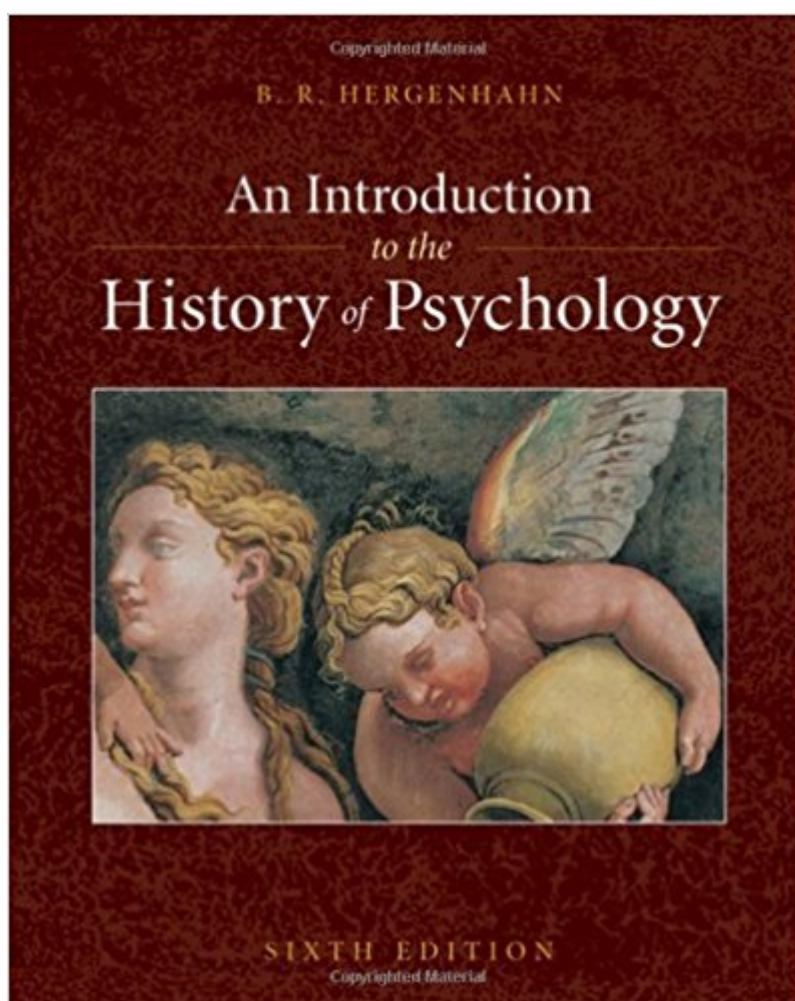


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An Introduction To The History Of Psychology (PSY 310 History And Systems Of Psychology)



Synopsis

Dreams puzzled early man, Greek philosophers spun elaborate theories to explain human memory and perception, Descartes postulated that the brain was filled with "animal spirits," and psychology was officially deemed a "science" in the 19th century. In this Fifth Edition, B.R. Hergenhahn demonstrates that most of the concerns of contemporary psychologists are manifestations of themes that have been part of psychology for hundreds-or even thousands-of years. The book's numerous photographs and pedagogical devices, along with its biographical material on key figures in psychology, will engage you and facilitate your understanding of each chapter.

Book Information

Series: PSY 310 History and Systems of Psychology

Hardcover: 752 pages

Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing; 6 edition (March 11, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0495506214

ISBN-13: 978-0495506218

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 7.5 x 1.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #73,650 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > History](#) #442 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Social Psychology & Interactions](#) #1857 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Psychology](#)

Customer Reviews

A former chair of Hamline's psychology department at Hamline University, Dr. Hergenhahn has been awarded for excellence in teaching, has authored several widely adopted textbooks and numerous journal articles.

Text books are by no means expected to be thorough and exhaustive of their subject. However, Hergenhahn's garbage brings this incompleteness to a new and frustrating level. As stated by several other reviewers, the profiles of the individuals covered in this book are so vague and watered down that they border complete inaccuracy. In many cases, Hergenhahn has completely missed an individual's point and this is especially prevalent in his treatment of pre-Enlightenment

philosophers. And the bias! In covering the Classical Greek and neo-Platonic philosophers, he draws almost exclusively from Whitehead and Russell! These two logical positivists most definitely have an agenda in their analysis of these earlier philosophers, and Hergenhahn offers no alternative sources. Furthermore, there are wide swaths of his book where citations are scarce or nonexistent. Jesus, St. Paul, St. Augustine and Averroes receive one citation each. His section on the "Dark Ages" is completely false and offers zero citations, and he fabricates historical claims in order to support his own post-Enlightenment bias. For instance, claiming the high middle ages were known for the abuse and execution of the mentally ill, when in fact medieval standards of mental healthcare exceeded those of the modern world until the late 19th century. (Monks and nuns often ran what we would call group or community homes for the mentally ill). Aquinas also receives no citations, even though his philosophical thought was the spring board for almost all later philosophical endeavors. Finally, even when citations are found, Hergenhahn almost never cites the writing of the actual person he's covering. All in all, he deigns to speak as an authoritative expert on all topics, without having the decency to utilize or even read the individuals he covers.

This text was used in a graduate-level History of Psychology course. I found it to be highly readable. Many of the stories here are interesting, and many ideas are thrown around. As someone who was not super familiar with philosophy, these ideas served to be interesting if a bit brief. Unfortunately, this book tries to cover the history of ideas from ancient Greece to modern times, and when something like positivism can fill its own textbook, corners are cut and concepts are simplified. With that said, this book doesn't do a terrible job of summarizing these turning points in science in a conversational and easy way. As a textbook, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF PSYCHOLOGY too often repeats its formula: here's a time in history, here are individual people that wrote things during this time, here's a turning point, and here's the shift of this paradigm. Rinse and repeat. Bias is also present here; the chapter on Freud and Psychoanalysis feels overcritical (compared to how other controversial figures are treated). The ending chapter on modern psychology consists of little more than statistics of the American Psychological Association. At its best, this book is easy and fun to read, but at its worst, it is an assortment of loosely related anecdotes. I would recommend this to psychology students who have an interest in the history of their field of study, but I don't know if I would have it required for a class.

Good overview of the history of psychology. Gives good amount of depth to subjects without delving too deep. Fairly easy to read and navigate. Becomes monotonous and dry at points, but overall

decent. Starts a lot farther back in history than most psychology texts do. That could be considered either a positive or negative, depending on your personal assessment of the beginnings of psychology. Each chapter has a summary/review and a mini glossary of terms and people covered in the chapter. This is incredibly helpful!

OMGOSH! This book has to be just about the most boring ever - the layout is far more scholarly with VERY few pictures and then only in b&w - of the early philosophers, etc. There are NO side blurbs to brighten things up, and the font size is maybe 12 and serif, rather than sans serif making it less appealing to the eye. It's working for what I have to have it for I guess. I don't recall the specific description of the condition, but the binding is apart in the first 7 pages - everything else is together good and secure with only a few corner scuffs to the cover. The book arrived on time, which was a Godsend for sure. We had 7..... yes, SEVEN chapters to read this first week! That's 229 pages in this baby! I guess I would think there has to be a more friendly version of the material - otherwise, it's what was required - so I bought it. :)

This text was very informative and I found myself learning more than enough information about important psychologists, events in history related to the field, and the ever evolving field. So much information was provided I felt like I was often over prepared for classes /exams. Great text.

Written in the most bland way possible.

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