

IN GODS WE TRUST ATRAN SCOTT

IN GODS WE TRUST IN GODS WE TRUST IN GODS WE TRUST BELIEVERS: FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE WHY WE FIGHT ICONOCLASTIC THEOLOGY URBAN TERRORISM EVOLUTION AND POPULAR NARRATIVE CONFRONTING BAD TROUBLE THE ^A SPIRIT OF CONTRADICTION IN CHRISTIANITY AND BUDDHISM NATURALISM, THEISM AND THE COGNITIVE STUDY OF RELIGION EXTREMIST ISLAM CONVERSATIONS ON HUMAN NATURE KNOWING OUR LIMITS THE ^A OXFORD HANDBOOK OF ADAPTATION STUDIES IN OUR OWN IMAGE THE BURNING SAINTS EXPLAINING JESUS CAN WE SURVIVE OUR ORIGINS? RELIGION, SUPERNATURALISM, THE PARANORMAL AND PSEUDOSCIENCE SCOTT ATRAN SCOTT ATRAN SCOTT ATRAN MELVIN KONNER MIKE MARTIN F. LERON SHULTS N. C. ASTHANA EUGENE ANDERSON HUGH NICHOLSON AKU VISALA KUMAR RAMAKRISHNA AGUSTIN FUENTES NATHAN BALLANTYNE THOMAS LEITCH WESLEY J. WILDMAN DIMITRIS XYGALATAS BENJAMIN BENNETT-CARPENTER PIERPAOLO ANTONELLO HOMAYUN SIDKY

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ATLAN ARGUES THAT RELIGION IS A BY PRODUCT OF HUMAN EVOLUTION JUST AS THE COGNITIVE INTERVENTION CULTURAL SELECTION AND HISTORICAL SURVIVAL OF RELIGION IS AN ACCOMMODATION OF CERTAIN EXISTENTIAL AND MORAL ELEMENTS IN THE HUMAN CONDITION

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AN ANTHROPOLOGIST EXAMINES THE NATURE OF RELIGIOSITY AND HOW IT SHAPES AND BENEFITS HUMANKIND BELIEVERS IS A SCIENTIST S ANSWER TO ATTACKS ON FAITH BY SOME WELL MEANING SCIENTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS IT IS A FIRM REBUKE OF THE FOUR HORSEMEN RICHARD DAWKINS DANIEL DENNETT SAM HARRIS AND CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS KNOWN FOR WRITING ABOUT RELIGION AS SOMETHING IRRATIONAL AND ULTIMATELY HARMFUL ANTHROPOLOGIST MELVIN KONNER WHO WAS RAISED AS AN ORTHODOX JEW BUT HAS LIVED HIS ADULT LIFE WITHOUT SUCH FAITH EXPLORES THE PSYCHOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BRAIN SCIENCE EVOLUTION AND EVEN GENETICS OF THE VARIED RELIGIOUS IMPULSES WE EXPERIENCE AS A SPECIES CONCEDED THAT FAITH IS NOT FOR EVERYONE HE VIEWS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WITH A SYMPATHETIC EYE HIS OWN UPBRINGING HIS APPRENTICESHIP IN THE TRANCE DANCE RELIGION OF THE AFRICAN BUSHMEN AND HIS FRIENDS AND EXPLORATIONS IN CHRISTIAN BUDDHIST HINDU MUSLIM AND OTHER FAITHS HAVE ALL SHAPED HIS PERSPECTIVE FAITH HAS ALWAYS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN DIFFERENT WAYS SOME REVELATORY AND COMFORTING SOME KIND AND GOOD SOME ECUMENICAL AND COSMOPOLITAN SOME BIGOTED COERCIVE AND VIOLENT BUT THE FUTURE KONNER ARGUES WILL BOTH PRODUCE MORE NONBELIEVERS AND INCLINE THE RELIGIOUS AMONG US HOLDING THEIR OWN BY HAVING LARGER FAMILIES TO INCREASINGLY REJECT PREJUDICE AND AGGRESSION A COLORFUL WEAVE OF PERSONAL STORIES OF RELIGIOUS AND IRRELIGIOUS ENCOUNTERS AS WELL AS NEW SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH BELIEVERS SHOWS US THAT RELIGION DOES MUCH GOOD AS WELL AS UNDOUBTED HARM AND THAT FOR AT LEAST A LARGE MINORITY OF HUMANITY THE BELIEF IN THINGS UNSEEN NEITHER CAN NOR SHOULD GO AWAY

WHY ARE WE WILLING TO DIE FOR OUR COUNTRIES HOW CAN IDEOLOGY PERSUADE SOMEONE TO BLOW THEMSELVES UP WHEN WE GO TO WAR MORALITY RELIGION AND IDEOLOGY OFTEN TAKE THE BLAME BUT MIKE MARTIN BOLDLY ARGUES THAT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE RATHER THAN DRIVING VIOLENCE THESE THINGS HELP TO REDUCE IT WHILE WE RESORT TO IDEAS AND VALUES TO JUSTIFY OR INTERPRET WARFARE SOMETHING ELSE IS REALLY PROPELLING US TOWARDS CONFLICT OUR SUBCONSCIOUS DESIRES SHAPED BY MILLIONS OF YEARS OF EVOLUTION

F LERON SHULTS EXPLORES DELEUZE S FASCINATION WITH THEOLOGICAL THEMES AND SHOWS HOW HIS ENTIRE CORPUS CAN BE UNDERSTOOD AS A CREATIVE ATHEIST MACHINE THAT LIBERATES THINKING ACTING AND FEELING

OUTRAGEOUS MYTHS HAVE BEEN CREATED AND PERPETRATED ABOUT TERRORISM IN GENERAL AND TERRORISM BY

MUSLIMS IN PARTICULAR THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR IT ONE IS OF COURSE GENUINE IGNORANCE ABOUT THINGS ISLAMIC THE OTHER REASON IS MORE SINISTER MYTHS ARE CREATED AND PERPETUATED BECAUSE THAT KEEPS EVERYONE IN BUSINESS BY SPINNING YARNS ABOUT THE MOST HORRIBLE THINGS THE TERRORISTS ARE CAPABLE OF DOING THE MEDIA ENSURES THAT THEY HAVE A NEVER ENDING SUPPLY OF SENSATIONAL MATERIAL WITH WHICH TO KEEP THE PEOPLE HOOKED IT ALSO ENABLES THE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND SECURITY FORCES TO APPEAR MORE RELEVANT AND EXPAND THEIR TURF IN THE PROCESS THE MYTHS MUST BE BUSTED BECAUSE THEY TEND TO SETTLE DEEP IN THE COLLECTIVE SUBCONSCIOUS AND ULTIMATELY COME TO INFLUENCE POLICY DECISIONS THE MEDIA FOR EXAMPLE WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ERADICATE TERRORISM ONLY BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH COMMANDOS EVERYWHERE THE FACT IS THAT TERRORISM WOULD NOT BE FINISHED BY KILLING A FEW TERRORISTS BOMB BLASTS CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE IN SPITE OF THE ARRESTS OF THE MASTERMINDS AS LONG AS WE DO NOT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE THERE WOULD BE MANY MORE WILLING TO KILL AND GET KILLED VICTORY AGAINST TERRORISM CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY IF YOU HAVE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD THE FUNDAMENTAL REASONS OF TERRORISM THE MOTIVATION OF THE TERRORISTS THE INTRINSIC WEAKNESSES OF THE TARGETS THE INNATE STRENGTH OF THE WAY OF THE TERRORIST AND THE FOLLIES OF THE APPROACH THAT YOU HAVE PERSISTED WITH SO FAR IF A NATION HAS FLOUNDERED IN ITS WAR AGAINST TERRORISM IT IS BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER HAD A SERIOUS AND HONEST TO GOD ANALYSIS OF TERRORISM HENCE THIS BOOK EXHAUSTIVE YET ATTRACTIVE INFORMATIVE YET INTERESTING AND ABOVE ALL EXTREMELY HARD HITTING IT IS THE ULTIMATE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TERRORISM

THE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS VOLUME SHARE THE ASSUMPTION THAT POPULAR NARRATIVE WHEN VIEWED WITH AN EVOLUTIONARY LENS OFFERS AN INCISIVE INDEX INTO HUMAN NATURE IN THEORY NARRATIVE ART COULD TAKE A NEAR INFINITY OF POSSIBLE FORMS IN ACTUAL PRACTICE HOWEVER PARTICULAR MOTIFS PLOT PATTERNS STEREOTYPICAL FIGURES AND ARTISTIC DEVICES PERSISTENTLY RESURFACE INDICATING SPECIFIC PREDILECTIONS FREQUENTLY AT ODDS WITH OUR ACTUAL LIVING CONDITIONS OUR STUDIES EXPLORE VARIOUS MEDIA AND GENRES TO GAUGE THE IMPACT OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY INHERITANCE IN INTERDEPENDENCE WITH THE RESPECTIVE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS ON OUR AESTHETIC APPRECIATION AS THEY SUGGEST RESEARCH INTO MASS CULTURE IS NOT ONLY INDISPENSABLE FOR EVOLUTIONARY CRITICISM BUT MAY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF PREHISTORIC SELECTION PRESSURES THAT STILL INFLUENCE MODERN PREFERENCES IN POPULAR NARRATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS BY DAVID ANDREW'S JAMES CARNEY MATHIAS CLASEN BRETT COOKE TAM² S D² VID BARRETT TOM DOLACK KATHRYN DUNCAN ISABEL BEHNCKE IZQUIERDO JOE KEENER ALEX C PARRISH TODD K PLATT'S ANNA ROTKIRCH JUDITH P SAUNDERS MICHELLE SCALISE SUGIYAMA DIRK VANDERBEKE AND SOPHIA WEGE

THIS BOOK IS AN EXPLORATION OF THE DARK SIDE OF HUMANITY IT BEGINS WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT PEOPLE ARE A MIX OF GOOD AND EVIL AS PORTRAYED IN THE WELL KNOWN STORY OF THE TWO WOLVES THE STORY CONCLUDES THAT THE ONE THAT WINS IS THE ONE YOU FEED THIS BOOK EXPLORES THE WAYS THAT BIOLOGY CULTURE SOCIETY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES FEED ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE WOLVES EVIL IS DEFINED AS DELIBERATE AND UNNECESSARY HARM TO OTHER HUMANS OR TO THE HUMAN LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM THE BOOK CONCENTRATES LARGELY ON ACTUAL AGGRESSIVE VIOLENCE ESPECIALLY WAR AND GENOCIDE BUT CONTEXTUALIZED IN A WIDER INQUIRY INTO PREJUDICE AND HATRED HUMAN EVIL CAN BE TRACED BACK TO ANIMAL ROOTS IN AGGRESSIVE COMPETITION OVER RESOURCES BUT HUMAN VIOLENCE IS FAR MORE COMPLEX CONDITIONED BY CULTURE AND SOCIETY AND BY THE COMPLEXITY OF CHOICE THE CONCEPT OF ZERO SUM POSITIVE SUM AND NEGATIVE SUM GAMES ARE USED AS A LAUNCH POINT TO EXPLORE RIVALRY AND COOPERATION SUCCEEDED BY MORE PROBING QUESTIONS OF EMOTION AND CONFLICT EVIL MAY BE FED THROUGH PREJUDICE GROUP HATE LIES AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY THE LAST OFTEN FINANCED BY CORPORATIONS OR GROUPS THAT FEEL THREATENED BY PROGRESS ESPECIALLY BY RISING MAJORITIES OR MINORITIES COMMITTED TO FORWARD LOOKING CHANGE MANY PEOPLE INCLUDING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERS FEEL THEY CAN INCREASE WEALTH AND POWER ONLY BY TAKING IT AWAY FROM OTHERS ON THE OTHER HAND HELPING PEOPLE AND COOPERATING IS ALSO COMMON THE DIFFERENCE USUALLY COMES DOWN TO RIVALS VS ALLIES WORKING TOGETHER AND NEGOTIATING WITH RIVALS IS POSSIBLE BUT HUMANS TEND TO FIGHT UNLESS CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCESSES ARE WELL ESTABLISHED CULTURALLY THE BOOK WILL BE AN IMPORTANT REFERENCE SOURCE FOR ANY SCHOLARS INTERESTED IN A GENERAL COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DELIBERATE HARM AND TO A BROADER AUDIENCE OF SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

IN THIS BOOK HUGH NICHOLSON ARGUES THAT SEEMINGLY COUNTERINTUITIVE AND ABSTRACT RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS SUCH AS THE CHRISTIAN TRINITY AND THE BUDDHIST CONCEPT OF NO SELF HAVE DEVELOPED OUT OF SOCIAL IDENTITY PROCESSES MORE SPECIFICALLY AS A RESULT OF HEGEMONIC STRUGGLES AND INTRA AND INTER RELIGIOUS RIVALRY

THIS BOOK PROVIDES A CRITICAL PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CLAIM THAT CONTEMPORARY COGNITIVE APPROACHES TO RELIGION UNDERMINE THEISTIC BELIEFS RECENT SCIENTIFIC WORK INTO THE EVOLUTION AND COGNITION OF RELIGION HAS BEEN DRIVEN BY AND INTERPRETED IN TERMS OF A CERTAIN KIND OF PHILOSOPHICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL NATURALISM THE BOOK ARGUES THAT SUCH NATURALISM IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE COGNITIVE STUDY OF RELIGION AND DEVELOPS AN ALTERNATIVE PHILOSOPHICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK THIS ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORK OPENS THE COGNITIVE STUDY OF RELIGION TO THEOLOGICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CLARIFIES ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER APPROACHES TO RELIGIOUS

PHENOMENA THIS UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE PHILOSOPHICAL AND THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE COGNITIVE STUDY OF RELIGION SUMMARIZES THE SO FAR FRAGMENTARY DISCUSSION EXPOSES ITS UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS AND DEVELOPS A NOVEL FRAMEWORK FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

SINCE THE BALI TERRORIST ATTACKS IN 2002 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE RIGOROUSLY COMBATTED TERRORIST NETWORKS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA YET GROUPS MOTIVATED BY VIOLENT EXTREMIST INTERPRETATIONS OF ISLAM REMAIN RESILIENT AND DANGEROUS THIS BOOK SHINES A LIGHT ON SPECIFIC BELIEFS BEHAVIORS AND POLICIES THAT IMPACT THESE CHALLENGES ULTIMATELY OFFERING CUTTING EDGE EFFECTIVE TOOLS FOR RESPONSE THE BOOK BEGINS BY CHALLENGING MISGUIDED AND CONTROVERSIAL NOTIONS THAT DEPICT ISLAM AS AN INHERENTLY VIOLENT RELIGION ARGUING THAT THE THEOLOGICAL IDEOLOGICAL AMALGAM OF WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED SALAFABISM IS THE MORE USEFUL LENS FOR RECOGNIZING CLOSED MINDED EXTREMIST CURRENTS THE BOOK CAREFULLY DISTINGUISHES THIS SALAFABIST EXTREMIST MINDSET FROM RELATIVELY OPEN MINDED SALAFABIST RADICALISM PAYING DUE ATTENTION TO NONVIOLENT EXTREMISTS AND THE WAYS THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO RATHER THAN REDUCE VIOLENT TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN THE REGION USING POIGNANT CASE STUDIES FROM MALAYSIA SINGAPORE THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA THE BOOK CLARIFIES A BEWILDERING RANGE OF TERMINOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH ISLAMIST VIOLENCE AND EXPLAINS HOW IMPRECISE AND OVERSIMPLIFIED NARRATIVES ARE DESTRUCTIVE TO PROGRESS AND WORSE EMPOWERING TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS THESE CHAPTERS BUILD UP TO RESEARCH INFORMED POLICIES AND RHETORICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED OUTCOMES WITH ITS NOVEL INSIGHTS INTO THE ROOT CAUSES OF EXTREMIST TERRORISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA THE INEFFECTIVE POLICIES THAT PROHIBIT PROGRESS AND PROMOTE UNREST IN THIS REGION AND THE AVENUES FOR POSITIVE CHANGE THIS BOOK OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR FOSTERING THEOLOGICALLY SOUND YET CULTURALLY AUTHENTIC COUNTERTERRORIST MEASURES THAT DEFEND THE COMPLEX RICHLY TEXTURED TAPESTRY OF CULTURE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH TWENTY LEADING SCHOLARS CONVERSATIONS ON HUMAN NATURE PROBES THE QUESTION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN FROM EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGICAL PHILOSOPHICAL CULTURAL AND THEOLOGICAL POINTS OF VIEW

IN OUR AGE OF PARTISAN CONFIDENCE AND POLARIZED PUNDITRY KNOWING OUR LIMITS EXAMINES AN URGENT QUESTION HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OVER WHICH INTELLIGENT PEOPLE THINK DIFFERENTLY THE BOOK PROVIDES THE TOOLS WE NEED TO THINK CIRCUMSPECTLY ABOUT OUR CONTROVERSIAL OPINIONS THE AUTHOR UPDATES A CLASSICAL TRADITION OF REASONABLE DOUBT AND SKEPTICISM THAT INCLUDES SOCRATES MONTAIGNE AND BERTRAND RUSSELL BLENDING PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS WITH CURRENT IDEAS FROM THE SOCIAL AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF ADAPTATION STUDIES PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE AND FORWARD LOOKING TREATMENT OF ADAPTATION IN ITS MANY GUISES BY LOOKING AT MOVIES BASED ON SOURCES OTHER THAN NOVELS INCLUDING TELEVISION SERIES AND RADIO ADAPTATIONS COMIC BOOK ADAPTATIONS OF LITERARY TEXTS NOVELIZATIONS OPERA LIBRETTOS POPULAR SONGS AND EVEN VIDEO GAMES

IN OUR OWN IMAGE IS A WORK OF COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY IT IS A STUDY OF THE ROLES ANTHROPOMORPHISM AND APOPHATICISM PLAY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF CONCEPTUAL MODELS OF ULTIMATE REALITY LEADING SCHOLAR WESLEY J WILDMAN CONSIDERS WHETHER WE CREATE OUR IDEAS OF GOD HE OFFERS A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THREE MAJOR CLASSES OF ULTIMACY MODELS PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE WAY THOSE CLASSES ARE IMPACTED BY ANTHROPOMORPHISM WHILE TRACING THEIR RELATIVE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES WILDMAN PROVIDES A CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT ON BEHALF OF AN APOPHATIC UNDERSTANDING OF ULTIMATE REALITY SHOWING HOW THIS UNDERSTANDING SUBSUMES CHALLENGES AND RELATES ULTIMACY MODELS FROM THE THREE CLASSES BEING COMPARED HE DESCRIBES AND COMPARES COMPETING ULTIMACY MODELS FAIRLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY THE CONCLUSION IS THAT ALL MODELS COGNITIVELY BREAK ON THE SHOALS OF ULTIMATE REALITY BUT THAT THE GROUND OF BEING CLASS OF MODELS CARRIES US FURTHER THAN THE OTHERS IN REGARD TO THE COMPARATIVE CRITERIA THAT MATTER MOST

THE ANASTENARIA ARE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN GREECE WHO OBSERVE A UNIQUE ANNUAL RITUAL CYCLE FOCUSED ON TWO FESTIVALS DEDICATED TO SAINT CONSTANTINE AND SAINT HELEN THE FESTIVALS INVOLVE PROCESSIONS MUSIC DANCING ANIMAL SACRIFICES AND CULMINATE IN AN ELECTRIFYING FIRE WALKING RITUAL CARRYING THE SACRED ICONS OF THE SAINTS PARTICIPANTS DANCE OVER HOT COALS AS THE SAINT MOVES THEM THE BURNING SAINTS PRESENTS AN ANALYSIS OF THESE RITUALS AND THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND THEM BASED ON LONG TERM FIELDWORK THE BURNING SAINTS TRACES THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIOCULTURAL CONTEXT OF THE GREEK FIRE WALKING RITUALS AS A COGNITIVE ETHNOGRAPHY THE BOOK AIMS TO IDENTIFY THE SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL AND NEUROBIOLOGICAL FACTORS WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED AND TO EXPLORE THE ROLE OF EMOTIONAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL AROUSAL IN THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH RITUAL A STUDY OF PARTICIPATION EXPERIENCE AND MEANING THE BURNING SAINTS PRESENTS A HIGHLY ORIGINAL ANALYSIS OF HOW MENTAL PROCESSES CAN SHAPE SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS BEHAVIOUR

HOW EXACTLY DOES ONE EXPLAIN JESUS THAT IS THE CENTRAL QUESTION OF THIS BOOK BUT THE TASK OF EXPLAINING JESUS IS COMPLICATED FOR MANY NONBELIEVERS SKEPTICS OR PRACTITIONERS OF NON JESUS BASED RELIGIONS OR SPIRITUALITIES IT CAN BE VERY STRANGE TO REFER TO A PARTICULAR MAN WHO LIVED IN THE FIRST CENTURY CE AS SOMEONE WHO IS STILL LIVING EVEN FOR SOME BELIEVERS THIS IDEA CAN BE A DIFFICULT THING TO UNDERSTAND EVEN GIVEN THE TEACHINGS OF THEIR FAITH THUS WHETHER BELIEVER OR NONBELIEVER OR SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY CURIOUS THERE IS NEED FOR AN EXPLANATION EXPLAINING JESUS EXPLORES THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SECULAR INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE BASED EXPLANATION FOR THE PHENOMENON OF JESUS

ARE RELIGIONS INTRINSICALLY VIOLENT AS IS STRENUOUSLY ARGUED BY THE NEW ATHEISTS OR AS GIRARD ARGUES HAVE THEY BEEN FUNCTIONALLY RATIONAL INSTRUMENTS DEVELOPED TO MANAGE AND COPE WITH THE INTRINSICALLY VIOLENT RUNAWAY DYNAMIC THAT CHARACTERIZES HUMAN SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN ALL PERIODS OF HUMAN HISTORY IS VIOLENCE DECREASING IN THIS TIME OF SECULAR MODERNITY POST CHRISTENDOM AS ARGUED BY STEVEN PINKER AND OTHERS OR ARE WE RATHER AT INCREASED AND EVEN APOCALYPTIC RISK FROM OUR ENHANCED POWERS OF ACTION AND OUR DECREASED SOCIO SYMBOLIC PROTECTIONS RENE GIRARD S MIMETIC THEORY HAS BEEN SLOWLY BUT PROGRESSIVELY RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE MOST STRIKING BREAKTHROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS TO TWENTIETH CENTURY CRITICAL THINKING IN FUNDAMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN PARTICULAR FOR ITS POWER TO MODEL AND EXPLAIN VIOLENT SACRALITIES ANCIENT AND MODERN THE PRESENT VOLUME SETS THIS POWER OF EXPLANATION IN AN EVOLUTIONARY AND DARWINIAN FRAME IT ASKS HOW FAR DO CULTURAL MECHANISMS OF CONTROLLING VIOLENCE WHICH ALLOWED HUMANKIND TO CROSS THE THRESHOLD OF HOMINIZATION I E TO SURVIVE AND DEVELOP IN ITS EVOLUTIONARY EMERGENCE STILL REPRESENT TODAY A DEFAULT SETTING THAT THREATENS TO DESTROY US CAN WE TRANSCEND THEM AND ESCAPE THEIR FIELD OF GRAVITY SHOULD WE LOOK TO OR SHOULD WE LOOK BEYOND DARWINIAN SURVIVAL WHAT AND WHERE IF ANYWHERE IS SALVATION

RELIGION SUPERNATURALISM THE PARANORMAL AND PSEUDOSCIENCE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE REJOINDER TO THE CHALLENGES POSED TO SCIENCE SCIENTIFIC ANTHROPOLOGY EVOLUTIONARY THEORY AND RATIONALITY BY THE ADVOCATES OF SUPERNATURAL PARANORMAL AND PSEUDOSCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVES AND MODES OF THOUGHT ASSOCIATED WITH THE CURRENT RISE OF IRRATIONALISM ANTIINTELLECTUALISM AND EMBOLDENED RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM AND VIOLENCE DRAWING UPON H SIDKY S SCIENTIFIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCH OF SUPERNATURAL AND PARANORMAL BELIEFS AND PRACTICES IN SEVERAL CULTURES OVER THREE DECADES THE BOOK ANSWERS SEVERAL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WHY DO HUMANS HAVE A PROCLIVITY FOR THE SUPERNATURAL AND PARANORMAL THINKING WHY HAS HUMANITY REMAINED SHACKLED TO SETS OF IDEAS INHERITED FROM A VIOLENT PAST THAT HAVE NO BASIS IN REALITY AND WHICH BESTOW AN ILLUSIONARY SOLACE PROMOTE BLOODSHED ENDLESS CRUELITIES AND FERVENT HATREDS AND HAVE COME AT A HIGH COST WHY HAVE ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS BEEN HELD AS SACRED INVIOLEATE TRUTHS WHILE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ARCHAIC BELIEF SYSTEMS OF WHICH THEY WERE A PART HAVE LONG BEEN DISCARDED WHY HAVE NOT HUMANS OUTGROWN RELIGION AND PARANORMAL BELIEFS

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LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

BE AWARE OF THE LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DOWNLOADING EBOOKS. ENSURE THE SITE HAS THE RIGHT TO DISTRIBUTE THE BOOK AND THAT YOU’RE NOT VIOLATING COPYRIGHT LAWS.

USING FREE EBOOK SITES FOR EDUCATION

FREE EBOOK SITES ARE INVALUABLE FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

SITES LIKE PROJECT GUTENBERG AND OPEN LIBRARY OFFER NUMEROUS ACADEMIC RESOURCES, INCLUDING TEXTBOOKS AND SCHOLARLY ARTICLES.

LEARNING NEW SKILLS

YOU CAN ALSO FIND BOOKS ON VARIOUS SKILLS, FROM COOKING TO PROGRAMMING, MAKING THESE SITES GREAT FOR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

SUPPORTING HOMESCHOOLING

FOR HOMESCHOOLING PARENTS, FREE EBOOK SITES PROVIDE A WEALTH OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR DIFFERENT GRADE LEVELS AND SUBJECTS.

GENRES AVAILABLE ON FREE EBOOK SITES

THE DIVERSITY OF GENRES AVAILABLE ON FREE EBOOK SITES ENSURES THERE’S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

FICTION

FROM TIMELESS CLASSICS TO CONTEMPORARY BESTSELLERS, THE FICTION SECTION IS BRIMMING WITH OPTIONS.

NON-FICTION

NON-FICTION ENTHUSIASTS CAN FIND BIOGRAPHIES, SELF-HELP BOOKS, HISTORICAL TEXTS, AND MORE.

TEXTBOOKS

STUDENTS CAN ACCESS TEXTBOOKS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, HELPING REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF EDUCATION.

CHILDREN’S BOOKS

PARENTS AND TEACHERS CAN FIND A PLETHORA OF CHILDREN’S BOOKS, FROM PICTURE BOOKS TO YOUNG ADULT NOVELS.

ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES OF EBOOK SITES

EBOOK SITES OFTEN COME WITH FEATURES THAT ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY.

AUDIOBOOK OPTIONS

MANY SITES OFFER AUDIOBOOKS, WHICH ARE GREAT FOR THOSE WHO PREFER LISTENING TO READING.

ADJUSTABLE FONT SIZES

YOU CAN ADJUST THE FONT SIZE TO SUIT YOUR READING COMFORT, MAKING IT EASIER FOR THOSE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS.

TEXT-TO-SPEECH CAPABILITIES

TEXT-TO-SPEECH FEATURES CAN CONVERT WRITTEN TEXT INTO AUDIO, PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO ENJOY BOOKS.

TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR EBOOK EXPERIENCE

TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR EBOOK READING EXPERIENCE, CONSIDER THESE TIPS.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DEVICE

WHETHER IT'S A TABLET, AN E-READER, OR A SMARTPHONE, CHOOSE A DEVICE THAT OFFERS A COMFORTABLE READING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.

ORGANIZING YOUR EBOOK LIBRARY

USE TOOLS AND APPS TO ORGANIZE YOUR EBOOK COLLECTION, MAKING IT EASY TO FIND AND ACCESS YOUR FAVORITE TITLES.

SYNCING ACROSS DEVICES

MANY EBOOK PLATFORMS ALLOW YOU TO SYNC YOUR LIBRARY ACROSS MULTIPLE DEVICES, SO YOU CAN PICK UP RIGHT WHERE YOU LEFT OFF, NO MATTER WHICH DEVICE YOU'RE USING.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

DESPITE THE BENEFITS, FREE EBOOK SITES COME WITH CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS.

QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF TITLES

NOT ALL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE, AND SOMETIMES THE QUALITY OF THE DIGITAL COPY CAN BE POOR.

DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT (DRM)

DRM CAN RESTRICT HOW YOU USE THE EBOOKS YOU DOWNLOAD, LIMITING SHARING AND TRANSFERRING BETWEEN DEVICES.

INTERNET DEPENDENCY

ACCESSING AND DOWNLOADING EBOOKS REQUIRES AN INTERNET CONNECTION, WHICH CAN BE A LIMITATION IN AREAS WITH POOR CONNECTIVITY.

FUTURE OF FREE EBOOK SITES

THE FUTURE LOOKS PROMISING FOR FREE EBOOK SITES AS TECHNOLOGY CONTINUES TO ADVANCE.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY WILL LIKELY MAKE ACCESSING AND READING EBOOKS EVEN MORE SEAMLESS AND ENJOYABLE.

EXPANDING ACCESS

EFFORTS TO EXPAND INTERNET ACCESS GLOBALLY WILL HELP MORE PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM FREE EBOOK SITES.

ROLE IN EDUCATION

AS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES BECOME MORE DIGITIZED, FREE EBOOK SITES WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY VITAL ROLE IN LEARNING.

CONCLUSION

IN SUMMARY, FREE EBOOK SITES OFFER AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCESS A WIDE RANGE OF BOOKS WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL BURDEN. THEY ARE INVALUABLE RESOURCES FOR READERS OF ALL AGES AND INTERESTS, PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES. SO WHY NOT EXPLORE THESE SITES AND DISCOVER THE WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE THEY OFFER?

FAQs

ARE FREE EBOOK SITES LEGAL? YES, MOST FREE EBOOK SITES ARE LEGAL. THEY TYPICALLY OFFER BOOKS THAT ARE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN OR HAVE THE RIGHTS TO DISTRIBUTE THEM. HOW DO I KNOW IF AN EBOOK SITE IS SAFE? STICK TO WELL-KNOWN AND REPUTABLE SITES LIKE PROJECT GUTENBERG, OPEN LIBRARY, AND GOOGLE BOOKS. CHECK REVIEWS AND ENSURE THE SITE HAS PROPER SECURITY MEASURES. CAN I DOWNLOAD EBOOKS TO ANY DEVICE? MOST FREE EBOOK SITES OFFER DOWNLOADS IN MULTIPLE FORMATS, MAKING THEM COMPATIBLE WITH VARIOUS DEVICES LIKE E-READERS, TABLETS, AND SMARTPHONES. DO FREE EBOOK SITES OFFER AUDIOBOOKS? MANY FREE EBOOK SITES OFFER AUDIOBOOKS, WHICH ARE PERFECT FOR THOSE WHO PREFER LISTENING TO THEIR BOOKS. HOW CAN I SUPPORT AUTHORS IF I USE FREE EBOOK SITES? YOU CAN SUPPORT AUTHORS BY PURCHASING THEIR BOOKS WHEN POSSIBLE, LEAVING REVIEWS, AND SHARING THEIR WORK WITH OTHERS.

