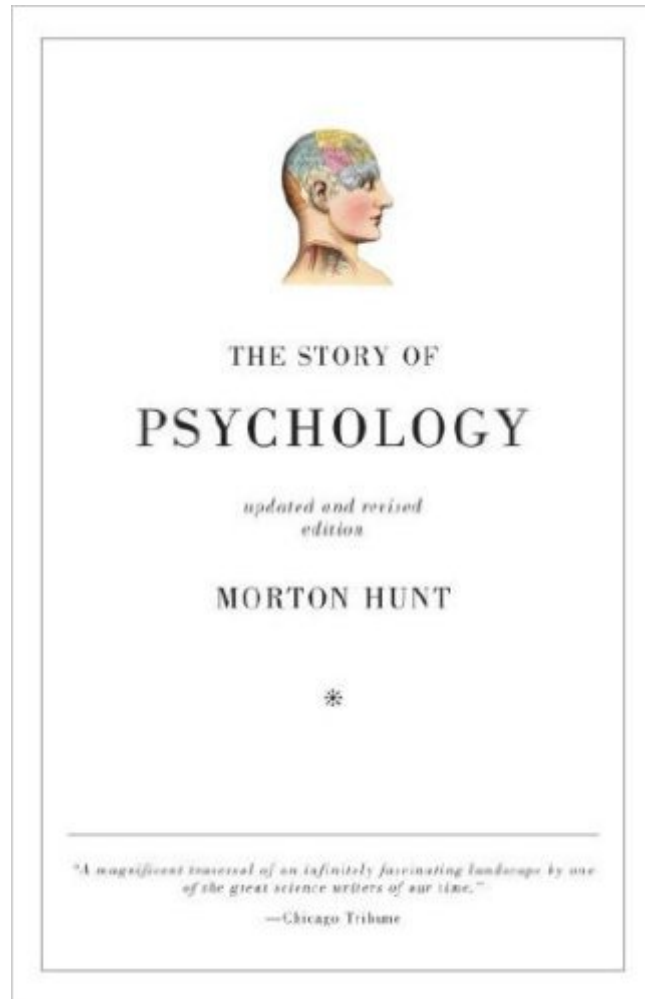


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The Story Of Psychology, Updated & Revised Edition



Synopsis

Socrates, Plato, Descartes, Spinoza, Mesmer, William James, Pavlov, Freud, Piaget, Erikson, and Skinner. Each of these thinkers recognized that human beings could examine, comprehend, and eventually guide or influence their own thought processes, emotions, and resulting behavior. The lives and accomplishments of these pillars of psychology, expertly assembled by Morton Hunt, are set against the times in which the subjects lived. Hunt skillfully presents dramatic and lucid accounts of the techniques and validity of centuries of psychological research, and of the methods and effectiveness of major forms of psychotherapy. Fully revised, and incorporating the dramatic developments of the last fifteen years, *The Story of Psychology* is a graceful and absorbing chronicle of one of the great human inquiries—the search for the true causes of our behavior.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Although a nice overview of the history of psychology, Morton Hunt's *Story of Psychology* isn't objective or serious enough to be considered a seminal work in the social science. To his credit, however, he does attempt to take an increasingly drab subject matter and bring it into the context of modern humanistic literature. As a result, what you end up with is a tweener book: not serious (or accurate) enough for the psychological crowd, but too scientific for the average reader. This book is mainly for first year psychology students and/or psychology-curious independent readers. There are two main criticisms of this book (which seem to be present in most reviews): 1.) This 800+ page volume is overwrought with physical descriptions of the philosophers and scientists - something that is completely unnecessary and takes a great deal away from the focus of the tome; 2.) Hunt is

extremely critical of philosophers (especially the early philosophers) and shows a great deal of bias and disdain for any line of thinking that isn't up to par with his ideas of truly objective science (whether his ideas are correct or not). It is because of these two main criticisms that the value of this book gets knocked down a notch. As an example of critique number two above, concluding his review of Hume's work, Hunt makes the statement: "Ironically, the empiricism and associationism that Hume meant to be the foundation of his system of morals live on; his system of morals, a gentle utilitarianism, is quite forgotten." Hunt is wrong. David Hume's ethical theory - commonly known as the "passions" - is a form of virtue ethics, not utilitarianism. Utilitarianism is often noted as "the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people." This deals with consequence.

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