

britannica greats of the western world

Britannica Greats of the Western World: Exploring the Titans of History and Culture

britannica greats of the western world have long fascinated scholars, students, and history enthusiasts alike. These towering figures—whether philosophers, political leaders, scientists, or artists—have shaped the trajectory of Western civilization and influenced societies across the globe. The term itself evokes images of legendary individuals who have made lasting contributions to human knowledge, culture, and progress. In this article, we will dive deep into the world of these iconic personalities, uncovering who they were, what they stood for, and why their legacies continue to resonate today.

Understanding the Britannica Greats of the Western World

When we talk about the britannica greats of the western world, we're referring to a canon of influential figures that the Encyclopaedia Britannica and other scholarly sources recognize for their profound impact. These individuals often appear in educational curricula and cultural discussions because their ideas and actions laid the foundation for modern Western thought and society.

The “greats” span many fields—from the philosophers like Socrates and Immanuel Kant to political revolutionaries such as George Washington and Napoleon Bonaparte. Their stories are intertwined with the evolution of democracy, science, art, and philosophy, providing a multifaceted view of Western heritage.

The Criteria Behind Being a “Great”

What makes someone a “great” in this context? It's more than just fame or longevity—it's about transformative influence. Britannica emphasizes factors like:

- **Innovative thinking** that challenges existing paradigms
- **Enduring cultural or political impact** beyond their lifetime
- **Contributions to knowledge, ethics, or governance**
- **Symbolic representation** of broader historical movements

This approach ensures that the list is not just a roll call of famous names but a meaningful reflection of human achievement.

Philosophers and Thinkers: The Intellectual Pillars

One cannot explore the britannica greats of the western world without highlighting the monumental role of philosophers. Their inquiries into ethics, existence, and governance have shaped societal values and legal principles that we often take for granted.

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle: The Foundations of Western Philosophy

Socrates is often heralded as the pioneer of Western ethical thought. His method of questioning, famously known as the Socratic method, encourages deep critical thinking—a technique still used in education today. His student Plato expanded these ideas, exploring concepts of justice and ideal forms. Plato's writings laid the groundwork for political philosophy and metaphysics.

Aristotle, a student of Plato, took a more empirical approach, emphasizing observation and logic. His works spanned biology, ethics, politics, and aesthetics, influencing countless generations. Together, these three form the cornerstone of Western intellectual tradition.

Enlightenment Thinkers: Kant, Locke, and Rousseau

Fast forward to the 17th and 18th centuries, the Age of Enlightenment produced thinkers who advocated reason, liberty, and progress. John Locke's theories on natural rights and government by consent influenced the development of modern democracy. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's ideas on social contract challenged monarchic authority and inspired revolutionary movements. Immanuel Kant's philosophy on morality and autonomy underpinned much of modern ethics.

These britannica greats of the western world continue to inspire debates on human rights, governance, and individual freedoms.

Political Leaders and Revolutionaries: Shaping Nations

Political leadership is another domain where britannica greats of the western world have left indelible marks. Their strategies, policies, and visions have steered the course of history and redefined national identities.

George Washington and the Birth of American Democracy

Known as the "Father of His Country," George Washington's leadership during the American Revolutionary War and his presidency set precedents for democratic governance. His commitment to civilian control of the military and peaceful transfer of power remains a model for republics worldwide.

Napoleon Bonaparte: The Complex Legacy of a Conqueror

Napoleon's rise from military general to Emperor of France is a quintessential story of ambition and reform. While his conquests spread revolutionary ideals across Europe, his authoritarian rule also sparked debates on power and liberty. The Napoleonic Code, however, standardized civil law and influenced legal systems far beyond France.

Artists and Scientists: Innovators of Culture and Knowledge

The britannica greats of the western world are not confined to politics and philosophy; artists and scientists have equally transformed human understanding and expression.

Leonardo da Vinci: The Renaissance Polymath

Leonardo epitomizes the Renaissance ideal—a master painter, inventor, and scientist. His artistic masterpieces like the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper are celebrated for their technical skill and emotional depth. Beyond art, his notebooks reveal visionary ideas in anatomy, engineering, and flight, centuries ahead of their time.

Isaac Newton and the Scientific Revolution

Newton's laws of motion and universal gravitation laid the foundation for classical physics. His work epitomizes the scientific revolution that challenged medieval worldviews and propelled humanity into modern science. His contributions continue to underpin physics, engineering, and astronomy.

The Lasting Influence of Britannica Greats of the Western World

What makes these britannica greats of the western world so compelling is their enduring relevance. Their ideas and actions ripple through modern society—in our political institutions, educational systems, legal frameworks, and cultural values.

For instance, studying their lives provides valuable lessons on leadership, ethics, creativity, and resilience. Whether you're a student delving into Western history or someone curious about the roots of contemporary civilization, these figures offer a treasure trove of insights.

Additionally, understanding the context in which these personalities emerged helps us appreciate the complexity of history. They weren't flawless heroes but multifaceted individuals shaped by their times, often wrestling with contradictions and challenges.

Integrating Their Wisdom Today

Incorporating lessons from the britannica greats of the western world into our lives can be enriching:

- **Critical Thinking:** Emulate Socratic questioning to analyze information critically.
- **Civic Engagement:** Inspired by Enlightenment thinkers, participate actively in democratic processes.

- **Innovation:** Channel Leonardo's curiosity and interdisciplinarity to solve modern problems.
- **Ethical Leadership:** Learn from political leaders about balancing power with responsibility.

By doing so, we keep their legacies alive and relevant in a rapidly changing world.

Diving Deeper: Resources and Further Exploration

For those eager to explore Britannica Greats of the Western World in more detail, the Encyclopaedia Britannica itself is an invaluable resource. Its comprehensive biographies and contextual articles offer a reliable starting point for deepening knowledge.

Other recommended resources include:

- University courses on Western civilization and philosophy
- Documentaries and lectures focused on historical figures
- Books that analyze the impact of these personalities from multiple perspectives

Engaging with these materials enriches understanding and fosters a nuanced appreciation of Western heritage.

As you journey through history, you'll discover that the Britannica Greats of the Western World are not just names in textbooks—they are stories of human endeavor, creativity, and transformation that continue to inspire and challenge us today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Britannica Greats of the Western World' series?

The 'Britannica Greats of the Western World' is a comprehensive collection of significant works and writings that have shaped Western culture, philosophy, literature, and science, compiled by Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Who are some notable figures featured in the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World'?

Notable figures include Plato, Aristotle, Shakespeare, Newton, Darwin, Freud, and many other influential thinkers, writers, and scientists who have contributed to Western civilization.

What kind of content is included in the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World'?

The series includes classic literary works, philosophical treatises, scientific papers, and other seminal texts that have had a profound impact on Western thought and culture.

How can one access the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World'?

The collection is available in various formats including printed volumes, digital editions, and online databases through Encyclopædia Britannica's platforms and authorized retailers.

Why is the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World' considered important?

It serves as an essential resource for understanding the intellectual heritage of the Western world, providing access to foundational texts that have influenced modern society and academic disciplines.

When was the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World' first published?

The collection was first compiled and published in the mid-20th century, with subsequent editions and updates reflecting ongoing scholarship and discoveries.

Can students and educators benefit from the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World'?

Yes, it is widely used by students, educators, and researchers as a reliable reference for studying Western history, literature, philosophy, and science.

Are there any digital tools included with the 'Britannica Greats of the Western World'?

Many editions come with digital tools such as searchable text, annotations, and cross-references, making it easier to navigate and study the complex works included in the series.

Additional Resources

Britannica Greats of the Western World: An Investigative Review

britannica greats of the western world represent a curated collection of some of the most influential figures in Western history, culture, philosophy, and science. Compiled initially by the Encyclopædia Britannica, this anthology seeks to highlight seminal contributors whose ideas, actions, and legacies have shaped the contours of Western civilization. Exploring this canon offers insight not only into the men and women themselves but also into the evolving criteria of greatness within Western intellectual and cultural traditions.

Understanding the Britannica Greats of the Western

World

The term "britannica greats of the western world" generally refers to a framework established by Encyclopædia Britannica editors, who selected a list of key figures deemed pivotal in the development of Western thought and society. This list spans various epochs—from antiquity through the Enlightenment and into modernity—and includes philosophers, scientists, artists, political leaders, and writers. The purpose is to present a panoramic view of those whose contributions have had enduring influence.

Unlike simplistic "greatest of all time" rankings, Britannica's approach is grounded in scholarly consensus and historical significance. It is an analytical lens through which to assess the impact of individuals on Western traditions, including democracy, human rights, scientific progress, and artistic expression. Consequently, the list offers a valuable educational resource, bridging disciplines such as history, literature, philosophy, and science.

Criteria and Composition of the List

Selection Methodology

The Britannica greats of the western world are selected based on several key criteria:

- **Historical Impact:** How significantly the individual influenced Western civilization.
- **Enduring Legacy:** The lasting relevance of their achievements or ideas.
- **Innovative Contributions:** Introduction of novel concepts or practices.
- **Cultural Representation:** Diversity within Western cultural and intellectual spheres.

The editors also weigh the balance between various fields—philosophy, politics, science, literature—to create a comprehensive yet focused representation. This selection is not static; it evolves with new scholarship and cultural reassessments.

Notable Figures Included

The Britannica greats encompass a range of iconic personalities such as:

1. **Plato:** Architect of Western philosophy and political theory.
2. **Aristotle:** Founder of formal logic and empirical science.

3. **Leonardo da Vinci:** Polymath and quintessential Renaissance figure.
4. **Isaac Newton:** Revolutionary physicist who formulated the laws of motion.
5. **William Shakespeare:** The bard whose works define English literature.
6. **Marie Curie:** Pioneer in radioactivity and first woman to win Nobel Prizes.
7. **Martin Luther:** Catalyst of the Protestant Reformation.

This selection reflects a balance between intellectual pioneers and transformative cultural agents.

The Role of Britannica Greats in Contemporary Education

In academic settings, the Britannica greats of the western world serve as foundational references for curricula in history, humanities, and social sciences. By presenting a vetted roster of influential figures, educators can frame important discussions around the development of Western thought and its global ramifications.

Advantages of Utilizing Britannica Greats

- **Authoritative Source:** Encyclopædia Britannica's editorial rigor ensures reliability.
- **Interdisciplinary Scope:** Encourages cross-disciplinary learning.
- **Cultural Literacy:** Enhances understanding of Western heritage and its global impact.

However, the list is not without criticism. Some scholars argue that it may underrepresent marginalized groups or overemphasize traditionally dominant narratives. Thus, it is important to approach the Britannica greats as a starting point rather than an exhaustive or definitive canon.

Comparative Perspectives: Britannica vs. Other Greats Lists

When compared with other compilations—such as Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People" or various academic "greatest minds" lists—the Britannica greats stand out for their historical depth and cultural breadth. While many lists focus on contemporary figures or popular appeal, Britannica aims for a scholarly, enduring perspective.

Impact on Cultural and Intellectual Discourse

The prominence of the Britannica greats of the western world influences how history and culture are narrated in popular and academic contexts. Their stories often serve as archetypes in discussions about leadership, creativity, and intellectual breakthroughs.

Relevance in Modern Debates

The achievements of figures like Galileo Galilei or Immanuel Kant remain pivotal in contemporary conversations about science and ethics. Furthermore, the examination of their lives and works often invites reflection on broader themes such as the tension between tradition and innovation or the relationship between power and knowledge.

Critiques and Evolving Understandings

Critics highlight that the Britannica greats, while comprehensive, reflect historical biases inherent in Western historiography. For example, the underrepresentation of women and minorities has been a persistent issue. Recent editions and scholarly discourse increasingly emphasize inclusivity and reevaluation of previously overlooked contributors.

Integrating Britannica Greats into Digital and SEO Strategies

For content creators and educators looking to optimize their material for search engines, incorporating the keyword phrase “britannica greats of the western world” alongside related LSI keywords such as “Western civilization icons,” “influential Western thinkers,” and “historical figures of the West” can enhance visibility and engagement.

Best Practices for SEO Optimization

- **Contextual Keyword Placement:** Use the primary keyword and LSI terms naturally within headings and body text.
- **Quality Content:** Provide in-depth, well-researched analysis that adds value beyond basic definitions.
- **Multimedia Integration:** Include images, timelines, or infographics highlighting key figures to increase user interaction.
- **Internal Linking:** Connect to related articles on Western history, culture, and philosophy to

improve site navigation and authority.

Such strategies not only boost search rankings but also enrich the reader's experience, aligning well with Britannica's educational mission.

Conclusion: The Enduring Significance of Britannica Greats

Exploring the britannica greats of the western world offers a nuanced understanding of how individual contributions have collectively shaped modern Western society. While not immune to critique, the curated list remains a vital educational tool and a lens through which to examine the complex tapestry of Western intellectual history. As scholarship evolves, so too does the interpretation of greatness—ensuring that this canon remains both relevant and dynamic for future generations.

Britannica Greats Of The Western World

britannica greats of the western world: *Cheering for Self* James S. Vass Jr, James Vass Jr, 2003-05-13 This book is a study of UW men's basketball fans during the 2001-2002 season and explores their proclivity to 'cheering for self' during basketball events. The term 'basketball event' is used rather than 'basketball game' to make clear that everything connected to and seen, heard, or experienced before, during and after a basketball game is included. The actual game itself is only part of the 'basketball event. An undercurrent runs throughout this participant observation mini-ethnography dealing with access, and the relative quality of that access, to basketball events being affected by ones age, class, race, and gender. The prominent role of advertising in shaping basketball events and helping to construct fans as consumers of products (both commercial and institutional) during the process of cheering for self is central to this idea. Cheering for self is the activity engaged in by individual fans after they find things to identify or connect with through personal investment. Fans cheer for self indirectly. Fans cheer for the team that they identify with. Through the process of cheering for self while attending the basketball event people are taught how to become fans, to consume a UW product--the basketball event and to consume advertisers' products. People have a tendency to spend their entire life trying to impress others.

britannica greats of the western world: *Teaching Critical Thinking* Laura Billings, Terry Roberts, 2014-01-09 Help students meet today's literacy demands with this new book from Terry Roberts and Laura Billings. The authors show how a seminar approach can lead students deeper into a text and improve their speaking, listening, and writing skills, as recommended by the Common Core State Standards. Roberts and Billings provide easy-to-follow information on implementing Paideia Seminars, in which students discuss a text and ask open-ended questions about it. When teachers use this lesson format, students are exposed to a wide range of increasingly complex texts. They also learn how to collaborate, talk about, and reflect on what they're reading, to make meaning independently and together. Seminars can be done in English class and across the curriculum, using social studies documents or math problems as the texts under discussion. Teaching Critical Thinking also offers an array of practical resources: teacher lesson plans student samples a list of possible ideas and values for discussion a guide to asking good questions during a seminar six full seminar plans (including the texts), covering literature, social studies, and science topics

britannica greats of the western world: Because You Bear This Name Bonnie Howe, 2006
This study uses conceptual metaphor theory and methodology to analyze the cultural logic and symbolic context, moral content and ethical implications of 1 Peter. Conceptual metaphor study helps explain how people generate ethical understandings; it can help us recognize and account for lively moral discourse between the NT and contemporary readers.

britannica greats of the western world: *From Homo Sapiens to Immortal Souls* JP Duby, 2025-05-30 Embark on a journey of discovery. Delve into the foundation of our human lives and our destiny. Learn about the life that lies beyond our present sight. Set out as a series of logical questions and answers, *From Homo Sapiens to Immortal Souls: Origin and Destiny of the Human Species* provides a lens through which to explore our spiritual origin and the eternity that awaits us. In this grounded, conversational discussion, JP Duby helps readers to contemplate the purpose of human life, to explore their origin and destiny, and to gain a different perspective of what we call religion. In this exploration of the human self, readers pursue a better understanding of reality and even discover if God can exist in a universe of physical particles. With this new outlook, readers can better foresee their intended purpose while also marveling at the beauty of the world in which they live and experience their lives. Un-veiling the infinite nature of the human soul, “*From Homo Sapiens to Immortal Souls*” emerges as an essential guide for those interested in self-discovery, exploring the profound depths of their inner being, and offering understanding and solace to guide them through this life and the mysteries of the one yet to come.

britannica greats of the western world: *Mathematically Speaking* C.C. Gaither, Alma E Cavazos-Gaither, 1998-01-01 For the first time, a book has brought together in one easily accessible form the best expressed thoughts that are especially illuminating and pertinent to the discipline of mathematics. *Mathematically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations* provides profound, wise, and witty quotes from the most famous to the unknown. You may not find all the quoted jewels that exist, but you will definitely find a great many of them here. The extensive author and subject indexes provide you with the perfect tools for locating quotations for practical use or pleasure, and you will soon enjoy discovering what others have said on topics ranging from addition to zero. This book will be a handy reference for the mathematician or scientific reader and the wider public interested in who has said what on mathematics.

britannica greats of the western world: *The Philosophy of Taxation and Public Finance* Robert W. McGee, 2011-06-27 Most public finance books are texts, which are aimed at undergraduate or graduate students. They are overly technical in nature and appeal only to a narrow range of bureaucrats and academics. Books on taxation are written for tax practitioners and usually emphasize either what the law is or how to maneuver through the labyrinth of tax law to minimize taxes for clients. Philosophy books on taxation or public finance simply do not exist. *The Philosophy of Taxation and Public Finance* is different. It is written in nontechnical language and is aimed to appeal to a wide range of readers, including practitioners, academics and students in the fields of taxation, public finance, economics, law, philosophy and political science as well as general readers who are interested in learning why they are being taxed the way they are. The author addresses the major issues and topics in taxation and public finance and injects them with philosophical insights. He discusses questions such as: -What arguments have been used to justify taxation? -When is tax evasion unethical? -Are some taxes better than others? -What are the proper functions of government? -How much is enough? Is the ability to pay concept valid? -When can punitive taxes be justified?

britannica greats of the western world: *Physically Speaking* C.C. Gaither, 1997-01-01 *Physically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations on Physics and Astronomy* provides the largest published collection of quotations pertaining to physics and astronomy. Some quotes are profound, others are wise, some are witty but none are frivolous. Here you will find quotations from the most famous to the unknown. The extensive author and subject indexes provide you with the perfect tool for locating quotations for practical use or pleasure, and you will soon enjoy discovering what others have said on topics ranging from anti-matter to x-rays. This book can be read for pleasure or used as

a handy reference by students, scientific readers, and the more general reader who is interested in who has said what on physics and astronomy.

britannica greats of the western world: Naturally Speaking C.C. Gaither, Alma E Cavazos-Gaither, 2001-04-12 In these days of ever-increasing specialization, it is important to gain a broad appreciation of the subject. With this in mind, *Naturally Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations on Biology, Botany, Nature and Zoology*, Second Edition presents the largest compilation of published quotations on the natural world available so that readers can get a feel

britannica greats of the western world: The Promise of Human Autonomy Walter Gruen Ph.D., 2017-06-22 SYNOPSIS The thesis of this book is that autonomous behavior in the human being has now been securely anchored as a stage in the development of human person-ality. It has been recognized and described as a valid form of adult human behavior from the evidence supplied by a number of prominent clinicians and experimenters in the area of personality psychology. Furthermore, self-actualizing behavior has been shown to emerge as the more dominant form of expression in people after they have tried to get help with personal problems from the advocates of some of the newer psychotherapies. Autonomy has also been independently established as a necessary expression of life forces on the psychological level by General Systems Theory. Hence Autonomy is an important characteristic of the living organisms in their tendency to achieve a condition of minimal disorganization or negentropy. We can furthermore understand the lack of awareness in history of this human process for the following reasons: 1. Technological and scientific development did not allow men to develop long enough for it to emerge except for a few; 2. Pre-industrial technology further prevented Man from developing the physical security or the leisure that is needed for its exercise; 3. Religion and other ideologies forced Man to put his faith and trust in an all-powerful and warmly concerned deity rather than in himself; 4. Confusions about the real working of the human mind embroiled the philosophers over the ages to debate on the so-called faculties of Man and their interrelationships which effectively hid autonomous functioning under a number of other categories; 5. Men so organized their society that they preferred dependency on a King or on an aristocracy. It took the development of machines to do Man's work, knowledge of medicine to keep him alive long enough, an acceptance of a democratic ideology and government, and the scientific investigations of mental processes and personality to see autonomy as a legitimate human form of expression. The exercise of human autonomy has also led to some serious problems for Mankind. We can attribute a sense of irresponsibility and lack of consideration, alienation, apathy, and even forms of anarchy to this. These difficulties have pushed whole societies to experimental solutions in which autonomy is subjugated either to irrational leaders or to a pseudo-scientific dictatorship called communism. If we recognize that autonomy is a stage in adult life, after the person has learned and accepted conformity and a sense of responsibility, we can distinguish between true exercise of autonomy and pseudo autonomy. Recent psychological observations about the development of morality also equate the development of the highest stage, namely consideration of the common good, with the exercise of autonomy. It therefore becomes possible for Man to take another look at the possible application of autonomous functioning to the solution of problems in our society, rather than magnify the latter with the slogan: Let each person do his or her own thing. We can begin here by carefully separating the use of rational thinking available in the autonomy stage from the irrational behavior found in all of us, including moments in the lives of self-actualizing people. Armed with this dichotomy we could then heavily lean on the rational thinking processes for solving problems. For instance, we could increase the utilization of mediation practices on all levels of society to settle the inevitable disputes that arise when the self-expressions of people clash with those of others. We could also organize and legitimate various institutions and practices which would allow people to freely express their irrational impulses. In this way these expressions would be isolated from the mainstream and would not hurt others except the participants who are willing to take the risk. We are, therefore, at the choice point in history where we can accept autonomou

britannica greats of the western world: Be Prepared Dr. Robert McClerren, 2017-07-26

College planning is more than just choosing a major and which school to attend. It enables the direction and distance of your career path. It is the key that opens the doors of opportunity. *Be Prepared* goes beyond the basics and provides you vital information not provided in other guides. You have access to resources such as personality profiles, interests inventories, and aptitudes that correlate with fields of study and career paths. You are armed with information concerning the different types of accreditation, transferability of credits, and financial aid. You are empowered with alternative ways to earn college credits, such as advanced placement, prior learning assessment, proficiency exams, and credit recommendations for military training experience. You learn about nondegree credentialing opportunities, such as certificates of completion and vocational certifications. A glossary of terms is provided to familiarize you with the jargon of higher education. You can readily build your vocabulary to a college level by reviewing the listed words and their synonyms.

britannica greats of the western world: Chemically Speaking C.C. Gaither, Alma E Cavazos-Gaither, 2016-04-19 In these days of ever-increasing specialization, it is important to gain a broad appreciation of scientific disciplines such as chemistry. With this in mind, *Chemically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations* contains the words and wisdom of several hundred scientists, writers, philosophers, poets, and academics. Some quotations are illustrated by amu

britannica greats of the western world: *The Key to Language* Laurence Sherzer, 2009

britannica greats of the western world: *Unholy Writ*: T. Joyner Drolsum, 2011-11-07 During our brief and perilous journey *ex irritum ad irritum*, how are we to find, what the German philosopher Martin Heidegger (*Sein und Zeit*) would call, the true approach to being? How do we answer the question posed by the Apostle Thomas when he asked how can we know the way (Jn. 14:5)? In other words, how should we fill that parenthesis of infinitesimal brevity, which James Joyce (*Ulysses*) maintained, demarcates each of our lives? The Bible has often been put forth as a supposedly infallible guidebook charting the correct path to an authentic existence (e.g. 2 Tim. 3:16-17). According to its proponents, Scripture is an absolutely dependable life-manual because it is the word of God (*Summa Theologica*, First Part, Q. 1, Art. 10). However, close inspection of the Bible calls into question its divine authorship; and, thus, its reliability as an accurate roadmap for the soul. In fact, under close examination it proves to be nothing more than a mundane and cobbled together collection of archaic superstitions beginning with the outlandish speculations of Moses concerning the creation of the world and ending with the maniacal ravings of John regarding its destruction. Exposing the true nature of Holy Writ was the main purpose for writing *Unholy Writ*. The *modus operandi* for this expos involved a thoroughgoing critical analysis of Scripture. The results from such a careful consideration of its contents clearly demonstrated that any claim that the Bible is some sort of sacrosanct ethical *vade mecum* is completely invalid. Specifically, the multiple contradictions and absurdities contained in the Bible confer an unreliability upon it that undermines its function as a guide for anything, let alone as some sort of moral map for the journey through life. Furthermore, many of the ideas that are promoted in Holy Writ are actually spiritually harmful. In addition, unless the condoned misogyny, violence, intolerance, injustice, and cruelty can be removed, then it is difficult to view the Scriptures as anything like an unwavering celestial beacon that clearly lights the way through the moral fog that at times engulfs our lives. Moreover, the many errors that it contains, including those about the natural world, undermine the pivotal claim that the Bible is divinely inspired.

britannica greats of the western world: *The Self-destruction of the West* Damien François, 2007 Voilà désormais plus de 10 000 ans que la civilisation occidentale s'est installée et voilà 10 000 ans qu'elle viole le sens même de la nature : la vie. En s'appropriant sans concession ce qui l'entourait, l'homme de l'Ouest a vu son horizon ployer sous la charge de la destruction qu'il lui avait lui-même réalisée. Sommes-nous des lycanthropes ou des vampires? Ces monstres si terrifiants qui sortent de notre imagination sont-ils en réalité la copie de notre comportement dévastateur? Prédateurs, nous pompons sans remords les énergies qui nous entourent. Jusqu'où ira-t-on?

britannica greats of the western world: *Our Human Herds* Stephen Martin Fritz, 2020-09-04

Our Human Herds presents a new theory in moral and political philosophy, called dual morality. The theory proposes that just as the physical senses of sight, smell, taste, touch and hearing evolved to help us navigate our physical environment, two independent moral senses evolved to guide us to success in our social world. One prioritizes cooperation; the other, competition. The first bases moral justification on the egalitarianism that emphasizes our equal worth; the other finds moral justification in the inequalities that allow us to distinguish better from worse. Liberal and conservative are merely the names given to the political manifestations of these two forms of moral expression, just as socialist and capitalist describe their economic manifestations, and personality and character their psychological ones. Our Human Herds addresses what it means to be a human being, why we fight about the things that divide us, and why we unite behind the ideas that draw us together. The book examines all aspects of human social behavior, revealing how and why we often disagree in our approaches to education, history, war, crime, pleasure, happiness, politics, science and religion. This is a learned, thoroughly researched study - and dazzlingly bright. The effervescent approach to writing makes its pages fly by ... Studies as brilliant as this one deserve a far wider audience. An engrossing and mind-expanding examination of morality -Kirkus Reviews Book Review: A vast philosophical study charts the shifting moral landscape while tackling the weightiest question of human existence: what is the meaning of life? Humanity's moral framework remains in a constant state of reconstruction. As the author points out in his opening chapter: "Two hundred years ago if a woman was raped and became pregnant we'd kill the rapist and spare the baby. Today, we spare rapist and kill the baby. Centuries ago many cultures condoned polygamy; today we put people in jail for it." Over the course of this weighty tome, which is just shy of 1,000 pages, the author ponders what morality is (with an emphasis on humans as grouping or "herding" creatures) and the causes of its flux and reflux. Furthermore, there is an attempt to reconcile opposing philosophical theories by introducing a new conceptual model called "Dual Morality," proposed as an "all-encompassing blueprint of human morality." The study is logically structured, divided into four sections: "The Theory of Dual Moralism," "The Explanation" (including investigations of the group and the self), "The Derivations" (which considers family, country, religion, and science/nature/technology), and finally "The Extrapolations" (a far-reaching look at everything from pleasure and happiness to suicide, murder, and abortion). The author possesses the rare skill of being able to explore himself with an enviable ease, drawing on palatable references to popular culture. For example: "Comedian Woody Allen said he laughs at his own jokes when they first come to him because humor originates in the unconscious. When his conscious mind hears them for the first time, it is as if they came from another place, and so we are, in a way, an audience to our own humor." This approach, applied throughout, makes complex ideas not only accessible, but entertaining and enjoyable as well. The result is far from the predictable, dry academic thesis. This is a learned, thoroughly researched study—and dazzlingly bright. The effervescent approach to writing makes its 951 pages fly by. Fritz's dedication is to "that miniscule fragment of humanity who read books like this." Studies as brilliant as this one deserve a far wider audience. An engrossing and mind-expanding examination of morality. -- Kirkus Indie, Kirkus Media LLC, 6411 Burleson Rd., Austin, TX 78744 indie@kirkusreviews

britannica greats of the western world: Celebrate Your Divinity Orest Bedrij, 2005-12-27
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