • pp. 160

Antonio Musarra

The Siege of Jerusalem (1099)

The Crusaders' Conquest of the Holy City

In recounting the events of the First Crusade, this book leads readers to the heart of the 1099 siege of Jerusalem—amidst breaching towers, war machines, and military strategies, right up to the final conquest. Beyond the dust and the blood, the Holy City reveals another story that of a contested place, steeped in memories and ambitions, caught between faith and power. In addition to a military chronicle, the author offers readers a glimpse of Jerusalem, a stage for dreams and conquests that still inflame history.

Antonio Musarra teaches Medieval History at the Sapienza University in Rome.

History's Greatest Sieges • pp. 188

By the same author:

Between Heaven and Earth. Jerusalem and the West in the Middle Ages
pp. 296 • ISBN 97888290221 68

Paola Italia

The Author's Mark

Studies in Philology and Criticism of Variants

Authors' papers are the digital fingerprints of their creative thought, a veritable map revealing how their texts were conceived, revised, and prepared for print. Such private archives are "talking documents": no less than their finished works, they disclose the self-image that writers and intellectuals wished to bequeath to posterity. In this context, the Italian tradition holds a unique position in Europe, insofar as it features manuscripts with authorial variants dating back to the 14th century. This exceptional circumstance gave rise to authorial philology and the criticism of variants, fields of study that have shaped 20th-century culture. This book brings together a decade of Paola Italia's studies on the history and methods of this tradition, offering case studies of literary and historical texts ranging from Alessandro Manzoni to Carlo Emilio Gadda, to Aldo Moro's "Memoriale".

Paola Italia teaches Italian Literary Philology and Scholarly Editing at the University of Bologna, where she coordinates several digital philology projects.

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 340

Alessandra Ferrari & Giorgio Zanchini

A Concise Lexicon of Journalism

Amid digital platforms, the crisis of traditional models, and the redefinition of its relationship with the readership, contemporary journalism is undergoing an epochal transformation, which this book explores through a set of its key terms: podcast; social media; television news; political, environmental, scientific, and cultural journalism; artificial intelligence; and many others. The authors provide an overview of the emerging information ecosystem, combining critical reflection with insights into the craft and exploring the future of journalism in the age of AI and algorithms.

Alessandra Ferrari, a journalist and writer for Italian public television, has worked as a correspondent, editor-in-chief, and author for current affairs television programmes, including "Piazzapulita" (La7) and "Nemo" (RAI-2).

Giorgio Zanchini, a journalist and media scholar, hosts the radio programme "Radio Anch'io" (RAI Radio 1) and the popular TV show "Quante Storie" (RAI 3).

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 168

Arnaldo Marcone (ed.)

Tolkien and *The Lord of the Rings*

The Controversies Surrounding an Author and his Work

The volume has a unique, one might say "Tolkienian" origin, thanks to the co-presence of authors from diverse backgrounds, who share an admiration for the English writer. The result is a highly original collection of essays, both for its previously unpublished reflections on Tolkien's success in Russia and Eastern Europe, and its analysis of the influence of *The Lord of the Rings* on fantasy, science fiction, comics, and cinema. The contributions range from the relationship between the Celtic saga and classical historiography to the comparison with medieval love poetry, Tolkien's languages, and the work's reception in Italy following its translations in various countries.

Arnaldo Marcone teaches Roman History at Roma Tre University in Rome.

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 152

Elena Guerzoni

Our Roots and Wings

Grandparents and Kids in Children's Literature

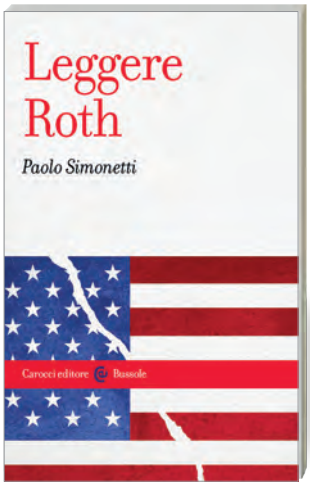
The author explores representations of childhood and old age through some of the most beautiful passages in children's literature, both classic and contemporary. In particular, she explores the relationship between children and grandparents, a unique and essential intergenerational bond. The volume is a valuable resource for scholars, teachers, educators, and, more generally, the wider reading public.

Elena Guerzoni holds a PhD in Pedagogical Sciences and conducts research at the Research Centre in Children's Literature at the University of Bologna.

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 224

NEW IN THE SERIES

Paolo Simonetti
Reading Philip Roth



Who invented contemporary America? If Shakespeare shaped the human condition, Philip Roth forged the collective imagination of the United States, exploring its contradictions, idealistic impulses, and imperialist undercurrents. A relentless provocateur, capable of dismantling Western taboos by examining sex, guilt, and identity, Roth was able to anticipate contemporary anxieties. This book offers a critical assessment of Roth's entire body of work, tracing its evolution through time and illustrating its themes, characters, and narrative strategies in a concise, accessible manner – an indispensable guide for navigating Roth's complex literary architecture.

Paolo Simonetti teaches American Literature at Sapienza University in Rome. He has edited two of the three volumes of Philip Roth's works for Mondadori's "I Meridiani" series.

Literature & Cultural Studies
pp. 128

Lorenzo Tommasini
Reading Umberto Saba

Literature & Cultural Studies
pp. 112

A native of Trieste, a Jew, an antiquarian bookseller, and a poet: Umberto Saba is a most unique figure, one of the hardest to place within the traditional literary movements of the early 20th century and among the least accessible without a reliable guide. This book's author offers a comprehensive, up-to-date introduction to Saba's work, organised in thematic clusters (his relationship with Trieste, Judaism, psychoanalysis, other individuals, and poetry) that allow for independent readings and selective explorations. Each chapter combines historical and cultural contextualization with careful textual analysis, and offers insights that reveal novel perspectives. An unexpected Saba emerges: a psychoanalyst before psychoanalysis existed, modern yet faithful to tradition, capable of transforming his own diversity and becoming one of the most enduring and vibrant creators of Italian poetry.

Lorenzo Tommasini was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Siena and the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa.

Related titles

Annalisa Andreoni

Reading Céspedes

pp. 136

Alberto Cavaglion

Reading Svevo

pp. 112

Monica Cristina Storini

Reading Deledda

pp. 136

Iacopo Leoni

Reading Céline

pp. 132

Mariateresa Pizza

Dario Fo

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER HIS BIRTH & TEN YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

For ninety years, Dario Fo has shaped Italian history with the dedication of a man who works "for eternity", but also with the active, insightful participation of someone who lives on a day-to-day basis. With the sophistication of a historian, the curiosity of an anthropologist, and the irony of a brilliant comedian, he revealed the profoundly human and political nature of Italian and European popular culture. This book outlines Fo's artistic and human legacy, offering a vivid portrait of a Nobel Prize winner who transformed the stage into a space of freedom.

Mariateresa Pizza teaches History of Theatre and Performing Arts at the University of Perugia.

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 128

IN THE SAME SERIES

Alberto Scandola

Sophia Loren

pp. 128

ISBN 9788829033409

Sara Martin

Cinema and Fashion

Fashion and cinema are not isolated worlds, but universes that feed off one another. This book explores their deep-rooted connection, tracing it from its historical origins to contemporary influences. Through an examination of film costumes, collaborations between fashion designers and the audiovisual industry, and the latest production and curatorial practices of fashion houses, the author investigates the role of fashion as a narrative, cultural and symbolic device and highlights how fashion and cinema are two interrelated systems, capable of influencing processes of representation, identity and collective memory.

Sara Martin teaches Performing, Musical, Cinema and Media Arts at the University of Parma.

Cinema · pp. 112

Eleonora Chiais & Stefano Marino

The Language of Fashion

What do our clothes say about us? Capricious and kaleidoscopic, fashion is not simply the act of covering the body, but rather a complex language that defines identity and foretells social change. From the miniskirt revolution to the politicised T-shirt, from Rosa Genoni's activism to digital design, the author helps her readers discover the language of clothing. Blending theory and practical analysis, this book reminds us that fashion lives only when it becomes language, criticism, and media.

Eleonora Chiais is an assistant professor of Cinema, Photography and Television at the University of Turin.

Stefano Marino is an associate professor of Aesthetics at the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna. His main research interests focus on hermeneutics, critical theory, pragmatism, philosophy of music, and fashion aesthetics.

Literature & Cultural Studies · pp. 112

Dario Garribba

Jesus's Original Followers

The Origins of the Christian Movement (30-70 CE)

Jesus's initial followers were not the first "Christians". They did not think they had founded a new religion, nor did they imagine they were moving outside Judaism. They simply saw themselves as followers of a preacher from Galilee. How, then, did they develop an awareness of belonging to something distinct from the rest of society, i.e., that they were *Christians*? With narrative clarity and a thorough examination of the sources, the author reconstructs the very earliest years of the movement stemming from the Nazarene's preaching, its first steps in Jerusalem, its spread to the Gentile cities of Asia and Greece, its internal tensions, the destruction of the Temple, and the ensuing consequences. A portrait emerges of an early Christianity that was fluid and pluralistic, with an identity forged solely through constant and lively engagement with the social and political realities of the Roman world.

Dario Garribba teaches Biblical Greek and History of Early Christianity at the Pontifical Theological Seminary of Southern Italy in Naples.

Religious Studies • pp. 172

NEW EDITION

Gianluca De Sanctis

Religion in Ancient Rome

When one thinks about what is called, for simplicity's sake, "Roman religion", one often imagines an exotic, almost savage world, made up of rites, beliefs, and deities, so culturally distant as to trigger astonishment and fascination. This book – in a new, expanded edition – explores the religion embraced in ancient Rome during the late Republican period and focuses precisely on its oddity: divination techniques, sacrifices, and the bewildering variety of its theological universe. Through a painstaking examination of ancient sources, alongside new methodological and interdisciplinary approaches, the author draws a "map" of the Roman religious system. A historical-anthropological perspective provides the tools for understanding a material and conceptual world profoundly different from our own, in which anomalies and differences prevail over analogies and similarities.

Gianluca De Sanctis teaches Roman History at the University of Tuscia in Viterbo and works with the Centre for Anthropology of the Ancient World at the University of Siena.

Religious Studies • pp. 192

Marco Bartoli

Francis's Rule

The Friars Minor from Assisi to the World

In 1223, Francis secured approval for "his" Rule: the first in the history of the Church designed not for a stable community, settled in one place, but for an itinerant fraternity whose horizons stretched across the world. The author's detailed, compelling account follows the spread of this ideal of brotherhood, which set out from Assisi, travelled across Europe and the East, and reached the New World in 1524. Linking the stories of Francis's first companions with those of the friars engaged in the American missions, the book conveys the deep-seated significance of a spiritual and social challenge that spoke to people from all walks of life, transforming a simple, yet firm quest into a thousand-year-old narrative.

Marco Bartoli, a member of the International Society for Franciscan Studies, formerly taught Medieval History at the LUMSA University and History of Franciscanism at the Pontifical University of Saint Anthony (Antonianum) in Rome.

Religious Studies • pp. 236

Federico Dal Bo

The Talmud

An Introduction

In an era marked by a fading truth paradigm, conflicting identities, and cultural instability, the Talmud emerges as an unexpected model of critical thinking. Far from being a cohesive doctrinal system, this major text of the rabbinic tradition is built on dialectics: every word is immediately subjected to scrutiny, discussion, and clarification. Contradiction, rather than being a flaw, functions as a methodological mainspring: truth emerges as the provisional result of tireless argumentation, not as a definitive conclusion. Adopting a historical, philological, and philosophical approach, the author traces the history of rabbinic literature and the Talmud itself, exploring the great medieval commentators and the challenges posed by the contemporary world (including the text's online presence). The book shows that studying the Talmud can teach us not to jump to conclusions and to acknowledge that the memory of dissent serves as a safeguard against injustice.

Federico Dal Bo teaches Jewish Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Religious Studies • pp. 224

Fabrizio Lelli

Kabbalah

A Secret Tradition from Its Jewish Origins to the Present Day

Defining Kabbalah is a complex task: behind this term lies a vast landscape of doctrinal speculation, liturgical practices and spiritual structures that defy any single, unambiguous definition. To help readers navigate this intricate system, the author offers a precise guide that avoids occultist tendencies and superficial simplifications. An analysis of primary sources and recent scholarly literature allows this book to unravel the complexities of millennia-old traditions and contextualise themes and archetypes within their original settings. Special emphasis is placed on the Kabbalists and the Christian offshoots of Jewish doctrine that have enriched Europe's identity throughout the modern and contemporary eras.

Fabrizio Lelli teaches Hebrew Language and Literature at the Sapienza University in Rome.

Religious Studies • pp. 176

Paolo Matthiae

Ebla and the Ancient Near East

Archaeology and Its History, Ethics and Methodology

This book is a collection of Paolo Matthiae's important shorter works, published between 1986 and 2020, which remain highly relevant today. The essays range from the sensational discovery of Ebla to analyses of key figures and issues in Near Eastern archaeology: studies on Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, investigations into the figure of the Assyrian ruler, and ethical reflections on cultural heritage. The book also features a wealth of illustrations, including colour images, showcasing evocative monuments of the Near East.

Paolo Matthiae is professor emeritus of Archaeology at the Sapienza University in Rome and a member of Italy's Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei. Since discovering the Ebla site in Syria, he has headed 47 excavation campaigns from 1964 to 2010.

Archaeology · pp. 328

Alessandro Piccolo

Hieroglyphs

Hieroglyphic writing is perhaps the type of communication that more than any other has fascinated–and continues to enchant–everyone who has come into contact with it, not only due to its enigmatic nature, but also because it is inextricably linked to the rich culture of ancient Egypt. This concise book traces hieroglyphs' long historical journey, explains how they work, and offers a broad comparative overview of other ancient Egyptian scripts and early writing systems. The author provides an excellent overview of how to decipher the past and how the legacy of these ancient symbols continues to affect the present in unexpected ways.

Alessandro Piccolo is a researcher in Egyptology and Coptic Civilisation at the Sapienza University in Rome.

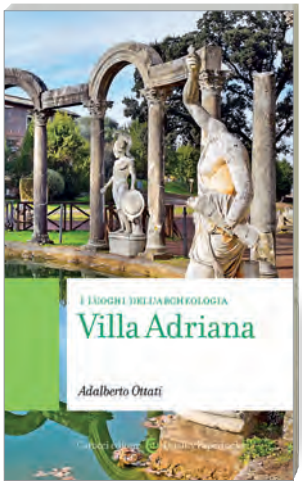
Archaeology · pp. 144

Adalberto Ottati

Hadrian's Villa

Hadrian's Villa represents one of the highest expressions of Roman architecture, a laboratory in which technical experimentation and formal invention merged to the point that it became a reference model for the history of architecture and a lasting source of inspiration for Western culture. This book reconstructs the history, form, and legacy of this extraordinary structure, from its origins to its Renaissance rediscovery, up to its current status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With plain, rigorous language and featuring numerous layouts and images, the author guides readers through theatres, baths, and monumental gardens to rediscover the meaning of a unique place, a reflection of the cultured and eclectic personality of Emperor Hadrian.

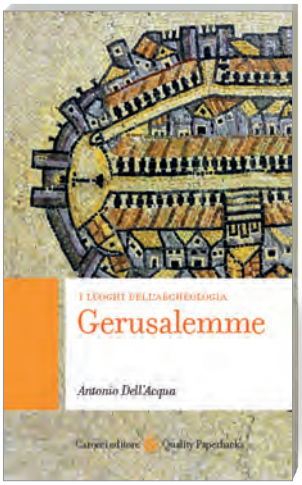
Adalberto Ottati teaches Archaeology at the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville.



Archaeology · pp. 176

Antonio Dell'Acqua

Jerusalem



Archaeology · pp. 116

From the Hellenistic period to the Arab conquest, Jerusalem's face has changed countless times. The city has been shaped by empires, religions, and cultures. This book explores its complex urban and architectural development by combining archaeological data with written sources. It offers readers interested in the history of the Middle East a clear, well-documented profile of a unique city, whose transition from the classical age to late antiquity is still visible in its streets and neighbourhoods.

Antonio Dell'Acqua teaches Roman Archaeology at the University of Udine and directs the Italian archaeological mission at the Nymphaeum of Jerash.

"The sites of archaeology"

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NEW IN THE SERIES "THE SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGY"

NEW EDITION

Manlio Iofrida & Diego Melegari

Foucault

Michel Foucault's work is among the most original of the 20th century. A philosopher, historian, and scholar of criminal law, his interests and influence extend to literature, the history of medicine, politics, economics, gender studies, and management. It is precisely for this reason that his relevance today and the popularity of his works endure among a broad and varied audience, including young people. This new, completely revised, and expanded edition is based on many previously unpublished and recently released materials. This book offers a unique, comprehensive, and systematic account of Foucault's multifaceted intellectual journey. His originality stems from a meticulous historical method that explores the connections between his works and key historical events during the last century.

Manlio Iofrida formerly taught History of Contemporary French Philosophy at the University of Bologna and directed the Officine Filosofiche research group.

Diego Melegari, a high school teacher, has earned a doctorate with a dissertation on Michel Foucault and is an editor of "La Fionda", a journal of politics and culture.

History of Thought · pp. 368

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER HIS BIRTH

NEW EDITION

Lorenzo Vinciguerra

Spinoza

Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) was never a mainstream thinker, but rather a disruptive figure who left his mark on critical junctures in Western thought. His philosophy, in fact, engaged with the era's Cartesian ideas, nourished the roots of Romanticism, and offered a valuable critical insight to Marxism. In this new edition, fully revised and updated with the key international studies, one of the philosopher's leading scholars offers a comprehensive and straightforward analysis of Spinoza's principles, inviting readers to explore a conceptual framework that has lost nothing of its ageless wisdom.

Lorenzo Vinciguerra is a full professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Bologna. He directs the International Centre for Spinozan Studies *Sive Natura*.

History of Thought • pp. 274

Fabio Dei & Antonio Fanelli

Ernesto de Martino

An Intellectual Biography

Who was Ernesto de Martino, really? Now acknowledged as one of the leading figures of 20th-century Italy, he revolutionised the way we view rites, the popular cultures of Southern Italy, and the profound "crisis of the West." As the founder of modern ethnological sciences, he has left a legacy that transcends the boundaries of anthropology and extends to philosophy, historiography, and literature. This book offers an unprecedented, complete account of de Martino's intellectual biography. Drawing on valuable unpublished materials from his archive, the authors provide the definitive portrait of a well-rounded thinker, revealing his insights, intellectual evolution, and enduring cultural relevance.

Fabio Dei teaches Cultural Anthropology at the University of Pisa.

Antonio Fanelli teaches Cultural Anthropology at Sapienza University in Rome.

Both are members of the Ernesto de Martino International Association.

History of Thought • pp. 936

Andrea Falcon & Filippo Forcignanò

Philosophical Thought in Ancient Greece

A Possible Journey

At a time when academic research has progressively shifted towards late antiquity, this book adopts a contrarian stance and carefully defends it. Returning to the classics is not an act of nostalgia, but rather a philosophical necessity. By tracing the development of philosophical thought in the Greek world from its origins to late antiquity and analysing the debates that enriched it with diverse and often openly competing traditions, the authors restore ancient philosophy to its authentic nature: a historical, decentralised, and pluralistic phenomenon. As the heir to the Enlightenment, modernity has made us suspicious of traditions, and we often interpret them as a dependence on the past. In reality, traditions can provide a theoretical space for constructing new ideas or for reinterpreting old ones in novel ways.

Andrea Falcon and **Filippo Forcignanò** teach History of Ancient Philosophy at the University of Milan.

History of Thought • pp. 556

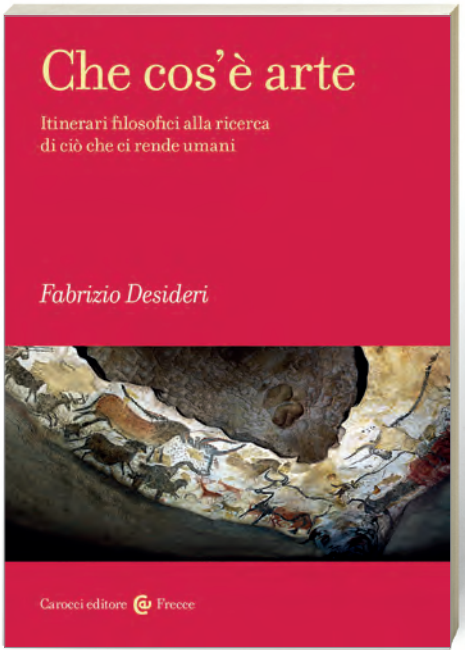
Fabrizio Desideri

What Is Art?

Philosophical Itineraries in Search of What Makes Us Human

Before the Renaissance, objects, images, and rituals were part of a single, enduring social fabric. When and why did this bond break? And above all, what does this rupture reveal about the meaning of art today, in an age of unlimited digital reproducibility? In this book, one of Italy's leading scholars of aesthetics addresses these issues from a philosophical and anthropological perspective, exploring the origins of the art phenomenon and engaging in a lively dialogue with the great Western thinkers. The main argument is clear: art is neither an evolutionary instinct nor a mere aesthetic ornament, but the result of "production through freedom". This freedom inevitably entails the memory of its original link with myths, rituals, and experiences of the sacred. From cave art to Byzantine icons, from Greek tragedy to contemporary art, this connection has never truly disappeared, so much so that its echo resounds even in the works of postmodernity.

Fabrizio Desideri is professor emeritus of Aesthetics at the University of Florence.



History of Thought • pp. 240

Aby Warburg

The Atlas of Images

Annotated and edited by Maurizio Ghelardi and Monica Centanni

Aby Warburg's *Atlas of Images* is one of the most fascinating works of 20th century thought. The final, ambitious project of a great cultural historian, the Atlas was initially conceived as an attempt to explore the profound connection between images and words, demonstrating how forms of human expression reach far beyond verbal language. This edition features original photographs from the *Atlas*'s latest exhibition, accompanied by a clear, in-depth commentary that, for the first time, guides readers through the logic behind the arrangement of the approximately 2,000 images: a valuable tool for understanding a work that remains a fascinating enigma and an inexhaustible laboratory of ideas.

Aby Warburg (1866-1929) was one of the most influential cultural historians of the 20th century.

History of Thought • pp. 260
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Paola Govoni (ed.)

Women Changing Science

An Alternative History for a Possible Future

From the early modern era to the present day, women have made a decisive contribution to the development of science and technology, whilst remaining, for a long time, excluded from full academic and institutional recognition. Gender inequalities permeate not only laboratories but also the structures that govern the production of scientific knowledge and its relationship with politics and economics. Adopting a multidisciplinary perspective, this book explores women's presence in the history of science and invites readers to contemplate knowledge as a tool for social justice and sustainability.

Paola Govoni teaches History of Science at the University of Bologna.

Science · pp. 372

English manuscript available

Manuela Monti & Carlo Alberto Redi

The Microbiota

The human gut is home to over 10,000 billion microbial cells: a vast congregation of viruses, bacteria, and fungi that account for nearly 90% of the total cells in a human body. This book describes the workings of this complex ecosystem, which effectively acts as a "second brain" capable of regulating the immune system and affecting the development of neuropsychiatric disorders such as anxiety, depression, and Alzheimer's disease. So, it comes as no surprise that the relentless microbial exchange between individuals – a shared meal, a kiss, a handshake – influences their physical and mental health, the friendships they strike up, and many personality traits. Descartes was wrong: mind and body are not two distinct entities, but inseparable parts of a single, extraordinary, integrated system. Understanding this helps us rediscover ourselves as biological and social "co-individuals".

Manuela Monti teaches Histology and Embryology at the University of Pavia.

Carlo Alberto Redi is a member of Italy's National Accademia dei Lincei and heads the Umberto Veronesi Foundation's ethics board.

Science · pp. 144

BY THE SAME AUTHORS

SOS Earth: Planetary Emergencies and Environmental Negationism

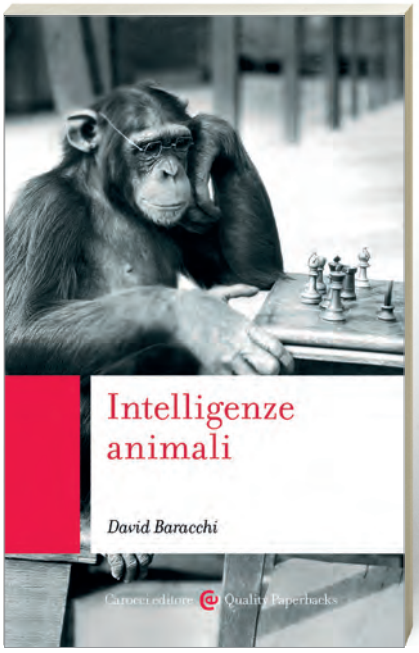
pp. 132
ISBN 9788829023783

David Baracchi

Animal Intelligence

This clear and engaging essay, scientifically rigorous yet accessible to all, was written for curious and attentive readers. Using surprising and up-to-date examples and adopting a strong evolutionary perspective, this book guides readers on a journey of discovery through the many forms of the animal mind: perception, learning, memory, numbers, space and time, tool use, emotions, and consciousness. This enthralling and nuanced text explores the intricate relationship linking mind, brain, and behaviour.

David Baracchi teaches Zoology and Ethology at the University of Florence, where he also heads the Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology Laboratory.



Science · pp. 212

Roberto Danovaro

The Future Oceans

How Seas Have Changed and How They Will Transform Our Lives

Oceans influence Earth's climate, provide us with food and raw materials, and produce the oxygen we breathe. Simply put, our life is intricately linked to the seas. But in just 150 years, human activity has changed the seas like never before. What will be their destiny? What future awaits us? What will we eat in 2050? Combining history, science, and current events, the author reviews four billion years of marine history in an engaging journey that, through ice ages, ancient civilizations, scientific discoveries and explorations, stretches to the present day. The journey helps us understand how much we have lost, how future scenarios may play out, but also how much we can still save of our beautiful blue planet.

Roberto Danovaro teaches Marine Biology at the Polytechnic University of the Marche and is president of the Italian World Wildlife Council's Scientific Board.

Science · pp. 144

RELATED TITLE

Roberto Buizza

Weather and Climate: To Know Is to Predict

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Margherita Venturi & Vincenzo Balzani

Choosing renewable Energy Sources for a Sustainable Future

The illusion of a definitive energy solution, relying on fossil fuels and nuclear power, has collided with a reality marked by environmental crises, health risks, and geopolitical tensions. Today, the transition to solar, wind and hydro power is not only an ecological necessity, but also the only strategy for reducing global inequalities. This book outlines the evolution of humanity's relationship with energy and explains how technical expertise can guide us towards a future in harmony with the ecosystem, without ignoring the material challenges posed by the planet's finite resources.

Margherita Venturi is a science populariser, especially in the field of environmental and energy sustainability.

Vincenzo Balzani conducts scientific research, is a member of Italy's Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, and is intensely engaged in communication initiatives concerning the relationship between science and society.

Science · pp. 172

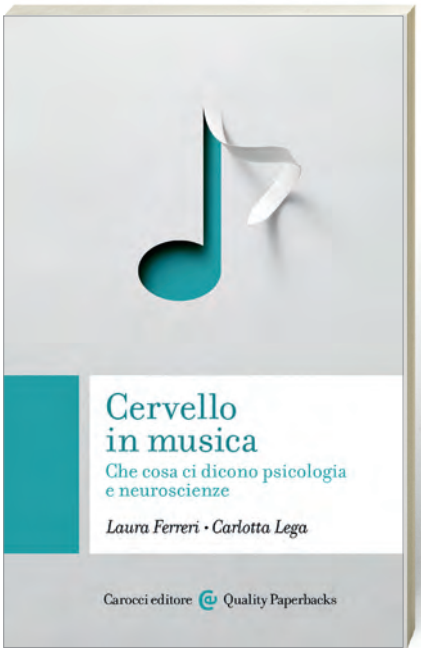
Laura Ferreri & Carlotta Lega

The Musical Brain

A Psychological and Neuroscientific Journey

What happens in our brains when we listen to or make music? Why does music make us dance, feel emotions, or access memories? Can we use it to feel better? With scientific rigour and plain language, two neuroscientists lead readers on a fascinating journey through psychology and neuroscience to discover the cognitive mechanisms and neural bases that make music a fundamental component of our existence.

Laura Ferreri is a cognitive neuroscientist and teaches Psychology and Neuroscience of Music at the University of Pavia.

Carlotta Lega is a researcher in Cognitive Neuroscience and teaches Psychology and Neuroscience of Music at the University of Pavia.

Psychology · pp. 236

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Mirella Manfredi

The Laughing Brain:
The Neuroscience of Humour

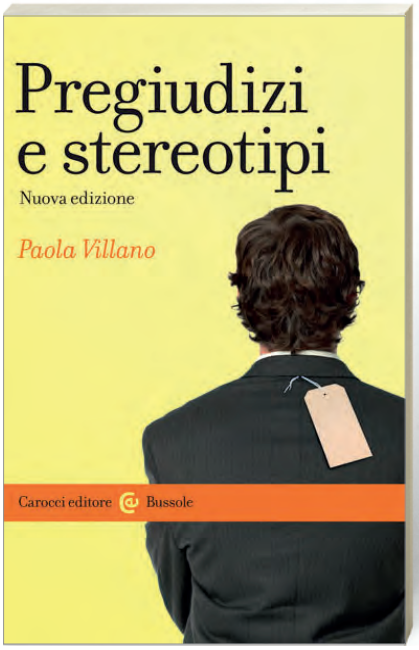
pp. 112
ISBN 9788829027958

Paola Villano

Prejudice and Stereotypes

Prejudices and stereotypes are widespread and persistent phenomena in social relations. But how do they arise? Are they synonymous with racism? What tools can be used to fight them? This book addresses these issues from a psychosocial perspective, offering not only an up-to-date overview of psychological theories and research but also possible avenues for change. Alongside classic models and recent contributions, this third edition includes an in-depth exploration of social exclusion, ostracism, and rejection, and pays particular attention to the role of education in countering prejudice. The author offers a wide-ranging overview to broaden readers' outlooks on the social challenges of the modern world.

Paola Villano teaches Social Psychology at the University of Bologna.



Psychology • pp. 124

Mario Lentano

Unexpected Romans

Weird Tales for Curious Minds

With original color illustrations by Caterina Di Paolo

Contemporary society is accustomed to viewing the ancient Romans with respectful deference and emphasising the similarities rather than the differences between their culture and ours. Here, then, are twenty concise stories that reveal unexpected, surprising, even repugnant aspects of Roman culture: women forced to kiss all their male relatives on the mouth; the belief that men were born from trees; the goddess of brooms; monsters inhabiting the far reaches of the world. The author offers a multi-faceted portrait that turns oddities into a privileged key to understanding Roman culture. Striking or astonishing tales can trigger readers' fascination and urge to learn more.

Mario Lentano teaches Latin Language and Literature at the University of Siena.

Caterina Di Paolo is an illustrator, graphic editorial coordinator and art director.

Classical World • pp. 126 • Richly illustrated

Marina Montesano

Ars Magica

A History in 20 Objects

Often dismissed as a bastion of mere superstition, the world of magic has often played an unexpected role in the history of civilisation. The author tracks its history through twenty emblematic objects, found in various museums and even in a pub. Weaving its way through evil spells, divination, powers of demons and ways to restrain them, the use of bodies, and strategies to defend oneself from occult forces, this book leads readers on a journey through the art of magic, originating in the Mediterranean and then spreading to civilisations around the world.

Marina Montesano teaches Medieval History at the University of Siena and is a fellow at the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies-Villa I Tatti in Florence.

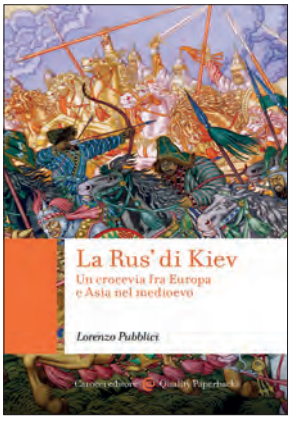
Medieval History • pp. 180 • Richly illustrated

Lorenzo Pubblici

Kievan Rus'

At the Medieval Crossroads of Europe and Asia

Between the vast plains of Eastern Europe and the Asian steppes, Kievan Rus' was the mirror of a unique civilisation. A crossroads of cultures, this complex group of principalities, which acknowledged the political and moral supremacy of Kiev, was able to blend the influences of Slavic, Scandinavian, Byzantine, and nomadic peoples. As the author argues, it was a composite and dynamic society – which linked Europe and Asia in the 10th-13th centuries – and a precursor of identities that continue to define Eastern Europe today.



Lorenzo Pubblici teaches History and Cultures of Premodern Central Asia and History of the Steppe Nomads at the Orientale University in Naples.

Medieval History • pp. 204

Michele Campopiano

A History of the Environment in the Middle Ages

Nature, Society, Culture

In the Middle Ages, the relationship between society and nature underwent an incessant process of redefinition. Indeed, environmental transformations brought about by the actions of human beings influenced the development of communities and the perception of nature. By interweaving environmental history, the history of science and philosophy, and social history, this book explains how the idea of nature changed in the Middle Ages as the economic, technical, and scientific context shifted, i.e., as the relationships between society and the environment evolved.

Michele Campopiano teaches Medieval History at the University of Catania.

Medieval History • pp. 220

Giovanna Fiume

Privateering in the Mediterranean

Tales of Slaves, Pirates and Renegades in the Modern Era

Between the 16th and the 19th centuries, the Mediterranean was plagued by piracy and privateering, pitting Christian and Muslim states against each other. The clashes were driven by military, economic and religious factors. They also encouraged a lucrative market linked to the ransom of slaves captured by both sides, many of whom, in order to escape drudgery and violence, went so far as to renounce their faith. Their stories and those of their tormentors allow this book's readers to visit a tumultuous Mediterranean – a crossroads of peoples, cultures and destinies where the struggle for freedom was entangled with the era's drama and contradictions.

Giovanna Fiume formerly taught Modern History at the University of Palermo.

Modern And Contemporary History • pp. 260 • Worldwide Spanish Rights Sold

Gianluca Miniaci

Queen Ahhotep's Lost Treasure

A Woman Ruling Over Ancient Egypt

In 1859, near ancient Thebes (now Luxor), one of the greatest treasures of ancient Egypt was discovered. The cache belonged to a courageous queen named Ahhotep, who lived around 1550 BCE, a particularly dark period in Egyptian history, dominated in the north by the fearsome Hyksos. The tale of this discovery is intertwined with that of the father of Egyptian archaeology, Auguste Mariette. This book provides a reconstruction, still partly shrouded in mystery, that leads readers into the adventurous and romantic atmosphere of the early discoveries in the 19th century, explains the emergence of the taste for Egyptian antiquities, and reveals the political scheming that shaped ancient Egypt, which featured maternal devotion, incest, betrayal, wars, and natural disasters.

Gianluca Miniaci teaches Ancient Egyptian Archaeology, Language and History at the University of Pisa and co-directs the Zawyet Sultan archaeological mission (near Minya) and the Dra Abu el-Naga excavations (near Luxor). He has worked for major international institutions, including the British Museum.

Archaeology • pp. 176
Richly illustrated
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