

The Aztecs A Very Short Introduction

EverythingHume: A Very Short IntroductionEverythingComedy: A Very Short IntroductionNineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short IntroductionBiography: A Very Short IntroductionMetaphysics: A Very Short IntroductionTranslation: A Very Short IntroductionNothingA Very Short Introduction to EverythingOvidIdeologyThe English LanguageLiterary Theory: A Very Short IntroductionStuart BritainHuman Rights: A Very Short IntroductionThe Future: A Very Short IntroductionPoetry: A Very Short IntroductionSocial PsychologyChoice Theory Philip Ball Alfred Ayer Matthew Bevis Christopher Harvie Hermione Lee Stephen Mumford Matthew Reynolds Frank Close Oxford University Press Llewelyn Morgan Michael Freeden Simon Horobin Jonathan Culler John Morrill Andrew Clapham Jennifer M. Gidley Bernard O'Donoghue Richard J. Crisp Michael Allingham

Everything Hume: A Very Short Introduction Everything Comedy: A Very Short Introduction Nineteenth-Century Britain: A Very Short Introduction Biography: A Very Short Introduction Metaphysics: A Very Short Introduction Translation: A Very Short Introduction Nothing A Very Short Introduction to Everything Ovid Ideology The English Language Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction Stuart Britain Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction The Future: A Very Short Introduction Poetry: A Very Short Introduction Social Psychology Choice Theory Philip Ball Alfred Ayer Matthew Bevis Christopher Harvie Hermione Lee Stephen Mumford Matthew Reynolds Frank Close Oxford University Press Llewelyn Morgan Michael Freeden Simon Horobin Jonathan Culler John Morrill Andrew Clapham Jennifer M. Gidley Bernard O'Donoghue Richard J. Crisp Michael Allingham

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

hume is one of the greatest of all british philosophers and even in his own lifetime was celebrated as one of the

pivotal figures of the enlightenment a central theme of his philosophy is the conviction that questions traditionally thought of as completely independent of the scientific realm questions about the mind about morality and about god for example are actually best explained using the experimental methods characteristic of the natural sciences hume's naturalist approach to a wide variety of philosophical topics resulted in highly original theories about perception self identity causation morality politics and religion all of which are discussed in this stimulating introduction by a j ayer himself one of the twentieth century's most important philosophers ayer also gives an account of hume's fascinating life and character and includes generous quotations from hume's lucid and often witty writings about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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to consider comedy in its many incarnations is to raise diverse but related questions what for instance is humour and how may it be used or abused when do we laugh and why what is it that writers and speakers enjoy and risk when they tell a joke indulge in bathos talk nonsense or encourage irony this very short introduction explores comedy both as a literary genre and as a range of non literary phenomena experiences and events matthew bevis studies the classics of comic drama prose fiction and poetry alongside forms of pantomime comic opera silent cinema popular music broadway shows music hall stand up and circus acts rom coms sketch shows sit coms caricatures and cartoons taking in scenes from aristophanes to the office from the roman saturnalia to groundhog day bevis also considers comic theory from aristotle to freud and beyond tracing how comic achievements have resisted as well as confirmed theory across the ages this book takes comedy seriously without taking it solemnly and offers an engaging study of the comic spirit which lies at the heart of our shared social and cultural life about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make

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here is a sharp but subtle account of one hundred years of remarkable economic and social change and an even more remarkable political stability britain in 1789 was overwhelmingly rural agrarian and almost half celtic by 1914 when it faced its greatest test since the defeat of napoleon it was largely urban and english the authors highlight the forces behind britain s rise to its imperial zenith the effects of the industrial revolution caused cities to swell enormously london for example grew from about 1 million people to over 6 million abroad the british empire was reaching its apex while at home the world came to marvel at the great exhibition

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

in this easy to understand introduction stephen mumford explores one of the four main branches of philosophy metaphysics using practical examples to explore the main issues he presents the ideas in a clear and simple way helping to clarify and unravel the basic questions of this complex and abstract concept

translation is everywhere and matters to everybody translation doesn t only give us foreign news dubbed films and instructions for using the microwave without it there would be no world religions and our literatures our cultures and our languages would be unrecognisable in this very short introduction matthew reynolds gives an authoritative and thought provoking account of the field from ancient akkadian to world english from st jerome to google translate he shows how translation determines meaning how it matters in commerce empire conflict and resistance and why it is fundamental to literature and the arts about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

what is nothing what remains when you take all the matter away can empty space a void exist this very short

introduction explores the science and the history of the elusive void from aristotle who insisted that the vacuum was impossible via the theories of newton and einstein to our very latest discoveries and why they can tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos frank close tells the story of how scientists have explored the elusive void and the rich discoveries that they have made there he takes the reader on a lively and accessible history through ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research he describes how scientists discovered that the vacuum is filled with fields how newton mach and einstein grappled with the nature of space and time and how the mysterious aether that was long ago supposed to permeate the void may now be making a comeback with the latest research into the higgs field we now know that the vacuum is far from being empty it seethes with virtual particles and antiparticles that erupt spontaneously into being and it also may contain hidden dimensions that we were previously unaware of these new discoveries may provide answers to some of cosmology s most fundamental questions what lies outside the universe and if there was once nothing then how did the universe begin about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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ovid wittiest of ancient poets has been an influential model for writers and artists throughout the ages llewelyn morgan introduces the poet and his works describing each of his poems in turn setting them in their social and literary context and considering the twist of events that led to the exile of rome s most celebrated artist

ideology is one of the most controversial terms in the political vocabulary exciting both revulsion and inspiration this book examines the reasons for those views and explains why ideologies deserve respect as a major form of political thinking it investigates the centrality of ideology both as a political phenomenon and as an organizing framework of political thought and action it explores the changing understandings of ideology as a concept and the arguments of the main ideologies by employing the latest insights from a range of disciplines

the reader is introduced to the vitality and force of a crucial resource at the disposal of societies through which sense and purpose is assigned to the political world about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

this book provides a concise and accessible history of english engages with key debates concerning issues of correctness standards and dialects investigates the uses of english worldwide reflects on the future of the english language publisher description

literary theory a very short introduction offers insights into theories about the nature of language and meaning human identity and the power of language fully updated for 2011 and including a new chapter on ethics and aesthetics it steers a clear and lucid path through an often impenetrable subject

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

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today it is usually not long before a problem gets expressed as a human rights issue an appeal to human rights in the face of injustice can be a heartfelt and morally justified demand for some while for others it remains merely an empty slogan taking an international perspective and focusing on highly topical issues such as torture arbitrary detention privacy health and discrimination this very short introduction will help readers to understand for themselves the controversies and complexities behind this vitally relevant issue looking at the philosophical justification for rights the historical origins of human rights and how they are formed in law andrew clapham explains what our human rights actually are what they might be and where the human rights movement is heading about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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

poetry arguably has a greater range of conceptual meaning than perhaps any other term in English at the most basic level everyone can recognise it it is a kind of literature that uses special linguistic devices of organization and expression for aesthetic effect however far grander claims have been made for poetry than this such as Shelley's that the poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world and that poetry is a higher truth in this very short introduction Bernard O'Donoghue provides a fascinating look at the many different forms of writing which have been called poetry from the Greeks to the present day as well as questioning what poetry is he asks what poetry is for and considers contemporary debates on its value is there a universality to poetry and does it have a duty of public utility and responsibility about the series the very short introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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

we make choices all the time about trivial matters about how to spend our money about how to spend our time about what to do with our lives and we are also constantly judging the decisions other people make as rational or irrational but what kind of criteria are we applying when we say that a choice is rational what guides our own choices especially in cases where we don't have complete information about the outcomes what strategies should be applied in making decisions which affect a lot of people as in the case of government policy this book explores what it means to be rational in all these contexts it introduces ideas from economics philosophy and other areas showing how the theory applies to decisions in everyday life and to particular situations such as gambling and the allocation of resources about the series the very short introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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