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Forthcoming

Essential Film History

Summary

A guide to the fundamentals of understanding film history, filmmaking, and film appreciation.

Film is not just a medium; it is also a language—and a global one at that. Essential Film History describes how this language emerged and how it has matured over the course of more than 125 years. Beginning with the experiments of the late nineteenth century, and tracking the development of cinematic storytelling, commercial distribution, and audience reception into the era of digital recording, Charles Ramírez Berg and John Bruns offer a comprehensive course in both the history and artistry of film.

Essential Film History breaks cinematic language into three core components: image, sound, and narrative. Between the 1890s and 1940s, this audiovisual language both consolidated and spread, becoming comprehensible worldwide. Since then, filmmakers have adapted and extended the language of cinema to suit an ever-growing range of aesthetic and narrative projects, from documentaries and full-length animation to avant-garde and made-for-TV movies. Covering major figures, studios, and events, as well as key technological and sociopolitical developments, Essential Film History is an indispensable guide to the evolution of cinematic style.

Contributor Bio

Charles Ramírez Berg is the Joe M. Dealey, Sr. Professor in Media Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *The Classical Mexican Cinema* and *Latino Images in Film: Stereotypes, Subversion, and Resistance*.

John Bruns is a professor of film studies and a faculty affiliate of the women's and gender studies program at the College of Charleston. He is the author of *Loopholes*.

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COVER
FORTHCOMING



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230 color and 470 b&w

illustrations

Film history

Reviving the Artist Who Fought Hitler

My Life with Arthur Szyk

Summary

The intertwining story of a noted anti-Nazi artist and the former rabbi who revived his reputation.

During World War II, the Polish-Jewish immigrant Arthur Szyk became America's leading anti-Nazi artist. His art was so effective that Adolf Hitler reportedly put a bounty on his head while the US military declared him a "citizen-soldier" of the free world. Szyk steadfastly fought for the rescue of European Jewry during the Holocaust, creating artworks like *De Profundis* which imagines Jesus sharing the suffering of countless lifeless Jews. His civil rights art challenged segregation, and his illuminated Declaration of Independence resides in the Library of Congress. Szyk's masterwork, an illustrated Passover Haggadah, is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful books ever produced by human hands.

Once world-famous, Arthur Szyk was all but forgotten after his death in 1951. *Reviving the Artist Who Fought Hitler* recounts Irvin Ungar's decades-long journey to restore Szyk to public consciousness, and become the principal collector, dealer, scholar, and promoter of Szyk's art in the United States, Europe, and Israel. Richly illustrated and full of forgotten history, this memoir is an inspiring story of artistic passion and an invitation to commune with a heroic advocate for all humanity.

Contributor Bio

Irvin Ungar, an antiquarian bookseller and former pulpit rabbi, has devoted the past three decades to scholarship on Arthur Szyk. He is the author of *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk* and the National Jewish Book Award-winning *Arthur Szyk: Soldier in Art*, coproducer of the documentary film, *Soldier in Art: Arthur Szyk*, and the creator and publisher of the luxury limited edition of *The Szyk Haggadah*.

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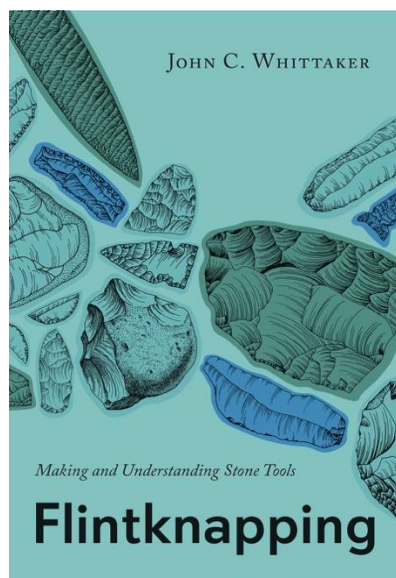
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COVER
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370 Pages
247 b&w illustrations

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Flintknapping

Making and Understanding Stone Tools

Summary

A revised edition of the go-to source for making stone tools; with more than 40,000 copies sold, this book is a must-have for experimental archaeologists and anyone seeking to understand ancient peoples.

Flintknapping, the craft of making stone tools by hand, is a survival skill that everyone's ancestors needed to know. Today it is an art that fires the imagination and inspires appreciation for the ingenuity of our forebears. Flintknapping is also an essential component of experimental archaeology, the science of replicating objects and practices from the past, the better to understand the technologies, behaviors, and societies of the ancients.

A manual for crafters of all skill levels, this new edition of *Flintknapping* updates John Whittaker's classic text with the latest insights from experimental archaeology. Detailed diagrams guide readers on the construction of durable and intricate stonework using the methods and tools of time immemorial, while also providing hands-on knowledge necessary for archaeologists. Alongside practical instruction, *Flintknapping* offers an introduction to a fascinating realm of human history. In clear, approachable terms, Whittaker outlines of the role of stone tools in the biological and technological development of our species and sheds light on the ever-evolving archaeologist's trade.

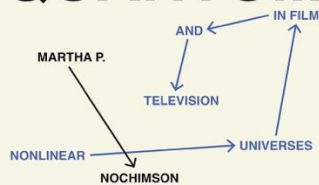
Contributor Bio

John C. Whittaker is professor emeritus of anthropology at Grinnell College. He is also the author of *American Flintknappers: Stone Age Art in the Age of Computers*.

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QUANTUM SCREENS



9781477333822
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\$34.95
Paperback

336 Pages
43 b&w illustrations

Quantum Screens Nonlinear Universes in Film and Television

Summary

An exploration of how nonlinear storytelling opens a post-Newtonian reality and changes both the hero's journey and how we understand history in film and television.

Begin at the beginning and keep going until the end. That's the cardinal rule of conventional storytelling. But ever since the modernists of the early twentieth century, popular narratives have occasionally eschewed this linear approach to temporality. *Quantum Screens* is a journey through the past and present of nonlinear time in film and television. Moving beyond the early experiments of Luis Buñuel and the first nonlinear commercial films, such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Martha Nochimson shows how risk-taking auteurs David Lynch, Damon Lindelof, and Terrence Malick have opened new horizons and a new concept of beauty in storytelling through their revelatory creations. *Quantum Screens* takes us deep into the audience's experience of nonlinearity, exploring the emotional dislocations such storytelling creates, using television programs such as *Twin Peaks*, *Westworld*, and *Watchmen*, and films including *The Tree of Life*, *BlackKkKlansman*, and *Arrival*.

Contributor Bio

Martha P. Nochimson is a professor emerita of Mercy University, and a former adjunct professor at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. She is among the adjunct faculty of the David Lynch Graduate Program for Cinematic Arts at the Maharishi International University.

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Enlightenment in Colonial Egypt

Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid in His Generation

Summary

A study of Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid, widely recognized as the creator of Egyptian nationalism, and his impact on Egyptian culture and history.

Ahmad Lutfi al-Sayyid (1872–1963) stands among the most creative and impactful intellectuals of modern Egypt. While best known as the architect of Egyptian nationalism, his nationalist endeavor was in fact part of his larger project to bring enlightenment to Egypt under the yoke of British colonialism. Through his regular articles, editorials, and mentoring, his newspaper al-Jarida became a key forum for the lively debates of the time, ranging from the role of Islam in society to women's inclusion, all toward shaping a unique colonial modernity for his country.

The most comprehensive study of Lutfi, his writing, and his impact—Enlightenment in Colonial Egypt deconstructs the view that Lutfi was a covert apologist of empire out of admiration for the European enlightenment. Lutfi faced the dilemma of this duality head on: He believed it essential to embrace parts of the West's Enlightenment values and to Egyptianize them in order to establish an authentic, Indigenous, Egyptian civilization, appropriate for modern reality. Israel Gershoni and Molly Bernstein argue that Lutfi successfully engaged with these most difficult circumstances, developing an implementable plan to bring enlightenment to the Egyptian national context.

Contributor Bio

Israel Gershoni is a professor emeritus of Middle Eastern History in the Department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University. His more than two dozen books and hundreds of articles have been published in Hebrew, English, Arabic, German, and Italian.

Molly Bernstein is the opinion editor at Haaretz English and an adjunct researcher at Tel Aviv University. Her research focuses on the intersection between media and narrative in the Middle East, and on the history of literature written by the Palestinian citizens of Israel.

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COVER
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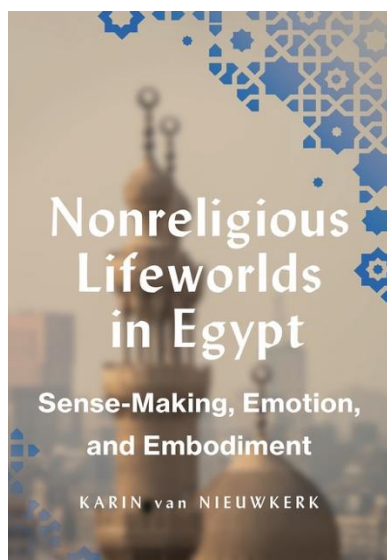
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\$65.00

Hardcover

384 Pages

6 b&w illustrations



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 288 Pages

Nonreligious Lifeworlds in Egypt

Sense-Making, Emotion, and Embodiment

Summary

An analysis of the growing visibility of nonreligion in Egypt.

Egypt's 2011 uprising ousted one dictator, Hosni Mubarak, while ushering in another, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Yet, if political revolution foundered, the Arab Spring nonetheless had durable social effects. Among these has been a rise in expressing atheism and agnosticism, especially among educated and affluent youth—the country's future leaders. An intimate ethnography, *Nonreligious Lifeworlds in Egypt* explores the intellectual and emotional transformations of atheists and agnostics inspired by the aspirational freedom-seeking of the Arab Spring. Rejecting both of Egypt's dominant religious traditions, Islam and Coptic Christianity, nonreligious people are widely viewed as agents of moral outrage. Amid media-driven panics, their sanity is often questioned by their own families as they experiment with new ways of living and relating. Drawing from in-depth fieldwork, interviews, and social media analysis, Karin van Nieuwkerk reveals her interlocutors' changing perspectives on sex and gender, eating and drinking, and life and death. Above all, she emphasizes the affective experiences of renouncing religion, marked by anxiety and regret—but also liberation and relief. With rigor and compassion, Van Nieuwkerk opens our minds to the arduous process of exchanging established norms for selfdetermination.

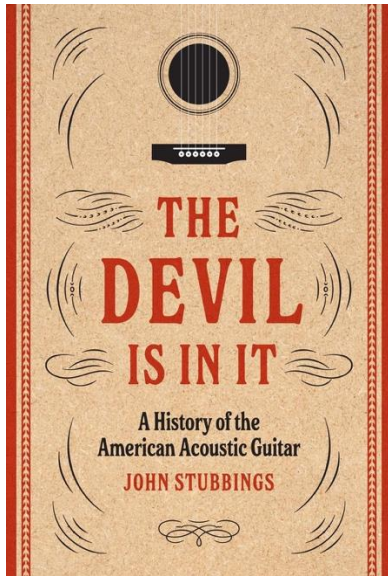
Contributor Bio

Karin van Nieuwkerk is an anthropologist and professor of contemporary Islam in Europe and the Middle East at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands. She is the editor of *Moving In and Out of Islam* and the author of *"A Trade Like Any Other": Female Singers and Dancers in Egypt and Performing Piety: Singers and Actors in Egypt's Islamic Revival*.

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Fall 2025



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\$34.95

Hardcover

424 Pages

8 b&w photos

Music / Musical Instruments

The Devil Is in It

A History of the American Acoustic Guitar

Summary

The rich history of the acoustic guitar and its impact on the music world.

In 2020, guitar expert John Stubbings released a limited-edition book on the American acoustic guitar that sold out in days. Now, *The Devil Is in It* returns with additional research and subject matter for a new generation of readers. Stubbings traveled the country and met with guitar makers, players, collectors, and historians to unravel the long and rich history of the acoustic guitar, its evolution, and the music it has made over the last hundred years.

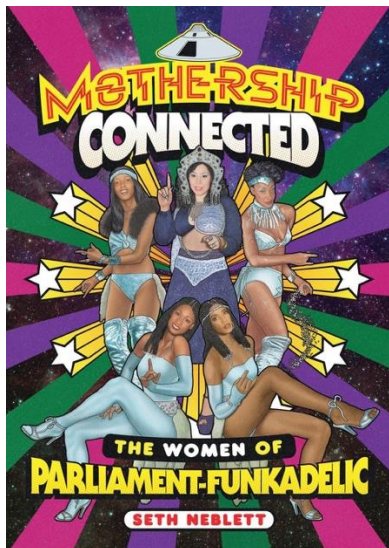
Starting with the eighteenth-century European classical guitar, luthiers altered the instrument, changing the way musicians played them, and in turn the music they made. This slow but steady transformation created the iconic American flat-top that became influential across genres and rooted itself in cultural significance. The guitar developed from an obscure instrument into a superstar of the musical world, rivaling then overshadowing its competition. Tied to artists from Gillian Welch and Tracy Chapman to Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran, the acoustic guitar maintains its eminence in American music and culture. The story of an alluring instrument that shaped the music of the twentieth century, *The Devil Is in It* is a must-read for lovers of the acoustic guitar and the music it has made.

Contributor Bio

After a career in advertising, John Stubbings dedicated his time to writing and playing the acoustic guitar. A self-described "accidental guitar collector," he began researching the commissioning and building of hand-made acoustic guitars in 2017. Alongside his musical pursuits he is an avid book collector with a passion for history.

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360 Pages

58 b&w photos, 4 b&w illustrations

Music / Individual Composer &

Musician

Mothership Connected

The Women of Parliament-Funkadelic

Summary

An oral history with the women of Parliament-Funkadelic, from forming the band to landing the mothership.

Parliament-Funkadelic is perhaps the greatest funk band ever assembled. Yet at the time of the group's induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, none of the women who helped create the sound and performed in P-Funk were invited to the ceremony and their contributions have been largely overlooked.

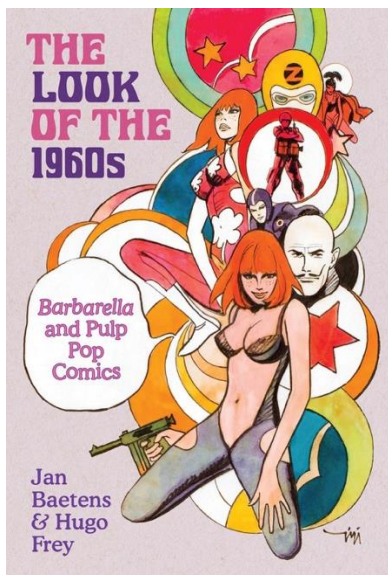
Mothership Connected tells the story of Mallia Franklin, Lynn Mabry, Dawn Silva, Debbie Wright, and Shirley Hayden, all of whom were instrumental in making Parliament-Funkadelic, as well as the spin-off groups Parlet and the Brides of Funkenstein, into the legends they are today. Assembled by Seth Neblett, son of the "Queen of Funk" Mallia Franklin, and filled with the voices of funk icons like George Clinton, Sly Stone, Bootsy Collins, and the women themselves, this oral history makes clear why these "architects" at the "core" of P-Funk were both essential—and erased. From Franklin introducing Bootsy Collins to Clinton, to the Brides' top-10 hit "Disco to Go," to the drugs that helped destroy the group, this book reveals the hidden lives and uncomfortable truths of life in P-Funk. More than sex, drugs, and rock and roll, *Mothership Connected* is about Black women navigating a tumultuous era and industry to become musical pioneers. Now, after decades in the shadows, these genre-defining women are finally telling their story.

Contributor Bio

Seth Neblett is a photographer, director, and writer. He is the son of Mallia "Queen of Funk" Franklin of Parliament-Funkadelic and Nathaniel "Nate" Neblett of New Birth. Neblett has directed videos for iconic musicians, including Chaka Khan's "I Love Myself."

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\$55.00

Hardcover

300 Pages

37 b&w illustrations

Literary Criticism / Comics &

Graphic Novels

The Look of the 1960s

Barbarella and Pulp Pop Comics

Summary

How the classic aesthetic of 1960s pulp comics influenced art, culture, and politics.

As a form of visual art, comic books rely on a distinct and eye-catching aesthetic. This is especially true of the iconic comics, graphic novels, and illustrations of the 1960s and 1970s. *The Look of the 1960s* explores the sources of inspiration that influenced the world of comics, beginning with the well-known French comics series *Barbarella*.

Noted comics scholars Jan Baetens and Hugo Frey analyze the impacts of the often-provocative images featured in the comics of the 1960s, which pushed back against French censorship in a politically tense time, and detail how women resisted their objectification in the comic book industry. *Barbarella* left its mark on the world and gained international attention, inspiring a movie adaptation and changing the look and content of other popular comics. The "Pulp Pop" movement remains relevant today, continuing to influence the art and political world. With new information about artists and an astute analysis of sociopolitical influence, *The Look of the 1960s* offers deep insights, making it a must read for comics fans all over the world.

Contributor Bio

Jan Baetens is a professor emeritus of cultural studies at KU Leuven and the author of *The Film Photonovel: A Cultural History of Forgotten Adaptations*.

Hugo Frey is a professor of cultural and visual history at the University of Chichester and the coauthor of *The Graphic Novel: An Introduction*.

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Serendipitous Translations

A SOURCEBOOK
ON SRI LANKA IN
THE ISLAMIC
INDIAN OCEAN



Edited by
NILE GREEN

9781477332894

Pub Date: 1/6/2026

\$55.00

Hardcover

304 Pages

12 b&w photos, 9 b&w

illustrations, 2 b&w maps

History / Asia

Serendipitous Translations

A Sourcebook on Sri Lanka in the Islamic Indian Ocean

Summary

The most comprehensive anthology of primary sources on Sri Lanka's links with the Islamic world ever assembled in English.

Sri Lanka is an underappreciated focal point of global history. Known to Persian and Arab traders as Serendib, the island has long been a site of intensive cultural and material exchange, as well as a holy place—Islamic tradition holds that the biblical Adam arrived there after his expulsion from Eden. Assembling centuries of texts, this volume presents an array of sources from the Indian Ocean.

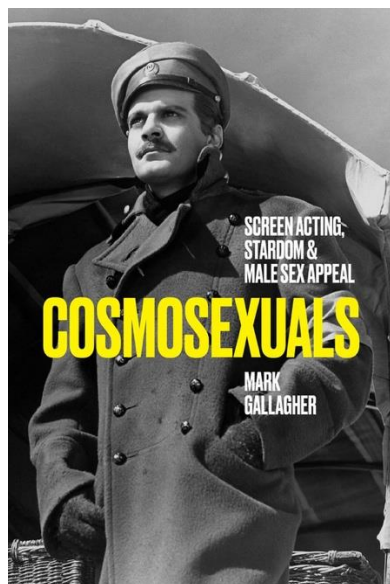
Serendipitous Translations gathers travelogues, literary works, commercial records, inscriptions, religious tracts, pilgrim manuals, and more—an unprecedented range of Muslim voices from Sri Lanka between the 1200s and 1990s. These works vividly document medieval pilgrimages, maritime mysticism, diplomatic encounters, colonial-era commerce, and the bustling everyday affairs of a cosmopolitan Asian nexus. Expert translations bring Arabic, Malay, Turkish, Urdu, Dhivehi, Sinhala, Arabic-Tamil, and Tamil texts to readers of English for the first time. Editor Nile Green situates these texts in their Indian Ocean contexts by introducing the broad sweep of Sri Lanka's story. An invaluable collection, *Serendipitous Translations* is the most comprehensive anthology of primary sources ever assembled on Sri Lanka's thousand-year links to the Muslim world.

Contributor Bio

Nile Green holds the Ibn Khaldun Endowed Chair in World History at UCLA. He is the author of many award-winning monographs, the editor of eight books, and the host of the podcast *Akbar's Chamber: Experts Talk Islam*.

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\$55.00

Hardcover

284 Pages

30 b&w photos

Performing Arts / Film

Cosmosexuals

Screen Acting, Stardom, and Male Sex Appeal

Summary

An examination of male screen sex appeal and the ways that race, ethnicity, and national origin combine with performance tools and film and television style to aid or inhibit actors' circulation on an increasingly global stage.

Sex appeal is complicated, especially for screen actors. Looking good is not enough. Charisma and charm have to register when the camera rolls. And sexiness has to travel. Today's heartthrobs are expected to raise temperatures all around the world.

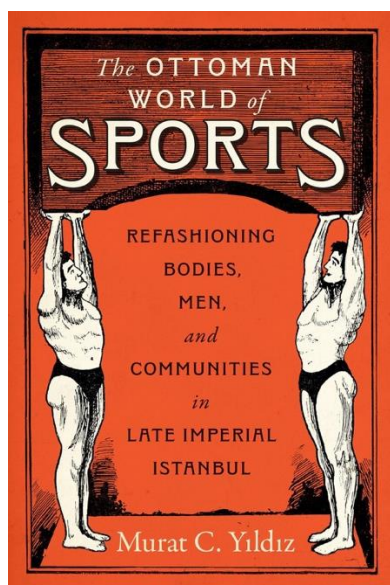
Cosmosexuals theorizes male sex appeal as a form of capital in an age of international stardom. Screen scholar Mark Gallagher assembles a diverse cast—Idris Elba, Pedro Pascal, Simu Liu, Ryan Gosling, and more—analyzing how each actor uses his appearance, voice, and movement to perform in ways that viewers across cultural divides register as sexually appealing. *Cosmosexuals* also explores the intersection of global sex appeal and exoticism in historical and contemporary contexts—from the malleable racial identities of Omar Sharif and Conrad Veidt to Mads Mikkelsen's "accented whiteness"—and assesses the barriers that confine nonwhite actors, in spite of their talent or celebrity. Far more than handsome faces and chiseled abs, male sex symbols emerge as laborers subject to disciplinary regimes steeped in patriarchy, racism, and structural inequity. As such, they have much to tell us about the economies of taste at work in the construction of screen masculinity and the terms of human desire.

Contributor Bio

Mark Gallagher is the author of *Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, Another Steven Soderbergh Experience: Authorship and Contemporary Hollywood*, and *Action Figures: Men, Action Films, and Contemporary Adventure Narratives*, and coeditor of *East Asian Film Noir*. He also coedits the Global East Asian Screen Cultures book series.

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344 Pages
 58 b&w photos
 History / Middle East

The Ottoman World of Sports

Refashioning Bodies, Men, and Communities in Late Imperial Istanbul

Summary

A revision of the history of modern sports in late Ottoman Istanbul, showing how Muslims, Christians, and Jews created a shared sports culture that was simultaneously global, imperial, and local.

The history of sports in Turkey is deeply contested. Over the decades, journalists, pundits, non-professional historians, and everyday people have offered competing narratives about the origins of modern sports in the late Ottoman Empire.

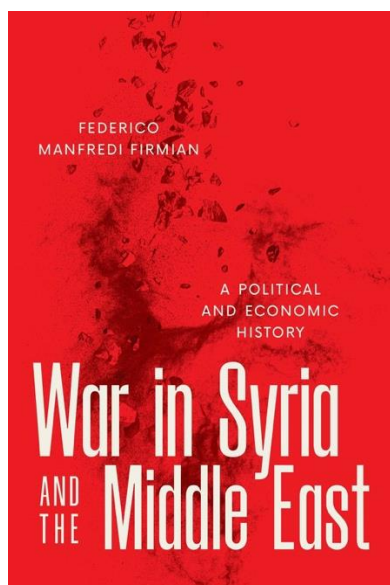
The Ottoman World of Sports tells the story of how Istanbul's Muslims, Christians, and Jews—gymnastics teachers, football coaches, weightlifters, journalists, athletes, and fans—created a gendered and class-stratified civic project that promoted athletics as a source of fun, beauty, and moral education. Influenced by the emerging global vogue for organized sports, all boys from the expanding middle class of the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century imperial capital were expected to exercise and compete on the playing field in order to develop into moral men. Yet even as the embrace of modern physical culture transcended ethno-religious divisions, it did not erase them. Drawing on a wide range of archival research in multiple languages, historian Murat Yildiz shows that sportsmen created new communal boundaries in team affiliations, fandom, and sports media. Adeptly reconstructing Istanbul's imperial culture as it was experienced more than a century ago, *The Ottoman World of Sports* recovers a lived imperial culture whose defining features were shaped by its multiethnic, multireligious, and multilingual sportsmen.

Contributor Bio

Murat C. Yildiz is an associate professor of history at Skidmore College.

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9781477331095
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\$65.00
Hardcover

288 Pages
1 map
History / Middle East

War in Syria and the Middle East

A Political and Economic History

Summary

A wide-ranging examination of the causes of war in Syria and the Middle East.

In *War in Syria and the Middle East*, Federico Manfredi Firmian uses historical, political, and economic lenses to examine how Syria's civil war is part of a broad pattern of social breakdown increasingly prevalent across the Arab and Islamic worlds. This expansive book argues that many conflicts across the Middle East today are rooted in fundamental ideological divides that originated with European imperialism. In Syria, the iniquities of French rule gave way to the radicalism of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which promised to dismantle imperial legacies and capitalist logics through nationalizations, land redistribution, and central planning.

Ba'thist Syria, however, ultimately failed to provide a viable alternative to capitalism. In fact, its failures, and the failures of other revolutionary regimes of socialist inspiration, provided an opening for armed Islamist movements to challenge both secular authoritarian rule and US foreign policies—ultimately leading to civil war. Combining a multidisciplinary approach with fieldwork, *War in Syria and the Middle East* argues for a global perspective on a pressing, ongoing conflict.

Contributor Bio

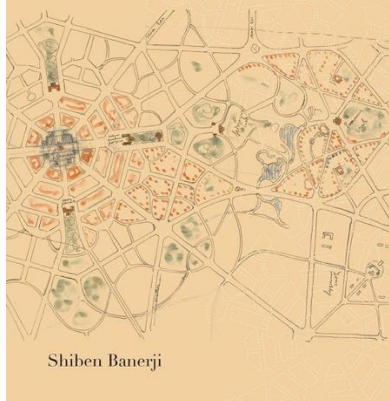
Federico Manfredi Firmian is a lecturer in Political Science at Sciences Po Paris, Associate Research Fellow at the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), and Research Fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point.

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Lineages of the Global City

Occult Modernism and the
Spiritualization of Democracy



9781477331408

Pub Date: 7/8/2025

\$45.00

Hardcover

336 Pages

88 b&w photos, 12 color photos

Architecture / History

Lineages of the Global City

Occult Modernism and the Spiritualization of Democracy

Summary

The forgotten history of the occult foundations of the early twentieth-century global city.

War, revolution, genocide, rebellion, slump. The economic and political turmoil of the early twentieth century seemed destined to rip asunder the ties that bound colonizers and the colonized to one another. The upheaval represented an opportunity, and not just to nationalists who imagined new homelands or to socialists who dreamed of international brotherhood. For modernists in the orbit of various occultisms, the crisis of empire also represented an opportunity to reveal humanity's fundamental unity and common fate.

Lineages of the Global City recounts a continuous, if also contentious, transnational exchange among modernists and occultists across the Americas, Europe, South Asia, and Australia between 1905 and 1949. At stake were the feelings and affect of a new global subject who would perceive themselves as belonging to humanity as a unified whole, and the urban environment that would foster their subjectivity. The interventions in this debate, which drew in the period's most renowned modernists, took the form of a succession of plans for cities, suburbs, and communes, as well as experiments in building, drawing, printmaking, filmmaking, and writing. Weaving together postcolonial, feminist, and Marxist insight on subject formation, Shibden Banerji advances a new way of understanding modernist urban space as the design of subjective effects.

Contributor Bio

Shibden Banerji is an associate professor in the Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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Puffballs,
Earthstars,
Stinkhorns,
and Other
Gasteroid
Fungi of
Eastern
North
America

ALAN E. BESSETTE
ARLEEN R. BESSETTE
WILLIAM C. ROODY
DIANNA G. SMITH



9781477331262
Pub Date: 9/23/2025
\$55.00
Hardcover

200 Pages
163 color photos, 6 color and 6
b&w illustrations, 1 color map
Nature / Fungi & Mushrooms

Puffballs, Earthstars, Stinkhorns, and Other Gasteroid Fungi of Eastern North America

Summary

The first fully illustrated reference guide to gasteroid mushrooms in North America.

Gasteroid fungi are one of the most diverse groups of mushrooms. Unlike the majority of mushrooms that produce spores externally, these unusual fungi produce spores within their fruitbodies. *Puffballs, Earthstars, Stinkhorns, and Other Gasteroid Fungi of Eastern North America* is the first color-illustrated reference guide for this unique group of fungi in North America.

Providing information for the identification of more than one hundred species, it includes keys based on macroscopic features, detailed species descriptions with both common and scientific names, accurate and beautiful color images, and key identification features. Additionally, the book contains a plethora of useful information about the biology of gasteroid fungi, current taxonomy, mechanisms of spore dispersal, as well as fun facts. A much-needed volume from well-known mycologists Alan and Arleen Bessette, William Roody, and Dianna Smith, this comprehensive book is a must-have for all fungi enthusiasts, from mushroom hunting hobbyists to professional mycologists.

Contributor Bio

Alan E. Bessette is a professional mycologist and emeritus professor of biology at Utica College of Syracuse University. He has authored or coauthored more than thirty books, including *Polypores and Similar Fungi of Eastern and Central North America*.

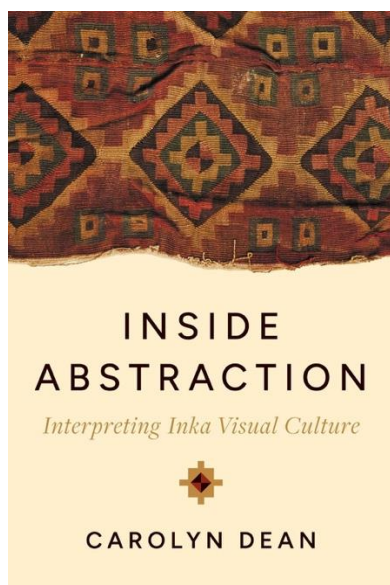
Arleen R. Bessette is a retired psychotherapist as well as a mycologist and botanical photographer who has been collecting and studying wild mushrooms for more than forty years. She has authored or coauthored several mycological papers and more than twenty books, including *Mushrooms of the Gulf Coast States*.

William C. Roody is a mycologist and wildlife diversity biologist. He has authored or coauthored seven books, including *Tricholomas of North America*.

Dianna G. Smith served as the chairperson of the Committee on Medicinal Fungi for the North American Mycological Association. She is a coauthor of *Polypores and Similar Fungi of Eastern and Central North America*.

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- Stinkhorns
- Miscellaneous Gasteroid Fungi
- Appendix A. Microscopic Identification



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\$60.00

Hardcover

284 Pages

42 color photos, 30 b&w photos,

26 b&w illustrations

Art / Caribbean & Latin American

Inside Abstraction

Interpreting Inka Visual Culture

Summary

Illuminating the abstract art of the Inka, what it conveys about Inka values, and its relationship to those who view it.

Inka visual culture is unusual in its tendency toward abstraction. Public stonework, vessels used at state feasts, garments worn by the imperial elite—these objects announcing status and power are adorned with geometric designs that refuse figuration. After searching in vain for hidden referents, many scholars have largely given up the search for meaning.

Inside Abstraction develops a novel interpretation. Eminent art historian Carolyn Dean proposes that Inka geometries are neither ornamental nor coded depictions of other objects. Rather, Dean shows that in the Andean world, the designs were functionally self-aware, possessing perspectives of their own, quite literally looking back at and addressing viewers directly. Further, Dean contends that these agent-abstractions were teachers, conveying particular messages concerning social hierarchy: the relations among geometries and colors instructed viewers as to their own proper social relations. Inka designs thereby served imperial aims by wordlessly communicating the state's values and demands for submission. Extensively illustrated and rigorously argued, *Inside Abstraction* is a dramatic step forward in our understanding of Inka art and political order.

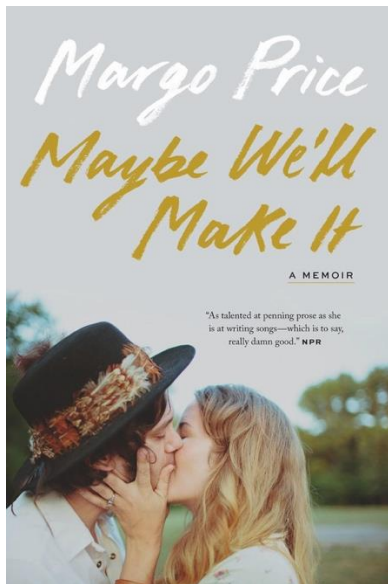
Contributor Bio

A Distinguished Professor Emerita of Art History and Visual Culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Carolyn Dean has also published *Inka Bodies and the Body of Christ* and the award-winning *A Culture of Stone*.

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9781477333112

Pub Date: 9/2/2025

\$21.95

Paperback

288 Pages

20 b&w images

Biography & Autobiography

/ Music

Maybe We'll Make It

A Memoir

Summary

An October 2022 IndieNext pick

"[An] engaging and beautifully narrated quest for personal fulfillment and musical recognition...This is a fast-paced tale in which music and love always take center stage...A truly gifted musician, Price writes about her journey with refreshing candor."—*Kirkus*, starred review

"Brutally honest...a vivid and poignant memoir."—*The Guardian*

Country music star Margo Price shares the story of her struggle to make it in an industry that preys on its ingenues while trying to move on from devastating personal tragedies.

When Margo Price was nineteen years old, she dropped out of college and moved to Nashville to become a musician. She busked on the street, played open mics, and even threw out her TV so that she would do nothing but write songs. She met Jeremy Ivey, a fellow musician who would become her closest collaborator and her husband. But after working on their craft for more than a decade, Price and Ivey had no label, no band, and plenty of heartache.

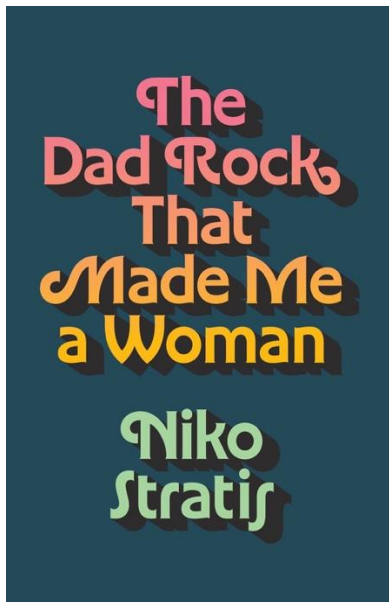
Maybe We'll Make It is a memoir of loss, motherhood, and the search for artistic freedom in the midst of the agony experienced by so many aspiring musicians: bad gigs and long tours, rejection and sexual harassment, too much drinking and barely enough money to live on. Price, though, refused to break, and turned her lowest moments into the classic country songs that eventually comprised the debut album that launched her career. In the authentic voice hailed by *Pitchfork* for tackling "Steinbeck-sized issues with no-bullshit humility," Price shares the stories that became songs, and the small acts of love and camaraderie it takes to survive in a music industry that is often unkind to women. Now an award-winning artist with a global fanbase, Price tells a love story of music, collaboration, and the struggle to build a career while trying to maintain her singular voice and style.

Contributor Bio

Margo Price is a Nashville-based singer-songwriter. She has released three LPs, earned a Grammy nomination for Best New Artist, and performed on Saturday Night Live, and is the first female musician to sit on the board of Farm Aid.

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9781477331484
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 \$27.95
 Hardcover

240 Pages
 Music / Essays

The Dad Rock That Made Me a Woman

Summary

A memoir-in-essays on transness, dad rock, and the music that saves us.

When Wilco's 2007 album *Sky Blue Sky* was infamously criticized as "dad rock," Niko Stratis was a twenty-five-year-old closeted trans woman working in her dad's glass shop in the Yukon Territory. As she sought escape from her hypermasculine environment, Stratis found an unlikely lifeline amid dad rock's emotionally open and honest music. Listening to dad rock, Stratis could access worlds beyond her own and imagine a path forward.

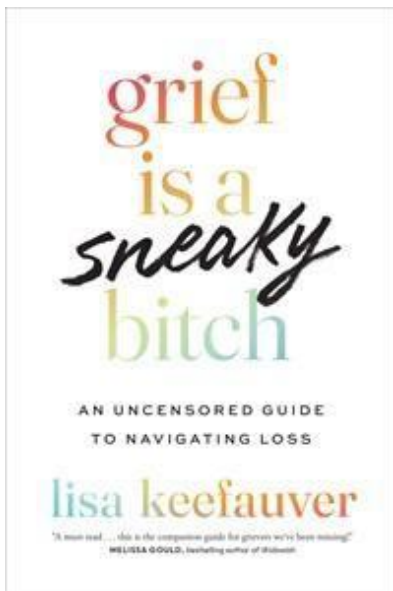
In taut, searing essays rendered in propulsive and unguarded prose, Stratis delves into the emotional core of bands like Wilco and The National, telling her story through the dad rock that accompanied her along the way. She found footing in Michael Stipe's allusions to queer longing, Radiohead's embrace of unknowability, and Bruce Springsteen's very trans desire to "change my clothes my hair my face"—and she found in artists like Neko Case and Sharon Van Etten that the label transcends gender. A love letter to the music that saves us and a tribute to dads like Stratis's own who embody the tenderness at the genre's heart, *The Dad Rock That Made Me a Woman* rejoices in music unafraid to bare its soul.

Contributor Bio

Niko Stratis is an award-winning writer from Toronto by way of the Yukon, where she spent years working as a journeyman glazier before coming out as trans in her thirties and being forced to abandon her previous line of work. Her writing has appeared in publications like *Catapult*, *Spin*, *Paste* and more. She's a Cancer, and a former smoker.

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- See you in heaven if you make the list
- He might be a father but he sure ain't a dad
- Last night I dreamt I'd forgotten my name
- Take my hand and help me not to shake
- Play with matches if you think you need to play with matches
- I can't think of floorboards anymore
- I'm ready for both of us now
- Want to change my clothes, my hair, my face
- Pick up the pieces and go home
- It's the mercy I can't take
- We're all supposed to try
- I wanna see it when you find out what comets, stars, and moons are all about
- I never thought about love when I thought about home
- If the dead just go on living, well there's nothing left to fear



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 Paperback

272 Pages
 1 b&w photo

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 Hachette).

Grief is a Sneaky Bitch

An Uncensored Guide to Navigating Loss

Lisa Keefauver

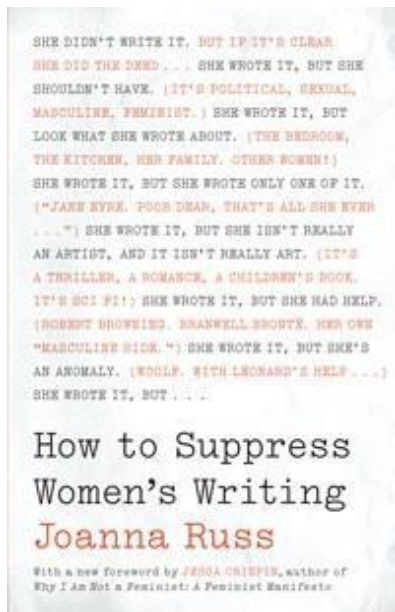
Summary

A comprehensive and compassionate guide to navigating loss.

When social worker Lisa Keefauver became a widow in 2011, she was alarmed to discover that even though 100 percent of us experience loss, we're living in a grief illiterate world. In her work as a therapist, and in her search for help in the wake of her own loss, Keefauver began to see how the misguided stories we consume about grief lead to unnecessary suffering. Responding to the problematic narratives that grief is something to move on from after completing the five stages like some sort of to-do list, Keefauver became a grief activist. Through this book and her hit podcast of the same title, she creates a safe place to be inside the messiness of it all, to discover the full spectrum of grief, and to find the tools that help griever move forward, not on. *Grief is a Sneaky Bitch* is a comprehensive guide—both a manual full of insights and skills and, even more importantly, a thoughtful companion that helps readers feel seen ...

Contributor Bio

Lisa Keefauver is a social worker, grief activist, and founder of Reimagining Grief. She is an adjunct professor of loss and grief at the University of Texas at Austin, an organizational consultant, and a keynote speaker (including at TEDx). In 2019, she created the popular podcast *Grief is a Sneaky Bitch*.



How to Suppress Women's Writing

Joanna Russ, Jessa Crispin

Key Selling Points:

35th Anniversary edition, iconic feminist literary criticism. New foreword by Jessa Crispin.

Summary

Are women able to achieve anything they set their minds to? In *How to Suppress Women's Writing*, award-winning novelist and scholar Joanna Russ lays bare the subtle—and not so subtle—strategies that society uses to ignore, condemn, or belittle women who produce literature. As relevant today as when it was first published in 1983, this book has motivated generations of readers with its powerful feminist critique.

"What is it going to take to break apart these rigidities? Russ's book is a formidable attempt. It is angry without being self-righteous, it is thorough without being exhausting, and it is serious without being devoid of a sense of humor. But it was published over thirty years ago, in 1983, and there's not an enormous difference between the world she describes and the world we inhabit."

—Jessa Crispin, from the foreword

"A book of the most profound and original clarity. Like all clear-sighted people who look and see what has been much mystified and much lied about, Russ is quite ex...

Contributor Bio

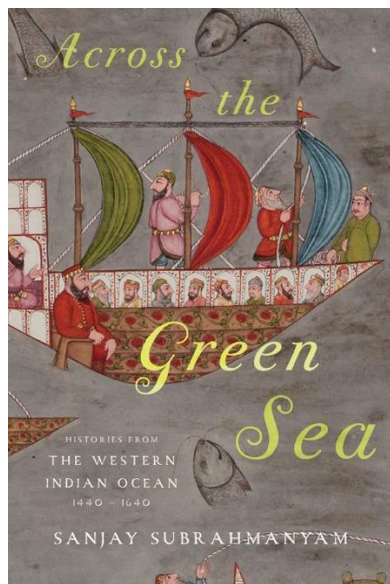
Hugo and Nebula award-winning author Joanna Russ (1937–2011) was a widely respected feminist science fiction writer best known for the novel *The Female Man*. She was also a professor of English at the University of Washington who published several collections of essays and literary criticism.

Jessa Crispin is the founder and editor of Bookslut.com. She is the author of *The Dead Ladies Project* and *Wh...*

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224 Pages

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288 Pages

10 b&w illustrations, 5 maps

History / Middle East

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Across the Green Sea

Histories from the Western Indian Ocean, 1440-1640

Summary

A history of two centuries of interactions among the areas bordering the western Indian Ocean, including India, Iran, and Africa.

Beginning in the mid-fifteenth century, the regions bordering the western Indian Ocean—"the green sea," as it was known to Arabic speakers—had increasing contact through commerce, including a slave trade, and underwent cultural exchange and transformation. Using a variety of texts and documents in multiple Asian and European languages, *Across the Green Sea* looks at the history of the ocean from a variety of shifting viewpoints: western India; the Red Sea and Mecca; the Persian Gulf; East Africa; and Kerala.

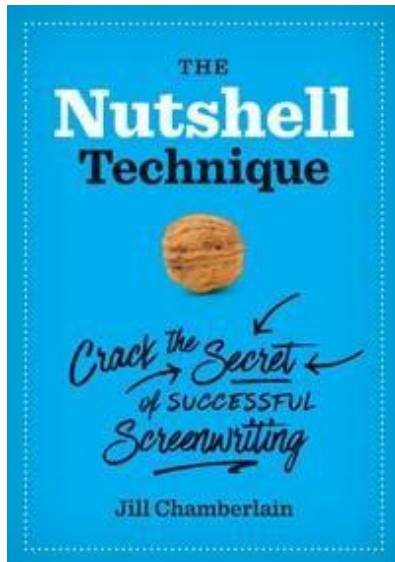
Sanjay Subrahmanyam sets the scene for this region starting with the withdrawal of China's Ming Dynasty and explores how the western Indian Ocean was transformed by the growth and increasing prominence of the Ottoman Empire and the continued spread of Islam into East Africa. He examines how several cities, including Mecca and the vital Indian port of Surat, grew and changed during these centuries, when various powers interacted until famines and other disturbances upended the region in the seventeenth century. Rather than proposing an artificial model of a dominant center and its dominated peripheries, *Across the Green Sea* demonstrates the complexity of a truly dynamic and polycentric system through the use of connected histories, a method pioneered by Subrahmanyam himself.

Contributor Bio

Sanjay Subrahmanyam is a Distinguished Professor of History and the Irving & Jean Stone Chair in Social Sciences at UCLA. He is the author of *Europe's India: Words, People, Empires, 1500–1800* and *Empires Between Islam and Christianity, 1500–1800*.

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The Nutshell Technique

Crack the Secret of Successful Screenwriting

Jill Chamberlain

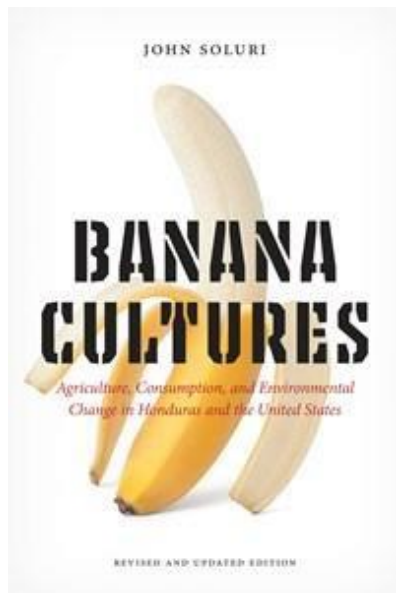
Summary

Veteran script consultant Jill Chamberlain discovered in her work that an astounding 99 percent of first-time screenwriters don't know how to tell a story. These writers may know how to format a script, write snappy dialogue, and set a scene. They may have interesting characters and perhaps some clever plot devices. But, invariably, while they may have the kernel of a good idea for a screenplay, they fail to tell a *story*. What the 99 percent do instead is present a *situation*. In order to explain the difference, Chamberlain created the Nutshell Technique, a method whereby writers identify eight dynamic, interconnected elements that are required to successfully tell a story.

Now, for the first time, Chamberlain presents her unique method in book form with *The Nutshell Technique: Crack the Secret of Successful Screenwriting*. Using easy-to-follow diagrams ("nutshells"), she thoroughly explains how the Nutshell Technique can make or break a film script. Chamberlain takes readers step-by-step...

Contributor Bio

Jill Chamberlain is a sought-after script doctor, story consultant, and screenwriting coach who founded The Screenplay Workshop (www.thescreenplayworkshop.org). She has taught the Nutshell Technique to more than a thousand screenwriters around the globe, and many of her students have achieved success in Hollywood, having their screenplays optioned, sold, and made into award-winning feature films.



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 \$32.95
 Paperback

368 Pages
 25 b&w photos, 5 maps

Rights Sold:

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 Rights (China Science
 and Technology Press)

Banana Cultures (2nd Edition)

Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States

John Soluri

Key Selling Points:

A lively, interdisciplinary history of why the banana became America's most popular fresh fruit and how its popularity has affected the "banana republics" of Central America.

Summary

Bananas, the most frequently consumed fresh fruit in the United States, have been linked to Miss Chiquita and Carmen Miranda, "banana republics," and Banana Republic clothing stores—everything from exotic kitsch, to Third World dictatorships, to middle-class fashion. But how did the rise in banana consumption in the United States affect the banana-growing regions of Central America? In this lively, interdisciplinary study, John Soluri integrates agroecology, anthropology, political economy, and history to trace the symbiotic growth of the export banana industry in Honduras and the consumer mass market in the United States.

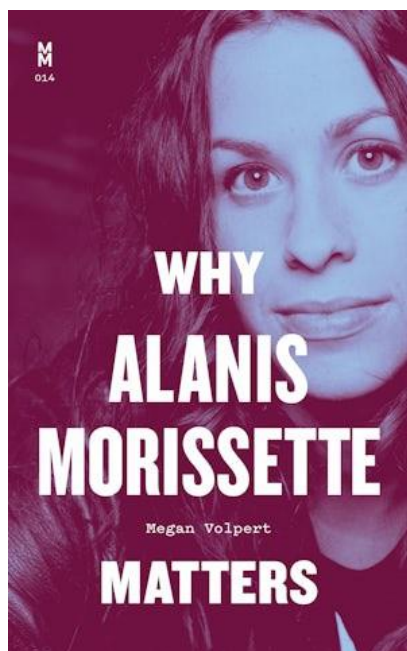
Beginning in the 1870s, when bananas first appeared in the U.S. marketplace, Soluri examines the tensions between the small-scale growers, who dominated the trade in the early years, and the shippers. He then shows how rising demand led to changes in production that resulted in the formation of major agribusinesses, spawned international migrations, and transformed gr...

Contributor Bio

John Soluri is Associate Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS PRESS



Hardcover, 9781477330876,
\$24.95

Date: March 2025
Pages: 136



Why Alanis Morissette Matters

Megan Volpert

DESCRIPTION

The first critical biography of iconic musician Alanis Morissette, creator of *Jagged Little Pill*.

The 1990s hardly saw a bigger hit than *Jagged Little Pill*. Alanis Morissette's defining album won Grammys, dominated the Billboard charts, and sold more than 30 million copies worldwide. It left a deep mark on the psyches of countless listeners. Three decades later, Megan Volpert checks in with Morissette, probing her rich and varied post-*JLP* career and bearing feminist witness to the existential anger that ties her recent work to enduring classics like "You Oughta Know," "One Hand in My Pocket," and "Ironie."

Why Alanis Morissette Matters builds a bridge from *Jagged Little Pill* to the fascinating life and subtle intellect of its creator, exploring how the artist's philosophical interests and personal journey are reflected in each track. Morissette's struggles with censorship, mental health challenges, and Catholicism; her queer allyship, spiritual skepticism, zealous fandom, and philanthropic passions—all are carefully observed by a critic whose own life was touched by *Jagged Little Pill*. In the album's wake, Morissette has evolved as an artist and global citizen. With sensitivity and a profound love for the music, Volpert guides readers through the case for Morissette's enduring cultural relevance and creative impact.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

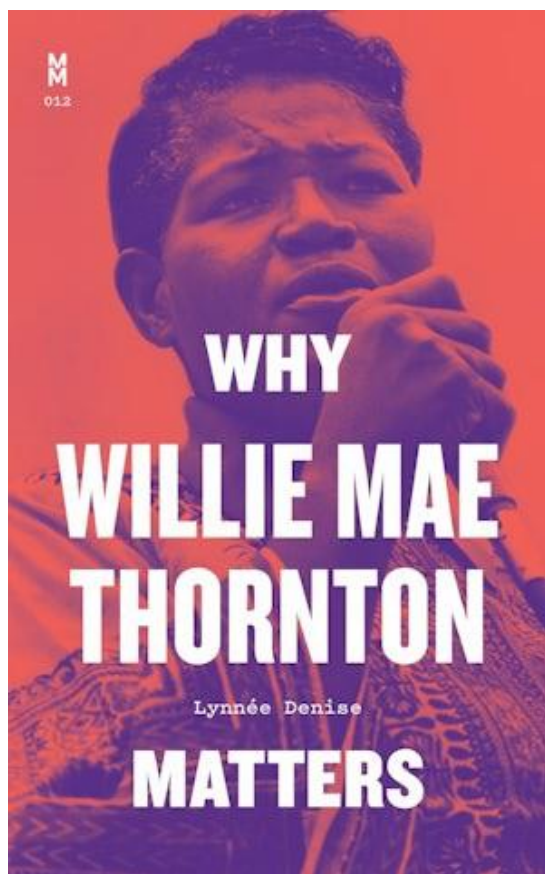
Megan Volpert is the author or editor of over a dozen books on popular culture, including two Lambda Literary Award finalists and an American Library Association honoree. She is the author of *Straight Into Darkness: Tom Petty as Rock Mystic* and she won Georgia Author of the Year for *Boss Broad*. She teaches at Kennesaw State and Reinhardt Universities.

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Hardcover, \$24.95
September 2023
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240 Pages

Why Willie Mae Thornton Matters

Lynnée Denise

DESCRIPTION

A queer, Black “biography in essays” about the performer who gave us “Hound Dog,” “Ball and Chain,” and other songs that changed the course of American music.

Born in Alabama in 1926, raised in the church, appropriated by white performers, buried in an indigent’s grave—Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton’s life events epitomize the blues—but Lynnée Denise pushes past the stereotypes to read Thornton’s life through a Black, queer, feminist lens and reveal an artist who was an innovator across her four-decade-long career.

Why Willie Mae Thornton Matters “samples” elements of Thornton’s art—and, occasionally, the author’s own story—to create “a biography in essays” that explores the life of its subject as a DJ might dig through a crate of records. Denise connects Thornton’s vaudevillesque performances in Sammy Green’s Hot Harlem Revue to the vocal improvisations that made “Hound Dog” a hit for Peacock Records (and later for Elvis Presley), injecting music criticism into what’s often framed as a cautionary tale of record-industry racism. She interprets Thornton’s performing in men’s suits as both a sly, Little Richard–like queering of the Chitlin Circuit and a simple preference for pants over dresses that didn’t have a pocket for her harmonica. Most radical of all, she refers to her subject by her given name rather than “Big Mama,” a nickname bestowed upon her by a white man. It’s a deliberate and crucial act of reclamation, because in the name of Willie Mae Thornton is the sound of Black musical resilience.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Lynnée Denise is an artist, writer, and DJ. She was the Sterling Brown ’22 Distinguished Visiting Professor of Africana Studies at Williams College, and she is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Visual Culture at Goldsmiths, University of London.

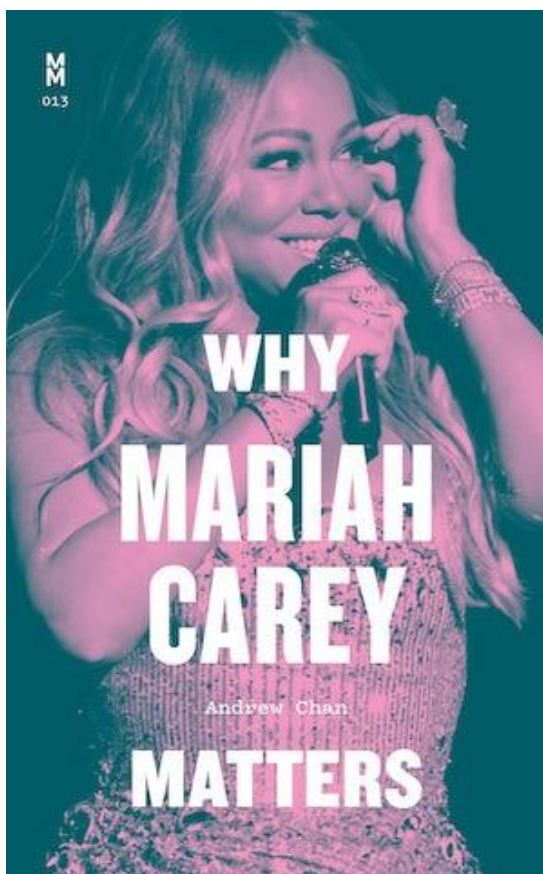
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Hardcover, \$22.95
September 2023
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168 Pages

Why Mariah Carey Matters

Andrew Chan

DESCRIPTION

The first book to critically examine the legacy of pop superstar Mariah Carey.

When it comes to Mariah Carey, star power is never in doubt. She has sold hundreds of millions of albums and cut more chart-topping hits than any other solo artist—ever. And she has that extraordinary five-octave vocal range. But there is more to her legacy than eye-popping numbers.

Why Mariah Carey Matters examines the creative evolution and complicated biography of a true diva, making the case that, despite her celebrity, Carey's musicianship and influence are insufficiently appreciated. A pioneering songwriter and producer, Carey pairs her vocal gifts with intimate lyrics and richly layered sonic details. In the mid-1990s, she perfected a blend of pop, hip-hop, and R&B with songs such as "Fantasy" and "Honey" and drew from her turbulent life to create the introspective masterpiece *Butterfly*. Andrew Chan looks beyond Carey's glamorous persona to explore her experience as a mixed-race woman in show business, her adventurous forays into house music and gospel, and her appeal to multiple generations of queer audiences. He also reckons with the transcendent ideal of the voice that Carey represents, showing how this international icon taught artists around the world to sing with soul-shaking intensity and a spirit of innovation.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Andrew Chan writes regularly about music, film, and books for *4Columns*. His work has also been published by the Criterion Collection, *Film Comment*, NPR, the *New Yorker*, and *Reverse Shot*.

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Hardcover, \$24.95
May 2023
9781477325704
256 Pages

Why Sinéad O'Connor Matters

Allyson McCabe

DESCRIPTION

A stirring defense of Sinéad O'Connor's music and activism, and an indictment of the culture that cancelled her.

In 1990, Sinéad O'Connor's video for "Nothing Compares 2 U" turned her into a superstar. Two years later, an appearance on *Saturday Night Live* turned her into a scandal. For many people—including, for years, the author—what they knew of O'Connor stopped there. Allyson McCabe believes it's time to reassess our old judgments about Sinéad O'Connor and to expose the machinery that built her up and knocked her down.

Addressing triumph and struggle, sound and story, *Why Sinéad O'Connor Matters* argues that its subject has been repeatedly manipulated and misunderstood by a culture that is often hostile to women who speak their minds (in O'Connor's case, by shaving her head, championing rappers, and tearing up a picture of the pope on live television). McCabe details O'Connor's childhood abuse, her initial success, and the backlash against her radical politics without shying away from the difficult issues her career raises. She compares O'Connor to Madonna, another superstar who challenged the Catholic Church, and Prince, who wrote her biggest hit and allegedly assaulted her. A journalist herself, McCabe exposes how the media distorts not only how we see O'Connor but how we see ourselves, and she weighs the risks of telling a story that hits close to home.

In an era when popular understanding of mental health has improved and the public eagerly celebrates feminist struggles of the past, it can be easy to forget how O'Connor suffered for being herself. This is the book her admirers and defenders have been waiting for.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

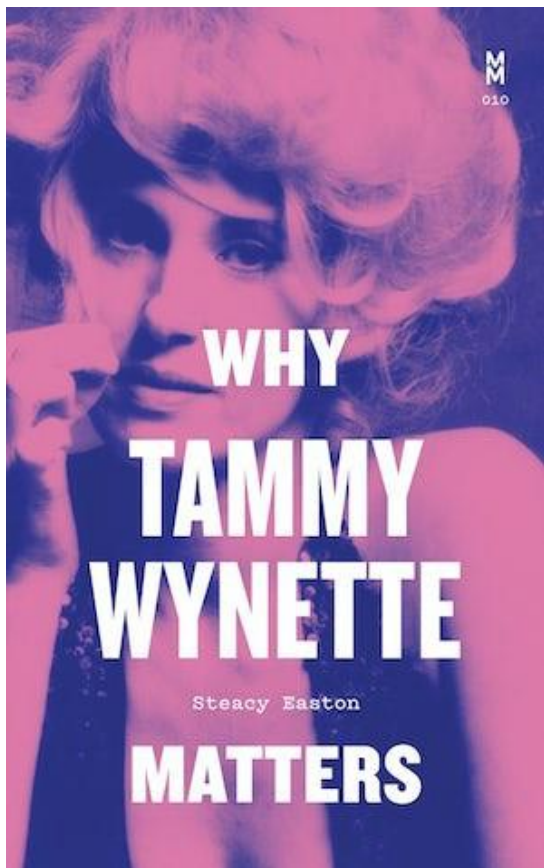
Allyson McCabe is a writer, reporter, and producer whose work is often broadcast on NPR, and her byline appears in the *New York Times*, *BBC Culture*, *Wired*, and other publications.

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Hardcover, \$23.95
May 2023
9781477324646
184 Pages

Why Tammy Wynette Matters

Steacy Easton

DESCRIPTION

How Tammy Wynette channeled the conflicts of her life into her music and performance.

With hits such as “Stand By Your Man” and “Golden Ring,” Tammy Wynette was an icon of American domesticity and femininity. But there were other sides to the first lady of country. Steacy Easton places the complications of Wynette’s music and her biography in sharp-edged relief, exploring how she made her sometimes-tumultuous life into her work, a transformation that was itself art.

Wynette created a persona of high femininity to match the themes she sang about—fawning devotion, redemption in heterosexual romance, the heartbreak of loneliness. Behind the scenes, her life was marked by persistent class anxieties; despite wealth and fame, she kept her beautician’s license. Easton argues that the struggle to meet expectations of southernness, womanhood, and southern womanhood, finds subtle expression in Wynette’s performance of “Apartment #9”—and it’s because of these vocal subtleties that it came to be called the saddest song ever written. Wynette similarly took on elements of camp and political critique in her artistry, demonstrating an underappreciated genius. *Why Tammy Wynette Matters* reveals a musician who doubled back on herself, her façade of earnestness cracked by a melodrama that weaponized femininity and upended feminist expectations, while scoring twenty number-one hits.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Steacy Easton has written about country music for NPR, *Slate*, and the *Atlantic*. They are a PhD student in critical disability studies at York University.

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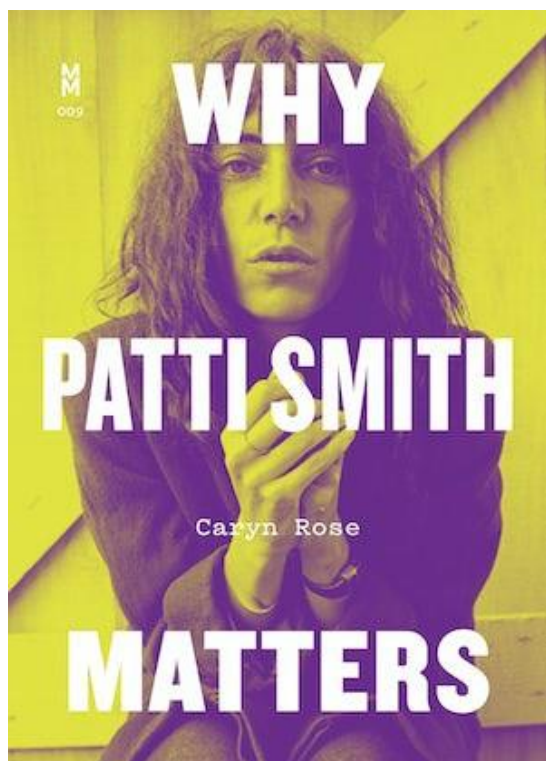
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Paperback, \$18.95
May 2022
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248 Pages

Why Patti Smith Matters

Caryn Rose

DESCRIPTION

Patti Smith arrived in New York City at the end of the Age of Aquarius in search of work and purpose. What she found—what she fostered—was a cultural revolution. Through her poetry, her songs, her unapologetic vocal power, and her very presence as a woman fronting a rock band, she kicked open a door that countless others walked through. No other musician has better embodied the “nothing-to-hide” rawness of punk, nor has any other done more to nurture a place in society for misfits of every stripe.

Why Patti Smith Matters is the first book about the iconic artist written by a woman. The veteran music journalist Caryn Rose contextualizes Smith’s creative work, her influence, and her wide-ranging and still-evolving impact on rock and roll, visual art, and the written word. Rose goes deep into Smith’s oeuvre, from her first album, *Horses*, to acclaimed memoirs operating at a surprising remove from her music. The portrait of a ceaseless inventor, *Why Patti Smith Matters* rescues punk’s poet laureate from “strong woman” clichés. Of course Smith is strong. She is also a nuanced thinker. A maker of beautiful and challenging things. A transformative artist who has not simply entertained but also empowered millions.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Caryn Rose is a longtime music journalist whose work has appeared in *Pitchfork*, MTV News, Salon, *Billboard*, the *Village Voice*, *Vulture*, and the *Guardian*. Her essay on Maybelle Carter was included in *Woman Walk the Line*.

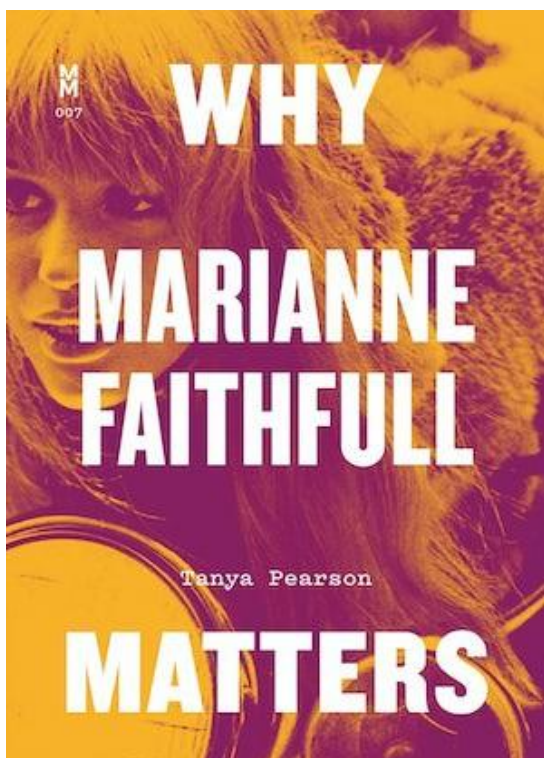
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Paperback, \$18.95
July 2021
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192 Pages

Why Marianne Faithfull Matters

Tanya Pearson

DESCRIPTION

First as a doe-eyed ingénue with “As Tears Go By,” then as a gravel-voiced phoenix rising from the ashes of the 1960s with a landmark punk album, *Broken English*, and finally as a genre-less icon, Marianne Faithfull carved her name into the history of rock ‘n’ roll to chart a career spanning five decades and multiple detours. In *Why Marianne Faithfull Matters*, Tanya Pearson crafts a feminist account that explains the musician’s absence from the male-dominated history of the British Invasion and champions the eclectic late career that confirmed her redemption.

Putting memoir on equal footing with biographical history, Pearson writes about Faithfull as an avid fan, recovered addict, and queer musician at a crossroads. She’s also a professional historian unafraid to break from the expectations of the discipline if a “titty-centered analysis” or astrology can illuminate the work of her subject. Whether exploring Faithfull’s rise to celebrity, her drug addiction and fall from grace as spurned “muse,” or her reinvention as a sober, soulful chanteuse subverting all expectations for an aging woman in music, Pearson affirms the deep connections between listeners and creators and reveals, in her own particular way, why Marianne Faithfull matters.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Tanya Pearson is a public historian and director of the *Women of Rock Oral History Project*, a collection of digital interviews and written transcripts documenting the lives and careers of women-identified rock musicians. Her work has appeared in *Bust Magazine*, *Memoir Mixtapes*, and *Oral History Journal*.

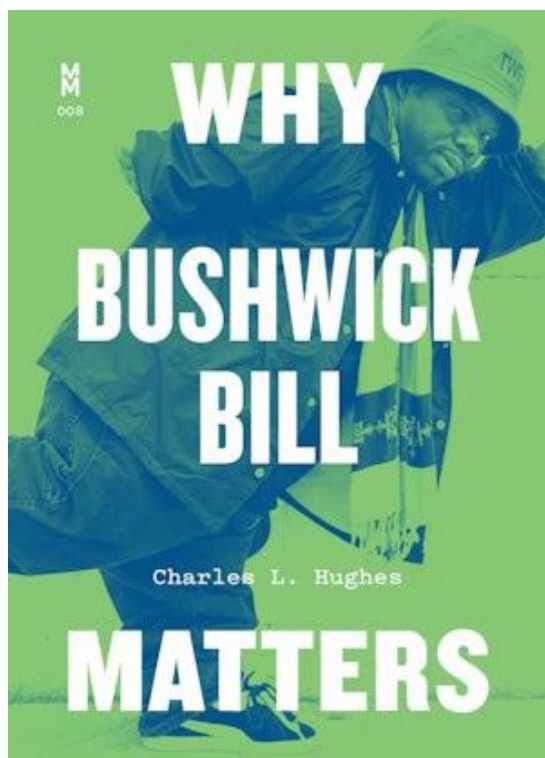
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Paperback, \$18.95
June 2021
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208 Pages

Why Bushwick Bill Matters

Charles L. Hughes

DESCRIPTION

In 1989 the Geto Boys released a blistering track, “Size Ain’t Shit,” that paid tribute to the group’s member Bushwick Bill. Born with dwarfism, Bill was one of the few visibly disabled musicians to achieve widespread fame and one of the even fewer to address disability in a direct, sustained manner. Initially hired as a dancer, Bill became central to the Geto Boys as the Houston crew became one of hip-hop’s most important groups.

Why Bushwick Bill Matters chronicles this crucial artist and explores what he reveals about the relationships among race, sex, and disability in pop music. Charles L. Hughes examines Bill’s recordings and videos (both with the Geto Boys and solo), from the horror-comic persona of “Chuckie” to vulnerable verses in songs such as “Mind Playing Tricks On Me,” to discuss his portrayals of dwarfism, addiction, and mental illness. Hughes also explores Bill’s importance to his era and to the longer history of disability in music. A complex figure, Bill exposed the truths of a racist and ableist society even as his violent and provocative lyrics put him in the middle of debates over censorship and misogyny. Confrontational and controversial, Bushwick Bill left a massive legacy as he rhymed and swaggered through an often-inaccessible world.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Charles L. Hughes is the director of the Lynne and Henry Turley Memphis Center at Rhodes College. He is the author of *Country Soul: Making Music and Making Race in the American South*, which *Rolling Stone* named one of the “Best Music Books of 2015,” as well as numerous articles that have appeared in a variety of publications.

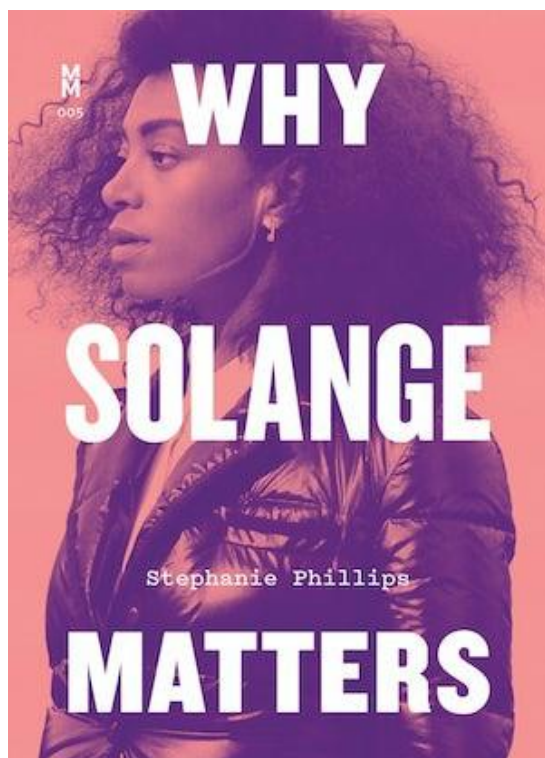
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Why Solange Matters

Stephanie Phillips

DESCRIPTION

Growing up in the shadow of her superstar sister, Solange Knowles became a pivotal musician in her own right. Defying an industry that attempted to bend her to its rigid image of a Black woman, Solange continually experimented with her sound and embarked on a metamorphosis in her art that continues to this day.

In *Why Solange Matters*, Stephanie Phillips chronicles the creative journey of an artist who became a beloved voice for the Black Lives Matter generation. A Black feminist punk musician herself, Phillips addresses not only the unpredictable trajectory of Solange Knowles's career but also how she and other Black women see themselves through the musician's repertoire. First, she traces Solange's progress through an inflexible industry, charting the artist's development up to 2016, when the release of her third album, *A Seat at the Table*, redefined her career. Then, with *A Seat at the Table* and 2019's *When I Get Home*, Phillips describes how Solange embraced activism, anger, Black womanhood, and intergenerational trauma to inform her remarkable art. *Why Solange Matters* not only cements the place of its subject in the pantheon of world-changing twenty-first century musicians, it introduces its writer as an important new voice.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Stephanie Phillips is a London-based music journalist and musician who writes for *The Quietus*, *She Shreds*, *Noisey*, *Bandcamp*, and *The Wire*. She started the Black feminist punk band Big Joanie and played backup for Bikini Kill and Sleater-Kinney. She is also part of the collective behind Decolonise Fest, a festival celebrating punks of color.

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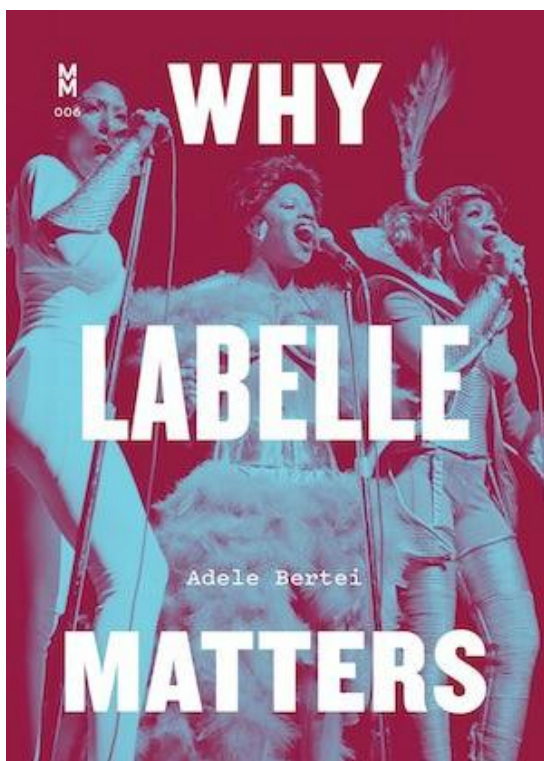
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Paperback, \$18.95
April 2021
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248 Pages



Paperback, \$18.95
March 2021
9781477320402
208 Pages

Why Labelle Matters

Adele Bertei

DESCRIPTION

Performing as the Bluebelles in the 1960s, Patti LaBelle, Nona Hendryx, and Sarah Dash wore bouffant wigs and chiffon dresses, and they harmonized vocals like many other girl groups of the era. After a decade on the Chitlin Circuit, however, they were ready to write their own material, change their name, and deliver—as Labelle—an electrifyingly celestial sound and styling that reached a crescendo with a legendary performance at the Metropolitan Opera House to celebrate the release of *Nightbirds* and its most well-known track, “Lady Marmalade.” In *Why Labelle Matters*, Adele Bertei tells the story of the group that sang the opening aria of Afrofuturism and proclaimed a new theology of musical liberation for women, people of color, and LGBTQ people across the globe.

With sumptuous and galactic costumes, genre-bending lyrics, and stratospheric vocals, Labelle’s out-of-this-world performances changed the course of pop music and made them the first Black group to grace the cover of *Rolling Stone*. *Why Labelle Matters*, informed by interviews with members of the group as well as Bertei’s own experience as a groundbreaking musician, is the first cultural assessment of this transformative act.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

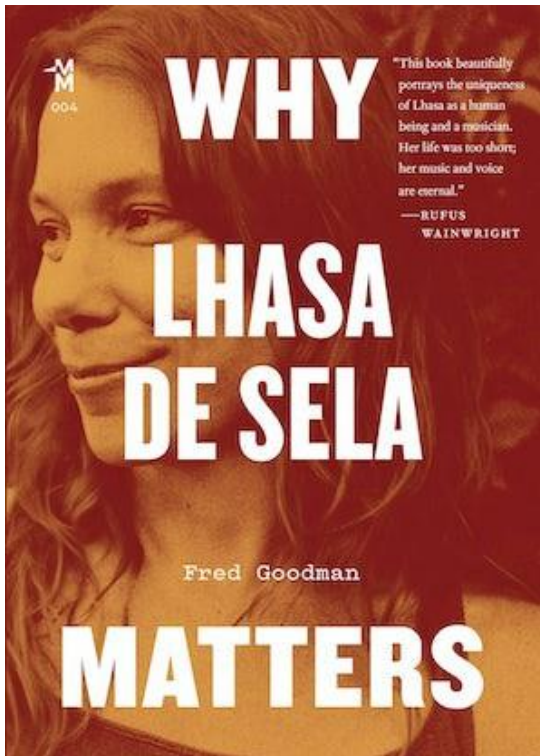
Adele Bertei’s music career began in Cleveland with Peter Laughner of Pere Ubu. She entered New York’s downtown scene of the late 1970s as an organist for the Contortions and went on to form the Bloods, the first out, queer, all women-rock band. Bertei has appeared in several indie films, most notably Lizzie Borden’s *Born in Flames* and *The Offenders*. As a singer/songwriter, she has toured with, written songs for, and recorded as a backup vocalist for a diverse group of artists including Tears for Fears, Thomas Dolby, Sandra Bernhard, Culture Club, Scritti Politti, Whitney Houston, Jamaaladeen Tacuma, Sheena Easton, Oleta Adams, Lydia Lunch, the Pointer Sisters, Matthew Sweet, and Sophie B. Hawkins. Bertei charted top twenty internationally with featured leads on Thomas Dolby’s “Hyperactive!” and Jellybean’s “Just a Mirage.” Bertei is the author of *Peter and the Wolves*, a short memoir of her rock and roll education.

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November 2019
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200 Pages

Why Lhasa de Sela Matters

Fred Goodman

DESCRIPTION

An artist in every sense of the word, Lhasa de Sela wowed audiences around the globe with her multilingual songs and spellbinding performances, mixing together everything from Gypsy music to Mexican *rancheras*, Americana and jazz, *chanson française*, and South American folk melodies. In Canada, her album *La Llorona* won the Juno Award and went gold, and its follow-up, *The Living Road*, won a BBC World Music Award. Tragically, de Sela succumbed to breast cancer in 2010 at the age of thirty-seven after recording her final album, *Lhasa*.

Tracing de Sela's unconventional life and introducing her to a new generation, *Why Lhasa de Sela Matters* is the first biography of this sophisticated creative icon. Raised in a hippie family traveling between the United States and Mexico in a converted school bus, de Sela developed an unquenchable curiosity, with equal affinities for the romantic, mystic, and cerebral. Becoming a sensation in Montreal and Europe, the trilingual singer rejected a conventional path to fame, joining her sisters' circus troupe in France. Revealing the details of these and other experiences that inspired de Sela to write such vibrant, otherworldly music, *Why Lhasa de Sela Matters* sings with the spirit of this gifted firebrand.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Fred Goodman is a former editor at *Rolling Stone* whose work has appeared in the *New York Times* and many magazines. His previous books include the award-winning *The Mansion on the Hill: Dylan, Young, Geffen, Springsteen, and the Head-on Collision of Rock and Commerce*.

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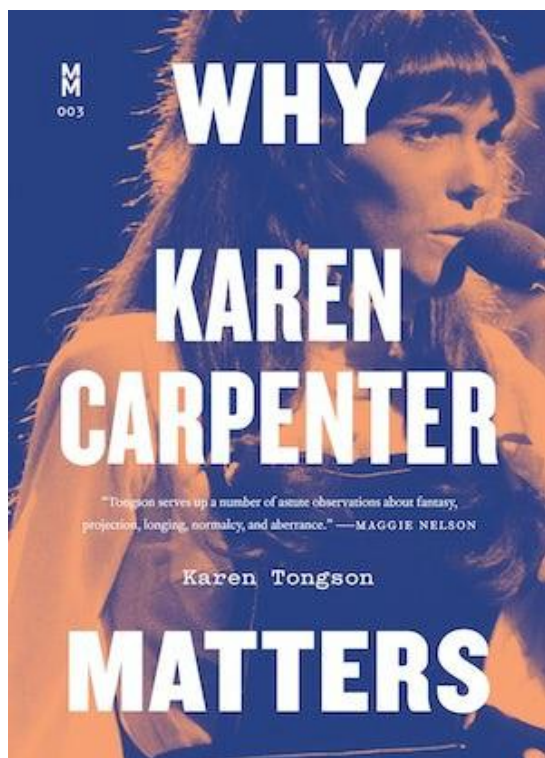
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June 2019
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152 Pages

Why Karen Carpenter Matters

Karen Tongson

DESCRIPTION

In the '60s and '70s, America's music scene was marked by raucous excess, reflected in the tragic overdoses of young superstars such as Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin. At the same time, the uplifting harmonies and sunny lyrics that propelled Karen Carpenter and her brother, Richard, to international fame belied a different sort of tragedy—the underconsumption that led to Karen's death at age thirty-two from the effects of an eating disorder.

In *Why Karen Carpenter Matters*, Karen Tongson (whose Filipino musician parents named her after the pop icon) interweaves the story of the singer's rise to fame with her own trans-Pacific journey between the Philippines—where imitations of American pop styles flourished—and Karen Carpenter's home ground of Southern California. Tongson reveals why the Carpenters' chart-topping, seemingly whitewashed musical fantasies of "normal love" can now have profound significance for her—as well as for other people of color, LGBT+ communities, and anyone outside the mainstream culture usually associated with Karen Carpenter's legacy. This hybrid of memoir and biography excavates the destructive perfectionism at the root of the Carpenters' sound, while finding the beauty in the singer's all too brief life.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Karen Tongson is an associate professor of English, gender and sexuality studies, and American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California. She is the 2019 recipient of the Lambda Literary Jeanne Córdova Award for Lesbian/Queer Nonfiction; the author of *Relocations: Queer Suburban Imaginaries*; and the co-editor of the Postmillennial Pop book series at NYU Press. Her cultural commentary has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post*, among others. Previously a panelist on MaximumFun.org's "Pop Rocket" podcast, she now cohosts the podcast "Waiting to X-hale." Visit her website at www.karentongson.org.

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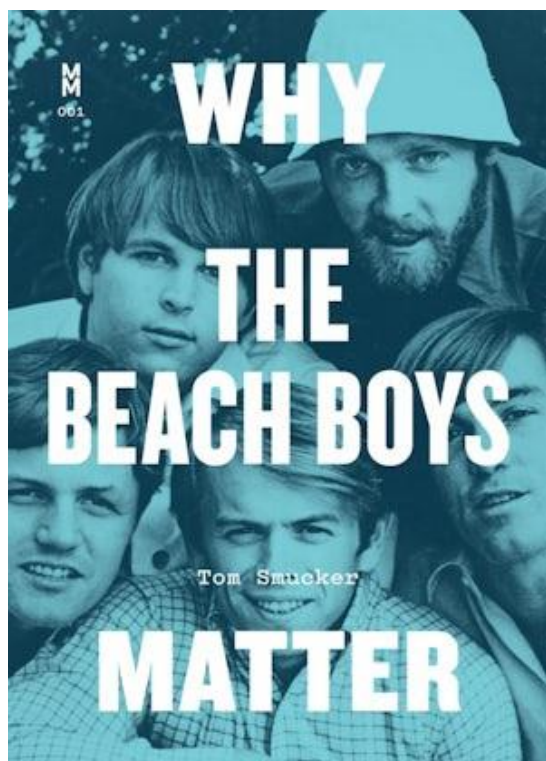
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Why the Beach Boys Matter

Tom Smucker

DESCRIPTION

Of all the white American pop music groups that hit the charts before the Beatles, only the Beach Boys continued to thrive throughout the British Invasion to survive into the 1970s and beyond. The Beach Boys helped define both sides of the era we broadly call the sixties, split between their early surf, car, and summer pop and their later hippie, counterculture, and ambitious rock. No other group can claim the Ronettes and the Four Seasons as early 1960s rivals; the Mamas and the Papas and Crosby, Stills and Nash as later 1960s rivals; and the Beatles and the Temptations as decade-spanning counterparts.

This is the first book to take an honest look at the themes running through the Beach Boys' art and career as a whole and to examine where they sit inside our culture and politics—and why they still grab our attention.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Tom Smucker has written rock criticism for *Creem*, *Fusion*, *Rolling Stone*, and the *Village Voice*.

Paperback, \$16.95
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192 Pages

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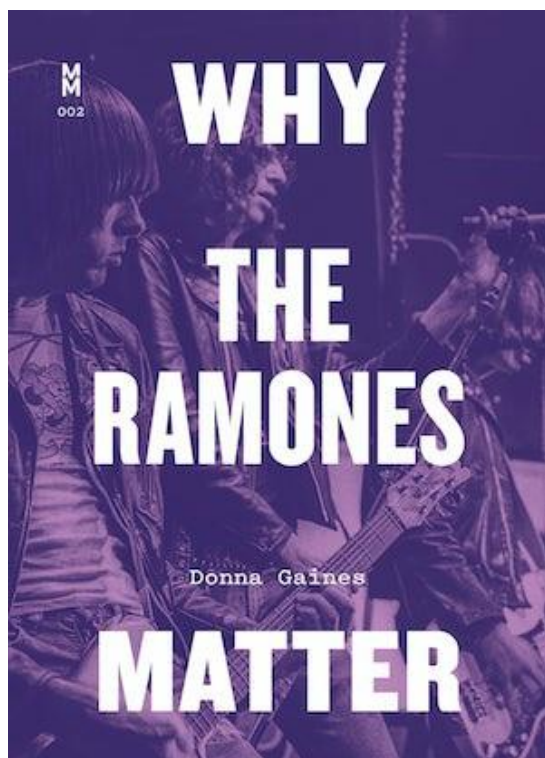
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Why the Ramones Matter

Donna Gaines

DESCRIPTION

The central experience of the Ramones and their music is of being an outsider, an outcast, a person who's somehow defective, and the revolt against shame and self-loathing. The fans, argues Donna Gaines, got it right away, from their own experience of alienation at home, at school, on the streets, and from themselves. This sense of estrangement and marginality permeates everything the Ramones still offer us as artists, and as people. *Why the Ramones Matter* compellingly makes the case that the Ramones gave us everything; they saved rock and roll, modeled DIY ethics, and addressed our deepest collective traumas, from the personal to the historical.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Donna Gaines is the author of *Teenage Wasteland* and *A Misfit's Manifesto*.

Paperback, \$16.95
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168 Pages

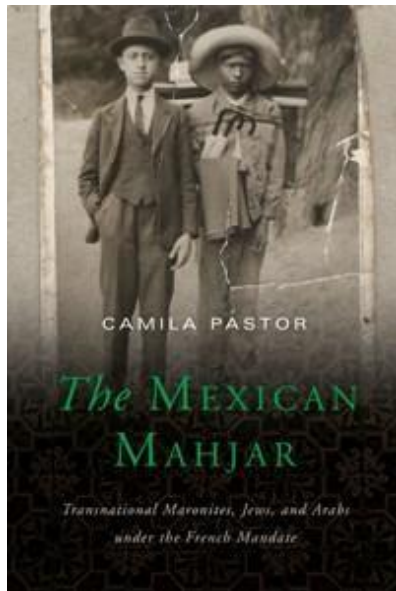
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9781477314623
 Pub Date: 12/16/2017
 \$29.95
 Paperback

352 Pages

The Mexican Mahjar

Transnational Maronites, Jews, and Arabs under the French Mandate

Camila Pastor

Key Selling Points:

Examines Arab immigrants (Mahjari) to Mexico in the decades surrounding the turn of the 20th century. These immigrants were primarily from the region known as the Mashriq, that is the Eastern Mediterranean region of the Levant and Iraq. They were a combination of Christians, Muslims, and Jews, who were frequently lumped together because of their place of origin rather than their religion. Pastor explores the interactions of these immigrants with their new culture. Not only did the Mahjari have to navigate their roles in both their homeland and their new land, they had to account for the influence of the French, who had an impact on Mashriq affairs even before the formal establishment of the French Mandate after World War I. Tracing issues of class, race, and gender through the decades of increased immigration, the Mexican Revolution, and the Great Depression, Pastor sheds new light on the interaction of Middle Eastern, Mexican, and French cultures.

Summary

Winner, Khayrallah Migration Studies Prize, Moise Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies, 2018

Migration from the Middle East brought hundreds of thousands of people to the Americas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the time the Ottoman political system collapsed in 1918, over a third of the population of the Mashriq, i.e. the Levant, had made the transatlantic journey. This intense mobility was interrupted by World War I but resumed in the 1920s and continued through the late 1940s under the French Mandate. Many migrants returned to their homelands, but the rest concentrated in Brazil, Argentina, the United States, Haiti, and Mexico, building transnational lives.

The Mexican Mahjar provides the first global history of Middle Eastern migrations to Mexico. Making unprecedented use of French colonial archives and historical ethnography, Camila Pastor examines how French colonial control over Syria and Lebanon affected the migrants. Tracing issues of class, r...

Contributor Bio

A historical anthropologist exploring transnationalism, mediation, and subalterns in colonial settings, Camila Pastor is a profesor investigador in the División de Historia of the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas.



France and Algeria *(Revised)*

A History of Decolonization and Transformation

Phillip Naylor

Summary

An examination of the complicated history between France and Algeria since the latter's independence.

While most related studies concentrate on the colonial era and Algeria's War of Independence, *France and Algeria* details the nations' postcolonial relationship. Phillip Naylor provides a philosophical approach, contending that France reformulated, rather than repudiated, "essential" strategic values during decolonization. It thus continued to pursue grandeur and independence, especially with regard to the Third World and Algeria, an essentialism that expedited France's postcolonial transformation. But as a new nation, Algeria needed to pursue the "existential" project of self-definition. It became involved in state-building while also promulgating socialism, and it recognized how French oil concessions in the Sahara impeded its independence, leading to the industry's postcolonial decolonization. Finally, the postcolonial relationship has featured a human dimension involving immigrants, ...

Contributor Bio

Phillip Naylor is an emeritus professor of history at Marquette University and a coeditor of the *Journal of North African Studies*. He is the author of *North Africa: A History from Antiquity to the Present* and *Historical Dictionary of Algeria* and a coeditor of *State and Society in Algeria*.

9781477328439
 Pub Date: 6/11/2024
 \$55.00
 Hardcover

488 Pages
 2 maps



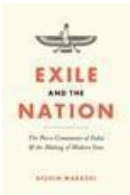
Lyndon B. Johnson : A Biography for Beginning Historians

Louann Atkins Temple
9781477332146, 1477332146
Pub Date: 10/7/25
\$16.95 USD
58 pages
Paperback

A brief biography of Lyndon B. Johnson for young readers.

Summary: A brief biography of Lyndon B. Johnson for young readers.

Louann Temple is a lifelong Texan with a personal passion for arts and education who believes that biography, with its emphasis on personalities, is ideal for introducing young people to history, with its focus on events. Temple is uniquely situated to write this biography for young readers, as she has been personally acquainted with many important people in presidential history, President Lyndon B. Johnson included, and she has mentored countless middle and high school students, ...



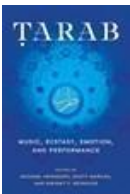
Exile and the Nation : The Parsi Community of India and the Making of Modern Iran

Afshin Marashi
9781477320808, 1477320806
Pub Date: 8/12/25
\$34.95 USD
328 pages / 36 b&w photos, 2 maps
Paperback

Summary: Honorable Mention, Hamid Naficy Iranian Studies Book Award from the Association of Iranian Studies

In the aftermath of the seventh-century Islamic conquest of Iran, Zoroastrians departed for India. Known as the Parsis, they slowly lost contact with their ancestral land until the nineteenth century, when steam-powered sea travel, the increased circulation of Zoroastrian-themed books, and the philanthropic efforts of Parsi benefactors sparked a new era of interaction between the two groups.

Tracing the cultural and intellectual exchange be...



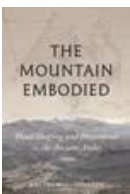
Tarab : Music, Ecstasy, Emotion, and Performance

Michael Frishkopf, Scott Marcus, Dwight Reynolds
9781477331439, 1477331433
Pub Date: 7/22/25
\$60.00 USD
296 pages / 25 b&w photos
Hardcover

How the concept of *tarab* has impacted music and culture across the Islamic world.

Summary: In Arab culture, at the ineffable point where music meets emotion, lies *tarab*. Often glossed as the ecstasy experienced and expressed when performing or listening to singing, instrumental works, and recitations of poetry, *tarab* is both a practice and an orienting concept central to musical aesthetics and spirituality characteristic of Middle Eastern cultures.

Gathering fifteen essays by scholars of music, affect, literature, religion, and education, *Tarab* extends the study of *tarab* historically, geographically, and sociologically. His...



The Mountain Embodied : Head Shaping and Personhood in the Ancient Andes

Matthew C. Velasco
9781477331514, 1477331514
Pub Date: 7/15/25
\$60.00 USD
264 pages / 8-page color insert, 10 b&w photos, 8 maps
Hardcover

A study of the ancient practice of Andean head shaping and its cultural connotations.

Summary: A study of the ancient practice of Andean head shaping and its cultural connotations.

In the late sixteenth century, Spanish conquerors in Peru's Colca Valley encountered the Collaguas and Cavanas, Indigenous people who undertook a striking form of body modification: Collaguas bound the heads of infants and children so that their skulls grew narrow and elongated, and Cavanas so that their skulls became wide and squat. Head shaping resulted in craniums that resembled two specific mountains associated with the groups. For Europeans, shap...



The Lives and Deaths of Women in Ancient Pompeii

Brenda Longfellow

9781477331231, 1477331239

Pub Date: 7/8/25

\$55.00 USD

304 pages / 78 b&w illustrations, 16 color

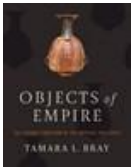
photos, 11 maps

Hardcover

A study of women's lives in the public sphere of the ancient city of Pompeii.

Summary: A study of women's lives in the public sphere of the ancient city of Pompeii.

Pompeii's well-preserved remains provide a unique opportunity for the close study of ancient lives. Drawing on statues, inscriptions, graffiti, wall paintings, and the architecture of tombs, sanctuaries, houses, and public spaces, *The Lives and Deaths of Women in Ancient Pompeii* examines the public lives of women in Pompeii. Art historian Brenda Longfellow explores how historical women of all social backgrounds acted in public and exerted agency on behalf of ...



Objects of Empire : The Ceramic Tradition of the Imperial Inca State

Tamara L. Bray

9781477330685, 1477330682

Pub Date: 6/17/25

\$65.00 USD

352 pages / 260 color photos

Hardcover

A comparative, empire-wide study of the ceramics associated with the imperial Inca state, theorizing the role of these highly recognizable vessel forms in legitimizing Inca rule and establishing imperial identities.

Summary: A comparative, empire-wide study of the ceramics associated with the imperial Inca state, theorizing the role of these highly recognizable vessel forms in legitimizing Inca rule and establishing imperial identities.

The beautiful polychrome ceramics of the imperial Inca state have long been noted for their seemingly repetitive nature but little considered beyond this basic observation. The widespread distribution and general uniformity of the Inca pottery, however, hints at its larger importance to the imperial project. Moving beyond t...



Her Cup for Sweet Cacao : Food in Ancient Maya Society

Traci Ardren

9781477331958, 1477331956

Pub Date: 3/18/25

\$39.95 USD

400 pages

Paperback

Summary: For the ancient Maya, food was both sustenance and a tool for building a complex society. This collection, the first to focus exclusively on the social uses of food in Classic Maya culture, deploys a variety of theoretical approaches to examine the meaning of food beyond diet—ritual offerings and restrictions, medicinal preparations, and the role of nostalgia around food, among other topics. For instance, how did Maya feasts build community while also reinforcing social hierarchy? What psychoactive substances were the elite Maya drinki...