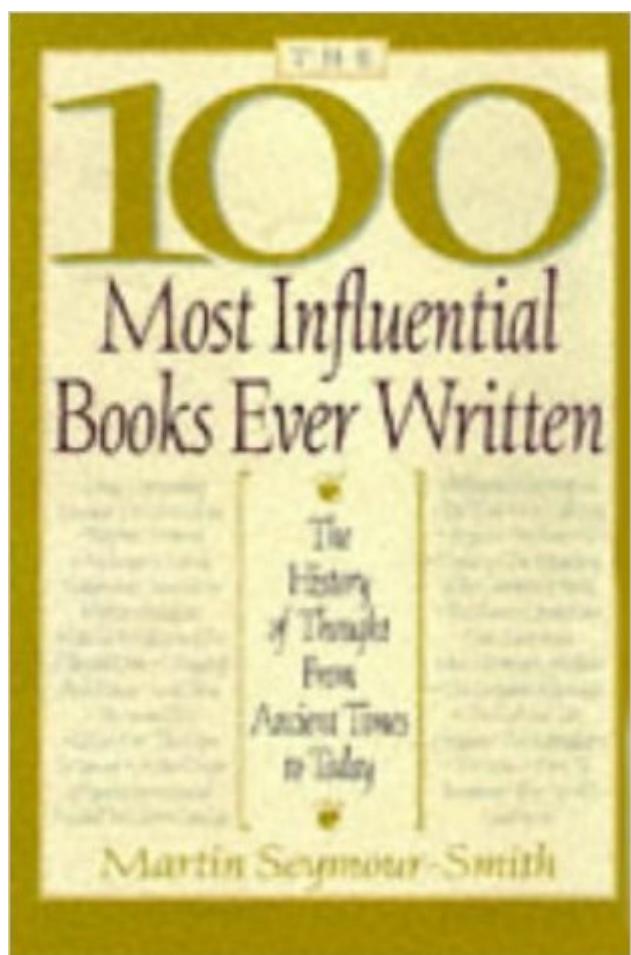


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The 100 Most Influential Books Ever Written: The History Of Thought From Ancient Times To Today



Synopsis

As entertaining as it is enlightening, this analysis of the 100 books that have most influenced human history profiles such works as "1984" by George Orwell, Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations", Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason", Newton's "Principia", and "The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan. Photos & drawings.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I struggled through the entire book, and then read all the comments here, and the sum total of all of this is as follows:1. Seymour Smith does suffer for the same impenetrable prose that he castigates many of the authors he is writing about, especially, as mentioned before, the lengthy sentence structure he is in love with. (As you can see, it is contagious)2. Anyone who has not read at least 20% of the books in the table of contents need not try this book until they have. Smith is tracking influences in western thought and without a BA in Philosophy, you may not stand a chance3. He is an agnostic liberal, and not liberal in the American Dem/Rep fashion, but as in liberal like a British left Labour type. His suggested venom towards the church, to be fair about it, is based mostly on judgements of the behavior of the Catholic Church from 800 - 1700, which almost everyone can agree was not their finest hour.4. His comments on Gnosticism are interesting as he sees a tie in between it and many of the underlying themes of modern religions. I would suggest anyone interested in this actually do some original source reading with an open mind. Smith does at least point you in some good directions for that.5. Be prepared to consult a dictionary to define some

words chosen by Smith. Also, many of the reviews expect that you have read the work in question. One unfortunately gets the feeling that Smith is sometimes either trying to show off his knowledge, or like many professors (and some I met at Oxford) one who just likes to hear himself talk. In summation, the earlier the entry the better. His reviews of ancient literature are the best in the book, as he focuses much more on thinkers than pieces.

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