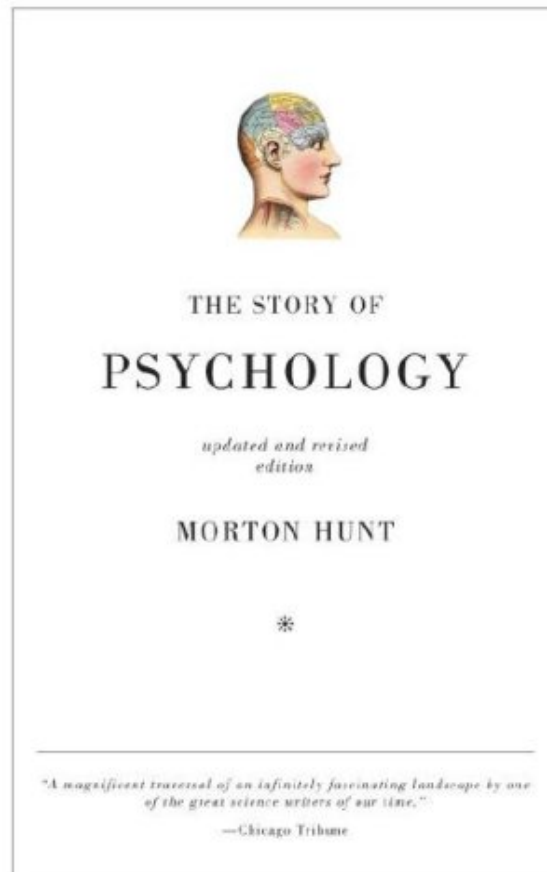


# THE STORY OF PSYCHOLOGY, UPDATED & REVISED EDITION BY MORTON HUNT



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THE STORY OF  
**PSYCHOLOGY**

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Tracing the history of psychology from its earliest beginnings as a branch of philosophy to modern - day trends, Hunt ( *The Compassionate Beast* , LJ 3/1/90) covers a vast amount of ground. He not only describes the historic Greek philosophers but takes the reader through Sigmund Freud, William James, B.F. Skinner, and a host of lesser - known psychologists throughout history. The scope ranges from the 1800s, when psychology broke from philosophy to become a field of its own, to the present. Separate schools of thought are clearly traced in an interesting, readable, but scholarly fashion. The material is appropriate for readers with more than a passing curiosity about the subject. More than 80 pages of footnotes testify to the author's exhaustive research. For academic and large public libraries.

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Review

“A magnificent traversal of an infinitely fascinating landscape by one of the great science writers of our time.”—Chicago Tribune

“The definitive guide to those wishing to grasp man’s search to understand the mind.”—The Chattanooga News-Free Press

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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.

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## Features

- *The Story of Psychology*

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Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A Valuable Telling of Psychology's History, from Philosophy to Cognitive Science!

By Kevin Currie-Knight

I am a Professor of Education who teaches (among other things) classes on learning theory and education psychology. I use this book as a very helpful resource and came quite close to assigning it for a class on learning theory. Why? Well, first, Hunt provides a very thorough but eminently readable account of the history of psychology, from the psychological speculation of philosophers from Aristotle to Kant up to modern day cognitive science and behavioral therapy.

In doing this - and this is why I almost assigned this book as one of my texts - Hunt's story of psychology allows people to understand each psychological 'movement' as part of the larger history of psychology. It is easier, for instance, to understand and appreciate behaviorism if you understand the more introspective psychological movements (and experimental movements that relied on subjective self-report data) first, and how behaviorists wanted a more 'objective' science. In turn, gestalt psychology (and information processing theory, etc) make the most sense when seen as part of a long history with one 'movement' or trend reacting to its predecessor.

And, of course, the book goes well beyond psychology's contribution to learning theory. We learn about the personalities of some of the great psychologists like Wilhelm Wundt, William James and Sigmund Freud, how psychology has sought to answer a great many questions, from how identity is formed to what therapy is best suited to help people conquer neuroses. And all of this is told in a quite engaging (if quite detailed) form of an academic story.

Maybe in future semesters, I will assign this book for its chapters applicable to education psychology (chapters on behaviorism, cognitive science, the psychology of motivation, etc.). It is a great book that makes the subject of psychology's history come alive.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

An First Exploration of a Difficult Subject

By Eggleston

This book is an exploration; i.e. a first delving into a subject that one knows little about. Also for those who think they know something from reading pop explanations of psychology, but never really read the founding manuscripts. It starts with philosophy, because the Greeks were the first to even ask fundamental scientific

questions, but it turns out that they weren't all that interested in what went on inside the mind, other than Socrates wanting to know what is the good life, or what is justice. But we're taken on a ride past this material just so the bases are covered. Only in the middle of the 19th century does the author start to get into the meat of the subject, with Wundt and Freud and the behaviorists such as Watson and Skinner. This is as far as I've gotten so far.

It's a good read, and almost like a detective novel it has it's twists and turns. Well written; the novice will not get lost; takes time to explain the scientific background of the early days of psychology. Makes the point that psychological theory is still a lot of guesswork. This is reflected in the book when the author says one thing, only to contradict it a page or two later. I'm halfway through, so can't speak to the end parts, but the author is a admirer of Freud, saying that his theories of the mind have been confirmed in some cases by neuroscientists. An interesting and well-written book and I give it four stars.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

But I did enjoy the way Hunt set this book up

By Heather

I am not a typical fan of historical psychology. As a psychology major I have heard about Freud just too many times!! But I did enjoy the way Hunt set this book up. While psychology history is still not my thing, I did enjoy the read more than a typical text book.

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