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September 2021

We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books
ISSN 1934-6557

September 2021

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Computers & Internet / Education

Mastering SolidWorks, 3rd edition by Ibrahim Zeid (Peachpit Press, Pearson Education, Inc.)

Fully updated for SolidWorks 2021, **Mastering SolidWorks, 3rd edition**, illuminates solid modeling CAD techniques for developing parts, assemblies, and drawings. Additional specializations, SolidWorks toolboxes, and manufacturing techniques are also covered, including sheet metal, injection molding, and animation. New illustrations reflect SolidWorks 2021 throughout, and this 3rd edition fully reflects changes in workflow since SolidWorks 2014.

Authors are Ibrahim Zeid and Nathan Brown. Zeid, Professor of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at Northeastern University, is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. His research focuses on mechanics, personalized medicine, simulation, and complex networks analysis. Brown, a Certified SolidWorks Associate, research engineer and instructor in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Louisville, teaches SolidWorks, 3D modeling, and manufacturing processes at the graduate level.

Mastering SolidWorks can develop CAD skills in students with little or no solid modeling expertise, help more advanced students hone specialized skills, and prepare any SolidWorks user for SolidWorks Associate (CSWA) or Professional (CSWP) certification. Written especially for beginners and intermediate users, it will also be valuable to experienced users requiring specialized knowledge, to companies training their own professionals, and to all schools teaching engineering, design, or 3D modeling.

With **Mastering SolidWorks**, students:

- Understand SolidWorks as a powerful design/manufacturing system, not just a piece of software.
- Learn key modeling concepts for working efficiently, avoiding errors, and transferring one's skills anywhere.
- Rapidly create, assemble, document, and visualize parts.
- Embed 'design intelligence' to make parts easier to edit and manufacture.

- Master part modeling: from basic features, drawings, and assemblies to advanced curves, surfaces, and sustainable designs.
- Develop and analyze parts using tolerances and SolidWorks analysis tools.
- Manufacture parts with rapid prototyping, numerical control machining, and injection molding.

Mastering SolidWorks includes relevant math in Chapter 8 (Curves), Chapter 9 (Surfaces), and Chapter 13 (Analysis Tools). The math is concentrated in one or two sections in each of these three chapters.

The philosophy behind **Mastering SolidWorks** is original, unique, and effective. Zeid and Brown cover and present SolidWorks as a design system rather than a software program. Thus, instead of focusing on describing SolidWorks menus and syntax, they describe design approaches, methodologies, and techniques to help CAD designers/engineers and draftspersons achieve engineering tasks in the fastest, easiest, and most effective way.

Based on this philosophy, the book focuses on design, modeling, and drafting concepts instead of menus and commands. Zeid and Brown present command sequences to achieve CAD and modeling tasks. They provide SolidWorks syntax and details, but do so in accordance with the proposed philosophy of the book. They start with a CAD task to accomplish (what to do) and then go about accomplishing it (showing how to use SolidWorks to do it). This philosophy is more motivating to student learning than simply going through layers of menus and commands.

Mastering SolidWorks's approach is designed to showcase SolidWorks as a powerful modeling and design system instead of only a software program. They include challenging modeling and design examples and problems in the book. As part of the book's unique approach, they cover the theoretical concepts behind the various functions of SolidWorks. This should provide information to curious minds about why things work the way they do, as well as explain their limitations and use.

Mastering SolidWorks provides abundant illustrations, step-by-step instructions, and rich and challenging end-of-chapter problems. Instructors can also choose the level of depth. The book includes both examples and tutorials. An example covers one concept whereas a tutorial is more comprehensive by covering a full design task. Most examples and tutorials have a hands-on exercise at the end that serves two purposes. First, it ensures that the student has completed the example or tutorial, because it builds on it. Second, it both challenges and extends the student's understanding.

Mastering SolidWorks is organized into parts and chapters. Instructors may cover the chapters in any order to fit their course and student needs. However, Zeid and Brown recommend covering Chapters 1 and 2 first to build a sound foundation in 3D CAD/CAM modeling concepts. Chapter 1 is designed to provide a quick grasp of basic functionalities: create parts, create assemblies, and create drawings. These three

functionalities correspond to the three modes of SolidWorks: part, assembly, and drawing. Therefore, students can start designing basic and simple products after using only one chapter of the book; they do not have to wait until later chapters to learn how to design and document simple parts and assemblies. Later chapters provide further details. Thus, Chapter 1 provides breadth and the remainder of the book provides depth. Chapter 2 covers essential concepts required for a sound understanding of 3D modeling and efficient use of today's parametric features-based solid modeling CAD/CAM systems such as SolidWorks.

The target audience for [Mastering SolidWorks, 3rd edition](#), is college students in courses that use SolidWorks to learn and master CAD/CAM for design, visualization, prototyping, and manufacturing. The book's target market is four-year colleges and two-year community colleges. Freshman Engineering Design courses should find this book useful, refreshing, and interesting. Other important markets include high schools, professionals, and training courses. <>

Design / Illustration

[The Type Project Book](#): Typographic projects to sharpen your creative skills & diversify your portfolio, 1st edition by Nigel French & Hugh D'Andrade (New Riders, Pearson)

How do graphic designers think about their work? Where do their ideas come from? What kind of tricks and tools do they use, what typefaces do they choose – and what are the reasons for those choices? There are many books about design, but few written by designers, for designers, exploring their process, and breaking the work down step by step. Fewer still put typography front and center of this decision making and practice.

Whether readers are seasoned pros looking to brush up their portfolios, or novices with laptops full of design software they haven't yet mastered, [The Type Project Book](#) has them covered. In dozens of projects, the authors guide them through the nitty-gritty details of book design, magazine layout, poster production, and all manner of print projects, from start to finish.

Authors are Nigel French and Hugh D'Andrade. French is a graphic designer, photographer, and software trainer based in Sussex, UK. D'Andrade, an award-winning illustrator and designer, is Creative Director for the Electronic Frontier Foundation and has taught at the California College of Arts & Crafts, as well as the San Francisco Art Institute.

Each section in [The Type Project Book](#) is a deep dive into real-world design projects from working designers: a cookbook; a letterpress gig poster; an animated web banner; an infographic; even the humble business card is explored. Along the way, wisdom is

offered, tips and time-saving tricks are shared, and secrets of working graphic designers are revealed – all with the requisite doses of wit one expects from seasoned professionals with decades of experience.

[The Type Project Book](#) provides:

- A wide variety of typography-focused projects ranging from a single letter to a book of several hundred pages.
- An understanding of the design principles involved in creating impactful graphic design.
- Immersion into the wider world of type and lettering and its use for artistic expression.
- Tips and techniques for the most efficient working practices.

French and D'Andrade say they believe that typography is the foundation of any good design. If the typography is poor, no matter how strong the other elements, the design fails. Too many potentially strong designs are spoiled by careless typography that looks like it was added as an afterthought, with little respect for the words, the people who wrote them, or the rich history of the letters themselves.

French and D'Andrade say they set out to write a book about design thinking with typography at its core. They address a wide range of typical graphic design jobs, some glamorous, others pedestrian – because jobbing designers don't get to choose.

[The Type Project Book](#) walks readers through graphic design projects that they found particularly useful – the kind of projects that are challenging and fun. With each project, they share their thinking process, the ideas that inspired them, and break down key phases, while leaving readers enough room to experiment and make the project their own.

Some of these projects they have dusted off from their portfolios, others were created specifically for [The Type Project Book](#). They explore a range of techniques, some of them known to any seasoned designer, some of them their own special concoctions. The projects give a comprehensive account of what's possible using typography in Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop. But at the same time, the projects are personal, and somewhat idiosyncratic.

French and D'Andrade say they imagine their readers to be colleagues or advanced students, someone comfortable with the software basics, familiar with design fundamentals – perhaps someone looking for inspiration, techniques, and workarounds to sharpen their practice. While this isn't intended as a beginner book, an enterprising novice will enjoy it, with some supplementary materials – online or in print – that explain the basics of the applications they are using.

Design thinking is subjective, and sometimes the best results come from doing things 'the wrong way,' as their exploration of historical design styles shows. There are no

officially sanctioned methods, and even if there were, as anarchists by temperament, they would reject them.

Yet they know that design conventions and traditions exist for a reason, and they respect them. They have studied and continue to study their craft. They say they hope that with experience comes wisdom, that through practice their muscle memory is deep, and that their methodology prevents them from repeating the same mistakes. But on some level, they know what works, only because they have tried so many things that don't.

[The Type Project Book](#) contains typographic projects to sharpen readers' creative skills & diversify their portfolios. It is loaded with tips and insider knowledge that will help readers hone their design skills, deepen their type knowledge, and nerd out on the history of graphic design. If readers are looking for ideas for self-initiated projects to elevate their design skills, [The Type Project Book](#) will help. <>

Economics / Environment

[Resource and Environmental Economics](#): Modern Issues and Applications, 2nd edition (World Scientific Environmental, Energy and Climate Economics) by Clement A. Tisdell (World Scientific)

[Resource and Environmental Economics, 2nd edition](#), is an important book dealing with the essential principles of resource and environmental economics, provides applications to contemporary issues in this field, and outlines and assesses policies being used or proposed for managing the use of environmental and natural resources.

Author Clement Tisdell is Professor Emeritus in Economics at The University of Queensland. He is internationally recognized as an outstanding contributor to the development of natural resource and environmental economics. He has held visiting positions at many prestigious universities worldwide. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and an Honorary Professor of Renmin University (the Peoples' University of China).

Covering specific contemporary topics such as agriculture and the environment, water use, greenhouse gas management, biodiversity conservation, tourism and the environment, and environmental economics and health, leading issues in resource and environmental economics are outlined and analyzed in an innovative manner. Institutional economics (both new and traditional) is applied and compared with other approaches such as neoclassical economics, behavioral economics and the Austrian School of Economics. This heterogeneous, multi-perspective approach enables

problems to be considered from several different angles, thus enhancing readers' comprehension of the subject matter. Furthermore, using minimal technical jargon, [Resource and Environmental Economics](#) takes into account aspects of modern economic analysis such as the costs of and constraints on decision-making and the transaction costs involved in policy implementation.

Tisdell says he was pleased to receive a request to prepare the manuscript for a second edition of [Resource and Environmental Economics](#). This was not only because the first edition was sufficiently well received to justify a second edition but because it provided him with the opportunity to update material in this book and enabled him to introduce new relevant material and ideas in this edition. Furthermore, it was possible to correct a few errors that were overlooked when the earlier edition was prepared. As a result, this edition is longer than the earlier edition and is a thoroughly revised version of it. For example, two new chapters have been added, (namely Chapter 11, "Problems involving the availability of natural resource stocks and flows" and Chapter 12 "More on mineral resources: their economic significance, sustainability and environmental issues") and Chapter 13, "Energy use, global warming and air pollution" has been significantly updated and extended. Several other chapters also have added sections.

In covering the topics in [Resource and Environmental Economics](#), Tisdell concentrates on the critical presentation of ideas and have presented alternative points of view in a constructive manner. He also provides, wherever possible, information about the historical development of ideas and places natural resource and environmental issues and problems in their historical contexts wherever possible.

Reviews of the First Edition:

Written by an outstanding environmental economist, this authoritative book bears the imprint of the author's scholarship and deep understanding of the issues relating to resource and environmental economics. It is thus essential reading for researchers, students and policy makers interested in promoting sustainable development. – Dr K N Ninan, Professor of Ecological Economics, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, India

While there are many books on similar topics, none combines depth of analysis with important current applications so well. A model of clarity. – Darwin C Hall, Co-Director, Environmental Science & Policy, California State University

Professor Tisdell's expository skills are unmatched. This volume conveys complex material with great clarity, using case examples with unusual effectiveness. Furthermore, it is more inclusive than many books on these topics in its extensive international coverage. This is a most useful

contribution. – Jane V Hall, Co-Director, Institute of Economic and Environmental Studies, California State University

This textbook provides an excellent introduction, which is easily accessible and readable and benefits greatly from the author's life-long career as an environmental and resource economist. – Eric Neumayer, Professor of Environment and Development and Head of the Department of Geography and Environment, London School of Economics

An innovative work with a minimum of jargon, [Resource and Environmental Economics](#), **2nd edition**, is written for academics, undergraduates and graduate students in environmental economics, natural resource economics, ecological economics, environmental management and policy studies. <>

Education / Parenting

[Digital for Good](#): Raising Kids to Thrive in an Online World by Richard Culatta (Harvard Business Review Press)

My goal is for us to start a new conversation about raising kids in a digital world, one that we should have been having for a long time. Not a conversation based on fear or avoiding technology, but on applying the good parenting and teaching skills we're already familiar with from the physical world to ensure success for our kids in the virtual world. If we do it right, we will create a better future for them and us, and we'll look back on our efforts with pride and toward the future with hope. – from the book

According to [Digital for Good](#), when it comes to raising children in a digital world, every parent feels under-prepared and overwhelmed. Parents worry that their children will become addicted to online games, be victims of cyberbullying, or get lost down the rabbit hole of social media. They warn them about all the things they shouldn't do online, but they don't do nearly enough to teach them the skills of digital well-being.

In [Digital for Good](#), Richard Culatta argues that technology can be a powerful tool for learning, solving humanity's toughest problems, and bringing us closer together.

Richard Culatta is CEO of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Prior to joining ISTE, he served as the Chief Innovation Officer of the state of Rhode Island and was appointed by President Barack Obama to lead the US Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology.

Culatta in [Digital for Good](#) offers a refreshingly positive framework for preparing kids to be successful in a digital world – one that encourages them to use technology

proactively and productively – by outlining five qualities every young person should develop in order to become a thriving, contributing digital citizen:

- Be balanced: understand when and how much tech use is healthy.
 - Stay informed: discern between true and false information.
 - Be inclusive: treat others with respect and kindness online.
 - Be engaged: use tech to strengthen family relationships and community connections.
 - Stay alert: exercise caution and create safe digital spaces for others.
- Culatta deftly lays out a path for all parents who are fearful of the 'always-on' social media environment – one where our children learn to thrive in an increasingly digital society. As a former policy maker and as a parent, I value Culatta's pragmatic advice. – Aneesh Chopra, Former Chief Technology Officer of the United States; President, CareJourney*

Richard Culatta provides practical tips and advice on how to teach kids not only how to be safe and kind digital citizens, but better human beings, both online and off. This book is essential reading for anyone who's invested in the future. – Esther Wojcicki, Author, How to Raise Successful People

The digital world is here to stay, but it's not all bad news. In [Digital for Good](#), Culatta offers an accessible road map for navigating the dual realities of digital and physical life, so our kids can find the balance they need to become engaged and thriving digital citizens. – Sandy Speicher, CEO, IDEO

Through technology, young people can help make the world stronger and more just. This book is vital reading for parents, educators, and everyone looking to help children develop the skills and attitudes they need to become informed, engaged leaders who can bridge their physical and virtual communities and use 'digital for good.' – John B. King Jr., Former United States Secretary of Education; President and CEO, The Education Trust

His advice is easy to implement and leavened with humor: "We also found that without some structure, our well-intentioned Sunday family time quickly turns into fight-with-your-brothers-all-afternoon time (shoot me now)." The result is a trenchant and hopeful guide for parents anxious about the impact of technology on their children's development. – Publishers Weekly

An incredibly timely book as many of us struggle to lead our children through the digital minefield of modern life. Richard Culatta avoids the

pitfalls of preaching about the evils of technology, and instead guides us to a safe path of good, balanced behaviors that are applicable in all of our homes and schools. – Lord Jim Knight, Chair, Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology; former Minister of State for Schools (UK)

As a journalist and a parent, I appreciate the specific, positive, and actionable steps Culatta lays out for teaching our kids and ourselves how to be better digital citizens. – Manoush Zomorodi, host, TED Radio Hour; author, *Bored and Brilliant*

Richard Culatta has written an engaging book, filled with personal stories as a parent and technologist. [Digital for Good](#) provides a fresh look at navigating the ever-evolving digital world with kids. – Linda Burch, Chief Strategy and Development Officer, Common Sense Media

[Digital for Good](#), a practical guide, will help parents and children discover the path to becoming effective digital citizens, while making the online world a better place. <>

Health & Fitness / Spirituality

[Growing Strong](#) by Cambria Joy Howard (Harvest House Publishers)

We're not created to perfect our image, but to reflect His image.

– from the book

Cambria Joy (Howard) says in [Growing Strong](#) that for years, she struggled with her self-image and how to make her dual pursuits of faith and fitness fit together. Everything changed one day when she decided she was tired of looking in the mirror and started looking solely toward God.

Through her YouTube channel, podcast, weekly emails, and [Growing Strong](#), Joy's passion is to help others feel healthy from the inside out. She is a Certified Personal Trainer and Certified Nutrition Coach with the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

She says that true strength – physical, emotional, and spiritual – starts from the inside out. When people stay connected to God, they find that eating well and exercising regularly are so much easier. Faith, food choices, and fitness all naturally flow together as part of a healthy and whole life.

Joy shares what she has learned with readers, and motivates and encourages them with delicious recipes to nourish body, creative workouts to keep them moving, and wisdom from God's Word to inspire and shape them into the person He's creating them to be.

Maybe readers got [Growing Strong](#) because, like her, they want to be happy and be content with their body and life, but they lose their way. The book is aimed primarily at women.

Many people have fixed their eyes so long on the external measures of how and who they are that they believe real beauty is found out there. But God is inviting readers to look to Him for their measure of beauty and worth. First Samuel 16:7 says, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'."

Joy says she created this journey of encouragement and practical help so readers can become fit and whole no matter how they are feeling or which messages from the world happen to be the loudest. Those things change daily, but God's love and His nourishing words are constant. Joy says she wrote the book to remind people that God is the answer to every need.

It doesn't matter how old readers are, what shape they are in, or how long they have or haven't been working out; they will become fit as they nurture their bodies and souls in healthy ways.

[Growing Strong](#) provides readers with the food, inspiration, and training their bodies and souls need. Joy shares her journey of discovery, and she gives readers practical support, including easy and nourishing recipes, inspirational words, and workouts to improve physical strength and health.

Readers care for themselves by setting aside time to be encouraged. She advises readers to pour themselves a hot cup of tea (or make one of the smoothie recipes) and read a portion of [Growing Strong](#) each day. <>

History / Military

[New York's War of 1812](#): Politics, Society, and Combat by Richard V. Barbuto (Vol 71, Campaigns and Commanders Series: University of Oklahoma Press)

Popular memory of the War of 1812 caroms from the beleaguered Fort McHenry to the burning White House to an embattled New Orleans. But the critical action was elsewhere, as Richard V. Barbuto tells readers in [New York's War of 1812](#), a clarifying work that puts the state of New York squarely at the center of America's first foreign war.

Barbuto is Professor Emeritus of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

According to Barbuto, British demands to move the northern border as far south as the Ohio River put New York on the first line of defense. But it was the leadership of Governor Daniel D. Tompkins that distinguished the state's contribution to the war effort, effectively mobilizing the considerable human and material resources that proved crucial to maintaining the nation's sovereignty. [New York's War of 1812](#) shows how, despite a widespread antiwar movement and fierce partisan politics, Tompkins managed to corral and maintain support – until 1814, when Britain agreed to peace. Retrieving New York's War of 1812 from the fog of military history, Barbuto describes the disproportionate cost paid by the state in loss of life and livelihood. The author draws on in-depth research of the state's legislative, financial, and militia records, as well as on the governor's extensive correspondence, to plot the conduct of the war regionally and chronologically and to tell the stories of numerous raids, skirmishes, and battles that touched civilians in their homes and communities.

[New York's War of 1812](#) is not a conventional history of the war, with balanced coverage of all the participants – British, American, Canadian, and Native Peoples. That approach is already achieved in the current scholarship. Readers will note the explicit and intentional focus on New Yorkers and the Native Americans residing within the state. This study seeks balance in its coverage of the tensions between civilian and military; various ethnic groups; Federalist and Republican; army, navy, and privateer; federal and state forces; federal and state governments; and urban and rural residents.

Such examination is important because it expands and shapes our understanding of an underappreciated war. This conflict was an early test of federal-state cooperation in war-making. President Madison did not wage the war alone; Governor Tompkins was at his side every step of the way, along with tens of thousands who supported Madison for better or worse. [New York's War of 1812](#) is also a remedy to past general histories that have minimized the state's contribution to the war effort in favor of that of the federal government, or have emphasized notable battles elsewhere.

New York State played a central and underappreciated role in the War of 1812. Richard V. Barbuto has done a fine job of shedding light on that story. – Donald R. Hickey, author of The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict

Whether offering a clearer picture of the performance of the state militia, providing a more accurate account of the conflict's impact on the state's diverse population, or newly detailing New York's decisive contribution, [New York's War of 1812](#), a deeply researched, closely observed work, revises our view of the nation's perhaps least understood war. <>

Lost Tribes Found: Israelite Indians and Religious Nationalism in Early America by Matthew W. Dougherty (University of Oklahoma Press)

The belief that Native Americans might belong to the fabled 'lost tribes of Israel' – Israelites driven from their homeland around 740 BCE – took hold among Anglo-Americans and Indigenous peoples in the United States during its first half century. In **Lost Tribes Found**, Matthew W. Dougherty explores what this idea can tell readers about religious nationalism in early America.

Dougherty is Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, in the history of Christianity at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto.

Some white Protestants, Mormons, American Jews, and Indigenous people constructed nationalist narratives around the then-popular idea of 'Israelite Indians.' Although these were minority viewpoints, they reveal that the story of religion and nationalism in the early United States was more complicated and wide-ranging than studies of American 'chosen-ness' or 'manifest destiny' suggest. Telling stories about Israelite Indians, Dougherty argues, allowed members of specific communities to understand the expanding United States, to envision its transformation, and to propose competing forms of sovereignty. In these stories both settler and Indigenous intellectuals found biblical explanations for the American empire and its stark racial hierarchy.

Lost Tribes Found opens and closes with analyses of Israelite Indian stories in the context of national politics in the early United States. The first chapter analyzes how these stories emerged in and helped shape a national evangelical culture that supported missions to Indigenous peoples. The final chapter, similarly, discusses religious nationalism on a country-wide scale to explain the decline in use of Israelite Indian stories after 1830. In the intervening chapters, Dougherty explores more local and specific conversations that invoked Israelite Indian stories.

Chapter 1 discusses how the stories Levi introduced to Anglophone America went through a renaissance in the early United States. Working largely from seventeenth- and eighteenth-century British sources, early American evangelicals from the 1790s through the 1820s transformed these stories and used them to support the idea that the United States must missionize Indigenous peoples in order to expand across the continent without losing the favor of God. With these stories, they sought to evoke sympathy for Indigenous people and anxiety lest God punish the nation for their persecution of his chosen people. At the same time, their versions of Israelite Indian stories depicted Indigenous people as inferiors to be pitied and suggested that, once Indigenous

peoples converted to Christianity, they would joyfully leave the continent in White hands and 'return' to Palestine.

Early Mormons extended and elaborated these ideas. As Dougherty shows in chapter 2 of [Lost Tribes Found](#), between 1830 and 1847, Mormons understood themselves to be living in an age of millennial transformation, when God's purposes for the 'Lamanites,' or Israelite Indians, would be revealed. By encountering Lamanites in worship and recounting Lamanite histories, early Mormons cultivated the love for their new religion and wonder at living in an age of revelations that knit them together as a community. By discussing prophecies about an army of Israelite Indians or 'Lamanites' that would soon destroy the United States to make room for God's kingdom of Zion, they transferred their anger at the United States onto Lamanites and schooled themselves to patience. Because of this complex of feelings, the nationalism that bound Mormons together immediately before and after the death of Joseph Smith reached for both imagined Lamanites and actual Indigenous allies to help spark the creation of Zion.

Chapter 3 of [Lost Tribes Found](#) analyzes two intellectuals who used Israelite Indian narratives to engage with the ascendant White supremacy and populist political rhetoric of the 1830s. One, the prominent Jewish newspaper editor Mordecai Noah, used these narratives to strengthen American Jews' claims to American citizenship and western territory. The other, the Pequot activist and preacher William Apess, used them to argue for the humanity of Indigenous people and to envision an 'Israel' of independent Indigenous Christians. For both men, these narratives allowed them to enlist the sympathy of evangelical reformers on behalf of their communities. They also attempted to use them, however, to evoke the pride and hope that might nurture new Jewish or Indigenous nationalisms.

The focus in chapter 4 is on a small group of Christian Cherokees who drew on missionary stories of Israelite Indians to identify their ancestors with the people described in the Bible. Their narratives argued that the Christian God had given the Cherokees their land, in part because they wanted to enlist missionary sympathies against the state and federal governments then pressuring the Cherokee Nation to give up its territory. Although the Cherokees who told these stories had reason to hope that they would help start a broader reform in their society, the genocidal Trail of Tears and the disarray that followed prevented their narratives from being published and distributed in the new Cherokee Nation.

Finally, chapter 5 of [Lost Tribes Found](#) returns to a national focus to analyze the eclipse of Israelite Indian stories in American life. Dougherty tracks the rise of American secularism, a then-new way of relating religion to the state, and its effects on the articulation of religious nationalisms, including the much-discussed concept of 'manifest destiny.' In the process, Dougherty shows how new versions of Israelite Indian stories arose in the 1830s and 1840s that muted their emotional appeals to blend more

seamlessly with the practices of secularism. At the same time, a new literature arose that emphasized both the danger and the inevitability of frontier settlers' thirst for violence. Only the state and Christianity working in concord, they implied, could restrain this violence. By the beginning of the Civil War, these new ways of relating feelings about religion and about the American state had supplanted older Israelite Indian narratives.

Matthew W. Dougherty calls forth a range of voices and 'Israelite Indian' stories and uses them to dethrone historians' previous assumptions about religious nationalism and challenge an overemphasis on 'manifest destiny.' Compelling, well written, and well argued. – Tisa Wenger, author of Religious Freedom: The Contested History of an American Ideal

[Lost Tribes Found](#) goes beyond the legal and political structure of the nineteenth-century U.S. empire. In showing how the trope of the Israelite Indian appealed to the emotions that bound together both nations and religious groups, the book adds a new dimension and complexity to our understanding of the history and underlying narratives of early America. <>

Home & Garden / Arts & Crafts / History

[The Lindquist Legacy](#): A History of the US Studio Woodturning Movement by Seri C. Robinson (Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.)

[The Lindquist Legacy](#) is the first book about Mark Lindquist's impact on the rise of woodworking from the studio craft movement to high art. This history reveals a clearer understanding of the art of woodturning. Built on the author's exclusive access to the reclusive Mark Lindquist, it features more than 300 photos from Lindquist's archives, many of historic and innovative pieces not seen before. Showing how the choices that the renowned woodturning artists Mel and Mark Lindquist made have rippled through time, and affect even beginning woodturners today, the detailed information, interviews, and insights in [The Lindquist Legacy](#) help readers understand Mark Lindquist's legacy in moving woodturning and wood sculpture from craft fairs in the 1960s to art museums today.

The author is Seri C. Robinson, a professor of wood anatomy at Oregon State University. She is a woodturner, the author of several books on spalting and wood, and a researcher.

According to Betty Scarpino in the foreword to [The Lindquist Legacy](#), Mark Lindquist's association with woodturning began early in life, working alongside his father, Mel Lindquist, harvesting trees and learning how to use a lathe. Later, from his studies in art school, Mark gave considerable thought to woodturning's place in the art world. He

brought this thinking to bear on his burgeoning career as an artist – a woodturning artist. Mark could have dismissed the lathe as ‘not art,’ but he chose to embrace the concept that vessels could be expressive beyond the natural beauty of wood and form. And, unlike other woodturners, Mark recognized the potential of using spalted, decayed wood, which he brought back to life in totemic forms that referenced source, the majestic trees from the woods surrounding his boyhood home.

It is significant that Mark deliberately set about to show that lathe-turned objects made from spalted, somewhat rotten wood belonged in the art world. His vessels, expressive of ideas, conveyed meaning simply through the act of applying a sharp tool to a rotating chunk of wood. Early on, this inclusive artistic vision informed his artwork.

The history of how the AAW, the WTC (now the Center for Art in Wood), the turning program at Arrowmont School of Art and Crafts, and the woodturning field came into being and changed over time is complex. A variety of versions compete, and there are gaps, stories not yet fully told in print. Mark Lindquist's history represents a significant gap – primarily because his initial involvement happened before publications dedicated to woodturning existed. Fortunately, the Lindquists' vast archives provide documentation to support [The Lindquist Legacy](#)'s historical perspective. Mark not only shaped spalted wood, he informed the thinking of other woodturners as they, too, began to consider something beyond craft and utility for their turned objects as the studio woodturning movement came into being.

Woodturning, long used for functionality or hobbies, entered into the Studio Craft Movement in the 1960s and flourished across the country. At the forefront of the movement, pushing the edges of art and craft and sculpture, was Mark Lindquist.

From his early days, showing revolutionary woodturnings at craft fairs with his father, Mel, to his large lathe-chainsaw-turned sculptures and other technical and aesthetic innovations, Mark Lindquist's legacy includes the development of the woodturning program at Arrowmont, being instrumental in the creation of the American Association of Woodturners, and the movement of turning from weed pots and salad bowls to museum connection, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian.

Lindquist's 'bowls' ... are not functional containers ... but are created as sculptural symbols in which ... the harmony between the interior and exterior becomes a statement of man and nature. – Roslyn Siegel, "Sculptors Search for the Perfect Log," New York Times, May 3, 1979

Lindquist's remarkable ability to animate and shape wood into a dense yet lyrical form is a major contribution to the art of contemporary wood sculpture. – Sue Graze, curator of contemporary art, Dallas Museum of Art, acquisition announcement, 1985

With his new works Lindquist joins a small but important group of craftsmen-turned-sculptors that include Robert Arneson, Howard Ben Tre, Wendell Castle and Peter Voukos. Like these artists, he takes the craftsman's concern for materials to the level of metaphor, and thus he creates art. – Robert Hobbs, "Reviews: Mark Lindquist at Franklin Parrasch Gallery," Sculpture Magazine, March/April 1990

Carefully researched and beautifully illustrated, [The Lindquist Legacy](#) reveals a clearer understanding of the art of woodturning and its current position in the United States artistic heritage. <>

Language / History / Cold War

[A World of Turmoil](#): The United States, China, and Taiwan in the Long Cold War (US–China Relations in the Age of Globalization) by Stephen J. Hartnett (Michigan State University Press)

The United States, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Taiwan have danced on the knife's edge of war for more than seventy years. A work of sweeping historical vision, [A World of Turmoil](#) by Stephen J. Hartnett offers case studies of five critical moments: the end of World War II and the start of the Long Cold War; the almost-nuclear war over the Quemoy Islands in 1954–1955; the détente, deceptions, and denials surrounding the 1972 Shanghai Communiqué; the Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1995–1996; and the rise of postcolonial nationalism in contemporary Taiwan.

Hartnett is a professor in the communication department at the University of Colorado Denver. He served as the 2017 president of the National Communication Association, and is the co-founder and co-organizer of the Biennial Conference on Communication, Media, and Governance in the Age of Globalization, and the Shenzhen Forum on Communication Innovation, New Media, and Digital Journalism.

Diagnosing the communication dispositions that structured these events reveals that leaders in all three nations have fallen back on crippling stereotypes and self-serving denials in their diplomacy. The first communication-based study of its kind, [A World of Turmoil](#) merges history, rhetorical criticism, and advocacy in a tour de force of international scholarship.

[A World of Turmoil](#) unfolds chronologically across seventy-plus years of history, enabling readers to watch as the matrix of persistence and innovation in communication dispositions emerges and then evolves through specific case studies. Chapter 1 opens at the end of World War II, when the disintegration of the Japanese empire and the

turmoil of the Chinese Civil War, and then the start of the Korean War and the United States' emerging concerns about the global spread of Communism turned Formosa/Taiwan into one of the hottest sites of conflict in the Long Cold War. This opening chapter foregrounds the complexity of political communication and the dilemmas of leadership in the Long Cold War, establishing a theme of contingency and chance.

Chapter 2 moves into the Eisenhower administration and focuses on the Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1954-1955, when the United States and China nearly went to nuclear war over Chiang's clinging to the islands of Quemoy and Matsu. A string of outcroppings claimed by both the KMT and CPC, the islands seemed to the United States to be a shield protecting Taiwan from China, while the Chinese saw them as springboards from which Taiwan and the United States could attack the mainland. Hartnett concludes that Eisenhower's prudence enabled him to resist both Chiang's urgings to war and the CPC's threats, meaning an uneasy condition of non-war settled over U.S.-China-Taiwan communication at this time.

Chapter 3 of [A World of Turmoil](#) turns to the next major milestone in U.S.-China-Taiwan communication: the 1972 'Shanghai Communique.' The general story of this historic moment has been told, with dueling interpretations coming from either the fans or critics of President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Hartnett adds fresh insights by comparing the Shanghai Communique's cautious pledges with Nixon's public statements and, most importantly, the previously secret transcripts of the conversations held between the PRC's Chou Enlai and the United States' Kissinger, wherein they reached a series of secret agreements that exceeded what was said publicly.

Chapter 4 turns to the Clinton administration. This chapter tackles the Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1995-1996, which was launched in part by the remarkable innovations of President Lee Teng-hui, who, despite having risen through the ranks of the KMT, turned out to be a brave, playful, and relentless advocate for Taiwan's independence from mainland China. Studying the response to Lee, in particular China's President Jiang Zemin's threats and U.S. President Clinton's corresponding gunboat diplomacy enables readers to watch the first key chapter of U.S.-China-Taiwan communication in what scholars might call a post-Cold War environment, but which Hartnett argues is an extension of the Long Cold War. This analysis points to the rhetoric of democracy as conversion, wherein Lee argues that Taiwan's commitment to democracy, cultural diversity, and international law positions it as leading all of China into the future. When China's anger was triggered by Lee's rhetoric of democracy as conversion, Clinton sought to tamp down the rage of traumatized nationalism, only to enflame Taiwan's leaders, who took the episode as yet another chapter in the rhetoric of marginal significance.

Hartnett then moves in chapter 5 of [A World of Turmoil](#) to 2016, when President Tsai Ing-wen's ascent to power, coupled with tensions in the South China Sea, left many observers worrying again about the specter of war. Tsai took a domestic approach, unearthing Taiwan's internal political history – and in particular the long train of KMT abuses – as a first step toward establishing the rhetoric of postcolonial remembering. This chapter watches as Tsai's and Xi's efforts were confused and complicated by the outrageous performances of President Donald Trump, who brought his 'alternative facts'-style communication habits to the table, leaving all parties baffled. Was he authoring a new version of the rhetoric of geostrategic deception, or was he just clueless? With no clear answers in sight, the chapter closes with the United States, China, and Taiwan locked in a spiral of miscomprehension and recrimination.

Throughout it all, faced with threats from China and either confusion or contradiction or chaos from America, the Taiwanese have evolved new forms of national self-reflection expressed through the rhetoric of democracy as conversion and ultimately the rhetoric of democratic disdain. When interwoven as rhetorical dispositions, these formations in [A World of Turmoil](#) help readers to diagnose the dysfunctional communicative dynamic between the United States, China, and Taiwan across the Long Cold War.

The need for a better understanding of communicative patterns in US-China-Taiwan relations has never been more pressing in the era of rising rivalries between the PRC and the United States. Professor Hartnett's book helps us fulfill just that need. – Xiao Qiang, research scientist, School of Information, University of California Berkeley and founder and chief editor of China Digital Times

[A World of Turmoil](#) offers a timely analysis of the seventy-five-year rhetorical history of the ongoing Taiwan Strait crisis. By bringing the long-neglected voice of Taiwan to the table, Stephen J. Hartnett builds a richly layered study of U.S.-China-Taiwan communication in the Long Cold War. This is an important book for understanding rhetorical strategies in international relations and the roles the United States has played regarding conflicts between China and Taiwan. – Hsin-I Sydney Yueh, associate professor of communication studies, Northeastern State University

This thoughtful and original book traces the evolution of U.S.-China-Taiwan relations from World War II, through the Cold War, and up to the current era. By examining a sweeping array of rhetorical texts and original documents, Stephen J. Hartnett deepens our understanding of the implications of China's transition from a poor and backward state to a global economic and military powerhouse, and of Taiwan's evolution from an authoritarian state to a democratic showcase in Asia for U.S. foreign

policy. – Thomas A. Hamilton, professor, Annenberg School for
Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California

Hartnett in [A World of Turmoil](#) offers readers a rhetorical history that captures what Theodore H. White and Annalee Jacoby referred to in 1946 in *Thunder out of China*, as the 'majestic rhythms in history'. By mapping the history of miscommunication between the United States, China, and Taiwan, this provocative study shows where and how our entwined relationships have gone wrong, clearing the way for renewed dialogue, enhanced trust, and new understandings. <>

Literature & Fiction

[Damnation Spring](#): A Novel by Ash Davidson (Scribner)

An epic, immersive debut, [Damnation Spring](#) is the deeply human story of a Pacific Northwest logging town wrenched in two by a mystery that threatens to derail its way of life. In [Damnation Spring](#), for generations, Rich Gundersen's family has chopped a livelihood out of the redwood forest along California's rugged coast. Now Rich and his wife, Colleen, are raising their own young son near Damnation Grove, a swath of ancient redwoods on which Rich's employer, Sanderson Timber Co., plans to make a killing. In 1977, with most of the forest cleared or protected, a grove like Damnation – and beyond it 24-7 Ridge – is a logger's dream.

It's dangerous work. Rich has already lived decades longer than his father, killed on the job. Rich wants better for his son, Chub, so when the opportunity arises to buy 24-7 Ridge – costing them all the savings they've squirreled away for their growing family – he grabs it, unbeknownst to Colleen. Because the reality is their family isn't growing; Colleen has lost several pregnancies. And she isn't alone. As a midwife, Colleen has seen it with her own eyes.

For decades, the herbicides the logging company uses were considered harmless. But Colleen is no longer so sure. What if these miscarriages aren't isolated strokes of bad luck? In [Damnation Spring](#), as mudslides take out clear-cut hillsides and salmon vanish from creeks, Colleen's search for answers threatens to unravel not just Rich's plans for the 24-7, but their marriage too, dividing a town that lives and dies on timber along the way.

Pitch perfect... an unforgettable portrait of the very real consequences that environmental decay can hold, for nature and humanity alike. – Vogue.com

If you're jonesing for a big family saga, Ash Davidson's debut will do the trick. [Damnation Spring](#) tackles major issues with authentic rage and grief. – LA Times

[An] ambitious, assured debut... a devastating page-turner with a love

story at its center. – LitHub

This one might be the best novel of the year. It's this incredible story that is being compared to John Steinbeck... I usually just brush off those

comparisons, but I think it's actually worthy. – WBEZ Nerdette Podcast

There is so much that is right and particular about this novel. Rarely will a reader have such a tactile experience of life in a forest logging community as one receives here. Davidson also sensitively portrays the fraught relationship between the Indigenous tribe of Yuroks and the white members of the logging community. Here, all politics are local: It slowly dawns on Colleen that herbicides, sprayed to help the logging industry, hurt babies; and the unethical owner of the timber company is a flawed and greedy local guy, not a corporate mover on Wall Street. Davidson was born in Arcata, California, just south of the redwood forest she writes about in [Damnation Spring](#). She's studied the lay of the land, and she expresses the heart and soul of this place and time. – BookPage, starred review

As thoughtfully as Davidson establishes these dilemmas, she's equally skilled at writing an outdoorsy adventure novel, in which logging threatens the lives of workers with snapped cables and everybody else via landslides. Thematically, it's a strong work of climate fiction, but it's rooted in age-old man-versus-nature storytelling. An impressively well-turned story about how environmental damage creeps into our bodies, psyches, and economies. – Kirkus, starred review

Davidson's impressive debut chronicles life in a working-class community so thoroughly that the reader feels the characters' anguish as they're divided over environmental concerns that threaten their lives and livelihoods.... The depiction of ordinary people trapped by circumstances beyond their control makes for a heart-wrenching modern American tragedy. – Publisher's Weekly

Well-researched...this lengthy novel spans just one year over four decades ago – the summer of 1977 to the summer of 1978 – but it couldn't be more relevant today. – The Daily Beast

[Damnation Spring](#) is that wonderful evocation of a world so complete you can't believe it's fiction, each character and moment drawn with precision and heart. Davidson crafts a portrait of a marriage inside a portrait of a town inside a portrait of an industry, refracting the consequences of capitalism through people's lives and bodies. A masterful and sensitive explication of how humans are part of their environment no less than trees, mud, other animals, and water, this novel takes place forty years ago but could not be more relevant. If you want to know how we came to find ourselves amid an extinction event, or you

need a gripping escape from considering the same, read this book. – Merritt Tierce, author of Love Me Back

Ash Davidson writes with unwavering compassion – for bitterly divided families, for those with fatally opposed ideologies, for our fragile natural world. Such is the rare generosity of spirit that has produced [Damnation Spring](#) – an elegant novel of profound power and grace. – Madhuri Vijay, author of The Far Field

[Damnation Spring](#) dignifies the working-class experience with complicated characters whose hopes and heartbreaks at once transcend and are defined by their relationship to labor. Davidson evokes a story so vivid that readers will smell the trees, feel the damp, and – most importantly – care about a family. – Sarah Smarsh, author of Heartland
A sweeping family saga of love and grief and the deeply personal tragedies that occur when our planet is abused. This is the kind of novel I've been craving for ages. Ambitious in its scope, masterful in its execution. This stunning story, written in pitch-perfect prose, announces Ash Davidson as a major new voice in American Literature. Every page stirred my soul. – Emily Ruskovich, author of Idaho

Told in prose as clear as a spring-fed creek, this intimate, compassionate portrait of a community clinging to a vanishing way of life amid the perils of environmental degradation makes [Damnation Spring](#) an essential novel for our time. <>

Literature & Fiction / Historical / Mysteries

[A Comedy of Terrors](#): A Flavia Albia Novel by Lindsey Davis (Flavia Albia Series, 9: Minotaur Books)

In first century Rome, the December festival of Saturnalia is a celebration of the sun's rebirth – nominally a time for family, for presents, lights, but in reality it's a drunken riot. It's also the backdrop of Lindsey Davis's next historical mystery, [A Comedy of Terrors](#). In 89 A.D., poisonings, murders, and a bloody gang war of retribution breaks out during the festival of Saturnalia, and when her husband, Tiberius, becomes a target, it's time for Flavia Albia to take matters into her own hands.

Davis, after taking an English degree at Oxford and working for the civil service for thirteen years, 'ran away to be a writer.' Davis is the recipient of the Crime Writers' Association Cartier Diamond Dagger Award, the highest accolade for crime writers, as well as the Ellis Peters Historical Dagger Award and the Authors' Club Best First Novel award.

In [A Comedy of Terrors](#), Flavia Albia, daughter and successor of private informer Marcus Didius Falco is twiddling her thumbs with no clients during the December festival of Saturnalia. Some people look forward to Saturnalia all year, but not Flavia.

Add to that the domestic stress of overexcited children (the two bereaved nephews, now part of the household) and bilious guests, everyone expects Albia to make everything run smoothly. But she doesn't want to be maternal; she wants to work.

Meanwhile, her magistrate husband and the Fourth Cohort are battling organized crime interests that are going to war over the festival nuts – nuts being both the snack and missile of choice of the tipsy celebrants. This year, a rival gang is horning in on the action, leading to a series of accidental poisonings, then bloody murders of rival nut-sellers, and finally a gruesome warning to Tiberius from the hidden criminal powers to back off.

Albia has had just about enough. She combines forces with Tiberius to uncover the hidden criminal gangs trying to worm their way into the establishment at a banquet of the emperor Domitian.

With the forces of law and order on vacation with the rest of Rome, Albia and Tiberius must go it alone as the stakes rise, and the emperor himself becomes a target of the hidden criminal gangs in [A Comedy of Terrors](#).

Brilliant... Lighthearted, witty and effortlessly clever, just like its wonderful heroine – 'I always seem to be stumbling upon suspicious deaths, and since I don't trust the vigils to investigate. I often knuckle down to it myself. A woman's work is never done' – this is a window into ancient Rome, and a tonic and a joy to read. – The Guardian

Davis' sequel series to her iconic Marcus Falco mysteries brings the same dark wit and vivid historical detail to the adventures of his daughter, Flavia Albia. If you're tired of the more well-trodden periods of historical mysteries, you should really try these books, which are set in Imperial Rome. This go-round will see Flavia investigating a gang war during the Roman festival of Saturnalia. – BookPage

Davis convincingly depicts first-century mobsters, an aspect of ancient Roman criminality that's been underutilized by authors writing about this period. This series remains as fresh as ever. – Publishers Weekly

[A Comedy of Terrors](#) is a clever addition to the fascinating **Flavia Albia** series with historically accurate details. Fun to read. <>

The Essential Hymn Anthology arranged by Phillip Keveren (The Best of the Phillip Keveren Series: Hal Leonard)

I love writing hymn arrangements. The tunes are sturdy, inspired, and timeless. The texts are the bedrock of Christian faith. The process of making a hymn sing at the piano is a task of which I never tire. – Phillip Keveren, from the preface

Church pianists will treasure **The Essential Hymn Anthology**. This piano solo songbook is a beautiful comb-bound collection of over 50 beloved hymn arrangements, the first in the new *Best of the Phillip Keveren Series*. The original *Phillip Keveren* series is now two decades old and has increased in popularity over the years. This anthology features four arrangements written especially for this collection, and Keveren hand-picked all the other selections.

Keveren, a multi-talented keyboard artist and composer, has composed original works in a variety of genres from piano solo to symphonic orchestra. He gives frequent concerts and workshops for teachers and their students in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. Keveren holds a B.M. in composition from California State University Northridge and a M.M. in composition from the University of Southern California.

Founded in 1947, Hal Leonard LLC has become the world's largest source of music performance and instructional materials, with a catalog of over a million products in both physical and digital form. They represent many of the greatest songwriters and artists of all time and publish and distribute works from all genres of music for all styles of musicians and ensembles.

The arrangements in **The Essential Hymn Anthology** were written over a span of 20 years, originally published in nine different folios. Keveren says he chose some of his favorites, then added four new settings to round out the collection. The hymns arranged especially for this book are 'Doxology,' 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness,' 'Just As I Am,' and 'We Gather Together'.

Also included are:

'America, The Beautiful'; 'Deep River', 'His Eye Is on the Sparrow'; 'I Need Thee Every Hour'; 'I Sing the Mighty Power of God'; 'Morning Has Broken'; 'My Country, 'Tis of Thee' (America); 'Rock of Ages'; 'This Is my Father's World'; 'We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder'; 'Were You There?'; and 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'.

And there are three medleys:

Hymns of the Cross: 'The Old Rugged Cross' • 'Nothing But the Blood' • 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'

Hymns of Majesty: 'A Mighty Fortress Is our God' • 'Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty' • 'Immortal, Invisible'

Hymns of Peace: 'I've Got Peace Like A River' • 'Wonderful Peace' • 'It Is Well with My Soul' • 'I Love To Tell The Story'

Aimed primarily at church pianists, what not to love about [The Essential Hymn Anthology?](#) <>

Religion & Spirituality / Esoteric

[In Search of Being:](#) The Fourth Way to Consciousness by G. I. Gurdjieff, edited by Stephen A. Grant (Shambhala Publications, Inc.)

Over one hundred years ago in Russia, G. I. Gurdjieff introduced a spiritual teaching of conscious evolution – a way of gnosis or 'knowledge of being' passed on from remote antiquity. Gurdjieff's early talks in Europe were published in the form of chronological fragments preserved by his close followers P. D. Ouspensky and Jeanne de Salzmann. Now in [In Search of Being](#) these teachings are presented as a comprehensive whole, covering a variety of subjects including states of consciousness, methods of self-study, spiritual work in groups, laws of the cosmos, and the universal symbol known as the Enneagram.

G. I. Gurdjieff (1866–1949) created an original system of self-transformation that reconciled the great mystical traditions, known as the 'Fourth Way' or 'the Work.' He initially gathered pupils in Moscow and in 1915 organized a study group in St. Petersburg that included P. D. Ouspensky, a leading figure in the spread of the teachings. Amid revolutionary turmoil in Russia, in 1917 he moved to the Caucasus and in 1922 established an institute for his work in France. The sources of [In Search of Being](#) stem from this early period.

Gurdjieff respected traditional religious practices, which he regarded as falling into three general categories or 'ways': the Way of the Fakir, related to mastery of the physical body; the Way of the Monk, based on faith and feeling; and the Way of the Yogi, which focuses on development of the mind. He presented his teaching as a 'Fourth Way' that integrates these three aspects into a single path of self-knowledge. The principles are laid out as a way of knowing and experiencing an awakened level of being that must be verified for oneself.

According to translator Stephen Grant in the foreword of [In Search of Being](#), readers approaching Gurdjieff's ideas for the first time should be prepared for an iconoclastic challenge to the foundations of THE modern worldview – specifically, man's consciousness and free will, progress and civilization, and the significance of human life in the universe. Situating our solar system in the vastness of the Milky Way, the author introduces the idea of scale in defining finite and infinite worlds. He recalls the ancient theory of cosmoses and asserts that the fundamental laws governing phenomena are the same at all levels, that man is a microcosm representing the whole universe. Thus reality is not to be perceived by looking outside – a mystical vision of the earth or the heavens – but by turning inward and seeing through time and space within oneself. The ancient dictum 'know thyself' is invoked in its original sense in the Egyptian Temple – a call to open to consciousness, to see reality.

According to Grant in [In Search of Being](#), Gurdjieff dismisses modern, supposedly 'scientific' knowledge as based on sense perception, and asserts that knowledge of reality can be learned only by a special kind of 'self-study' undertaken along with others. He begins by pointing out that realizing this possibility depends on one's own wish and effort; nobody else cares or can do this work for them. He then lays out the principles of the teaching – but not as revealed truth to be believed or obeyed. On the contrary, the first principle is that nothing is to be taken on faith. The Fourth Way is, above all, one of knowing – not of belief or obedience.

Gurdjieff offers this key advice for approaching his writing: "Do not take anything literally. Try simply to grasp the principle."

According to [In Search of Being](#), the knowledge of man's relation to the universe has existed from ancient times. For the most part it is taken literally and, in this way, the inner content becomes lost. The Great Knowledge is handed on in succession from age to age, from people to people, from race to race. Truth is fixed by means of symbolical writings and legends, and is transmitted to the mass of people for preservation in the form of customs and ceremonies, in oral traditions, in memorials, in sacred art through the invisible quality in dance, music, sculpture and various rituals. After a certain time has elapsed, the centers of initiation die out one after the other, and the ancient knowledge departs through underground channels into the deep, hiding from the eyes of the seekers. The bearers of this knowledge also hide, becoming unknown to those around them. But they do not cease to exist. From time to time separate streams break through to the surface, showing that somewhere deep down in the interior, even today, there flows the powerful ancient stream of true knowledge of being.

To break through to this stream, to find it – this is the task and the aim of the search. For, having found it, a person can entrust himself boldly to the way by which he intends to go. On this way the seeker will not be entirely alone. At difficult moments he will receive support and guidance, for all who follow this way are connected by an uninterrupted

chain. The theory of esotericism is that mankind consists of a large outer circle, embracing all human beings, and a small circle of instructed and understanding people at the center. Then knowledge, clothed in the form of a teaching corresponding to the conditions of time and place, becomes widely spread.

Every religion points to the existence of a common center of knowledge, and in every sacred book this knowledge is expressed, even though people do not wish to know it. In fact, this knowledge is far more accessible than one might suppose. No one is concealing anything; there is no secret whatsoever. But great labor and effort are necessary to acquire and transmit true knowledge, both of the person who gives and of the one who receives. And those who have this knowledge are doing everything in their power to share it with as many people as possible, always striving to help them approach it in a state prepared to receive the truth.

Anyone who wants knowledge must first himself make an initial effort to find and approach the source on his own. At the same time, however, readers need to understand that their independent efforts to attain anything of this sort cannot possibly succeed. We can only attain knowledge with the help of those who already possess it. One must learn from those who know.

In the chapters of [In Search of Being](#), many things are explained schematically, including the laws of unity that are reflected in all phenomena. But when one uses words dealing with objective knowledge, with unity in diversity, attempts at literal understanding lead to delusion. Readers should not take anything literally, but try simply to grasp the principle, so that understanding becomes deeper and deeper. In this teaching the first principle is that nothing is to be taken on faith. One should believe nothing that cannot be verified for oneself. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Judaism

[Be Mature in Understanding](#): A Handbook of Theology for Jewish Believers in Messiah by Ben Midgley, Martin Pakula & Paul F. Morris, with a foreword by Joseph Steinberg (Wipf & Stock)

[Be Mature in Understanding](#) has been written out of a deep concern to see Jewish believers in Yeshua-Jesus playing their part in the worldwide church of Messiah, using their knowledge of God's word, their Jewishness, their natural and spiritual gifts, and a humble, thankful heart.

Authors are Ben Midgley, Martin Pakula and Paul F. Morris. Midgley was raised in a Jewish household in the UK and is presently lead pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in

Mold, Wales. Pakula grew up a regular synagogue attender. He is an ordained Anglican minister and teaches Hebrew and Old Testament at Bible Colleges in Melbourne, Australia. Morris was a missionary with Christian Witness to Israel for over thirty-five years.

According to the authors, knowledge of the truths of Scripture is a vital key to love for God and fruitfulness in his service, and this book focuses on both the Bible's unfolding story (biblical theology) and its specific doctrines and their interrelationship (systematic theology). It builds a biblical framework of thinking in the heart and mind. It is written from an evangelical understanding and in a way that interacts with the main forms of Judaism and Christianity.

Be Mature in Understanding is a study book, with questions to answer and further reading suggestions. Similar books of doctrine with the same scope have been written, but few if any take account of the context of Jewish readers and the issues which are important to them. The authors have attempted to achieve this within the context of the whole counsel of God.

***Be Mature in Understanding** is a welcome contribution to the much-needed discipleship material for new Jewish believers in Jesus. It provides a solid theological foundation. It also includes a survey of the Scriptures, the history of redemption, and principles of interpretation. The theological section is clear and straightforward, sensitive to Jewish culture, reformational in perspective, and though baptistic, is irenic toward other positions, such as mine. I heartily recommend this fine resource! – Fred Klett, director, CHAIM Ministry*

This is one of the few books I am familiar with that is relatively short and yet in precise manner teaches biblical theology from its original Jewish-roots perspective. This is a must-read book for every Jewish believer in Messiah, and a great tool for those non-Jewish people working and discipling new Jewish believers. The authors have done a marvelous work in revealing the big idea of the Scriptures, and the redemptive plan of God. – David Zadok, pastor of Grace and Truth congregation in Israel, and director, HaGefen Publishing

The authors have created something special. There is very little like this work, instructive and doctrinally sensitive (and to Jewish emphases – I am Jewish); and in line with biblical evangelical doctrine and exegesis. It successfully combines thoroughness, scholarship, and intellectual clarity. Differences of viewpoint are not a hindrance to fluidity but an academic tool for the informed and the less so. This is written with modesty and care,

but expertly. – Christopher Barder, sometime Foundation Scholar, Pembroke College, Cambridge

This book is uniquely positioned as a discipleship book for Jewish believers in Jesus that is within the Reformed Christian tradition. The first and shorter part features the contributions of two Messianic Jews, while the main section consists of Morris's clearly written expositions of Christian theology that incorporate Jewish thought and topics of interest to Jewish believers. Study questions and suggestions for further reading enliven the proceedings. Highly recommended! – Rich Robinson, senior researcher, Jews for Jesus

As the good news of the Messiah continues to draw men and women of Jewish background, like myself, to salvation, there is a pressing need for a new generation of Jewish believers to be grounded in their faith. I am grateful to Paul and his team for their thoughtful and thorough treatment of Scripture. This significant work will inspire confidence in the clear plan of God to unite Jew and Gentile in one body through the mission of our Messiah. – Peter Kaldor, managing director, City Bible Forum

Be Mature in Understanding is clear and straightforward, instructive and doctrinally sensitive. It can serve as a study guide with study questions and suggestions for further reading. <>

Science / Biology / Philosophy

Metamorphoses, 1st edition by Emanuele Coccia, translated by Robin Mackay (Polity Press)

We are all fascinated by the mystery of metamorphosis – of the caterpillar that transforms itself into a butterfly. Their bodies have almost nothing in common. They don't share the same world: one crawls on the ground and the other flutters its wings in the air. And yet they are one and the same life.

Emanuele Coccia argues in **Metamorphoses** that metamorphosis – the phenomenon that allows the same life to subsist in disparate bodies – is the relationship that binds all species together and unites the living with the non-living. Bacteria, viruses, fungi, plants, and animals: they are all one and the same life.

Coccia is Associate Professor at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris.

Coccia explains that each species, including the human species, is the metamorphosis of all those that preceded it – the same life, cobbling together a new body and a new

form in order to exist differently. And there is no opposition between the living and the non-living: life is always the reincarnation of the non-living, a carnival of the telluric substance of a planet – the Earth – that continually draws new faces and new ways of being out of even the smallest particle of its disparate body.

According to Coccia in the introduction to [Metamorphoses](#), in the beginning we were all the same living creature, sharing the same body and the same experience. And things haven't changed so much since then. New forms and new modes of existence have proliferated. But even today, we are all still the same life. For millions of years this life has been transmitted from body to body, from individual to individual, from species to species, from kingdom to kingdom. Of course it shifts, it transforms. But the life of each living being does not begin with its own birth: it is far older than that.

Take our own existence. Our life, what we imagine to be the most intimate and incommunicable part of ourselves, does not come from us, and there is nothing exclusive or personal about it: it was transmitted to us by others; it has animated other bodies, chunks of matter different from the one in which we are currently harbored. For nine months, the fact that the life that animates and awakens us has no one name or owner was an obvious physical, material fact. We were the same body, the same humours, the same atoms as our mother. And we are that life, shared with the body of another, carried on and taken elsewhere.

According to [Metamorphoses](#), it is the breath of another that is continued in ours, the blood of another that flows through our veins; it is the DNA we have received from another that sculpts and shapes our body, just as our life begins long before we are born, it does not end until well after our death. The breath of life will not expire in our corpse: it will go on to feed those for whom we will become a festive Last Supper.

Nor is our humanity something originary and autonomous. The human, also, is but a continuation and metamorphosis of a life that came before it. More precisely, it is an invention which primates, another life form, drew out of their own bodies – from their life force, their DNA, their way of life – so as to enable the life that inhabited and animated them to exist in a different form. They transmitted this form to us and, through the human life form, they continue to live within us. And even the primates themselves are just an experiment, a wager on the part of yet other species, yet other life forms. Evolution is a masquerade that takes place in time rather than in space. A masquerade that allows each species, from one era to the next, to don a new mask, different from the one that engendered it; that allows sons and daughters to pass unrecognized by and to no longer recognize their parents. And yet, despite this changing of masks, mother-species and daughter-species are metamorphoses of the self-same life. Each species is a patchwork of parts taken from other species. We, the living species, have continually exchanged parts, lineages, organs; what each of us is, what we call our 'species', is only a set of techniques that each living being has borrowed from others. It

is because of this continuity-in-transformation that every species shares infinitely many traits with hundreds of other species. Every species is the metamorphosis of all those that preceded it.

Coccia in [Metamorphoses](#) says that this is the deepest meaning of the Darwinian theory of evolution, the one that biology and pop science don't want to think about: species are not substances or real entities. We have not yet grasped the full consequences of Darwin's intuition: to say that species are connected by a genetic relationship does not simply mean that living creatures make up one vast family or clan. Above all, it means realizing that the identity of each species is entirely relative: primates may be the parents and humans their children, but we are human only through and in relation to those early primates, just as each of us is not a daughter or son in an absolute sense, but only in relation to our mother and father.

All of the above also applies to living creatures taken as a whole. There is no opposition between the living and the non-living. Not only is every living creature continuous with the non-living, it is its extension, metamorphosis, and most extreme expression.

Life is always the reincarnation of that which is not alive, a cobbling together of mineral elements, a carnival of the telluric substance of a planet – Gaia, the Earth – which continually presents new faces and creates new modes of being out of even the smallest particle of its disparate, heteroclitic body. Every self is a vehicle for the Earth, a vessel that allows the planet to travel without moving.

Coccia in [Metamorphoses](#) says that metamorphosis is both the force that allows every living thing to be staged simultaneously and successively across several forms, and the breath of life that connects those forms with one another, allowing them to pass one into the other.

Emanuele Coccia defines anew the relationship between humans and nature – a fascinating inquiry, and one which we urgently need in order to open our eyes to the world around us. – Peter Wohlleben, author of The Hidden Life of Trees

By highlighting what joins humans together with other forms of life, Coccia's brilliant reflection on metamorphosis in [Metamorphoses](#) encourages readers to abandon their view of the human species as static and independent and to recognize instead that we are part of a much larger and interconnected form of life. <>

Lonely Planet's Best of Costa Rica, 3rd edition by Mara Verhees, Jade Bremner, Ashley Harrell & Brian Kluepfel (Best of Country Series: Lonely Planet)

Centering yourself on a surfboard or yoga mat, descending into bat-filled caves or ascending misty volcanic peaks, hiking, biking or ziplining – the only limit is your return date. – from the book

Lonely Planet's Best of Costa Rica is the traveler's passport to relevant, up-to-date advice on what to see and skip, and what hidden discoveries await. Travelers lounge on sugar-white beaches in Southern Nicoya, spot sea turtles in Tortuguero, and catch the surf off deserted beaches on the Costa Ballena with their trusted travel companion.

Lonely Planet's Best of Costa Rica provides:

- Up-to-date information – businesses were rechecked before publication to ensure they are still open after 2020's COVID-19 outbreak.
- Color maps and images throughout.
- Highlights and itineraries to help travelers tailor their trip to their personal needs and interests.
- Insider tips to save time and money and get around like a local, avoiding crowds and trouble spots.
- Essential information at their fingertips – hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, transit tips, prices.
- Honest reviews for all budgets – eating, sleeping, sightseeing, going out, shopping, hidden gems that most guidebooks miss.
- Cultural insights to give them a richer, more rewarding travel experience – history, people, music, landscapes, wildlife, cuisine, politics.

Lonely Planet's Best of Costa Rica covers San Jose, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Manuel Antonio, Volcan Arenal, Montezuma, Peninsula de Osa, Tortuguero, Puerto Viejo de Talamanca, and Playa Samara.

Lonely Planet is a leading travel media company, providing inspiring and trustworthy information for every kind of traveler since 1973. Over the past four decades, they have printed over 145 million guidebooks and grown a dedicated, passionate global community of travelers.

Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other. – New York Times

Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveler's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world. – Fairfax Media (Australia)

[Lonely Planet's Best of Costa Rica](#) is filled with inspiring and colorful photos, and focuses on Costa Rica's most popular attractions for those wanting to experience the best of the best. <>



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