

The Better Angels Of Our Nature A History Of Violence And Humanity

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On Violence in History - Philip Dwyer 2020-01-01

Is global violence on the decline? Steven Pinker's highly-publicized argument that human violence across the world has been dramatically abating continues to influence discourse among academics and the general public alike. In this provocative volume, a cast of eminent historians interrogate Pinker's thesis by exposing the realities of violence throughout human history. In doing so, they reveal the history of human violence to be richer, more thought-provoking, and considerably more complicated than Pinker claims.

The Better Angels of Our Nature - Steven Pinker 2011-10-04

"If I could give each of you a graduation present, it would be this—the most inspiring book I've ever read." —Bill Gates (May, 2017) Selected by The New York Times Book Review as a Notable Book of the Year The author of *Rationality and Enlightenment Now* offers a provocative and surprising history of violence. Faced with the ceaseless stream of news about war, crime, and terrorism, one could easily think we live in the most violent age ever seen. Yet as New York Times bestselling author Steven Pinker shows in this startling and engaging new work, just the opposite is true: violence has been diminishing for millenia and we may be living in the most peaceful time in our species's existence. For most of history, war, slavery, infanticide, child abuse, assassinations, programs, gruesome punishments, deadly quarrels, and genocide were ordinary features of life. But today, Pinker shows (with the help of more than a hundred graphs and maps) all these forms of violence have dwindled and are widely condemned. How has this happened? This groundbreaking book continues Pinker's exploration of the esesnce of human nature, mixing psychology and history to provide a remarkable picture of an increasingly nonviolent world. The key, he explains, is to understand our intrinsic motives--the inner demons that incline us toward violence and the better angels that steer us away--and how changing circumstances have allowed our better angels to prevail. Exploding fatalist myths about humankind's inherent violence and the curse of modernity, this ambitious and provocative book is sure to be hotly debated in living rooms and the Pentagon alike, and will challenge and change the way we think about our society.

The Stuff of Thought - Steven Pinker 2007-09-11

This New York Times bestseller is an exciting and fearless investigation of language from the author of *Rationality*, *The Better Angels of Our Nature* and *The Sense of Style* and *Enlightenment Now*. "Curious, inventive, fearless, naughty." --The New York Times Book Review Bestselling author Steven Pinker possesses that rare combination of scientific aptitude and verbal eloquence that enables him to provide lucid explanations of deep and powerful ideas. His previous books - including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Blank Slate* - have catapulted him into the limelight as one of today's most important popular science writers. In *The Stuff of Thought*, Pinker presents a fascinating look at how our words explain our nature. Considering scientific questions with examples from everyday life, *The Stuff of Thought* is a brilliantly crafted and highly readable work that will appeal to fans of everything from *The Selfish Gene* and *Blink* to *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*.

Better Angels - Howard V. Hendrix 1999

The lives and relationships of five very different people are transformed by the discovery of a mysterious, ancient, alien artifact that resembles an angel's shoulder blade

Behave - Robert M. Sapolsky 2017-05-02

Why do we do the things we do? Over a decade in the making, this game-changing book is Robert Sapolsky's genre-shattering attempt to answer that question as fully as perhaps only he could, looking at it from every angle. Sapolsky's storytelling concept is delightful but it also has a

powerful intrinsic logic: he starts by looking at the factors that bear on a person's reaction in the precise moment a behavior occurs, and then hops back in time from there, in stages, ultimately ending up at the deep history of our species and its genetic inheritance. And so the first category of explanation is the neurobiological one. What goes on in a person's brain a second before the behavior happens? Then he pulls out to a slightly larger field of vision, a little earlier in time: What sight, sound, or smell triggers the nervous system to produce that behavior? And then, what hormones act hours to days earlier to change how responsive that individual is to the stimuli which trigger the nervous system? By now, he has increased our field of vision so that we are thinking about neurobiology and the sensory world of our environment and endocrinology in trying to explain what happened. Sapolsky keeps going--next to what features of the environment affected that person's brain, and then back to the childhood of the individual, and then to their genetic makeup. Finally, he expands the view to encompass factors larger than that one individual. How culture has shaped that individual's group, what ecological factors helped shape that culture, and on and on, back to evolutionary factors thousands and even millions of years old. The result is one of the most dazzling tours de horizon of the science of human behavior ever attempted, a majestic synthesis that harvests cutting-edge research across a range of disciplines to provide a subtle and nuanced perspective on why we ultimately do the things we do...for good and for ill. Sapolsky builds on this understanding to wrestle with some of our deepest and thorniest questions relating to tribalism and xenophobia, hierarchy and competition, morality and free will, and war and peace. Wise, humane, often very funny, *Behave* is a towering achievement, powerfully humanizing, and downright heroic in its own right.

The Better Angels of Our Nature - Steven Pinker 2012-09-25

Presents a controversial history of violence which argues that today's world is the most peaceful time in human existence, drawing on psychological insights into intrinsic values that are causing people to condemn violence as an acceptable measure.

The Better Angels of Our Nature - Steven Pinker 2011

Faced with the ceaseless stream of news about war, crime, and terrorism, one could easily think this is the most violent age ever seen. Yet as bestselling author Pinker shows in this startling and engaging new work, just the opposite is true: violence has been diminishing for millennia and this may be the most peaceful time in mankind's existence.

The Almanack Of Naval Ravikant - Eric Jorgenson 2021-09-30

GETTING RICH IS NOT JUST ABOUT LUCK; HAPPINESS IS NOT JUST A TRAIT WE ARE BORN WITH. These aspirations may seem out of reach, but building wealth and being happy are skills we can learn. So what are these skills, and how do we learn them? What are the principles that should guide our efforts? What does progress really look like? Naval Ravikant is an entrepreneur, philosopher, and investor who has captivated the world with his principles for building wealth and creating long-term happiness. The Almanack of Naval Ravikant is a collection of Naval's wisdom and experience from the last ten years, shared as a curation of his most insightful interviews and poignant reflections. This isn't a how-to book, or a step-by-step gimmick. Instead, through Naval's own words, you will learn how to walk your own unique path toward a happier, wealthier life.

Every Day We Get More Illegal - Juan Felipe Herrera 2020-09-22

Included in Publishers Weekly's Top 10 Poetry Books of 2020 and LitHub's Most Anticipated Books of the Year! A State of the Union from the nation's first Latino Poet Laureate. Trenchant, compassionate, and filled with hope. "Many poets since the 1960s have dreamed of a new

hybrid art, part oral, part written, part English, part something else: an art grounded in ethnic identity, fueled by collective pride, yet irreducibly individual too. Many poets have tried to create such an art: Herrera is one of the first to succeed."—New York Times "Herrera has the unusual capacity to write convincing political poems that are as personally felt as poems can be."—NPR "Juan Felipe Herrera's magnificent new poems in *Every Day We Get More Illegal* testify to the deepest parts of the American dream—the streets and parking lots, the stores and restaurants and futures that belong to all—from the times when hope was bright, more like an intimate song than any anthem stirring the blood."—Naomi Shihab Nye, *The New York Times Magazine* "From Basho to Mandela, *Every Day We Get More Illegal* takes us on an international tour for a lesson in the history of resistance from a poet who declares, 'I had to learn . . . to take care of myself . . . the courage to listen to myself.' In ways subtle and sometimes proudly loud, this book makes it clear exactly why Juan Felipe Herrera continues to be recognized and sought after for his work. You hold in your hands evidence of who we really are."—Jericho Brown, author of *The Tradition* "In *Every Day We Get More Illegal* Juan Felipe Herrera shows off all of his styles. These poems talk directly to America, to migrant people, and to working people. Herrera has created a chorus to remind us we are alive and beautiful and powerful."—José Olivarez, Author of *Citizen Illegal* "The poet comes to his country with a book of songs, and asks: America, are you listening? We better listen. There is wisdom in this book, there is a choral voice that teaches us 'to gain, pebble by pebble, seashell by seashell, the courage.' The courage to find more grace, to find flames."—Ilya Kaminsky, author of *Deaf Republic* In this collection of poems, written during and immediately after two years on the road as United States Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera reports back on his travels through contemporary America. Poems written in the heat of witness, and later, in quiet moments of reflection, coalesce into an urgent, trenchant, and yet hope-filled portrait. The struggle and pain of those pushed to the edges, the shootings and assaults and injustices of our streets, the lethal border game that separates and divides, and then: a shift of register, a leap for peace and a view onto the possibility of unity. *Every Day We Get More Illegal* is a jolt to the conscience—filled with the multiple powers of the many voices and many textures of every day in America. "Former Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera should also be Laureate of our Millennium—a messenger who nimbly traverses the transcendental liminalities of the United States to then speak from the body politic in confrontation with an enemy system that threatens the networks that make us ethical and humane. Every book he writes becomes his best book and this collection is no exception. He brings unity and vulnerability to this wide-ranging and prophetic volume."—Carmen Gimenez Smith, author of *Be Recorder*

The Soul of America - Jon Meacham 2019-04-30

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham helps us understand the present moment in American politics and life by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear. ONE OF OPRAH'S "BOOKS THAT HELP ME THROUGH" • NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR • The Christian Science Monitor • Southern Living Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. He writes about the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the birth of the Lost Cause; the backlash against immigrants in the First World War and the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s; the fight for women's rights; the demagoguery of Huey Long and Father Coughlin and the isolationist work of America First in the years before World War II; the anti-Communist witch-hunts led by Senator Joseph McCarthy; and Lyndon Johnson's crusade against Jim Crow. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear—a struggle that continues even now. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, "The good news is

that we have come through such darkness before"—as, time and again, Lincoln's better angels have found a way to prevail. Praise for *The Soul of America* "Brilliant, fascinating, timely . . . With compelling narratives of past eras of strife and disenchantment, Meacham offers wisdom for our own time."—Walter Isaacson "Gripping and inspiring, *The Soul of America* is Jon Meacham's declaration of his faith in America."—Newsday "Meacham gives readers a long-term perspective on American history and a reason to believe the soul of America is ultimately one of kindness and caring, not rancor and paranoia."—USA Today

Reality Is Broken - Jane McGonigal 2011-01-20

"McGonigal is a clear, methodical writer, and her ideas are well argued. Assertions are backed by countless psychological studies." —The Boston Globe "Powerful and provocative . . . McGonigal makes a persuasive case that games have a lot to teach us about how to make our lives, and the world, better." —San Jose Mercury News "Jane McGonigal's insights have the elegant, compact, deadly simplicity of plutonium, and the same explosive force." —Cory Doctorow, author of *Little Brother* A visionary game designer reveals how we can harness the power of games to boost global happiness. With 174 million gamers in the United States alone, we now live in a world where every generation will be a gamer generation. But why, Jane McGonigal asks, should games be used for escapist entertainment alone? In this groundbreaking book, she shows how we can leverage the power of games to fix what is wrong with the real world—from social problems like depression and obesity to global issues like poverty and climate change—and introduces us to cutting-edge games that are already changing the business, education, and nonprofit worlds. Written for gamers and non-gamers alike, *Reality Is Broken* shows that the future will belong to those who can understand, design, and play games. Jane McGonigal is also the author of *SuperBetter: A Revolutionary Approach to Getting Stronger, Happier, Braver and More Resilient*.

The Compassionate Instinct: The Science of Human Goodness - Dacher Keltner 2010-01-04

Leading scientists and science writers reflect on the life-changing, perspective-changing, new science of human goodness. In these pages you will hear from Steven Pinker, who asks, "Why is there peace?"; Robert Sapolsky, who examines violence among primates; Paul Ekman, who talks with the Dalai Lama about global compassion; Daniel Goleman, who proposes "constructive anger"; and many others. Led by renowned psychologist Dacher Keltner, the Greater Good Science Center, based at the University of California in Berkeley, has been at the forefront of the positive psychology movement, making discoveries about how and why people do good. Four times a year the center publishes its findings with essays on forgiveness, moral inspiration, and everyday ethics in *Greater Good* magazine. The best of these writings are collected here for the first time. A collection of personal stories and empirical research, *The Compassionate Instinct* will make you think not only about what it means to be happy and fulfilled but also about what it means to lead an ethical and compassionate life.

The Better Angels - Charles McCarry 2010-01-26

When Charles McCarry's *The Better Angels* was first published almost 30 years ago, its premise—that terrorists would use passenger-filled airliners as tools of terror—seemed incredible. In retrospect, the novel would prove to be prophetic. *The Better Angels* takes place in an election year close to the turn of the century in a deeply polarized America. The presidential race matches a tall, lantern-jawed liberal to a far-right former businessman with deep ties to the energy industry. Meanwhile, Islamic terrorists led by an oil-rich Arab prince, desperate to acquire nuclear bombs to use against Israel or major American cities, disrupt the presidential campaign through a series of bloody suicide bombings. Finally the election itself is stolen, as one side hacks into computerized voting systems to change the tallies in key states. From the writer the *New York Times* Book Review called "the genuine article," *The Better Angels* is a thrilling and relevant masterwork.

The Better Angels of Our Nature - Steven Pinker 2012

Believe it or not, today we may be living in the most peaceful time in our species' history. In this epic exploration of the human condition, Steven Pinker shows that, despite the constant stream of news about war, crime and terrorism, violence of all kinds has been decreasing. Barbaric practices such as human sacrifice, torture-executions and chattel slavery have been abolished; rates of death from war and homicide are dramatically down; and brutality towards minorities, women, children and animals is in steady decline. Weaving together psychology and history, science and popular culture, *The Better Angles of Our Nature*

reinvigorates the ideals of modernity, progress and enlightenment. 'His book will change the way you see the world . . . Pinker's powerful ideas, vivid stories and sparkling prose make this hard to put down.' Daily Mail 'May prove to be one of the great books of our time . . . he writes like an angel.' Economist 'Masterly, a supremely important book . . . For anyone interested in human nature, it is engrossing.' The New York Times 'Marvellous . . . riveting and myth-destroying.' New Statesman 'A marvellous synthesis of science, history and storytelling, written in Pinker's distinctively entertaining and clear personal style . . . I was astonished by the extent to which violence has declined in every shape, form and scale.' Financial Times 'An outstanding fruitful read, with fascinating nuggets on almost every page.' Sunday Times, Book of the Year

Rationality - Steven Pinker 2021-09-28

A TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR 2021 'Punchy, funny and invigorating ... Pinker is the high priest of rationalism' Sunday Times 'If you've ever considered taking drugs to make yourself smarter, read *Rationality* instead. It's cheaper, more entertaining, and more effective' Jonathan Haidt, author of *The Righteous Mind* In the twenty-first century, humanity is reaching new heights of scientific understanding - and at the same time appears to be losing its mind. How can a species that discovered vaccines for Covid-19 in less than a year produce so much fake news, quack cures and conspiracy theorizing? In *Rationality*, Pinker rejects the cynical cliché that humans are simply an irrational species - cavemen out of time fatally cursed with biases, fallacies and illusions. After all, we discovered the laws of nature, lengthened and enriched our lives and set the benchmarks for rationality itself. Instead, he explains, we think in ways that suit the low-tech contexts in which we spend most of our lives, but fail to take advantage of the powerful tools of reasoning we have built up over millennia: logic, critical thinking, probability, causal inference, and decision-making under uncertainty. These tools are not a standard part of our educational curricula, and have never been presented clearly and entertainingly in a single book - until now. *Rationality* matters. It leads to better choices in our lives and in the public sphere, and is the ultimate driver of social justice and moral progress. Brimming with insight and humour, *Rationality* will enlighten, inspire and empower. 'A terrific book, much-needed for our time' Peter Singer

How the Mind Works - Steven Pinker 2009-06-02

An assessment of human thought and behavior explores conundrums from the mind's ability to perceive three dimensions to the nature of consciousness, in an account that draws on beliefs in cognitive science and evolutionary biology.

The Soul in Nature - Hans Christian Ørsted 1852

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner - Samuel Taylor Coleridge 1906

Catechism of the Catholic Church - U.S. Catholic Church 2003-03-04

Over 3 million copies sold! Essential reading for Catholics of all walks of life. Here it is - the first new Catechism of the Catholic Church in more than 400 years, a complete summary of what Catholics around the world commonly believe. The Catechism draws on the Bible, the Mass, the Sacraments, Church tradition and teaching, and the lives of saints. It comes with a complete index, footnotes and cross-references for a fuller understanding of every subject. The word catechism means "instruction" - this book will serve as the standard for all future catechisms. Using the tradition of explaining what the Church believes (the Creed), what she celebrates (the Sacraments), what she lives (the Commandments), and what she prays (the Lord's Prayer), the Catechism of the Catholic Church offers challenges for believers and answers for all those interested in learning about the mystery of the Catholic faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a positive, coherent and contemporary map for our spiritual journey toward transformation.

An Analysis of Steven Pinker's The Better Angels of Our Nature - Joulia Smortchkova 2017-07-05

Reasoning is the critical thinking skill concerned with the production of arguments: making them coherent, consistent, and well-supported; and responding to opposing positions where necessary. The *Better Angels of Our Nature* offers a step-by-step class in precisely these skills. Author Steven Pinker's central thesis is simple: mankind has become increasingly less violent over the centuries, and will continue to do so. Pinker is aware, though, that many people instinctively believe the opposite, and *Better Angels* is devoted to marshalling data to support and illustrate this central argument, as well as a series of secondary arguments about how and why humanity has become less violent.

Pinker's interpretative skills - understanding the meaning of the complex evidence from history - are also on display throughout, as he tackles the ambiguities of his data, the problems it presents, and the viable inferences one can draw from it.

The Eloquent President - Ronald C. White 2011-08-03

The fact that Abraham Lincoln is now universally recognized as America's greatest political orator would have surprised many of the citizens who voted him into office. Ungainly in stature and awkward in manner, the newly elected Lincoln was considered a Western stump speaker and debater devoid of rhetorical polish. Then, after the outbreak of the Civil War, he stood before the nation to deliver his Message to Congress in Special Session on July 4, 1861, and, as a contemporary editor put it, "some of us who doubted were wrong." In *The Eloquent President*, historian Ronald White examines Lincoln's astonishing oratory and explores his growth as a leader, a communicator, and a man of deepening spiritual conviction. Examining a different speech, address, or public letter in each chapter, White tracks the evolution of Lincoln's rhetoric from the measured, lawyerly tones of the First Inaugural, to the imaginative daring of the 1862 Annual Message to Congress, to the haunting, immortal poetry of the Gettysburg Address. As a speaker who appealed not to intellect alone, but also to the hearts and souls of citizens, Lincoln persuaded the nation to follow him during the darkest years of the Civil War. Through the speeches and what surrounded them - the great battles and political crises, the president's private anguish and despair, the impact of his words on the public, the press, and the nation at war - we see the full sweep and meaning of the Lincoln presidency. As he weighs the biblical cadences and vigorous parallel structures that make Lincoln's rhetoric soar, White identifies a passionate religious strain that most historians have overlooked. It is White's contention that as president Lincoln not only grew into an inspiring leader and determined commander in chief, but also embarked on a spiritual odyssey that led to a profound understanding of the relationship between human action and divine will. Brilliantly written, boldly original in conception, *The Eloquent President* blends history, biography, and a deep intuitive appreciation for the quality of Lincoln's extraordinary mind. With grace and insight, White captures the essence of the four most critical years of Lincoln's life and makes the great words live for our time in all their power and beauty.

The Rape of Troy - Jonathan Gottschall 2008-03-20

Homer's epics reflect an eighth-century BCE world of warrior tribes that were fractured by constant strife; aside from its fantastic scale, nothing is exceptional about Troy's conquest by the Greeks. Using a fascinating and innovative approach, Professor Gottschall analyses Homeric conflict from the perspective of modern evolutionary biology, attributing its intensity to a shortage of available young women. The warrior practice of taking enemy women as slaves and concubines meant that women were concentrated in the households of powerful men. In turn, this shortage drove men to compete fiercely over women: almost all the main conflicts of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* can be traced back to disputes over women. *The Rape of Troy* integrates biological and humanistic understanding - biological theory is used to explore the ultimate sources of pitched Homeric conflict, and Homeric society is the subject of a bio-anthropological case study of why men fight.

Brave Girl - Michelle Markel 2013-01-22

An engagingly illustrated account of immigrant Clara Lemlich's pivotal role in the influential 1909 women laborer's strike describes how she worked grueling hours to acquire an education and support her family before organizing a massive walkout to protest the unfair working conditions in New York's garment district. 25,000 first printing.

The Rubber Brain - Sue Morris 2018-07-30

Failed an exam, bungled an interview, screwed up a relationship, broken your diet, or stuffed up at work? Your brain is the key to getting back on track. Change your life for the better. Learn how to 'rubberise' your brain, making it more flexible and resilient. Deal with challenges in an optimal way, and 'bounce' back from adversity. Your brain controls your conscious thoughts and behaviours, like deciding whether to study or party, or whether to get two scoops of gelato or six. And when you find yourself doing things that you wish you hadn't done (like all that gelato), it's likely your brain has indulged in what psychological scientists call suboptimal thinking. Essentially, your brain doesn't always deliver the kind of thinking that leads to desired positive outcomes, such as maintaining supportive friendships, and doing well in your work, studies and social life. But you and your brain can do better. In this book, five leading psychological educators show you simple tools derived from solid science covering everything from positive psychology to goal setting,

from mindfulness to CBT, and from emotional regulation to moral reasoning, to optimise your thinking. Using a model they have developed over years of study and application you can discover how resilience and psychological flexibility combine to allow you to choose ways of thinking in response to different situations that will produce the best outcome for you for that situation. Read this book and learn how to optimally tackle issues of motivation, stress, time-management, and relationship maintenance. Your mind will be clearer and your life better.

The Seven Words You Can't Say on Television - Steven Pinker 2008-09-04

Why do so many swear words involve sex, bodily functions and religion?

Why are some words rude and others aren't? Why can launching into expletives be so shocking - and sometimes so amusing? Steven Pinker

takes us on a fascinating and funny journey through the world of profanities, taken from his bestselling *The Stuff of Thought*, to show us

why we swear (whatever our language or culture), how taboos change and how we use obscenities in different ways. You'll discover that in

Québécois French the expression 'Tabernacle' is outrageous, that the Middle Ages were littered with four-letter words, that 'scumbag' has a

very unsavoury origin and that in a certain Aboriginal language every word is filthy when spoken in front of your mother-in-law. Covering

everything from free speech to Tourette's, from pottymouthed celebrities to poetry, this book reveals what swearing tells us about how our minds

work. (It's also a bloody good read).

A Wrinkle in Time - Madeleine L'Engle 2019-07-18

A Wrinkle in Time is the winner of the 1963 Newbery Medal. It was a

dark and stormy night—Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when

they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger. "Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a

downdraft and blown off course. Let me sit down for a moment, and then I'll be on my way. Speaking of ways, by the way, there is such a thing as

a tesseract." A tesseract (in case the reader doesn't know) is a wrinkle in time. To tell more would rob the reader of the enjoyment of Miss

L'Engle's unusual book. *A Wrinkle in Time*, winner of the Newbery Medal in 1963, is the story of the adventures in space and time of Meg, Charles

Wallace, and Calvin O'Keefe (athlete, student, and one of the most popular boys in high school). They are in search of Meg's father, a

scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.

Frontiers in Spiritual Leadership - Scott T. Allison 2017-03-03

Abraham Lincoln's iconic phrase, 'the better angels of our nature',

revealed his belief that the noblest qualities of humanity would heal a divided nation. In *Frontiers in Spiritual Leadership*, an interdisciplinary

group of leading scholars from the University of Richmond explore these noble qualities and how leaders such as Lincoln make that expression

possible. They review the landscape of spiritual leadership and the spiritual principles that are fundamental to effective and inspired

leadership, emphasizing the values of love, forgiveness, purpose, trust, sacrifice, equality, and liberty, among others. Through an analysis of

historical examples and contemporary issues, this book celebrates the many gifted and enlightened individuals whose leadership embodies the

most exquisite qualities of humanity. It outlines the conceptual linkage between leadership and spirituality within groups and organizations and

will appeal to students and scholars of leadership, ethics, religion, philosophy, psychology, and human growth potential.

The Better Angels of Our Nature - Michael A. Halleran 2010-03-11

The first in-depth study of the Freemasons during the Civil War From

first-person accounts culled from regimental histories, diaries, and letters, Michael A. Halleran has constructed an overview of 19th-century

American freemasonry. The author examines carefully the major Masonic stories from the Civil War, in particular the myth that Confederate Lewis

A. Armistead made the Masonic sign of distress as he lay dying at the high-water mark of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

Our Better Angels - Jonathan Reckford 2019-10-08

Inspiring and insightful, *Our Better Angels: Seven Simple Virtues That*

Will Change Your Life and the World celebrates the shared principles that unite and enable us to overcome life's challenges together. "When

the waters rise, so do our better angels."—President Jimmy Carter

Jonathan Reckford, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity, has seen time and again the powerful benefits that arise when people from all walks of life

work together to help one another. In this uplifting book, he shares true stories of people involved with Habitat as volunteers and future

homeowners who embody seven timeless virtues—kindness, community, empowerment, joy, respect, generosity, and service—and shows how we

can all practice these to improve the quality of our own lives as well as

those around us. A Vietnam veteran finds peace where he was once engaged in war. An impoverished single mother offers her family's time and energy to enrich their neighbors' lives. A Zambian family of nine living in a makeshift tent makes room to shelter even more. A teenager grieving for his mother honors her love and memory by ensuring other people have a place to call home. A former president of the United States leads by example with a determined work ethic that motivates everyone around him to be the best version of themselves. These stories, and many others, illustrate how virtues become values, how cooperation becomes connection, and how even the smallest act of compassion can encourage actions that transform the world around us. Here are tales that will make readers laugh and cry and embrace with passion the calling of our better angels to change the way we take care of ourselves, our families, our communities, and the world.

Caveman Logic - Hank Davis 2009-12-30

We see the face of the Virgin Mary staring up at us from a grilled cheese sandwich and sell the uneaten portion of our meal for \$37,000 on eBay.

While science offers a wealth of rational explanations for natural phenomena, we often prefer to embrace the fantasies that reassured our

distant ancestors. And we'll even go to war to protect our delusions against those who do not share them. These are examples of what

evolutionary psychologist Hank Davis calls "Caveman Logic". Although some examples are funny, the condition itself is no laughing matter. In

this engagingly written book, Davis encourages us to transcend the mental default settings and tribal loyalties that worked well for our

ancestors back in the Pleistocene age. Davis laments a modern world in which more people believe in ESP, ghosts, and angels than in evolution.

Superstition and religion get particularly critical treatment, although Davis argues that religion, itself, is not the problem but "an inevitable by-

product of how our minds misperform". Davis argues, "It's time to move beyond the one--size-fits-all, safety and comfort-oriented settings that got

our ancestors through the terrifying Pleistocene night". In contrast, Davis advocates a world in which "Spirituality" is viewed as a dangerous

rather than an admirable quality, and suggests ways in which we can overcome our innate predisposition toward irrationality. He concludes by

pointing out that "biology is not destiny". Just as some of us succeed in watching our diets, resisting violent impulses, and engaging in unselfish

behaviour, we can learn to use critical thinking and the insights of science to guide individual effort and social action in the service of our

whole species.

The New Left - Ayn Rand 1993

Enlightenment Now - Steven Pinker 2019-01-15

INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER A NEW YORK TIMES

NOTABLE BOOK OF 2018 ONE OF THE ECONOMIST'S BOOKS OF THE

YEAR "My new favorite book of all time." --Bill Gates If you think the

world is coming to an end, think again: people are living longer,

healthier, freer, and happier lives, and while our problems are

formidable, the solutions lie in the Enlightenment ideal of using reason

and science. By the author of the new book, *Rationality*. Is the world

really falling apart? Is the ideal of progress obsolete? In this elegant

assessment of the human condition in the third millennium, cognitive

scientist and public intellectual Steven Pinker urges us to step back from

the gory headlines and prophecies of doom, which play to our

psychological biases. Instead, follow the data: In seventy-five jaw-

dropping graphs, Pinker shows that life, health, prosperity, safety, peace,

knowledge, and happiness are on the rise, not just in the West, but

worldwide. This progress is not the result of some cosmic force. It is a

gift of the Enlightenment: the conviction that reason and science can

enhance human flourishing. Far from being a naïve hope, the

Enlightenment, we now know, has worked. But more than ever, it needs

a vigorous defense. The Enlightenment project swims against currents of

human nature--tribalism, authoritarianism, demonization, magical

thinking--which demagogues are all too willing to exploit. Many

commentators, committed to political, religious, or romantic ideologies,

fight a rearguard action against it. The result is a corrosive fatalism and

a willingness to wreck the precious institutions of liberal democracy and

global cooperation. With intellectual depth and literary flair,

Enlightenment Now makes the case for reason, science, and humanism:

the ideals we need to confront our problems and continue our progress.

Words and Rules - Steven Pinker 2015-07-14

"If you are not already a Steven Pinker addict, this book will make you

one." --Jared Diamond In *Words and Rules*, Steven Pinker explores

profound mysteries of language by picking a deceptively simple

phenomenon--regular and irregular verbs--and examining it from every

angle. With humor and verve, he covers an astonishing array of topics in the sciences and humanities, from the history of languages to how to simulate languages on computers to major ideas in the history of Western philosophy. Through it all, Pinker presents a single, powerful idea: that language comprises a mental dictionary of memorized words and a mental grammar of creative rules. The idea extends beyond language and offers insight into the very nature of the human mind. This is a sparkling, eye-opening, and utterly original book by one of the world's leading cognitive scientists.

[The Better Angels of Our Nature](#) - S. C. Gylanders 2006-11-14

On the eve of Shiloh, one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, a mysterious visitor appears at General William Tecumseh Sherman's camp. Without family or home, with only a uniform and the name of Jesse, this prepossessing stranger is an intriguing mix of naiveté and wisdom, ignorant of the most basic conventions of warfare yet uncannily familiar with even the most intimate details of Sherman's personal life and career. Jesse, in turn, has only one desire: to remain by Sherman's side—for reasons only Jesse knows and isn't revealing. Initially unwilling to become a father figure to this beguiling visitor, Sherman is finally unable to resist such devotion and tenacity. He takes Jesse under his wing, determined to train this enigmatic creature in the art of war—and provide the strength and wisdom needed to survive its horrors. Resourceful and courageous, Jesse soon earns the respect of Sherman's men, especially the compassionate but plain-talking surgeon, Seth Cartwright, and Thomas Ransom, a noble and handsome young infantry officer. No matter their destiny neither man can divert Jesse's mission. But what is the truth? What is Jesse's purpose and why has this fascinating youth appeared at this most crucial time in Sherman's life and in the life of the bitterly divided nation? In the end we are forced to ask: Who is under whose wing? *The Better Angels of Our Nature* brilliantly re-creates the drama and brutality of America's Civil War. Set in the momentous fourteen-month period spanning Shiloh and Vicksburg—a time that turned the tide of war and determined the nation's fate—this harrowing, lyrically written novel is filled with unforgettable characters and wondrous twists that will give readers pause to reconsider events familiar to us all. Meticulously researched and movingly written, this masterwork will remain with readers long after the last page is savored.

The Better Angels - Robert C. Plumb 2020

Harriet Tubman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Sarah Josepha Hale came from backgrounds that ranged from abject enslavement to New York City's elite. Surmounting social and political obstacles, they emerged before and during the worst crisis in American history, the Civil War. Their actions became strands in a tapestry of courage, truth, and patriotism that influenced the lives of millions—and illuminated a new way forward for the nation. In this collective biography, Robert C. Plumb traces these five remarkable women's awakenings to analyze how their experiences shaped their responses to the challenges, disappointments, and joys they encountered on their missions. Here is Tubman, fearless conductor on the Underground Railroad, alongside Stowe, the author who awakened the nation to the evils of slavery. Barton led an effort to provide medical supplies for field hospitals, and Union soldiers sang Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" on the march. And, amid national catastrophe, Hale's campaign to make Thanksgiving a national holiday moved North and South toward reconciliation.

What Are You Optimistic About? - John Brockman 2007

In a provocative series of essays, 150 of the world's leading scientific thinkers—including Steven Pinker, Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond, J. Craig Venter, and Freeman Dyson—share their hopeful visions for the future as they address such topics as the global spread of higher education, finding the genes that cause mental illness, and finding a cure

for war. Original. 40,000 first printing.

The Better Angels of Our Nature - Joulia Smortchkova 2017-07-05
Stephen Pinker's gloriously optimistic 2011 book argues that, despite humanity's biological tendency toward violence, we are, in fact, less violent today than ever before. To prove his case, Pinker lays out pages of detailed statistical evidence. For him, much of the credit for the decline goes to the eighteenth-century Enlightenment movement, whose ideas of liberty, tolerance, and respect for the value of human life filtered down through society and affected how people thought. That psychological change led to behavioral change—and overall we became more peaceful. Critics countered that humanity could never overcome the biological urge toward violence; others argued that Pinker's statistics were flawed. The debate rages on... Book jacket.

[The Blank Slate](#) - Steven Pinker 2003-08-26

A brilliant inquiry into the origins of human nature from the author of *Rationality, The Better Angels of Our Nature, and Enlightenment Now*. "Sweeping, erudite, sharply argued, and fun to read..also highly persuasive." --Time Updated with a new afterword One of the world's leading experts on language and the mind explores the idea of human nature and its moral, emotional, and political colorings. With characteristic wit, lucidity, and insight, Pinker argues that the dogma that the mind has no innate traits—a doctrine held by many intellectuals during the past century—denies our common humanity and our individual preferences, replaces objective analyses of social problems with feel-good slogans, and distorts our understanding of politics, violence, parenting, and the arts. Injecting calm and rationality into debates that are notorious for ax-grinding and mud-slinging, Pinker shows the importance of an honest acknowledgment of human nature based on science and common sense.

Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference - Cordelia Fine 2011-08-08

Using findings from the latest information in developmental psychology, neuroscience and education, this book debunks the assumed differences between male and female brain function and reveals the brain's remarkable plasticity and the influence of culture on identity. Reprint.

Prosocial Motives, Emotions, and Behavior - Mario Mikulincer 2010

"In recent years, psychological scientists' narrow focus on negative emotions and antisocial behavior has broadened to include a panoply of positive emotions such as empathy, compassion, gratitude, and forgiveness and a new emphasis on prosocial, generous, altruistic behavior. At the same time, neuroscientists, primatologists, and evolutionary biologists have begun to identify the evolutionary and neurological roots of prosocial feelings and actions. Research shows that human beings have an innate capacity for prosocial behavior, but the inclinations underlying such behavior can be inhibited or overpowered in selfish, neurotic, or culturally engrained attitudes and values. Genes, personality, past social experiences, social and cultural identities, and contextual factors can all influence the degree to which human behavior is empathic and generous or cruel, vindictive, and destructive. *Prosocial Motives, Emotions, and Behavior*, with a subtitle borrowed from an inaugural address in Abraham Lincoln, is a comprehensive examination of the interplay of these influences. Part I considers theoretical perspectives on prosocial behavior; Part II illuminates the psychological processes that underlie prosocial behavior; Part III focuses on specific emotions such as compassionate love, gratitude, and forgiveness; Part IV examines prosocial behavior between individuals at the dyadic level; and Part V investigates prosocial behavior at the societal level, with an emphasis on solving intractable conflicts and achieving desirable social change. This stimulating, wide-ranging volume is sure to be of great interest to psychologists, social scientists, and anyone with an interest in understanding and fostering prosocial behavior"--Jacket. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2010 APA, all rights reserved).