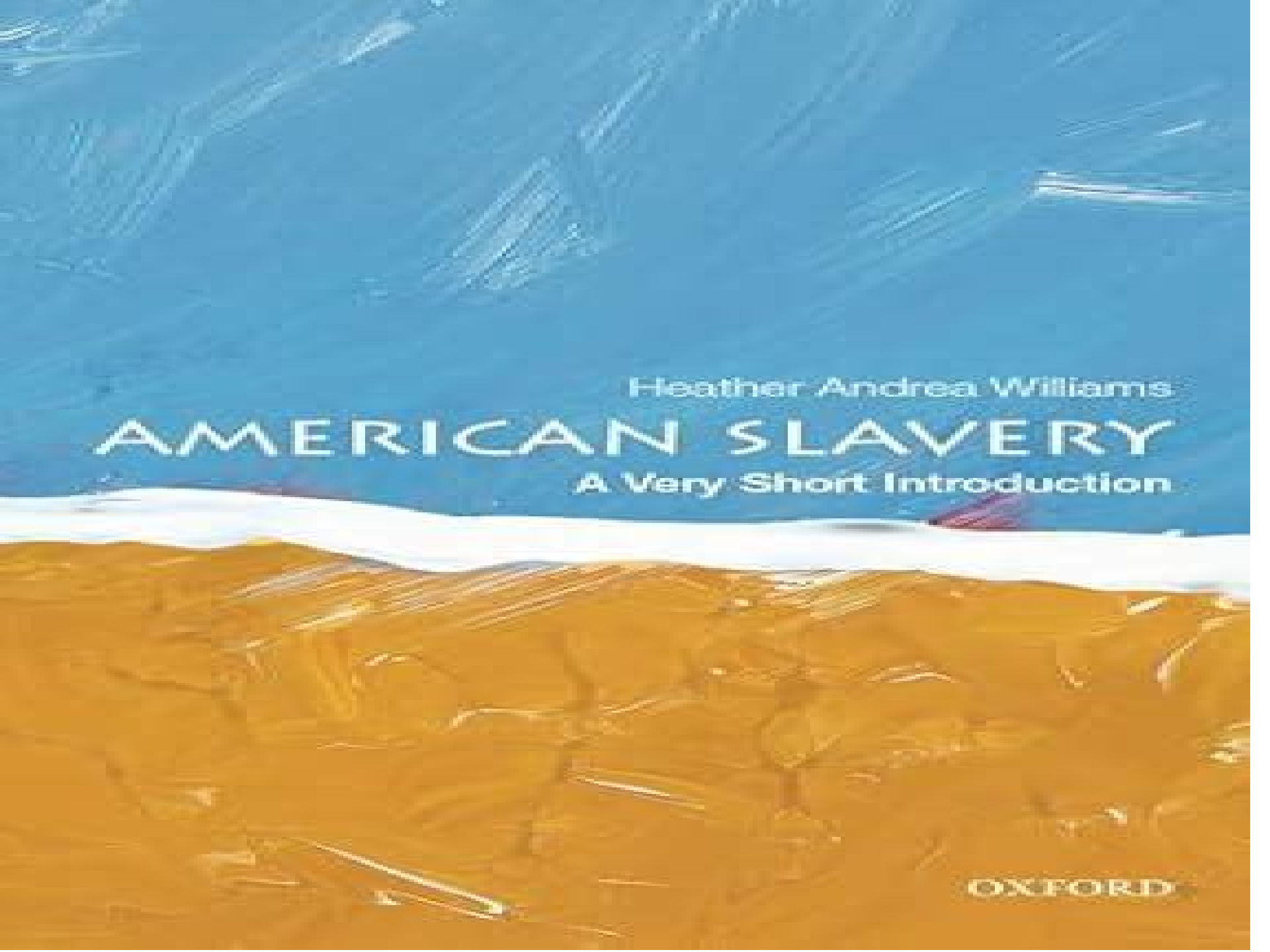




Heather Andrea Williams

AMERICAN SLAVERY

A Very Short Introduction

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American Slavery Heather Andrea Williams, 2014-10-06 Europeans Africans and American Indians practiced slavery long before the first purchase of a captive African by a white land owner in the American colonies that however is the image of slavery most prevalent in the minds of Americans today This Very Short Introduction begins with the Portuguese capture of Africans in the 1400s and traces the development of American slavery until its abolition following the Civil War Historian Heather Andrea Williams draws upon the rich recent scholarship of numerous highly regarded academics as well as an analysis of primary documents to explore the history of slavery and its effects on the American colonies and later the United States of America Williams examines legislation that differentiated American Indians and Africans from Europeans as the ideology of white supremacy flourished and became an ingrained feature of the society These laws reflected the contradiction of America's moral and philosophical ideology that valorized freedom on one hand and justified the enslavement of a population deemed inferior on another She explores the tense and often violent relationships between the enslaved and the enslavers and between abolitionists and pro slavery advocates as those who benefited from the institution fought to maintain and exert their power Williams is attentive to the daily labors that enslaved people performed reminding readers that slavery was a system of forced labor with economic benefits that produced wealth for a new nation all the while leaving an indelible mark on its history About the Series Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects from Islam to Sociology Politics to Classics Literary Theory to History and Archaeology to the Bible Not simply a textbook of definitions each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative yet always balanced and complete discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society Eventually the series will encompass every major academic discipline offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable

The Vikings: A Very Short Introduction Julian D. Richards, 2005-09-08 The Viking reputation is of bloodthirsty seafaring warriors repeatedly plundering the British Isles and the North Atlantic throughout the early Middle Ages Yet Vikings were also traders settlers and farmers with a complex artistic and linguistic culture whose expansion overseas led them to cross the Atlantic for the first time in European history Highlighting the latest archaeological evidence Julian Richards reveals the whole Viking world their history society and culture and their expansion overseas for trade colonization and plunder We also look at the Viking identity through their artistic expression rune stones their ships and their religion The Viking story is also brought up to date by examining their legacy from the medieval Icelandic sagas to 19th Century nationalism Wagner and the Nazis ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in

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Shakespeare's Comedies: A Very Short Introduction Bart van Es,2016-03-24 From The Two Gentlemen of Verona in the early 1590s to The Two Noble Kinsmen at the end of his career around 1614 Shakespeare wrote at least eighteen plays that can be called comedies a far higher number than that for any other genre in which he wrote So what is a Shakespearean comedy We associate these plays with such themes as mistaken identities happy marriages and exuberant cross dressing but how representative are these of the oeuvre as a whole In this Very Short Introduction Bart van Es explores the full range of the playwright s comic writing from the neat classical plotting of early works like The Comedy of Errors to the corrupt world of the so called problem plays written in the middle years of Shakespeare s life Examining Shakespeare s influences and sources van Es compares his plays to those of his rivals and looks at the history of the plays in performance from the biographies of Shakespeare s original actors to the plays endless reinvention in modern stage productions and in films Identifying the key qualities that make Shakespearean comedy distinctive van Es traces the changing nature of Shakespeare s comic writing over the course of a career that spanned nearly a quarter century of theatrical change

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Ancient Greece: A Very Short Introduction Paul Cartledge,2011-10-27 A highly stimulating Very Short Introduction to the history of Ancient Greek civilization from the first documented use of the Greek language in about 1400 BCE through the glories of the Classical and Hellenistic periods to the foundation of the Byzantine empire in about CE 330

Planets: A Very Short Introduction David A. Rothery,2010-11-25 This Very Short Introduction discusses the nature of planets and gas giants and their rings and moons It also looks beyond Pluto in the Kuiper Belt at the knowledge we have about planets around other stars With many striking photos to illustrate the details it demonstrates the unique world of every planet

Intellectual Property: A Very Short Introduction Siva Vaidhyanathan,2017-02-09 We all create intellectual property We all use intellectual property Intellectual property is the most pervasive yet least understood way we regulate expression Despite its importance to so many aspects of the global economy and daily life intellectual property policy remains a confusing and arcane subject This engaging book clarifies both the basic terms and the major conflicts surrounding these fascinating areas of law offering a layman s introduction to copyright patents trademarks and other forms of knowledge falling under the purview of intellectual property rights Using vivid examples noted media expert Siva Vaidhyanathan illustrates the powers and limits of intellectual property distilling with grace and wit the complex tangle of laws policies and values governing the dissemination of ideas expressions inventions creativity and data collection in the modern world Vaidhyanathan explains that

intellectual property exists as it does because powerful interests want it to exist The strongest economies in the world have a keen interest in embedding rigid methods of control and enforcement over emerging economies to preserve the huge economic interests linked to their copyright industries film music software and publishing For this reason the fight over the global standardization of intellectual property has become one of the most important sites of tension in North South global relations Through compelling case studies including those of Starbucks Coca Cola Sony Amazon and Google Books Vaidhyathan shows that the modern intellectual property systems reflect three centuries of changes in politics economics technologies and social values Although it emerged from a desire to foster creativity while simultaneously protecting it intellectual property today has fundamentally shifted to a political dimension

[American Naval History: A Very Short Introduction](#) Craig L. Symonds, 2018-02-12 This fast paced narrative charts the history of the US Navy from its birth during the American Revolution through to its current superpower status The story highlights iconic moments of great drama pivotal to the nation's fortunes John Paul Jones attacks on the British during the Revolution the Barbary Wars and the arduous conquest of Iwo Jima American Naval History A Very Short Introduction illuminates the changes technological institutional and functional of the U S Navy from its days as a small frigate navy through the age of steam and steel to the modern era of electronics and missiles Renowned naval historian Craig L Symonds captures the evolving culture of the navy and debates between policymakers about what role the institution should play in world affairs Internal and external challenges dramatically altered the size and character of the navy with long periods of quiet inertia alternating with periods of crisis that spurred rapid expansion The history of the navy reflects the history of the nation as a whole and its many changes derive in large part from the changing role of the United States itself 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

The U.S. Constitution: A Very Short Introduction David J. Bodenhamer, 2018-03-15 Though the U S Constitution was ratified in 1788 its impact on our lives is as recent as today's news Claims and counterclaims about the constitutionality of governmental actions are a habit of American politics This document which its framers designed to limit power often has made political conflict inevitable It also has accommodated and legitimized the political and social changes of a vibrant powerful democratic nation A product of history's first modern revolution the Constitution embraced a new formula for government it restrained power on behalf of liberty but it also granted power to promote and protect liberty The U S Constitution A Very Short Introduction explores the major themes that have shaped American constitutional history federalism the balance of powers property representation equality rights and security Informed by the latest scholarship this book places constitutional history within the context of American political and social history As our nation's circumstances have changed so has our Constitution Today we face serious challenges to the

nation's constitutional legacy. Endless wars, a sharply divided electorate, economic inequality, and immigration along with a host of other issues have placed demands on government and on society that test our constitutional values. Understanding how the Constitution has evolved will help us adapt its principles to the challenges of our age.

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American Cultural History: A Very Short Introduction Eric Avila, 2018-07-17 The iconic images of Uncle Sam and Marilyn Monroe or the fireside chats of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the oratory of Martin Luther King Jr. these are the words, images, and sounds that populate American cultural history. From the Boston Tea Party to the Dodgers, from the blues to Andy Warhol, dime novels to Disneyland, the history of American culture tells us how previous generations of Americans have imagined themselves, their nation, and their relationship to the world and its peoples. This Very Short Introduction recounts the history of American culture and its creation by diverse social and ethnic groups. In doing so, it emphasizes the historic role of culture in relation to broader social, political, and economic developments. Across the lines of race, class, gender, and sexuality, as well as language, region, and religion, diverse Americans have forged a national culture with a global reach, inventing stories that have shaped a national identity and an American way of life.

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The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction Linda Greenhouse, 2020-05-29 For 30 years, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Linda Greenhouse chronicled the activities of the U.S. Supreme Court and its justices as a correspondent for the New York Times. In this Very Short Introduction, she draws on her deep knowledge of the court's history and of its written and unwritten rules to show readers how the Supreme Court really works. Greenhouse offers a fascinating institutional biography of a place and its people: men and women who exercise great power but whose names and faces are unrecognized by many Americans and whose work often appears cloaked in mystery. How do cases get to the Supreme Court? How do the justices go about deciding them? What special role does the chief justice play? What do the law clerks do? How does the court relate to the other branches of government? Greenhouse answers these questions by depicting the justices as they confront deep constitutional issues or wrestle with the meaning of confusing federal statutes. Throughout, the author examines many individual Supreme Court cases to illustrate points under discussion, ranging from *Marbury v. Madison*, the seminal case which established judicial review, to the recent *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), which struck down the District of Columbia's gun control statute and which was surprisingly the first time in its history that the Court issued an authoritative interpretation of the Second Amendment. To add perspective, Greenhouse also

compares the Court to foreign courts revealing interesting differences For instance no other country in the world has chosen to bestow life tenure on its judges The second edition of Greenhouse's Very Short Introduction tracks the changes in the Court's makeup over the last eight years considers the landmark decisions of the Obama and Trump eras and reexamines the precarious fates of such precedents as Roe v Wade A superb overview packed with telling details this volume offers a matchless introduction to one of the pillars of American government

American Business History: A Very Short Introduction Walter A. Friedman, 2020-06-01 By the early twentieth century it became common to describe the United States as a business civilization President Coolidge in 1925 said The chief business of the American people is business More recently historian Sven Beckert characterized Henry Ford's massive manufactory as the embodiment of America While Athens had its Parthenon and Rome its Colosseum the United States had its River Rouge Factory in Detroit How did business come to assume such power and cultural centrality in America This volume explores the variety of business enterprise in the United States and analyzes its presence in the country's economy its evolution over time and its meaning in society It introduces readers to formative business leaders including Elbert Gary Harlow Curtice and Mary Kay Ash leading firms Mellon Bank National Cash Register Xerox and fiction about business people The Octopus Babbitt The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit It also discusses Alfred Chandler Joseph Schumpeter Mira Wilkins and others who made significant contributions to understanding of America's business history This VSI pursues its three central themes the evolution scale and culture of American business in a chronological framework stretching from the American Revolution to today The first theme is evolution How has U S business evolved over time How have American companies competed with one another and with foreign firms Why have ideas about strategy and management changed Why did business people in the mid twentieth century celebrate an organizational culture promising long term employment in the same company while a few decades later entrepreneurship was prized Second is scale Why did business assume such enormous scale in the United States Was the rise of gigantic corporations due to the industriousness of its population or natural resources or government policies And third culture What are the characteristics of a business civilization How have opinions on the meaning of business changed In the late nineteenth century Andrew Carnegie believed that America's numerous enterprises represented an exuberant triumph of democracy After World War II however sociologist William H Whyte saw business culture as stultifying and historian Richard Hofstadter wrote Once great men created fortunes today a great system creates fortunate men How did changes in the nature of business affect popular views Walter A Friedman provides the long view of these important developments

American Foreign Relations: A Very Short Introduction Andrew Preston, 2019-04-01 For better or worse be it militarily politically economically technologically or culturally Americans have had a profound role in shaping the wider world beyond them The United States has been a savior to some a curse to others but either way such views are often based on a caricature of American actions and intentions American Foreign Relations then is a subject of immense global importance

that provokes strong emotions and much debate but often based on deep misunderstanding This Very Short Introduction analyzes the key episodes themes and individuals in the history of American foreign relations While discussing diplomacy and the periods of war that have shaped national and international history it also addresses such topics as industrialization globalization imperialism and immigration Covering the Revolution through the War on Terror it examines the connections between domestic politics and foreign affairs as well as the importance of ideals and values Sharply written and highly readable American Foreign Relations offers a clear eyed narrative of America s role in the world and how it has evolved over time 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

The U.S. Civil War: A Very Short Introduction Louis P. Masur, 2020-10-01 More than one hundred and fifty years after the first shots were fired on Fort Sumter the Civil War still captures the American imagination and its reverberations can still be felt throughout America s social and political landscape Louis P Masur s The U S Civil War A Very Short Introduction offers a masterful and eminently readable overview of the war s multiple causes and catastrophic effects Masur begins by examining the complex origins of the war focusing on the pulsating tensions over states rights and slavery The book then proceeds to cover year by year the major political social and military events highlighting two important themes how the war shifted from a limited conflict to restore the Union to an all out war that would fundamentally transform Southern society and the process by which the war ultimately became a battle to abolish slavery Masur explains how the war turned what had been a loose collection of fiercely independent states into a nation remaking its political cultural and social institutions But he also focuses on the soldiers themselves both Union and Confederate whose stories constitute nothing less than America s Iliad In the final chapter Masur considers the aftermath of the South s surrender at Appomattox and the clash over the policies of reconstruction that continued to divide President and Congress conservatives and radicals Southerners and Northerners for years to come In 1873 Mark Twain and Charles Dudley wrote that the war had wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations This concise history of the entire Civil War era offers an invaluable introduction to the dramatic events whose effects are still felt today

The American Revolution: A Very Short Introduction Robert J. Allison, 2015-07-03 Here is a brisk accessible and vivid introduction to arguably the most important event in the history of the United States the American Revolution Between 1760 and 1800 the American people cast off British rule to create a new nation and a radically new form of government based on the idea that people have the right to govern themselves In this lively account Robert Allison provides a cohesive synthesis of the military diplomatic political social and intellectual aspects of the Revolution paying special attention to the Revolution s causes and consequences The book recreates the tumultuous events of the 1760s and 1770s that led to revolution such as the

Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party as well as the role the Sons of Liberty played in turning resistance into full scale revolt Allison explains how and why Americans changed their ideas of government and society so profoundly in these years and how the War for Independence was fought and won He highlights the major battles and commanders on both sides with a particular focus on George Washington and the extraordinary strategies he developed to defeat Britain s superior forces as well as the impact of French military support on the American cause In the final chapter Allison explores the aftermath of the American Revolution how the newly independent states created governments based on the principles for which they had fought and how those principles challenged their own institutions such as slavery in the new republic He considers as well the Revolution s legacy the many ways its essential ideals influenced other struggles against oppressive power or colonial systems in France Latin America and Asia Sharply written and highly readable *The American Revolution A Very Short Introduction* offers a concise introduction to this seminal event in American history About the Series Oxford s Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects from Islam to Sociology Politics to Classics Literary Theory to History and Archaeology to the Bible Not simply a textbook of definitions each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative yet always balanced and complete discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society Eventually the series will encompass every major academic discipline offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable

Native American Literature: A Very Short Introduction Sean Teuton, 2017-12-20 North American indigenous literature began over thirty thousand years ago when indigenous people began telling stories of emergence and creation journey and quest and heroism and trickery By setting indigenous literature in historical moments Sean Teuton skillfully traces its evolution from the ancient role of bringing rain and healing the body to its later purpose in resisting European invasion and colonization into its current place as a world literature that confronts dominance while celebrating the imagination and resilience of indigenous lives By the time Europeans arrived in North America indigenous people already understood the power of written language and the need to transmit philosophy history and literature across generations and peoples Seeking out multiple literary forms such as sermon poetry and novel to serve differing worldviews indigenous authors have shaped their writing into North American indigenous literature as we recognize it today In this lucid narrative Sean Teuton leads readers into indigenous worlds He describes the invention of a written indigenous language the first indigenous language newspaper and the literary occupation of Alcatraz Island Along the way readers encounter the diversity of indigenous peoples who owing to their differing lands livelihoods and customs molded literature to a nation s specific needs As Teuton shows indigenous literature is one of the best places for

understanding indigenous views about land and society and the role of humanity in the cosmos In turning to celebrated contemporary authors such as Thomas King Leslie Silko Sherman Alexie Louise Erdrich and James Welch Teuton demonstrates that like indigenous people indigenous literature continues to survive because it adapts both honoring the past and reaching for the future Asian American History: A Very Short Introduction Madeline Y. Hsu, 2016-11-01 A 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center reported that Asian Americans are the best educated highest income and best assimilated racial group in the United States Before reaching this level of economic success and social assimilation however Asian immigrants path was full of difficult even demeaning moments This book provides a sweeping and nuanced history of Asian Americans revealing how and why the perception of Asian immigrants changed over time Asian migrants in large part Chinese arrived in significant numbers on the West Coast during the 1850s and 1860s to work in gold mining and on the construction of the transcontinental Railroad Unlike their contemporary European counterparts Asians often stigmatized as coolies challenged American ideals of equality with the problem of whether all racial groups could be integrated into America's democracy The fear of the Yellow Peril soon spurred an array of legislative and institutional efforts to segregate them through immigration laws restrictions on citizenship and limits on employment property ownership access to public services and civil rights Prejudices against Asian Americans reached a peak during World War II when Japanese Americans were interned en masse It was only with changes in the immigration laws and the social and political activism of the 1960s and 1970s that Asian Americans gained ground and acceptance albeit in the still stereotyped category of model minorities Madeline Y Hsu weaves a fascinating historical narrative of this American Dream She shows how Asian American success often attributed to innate cultural values is more a result of the immigration laws which have largely pre selected immigrants of high economic and social potential Asian Americans have in turn been used by politicians to bludgeon newer and more populous immigrant groups for their purported lack of achievement Hsu deftly reveals how public policy which can restrict and also selectively promote certain immigrant populations is a key reason why some immigrant groups appear to be more naturally successful and why the identity of those groups evolves differently from others Art History: A Very Short Introduction Dana Arnold, 2020-01-23 Art history encompasses the study of the history and development of painting sculpture and the other visual arts In this Very Short Introduction Dana Arnold presents an introduction to the issues debates and artefacts that make up art history Beginning with a consideration of what art history is she explains what makes the subject distinctive from other fields of study and also explores the emergence of social histories of art such as Feminist Art History and Queer Art History Using a wide range of images she goes on to explore key aspects of the discipline including how we write present read and look at art and the impact this has on our understanding of art history This second edition includes a new chapter on global art histories considering how the traditional emphasis on periods and styles in art originated in western art and can obscure other critical approaches and artwork from non western cultures Arnold also discusses the

relationship between art and history and the ways in which art can tell a different history from the one narrated by texts

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Ritual: A Very Short Introduction Barry Stephenson, 2015-01-28 Ritual is part of what it means to be human Like sports music and drama ritual defines and enriches culture putting those who practice it in touch with sources of value and meaning larger than themselves Ritual is unavoidable yet it holds a place in modern life that is decidedly ambiguous What is ritual What does it do Is it useful What are the various kinds of ritual Is ritual tradition bound and conservative or innovative and transformational Alongside description of a number of specific rites this Very Short Introduction explores ritual from both theoretical and historical perspectives Barry Stephenson focuses on the places where ritual touches everyday life in politics and power moments of transformation in the life cycle as performance and embodiment He also discusses the boundaries of ritual and how and why certain behaviors have been studied as ritual while others have not Stephenson shows how ritual is an important vehicle for group and identity formation how it generates and transmits beliefs and values how it can be used to exploit and oppress and how it has served as a touchstone for thinking about cultural origins and historical change Encompassing the breadth and depth of modern ritual studies Barry Stephenson's Very Short Introduction also develops a narrative of ritual's place in social and cultural life

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Telescopes: A Very Short Introduction Geoff Cottrell, 2016-12-01 From the first telescopes have made dramatic revelations about the Universe and our place in it Galileo's observations of the Moon's cratered surface and discovery of Jupiter's four big satellites profoundly altered the perception of the heavens overturning a two thousand year cosmology that held the Earth to be the centre of the Universe Over the past century the rapid development of computer technology and sophisticated materials allowed enormous strides in the construction of telescopes Modern telescopes range from large Earth based optical telescopes and radio arrays linking up across continents to space based telescopes capturing the Universe in infrared ultraviolet X rays and gamma rays In combination they have enabled us to look deep into the Universe and far back in time capturing phenomena from galactic collisions to the formation of stars and planetary systems and mapping the faint glow remaining from the Big Bang In this Very Short Introduction Dr Geoff Cottrell describes the basic physics of telescopes the challenges of overcoming turbulence and distortion from the Earth's atmosphere and the special techniques used to capture X rays and gamma rays in space telescopes He explains the crucial developments in detectors and spectrographs that have enabled the high resolution achieved by modern telescopes and the

hopes for the new generation of telescopes currently being built across the 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

Rocks: A Very Short Introduction

Jan Zalasiewicz, 2016-12-01 Rocks more than anything else underpin our lives They make up the solid structure of the Earth and of other rocky planets and are present at the cores of gas giant planets We live on the rocky surface of the planet grow our food on weathered debris derived from rocks and we obtain nearly all of the raw materials with which we found our civilization from rocks From the Earth's crust to building bricks rocks contain our sense of planetary history and are a guide to our future In this Very Short Introduction Jan Zalsiewicz looks at the nature and variety of rocks and the processes by which they are formed Starting from the origin of rocks and their key role in the formation of the Earth he considers what we know about the deep rocks of the mantle and core and what rocks can tell us about the evolution of the Earth and looks at those found in outer space and on other planets 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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