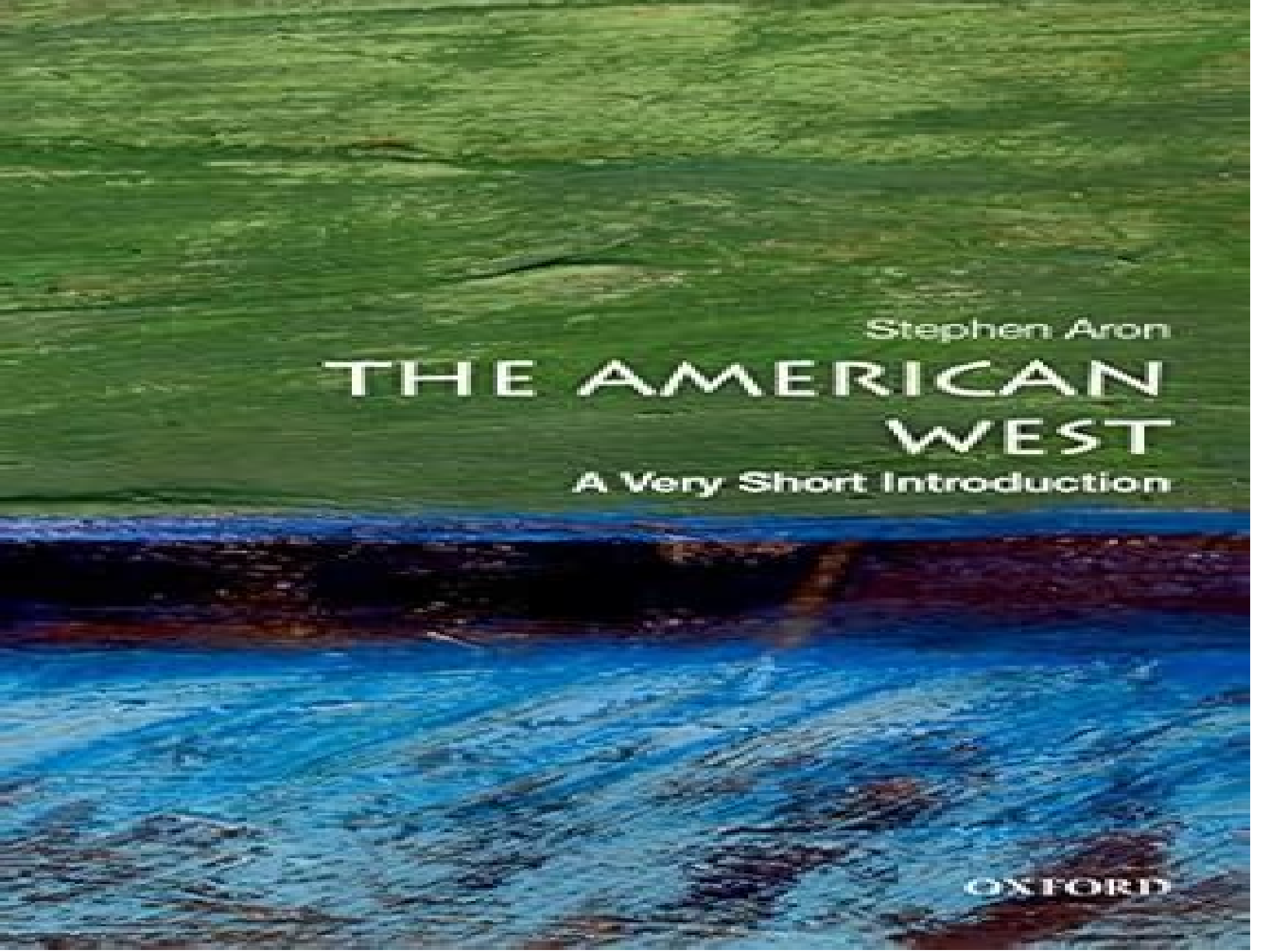


The background of the book cover is a landscape painting. The top half shows a vast, green field with subtle variations in tone and texture, suggesting grass or low-lying vegetation. A dark, horizontal line separates the green field from the bottom half of the image. The bottom half depicts a body of water, possibly a river or a lake, with a rich blue color and visible ripples and reflections. The overall style is that of a classical landscape painting.

Stephen Aron

THE AMERICAN WEST

A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

The American West A Very Short Introduction Very Short Introductions

Michael Stanislawski



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The American West: A Very Short Introduction Stephen Aron, 2014-12-09 Part geographical location part time period and part state of mind the American West is a concept often invoked but rarely defined Though popular culture has carved out a short and specific time and place for the region author and longtime Californian Stephen Aron tracks the West from the building of the Cahokia Mounds around 900 AD to the post World War II migration to California His Very Short Introduction stretches the chronology enlarges the geography and varies the casting providing a history of the American West that is longer larger and more complicated than popular culture has previously suggested It is a history of how portions of North America became Wests how parts of these became American and how ultimately American Wests became the American West Aron begins by describing the expansion of Indian North America in the centuries before and during its early encounters with Europeans He then explores the origins of American westward expansion from the Seven Years War to the 1830s focusing on the western frontier at the time the territory between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River He traces the narrative temporally and geographically through the discovery of gold in California in the mid nineteenth century and the subsequent rush to the Pacific Slope He shows how the passage of the Newlands Reclamation Act in 1902 brought an unprecedented level of federal control to the region linking the West more closely to the rest of the United States and how World War II brought a new rush of population particularly to California further raising the federal government's profile in the region and heightening the connections between the West and the wider world Authoritative lucid and ranging widely over issues of environment people and identity this is the American West stripped of its myths The complex convergence of peoples politics and cultures that has decisively shaped the history of the American West serves as the key interpretive thread through this Very Short Introduction ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable *American Naval History: A Very Short Introduction* Craig L. Symonds, 2018-02-12 This fast paced narrative charts the history of the US Navy from its birth during the American Revolution through to its current superpower status The story highlights iconic moments of great drama pivotal to the nation's fortunes John Paul Jones attacks on the British during the Revolution the Barbary Wars and the arduous conquest of Iwo Jima *American Naval History A Very Short Introduction* illuminates the changes technological institutional and functional of the U S Navy from its days as a small frigate navy through the age of steam and steel to the modern era of electronics and missiles Renowned naval historian Craig L Symonds captures the evolving culture of the navy and debates between policymakers about what role the institution should play in world affairs Internal and external challenges dramatically altered the size and character of the navy with long periods of quiet inertia alternating with periods of crisis that spurred rapid expansion The history of the navy

reflects the history of the nation as a whole and its many changes derive in large part from the changing role of the United States itself

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governments based on the principles for which they had fought and how those principles challenged their own institutions such as slavery in the new republic He considers as well the Revolution's legacy the many ways its essential ideals influenced other struggles against oppressive power or colonial systems in France Latin America and Asia Sharply written and highly readable *The American Revolution A Very Short Introduction* offers a concise introduction to this seminal event in American history About the Series Oxford's Very Short Introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects from Islam to Sociology Politics to Classics Literary Theory to History and Archaeology to the Bible Not simply a textbook of definitions each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative yet always balanced and complete discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field Every Very Short Introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society Eventually the series will encompass every major academic discipline offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library Whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader the Very Short Introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable

American Business History: A Very Short Introduction Walter A. Friedman, 2020-06-01 By the early twentieth century it became common to describe the United States as a business civilization President Coolidge in 1925 said The chief business of the American people is business More recently historian Sven Beckert characterized Henry Ford's massive manufactory as the embodiment of America While Athens had its Parthenon and Rome its Colosseum the United States had its River Rouge Factory in Detroit How did business come to assume such power and cultural centrality in America This volume explores the variety of business enterprise in the United States and analyzes its presence in the country's economy its evolution over time and its meaning in society It introduces readers to formative business leaders including Elbert Gary Harlow Curtice and Mary Kay Ash leading firms Mellon Bank National Cash Register Xerox and fiction about business people *The Octopus* *Babbitt* *The Man in the Grey Flannel Suit* It also discusses Alfred Chandler Joseph Schumpeter Mira Wilkins and others who made significant contributions to understanding of America's business history This VSI pursues its three central themes the evolution scale and culture of American business in a chronological framework stretching from the American Revolution to today The first theme is evolution How has U S business evolved over time How have American companies competed with one another and with foreign firms Why have ideas about strategy and management changed Why did business people in the mid twentieth century celebrate an organizational culture promising long term employment in the same company while a few decades later entrepreneurship was prized Second is scale Why did business assume such enormous scale in the United States Was the rise of gigantic corporations due to the industriousness of its population or natural resources or government policies And third culture What are the characteristics of a business civilization How have opinions on the meaning of business changed In the late nineteenth century Andrew Carnegie believed that America's numerous enterprises represented an exuberant triumph of

democracy After World War II however sociologist William H Whyte saw business culture as stultifying and historian Richard Hofstadter wrote Once great men created fortunes today a great system creates fortunate men How did changes in the nature of business affect popular views Walter A Friedman provides the long view of these important developments

Calvinism: A Very Short Introduction Jon Balserak, 2016-12-01 In this Very Short Introduction Jon Balserak explores major ideas associated with the Calvinist system of thought Beginning during the Protestant Reformation in cities like Zurich Geneva and Basel Calvinism also known as Reformed Theology spread rapidly throughout Europe and the New World eventually making its way to the African Continent and the East Balserak examines how Calvinist thought and practice spread and took root helping shape church and society Much of contemporary thought especially western thought on everything from theology to civil government economics the arts work and leisure education and the family has been influenced by Calvinism Balserak explores this influence He also examines common misconceptions and objections to Calvinism and sets forth a Calvinist understanding of God the world humankind and the meaning of life ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable **Weather: A Very Short Introduction** Storm Dunlop, 2017-01-19 From deciding the best day for a picnic to the devastating effects of hurricanes and typhoons the weather impacts our lives on a daily basis Although new techniques allow us to forecast the weather with increasing accuracy most people do not realise the vast global movements and forces which result in their day to day weather In this Very Short Introduction Storm Dunlop explains what weather is and how it differs from climate discussing what causes weather and how we measure it Analysing the basic features and properties of the atmosphere he shows how these are directly related to the weather experienced on the ground and to specific weather phenomena and extreme weather events He describes how the global patterns of temperature and pressure give rise to the overall circulation within the atmosphere the major wind systems and the major oceanic currents and how features such as mountains and the sea affect local weather He also looks at examples of extreme and dangerous weather such as of tropical cyclones otherwise known as hurricanes and typhoons describing how Hurricane Hunters undertake the dangerous task of flying through them We measure weather in a number of ways observations taken on the land and sea observations within the atmosphere and measurements from orbiting satellites Dunlop concludes by looking at how these observations have been used to develop increasingly sophisticated long and short range weather forecasting including ensemble forecasting ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable Mammals: A

Very Short Introduction T. S. Kemp, 2017-09-21 From a modest beginning in the form of a little shrew like nocturnal insect eating ancestor that lived 200 million years ago mammals evolved into the huge variety of different kinds of animals we see today Many species are still small and follow the lifestyle of the ancestor but others have adapted to become large grazers and browsers like the antelopes cattle rhinos and elephants or the lions hyaenas and wolves that prey upon them Yet others evolved to be specialist termite eaters able to dig into the hardest mounds or tunnel creating burrowers and a few took to the skies as gliders and the bats Many live partly in the water such as otters beavers and hippos while whales and dugongs remain permanently in the seas incapable of ever emerging onto land In this Very Short Introduction T S Kemp explains how it is a tenfold increase in metabolic rate endothermy or warm bloodedness that lies behind the high levels of activity and the relatively huge brain associated with complex adaptable behaviour that epitomizes mammals He describes the remarkable fossil record revealing how and when the mammals gained their characteristics and the tortuous course of their subsequent evolution during which many bizarre forms such as sabre toothed cats and 30 tonne 6 m high browsers arose and disappeared Describing the wonderful adaptations that mammals evolved to suit their varied modes of life he also looks at those of the mainly arboreal primates that culminated ultimately in Homo sapiens ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Biogeography: A Very Short Introduction Mark V. Lomolino, 2020-07-23 Biogeography is the study of geographic variation in all characteristics of life ranging from genetic morphological and behavioural variation among regional populations of a species to geographic trends in diversity of entire communities across our planet's surface From the ancient hunters and gatherers to the earliest naturalists Charles Darwin Alfred Russel Wallace and scientists today the search for patterns in life has provided insights that proved invaluable for understanding the natural world And many if not most of the compelling kaleidoscope of patterns in biological diversity make little sense unless placed in an explicit geographic context The Very Short Introduction explains the historical development of the field of biogeography its fundamental tenets principles and tools and the invaluable insights it provides for understanding the diversity of life in the natural world As Mark Lomolino shows key questions such as where species occur how they vary from place to place where their ancestors occurred and how they spread across the globe are essential for us to develop effective strategies for conserving the great menagerie of life across our planet ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction Robert J. C. Young, 2020-10-22 Postcolonialism explores the political

social and cultural effects of decolonization continuing the anti colonial deconstruction of western dominance This Very Short Introduction discusses both the history and key debates of postcolonialism and considers its importance as a means of changing the way we think about the world Robert J C Young examines the key strategies that postcolonial thought has developed to engage with the impact of sometimes centuries of western political and cultural domination Situating the discussion in a wide cultural and geographical context he draws on examples such as the status of indigenous peoples of those dispossessed from their land Algerian rai music and global social and ecological movements In this new edition he also includes updated material on race slavery and postcolonial gender politics Above all Young argues that postcolonialism offers a political philosophy of activism that contests the current situation of global inequality which in a new way continues the anti colonial struggles of the past and enables us to decolonize our own lives in the present ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable **Zionism: A Very Short**

Introduction Michael Stanislawski, 2016-11-01 Zionism is the nationalist movement affirming Jewish people's right to self determination through the establishment of a Jewish national state in its ancient homeland It is one of the most controversial ideologies in the world Its supporters laud its success at liberating the Jewish people after millennia of persecution and at securing the creation of Israel But to its opponents Zionism relies on a racist ideology culminating in Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and is one of the last manifestations of colonial oppression in the world Since the late 1990s the centrality of the Palestinian Israeli conflict in the world news has sharpened this controversy dramatically politicizing any attempt to understand Zionism and its significance as an intellectual and cultural movement In this Very Short Introduction Michael Stanislawski presents an impartial and disinterested history of Zionist ideology from its origins to the present Sharp and accessible this book charts the crucial moments in the ideological development of Zionism including the emergence of modern Jewish nationalism in early nineteenth century Europe the founding of the Zionist movement by Theodor Herzl in 1897 the Balfour Declaration the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 under the leadership of David Ben Gurion the Six Day War in 1967 the rise of the Peace Now movement and the election of conservative prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu Stanislawski's balanced analysis of these controversial events illuminates why despite the undeniable success in its goal of creating a Jewish state profound questions remain today about the long term viability of Zionist ideology in a rapidly destabilizing Middle East **Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction** Dane Kennedy, 2016-04-04 Millions of Africans Asians and other peoples were the subjects of colonial rule by overseas empires through the mid twentieth century By the end of the century however nearly all of these peoples had become citizens of independent nation states The United Nations grew from 51 member states at its founding in 1945 to 193 today Its nearly four fold increase is one measure of the historic

shift in international relations that has occurred over the past half century Decolonization is the term commonly used to refer to this transition from a world of colonial empires to a world of nation states in the years after World War II Both ex imperial states and post colonial regimes have promoted a selective and sanitized version of decolonization that casts their own conduct in a positive light characterizing the process as negotiated and the outcome as inevitable This book draws on recent scholarship to challenge that view demonstrating that considerable violence and instability accompanied the end of empire and that the outcome was often up for grabs This book highlights three themes The first is that global war between empires precipitated decolonization creating the economic and political crises that gave colonial subjects the opportunity to seek independence The second theme is that nation state was not the only option pursued by anti colonial activists Many of them sought pan and trans national polities instead but a combination of international and institutional pressures made the nation state the standard template The third theme is that the struggle to escape imperial subjugation and create nation states generated widespread violence and produced huge refugee populations leading to political problems that persist to the present day By focusing on these crucial points Dane Kennedy reminds us how the tumultuous even tragic changes caused by the decolonization profoundly shaped the world we live in

Extinction: A Very Short Introduction Paul B.

Wignall,2019-06-27 Most people are familiar with the dodo and the dinosaur but extinction has occurred throughout the history of life with the result that nearly all the species that have ever existed are now extinct Today species are disappearing at an ever increasing rate whilst past losses have occurred during several great crises Issues such as habitat destruction conservation climate change and during major crises volcanism and meteorite impact can all contribute towards the demise of a group In this Very Short Introduction Paul B Wignall looks at the causes and nature of extinctions past and present and the factors that can make a species vulnerable Summarising what we know about all of the major and minor extinction events he examines some of the greatest debates in modern science such as the relative role of climate and humans in the death of the Pleistocene megafauna including mammoths and giant ground sloths and the roles that global warming ocean acidification and deforestation are playing in present day extinctions ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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Deary,2020-03-26 Some people are cleverer than others This everyday observation is the subject of an academic field that is often portrayed as confused and controversial when in fact the field of intelligence holds some of psychology's best replicated findings This Very Short Introduction describes what psychologists have discovered about how and why people differ in their thinking powers Drawing on large scale data Ian Deary considers how many types of intelligence there are and how intelligence changes with age Along the way he tackles some of the most burning questions surrounding intelligence such as

whether larger brains are cleverer and how genes and environments contribute to people's intelligence differences. He also considers the new field of cognitive epidemiology which draws links between intelligence and better health, less illness and longer life and asks whether intelligence is increasing. In this new edition Deary also addresses the controversial question of whether men and women differ in intelligence. Throughout he provides a clear description of the data we can use to answer these questions and more.

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Globalization: A Very Short Introduction Manfred B. Steger, 2020-05-28 We live today in an interconnected world in which ordinary people can become instant online celebrities to fans thousands of miles away; in which religious leaders can influence millions globally; in which humans are altering the climate and environment and in which complex social forces intersect across continents. This is globalization. In the fifth edition of his bestselling Very Short Introduction, Manfred B. Steger considers the major dimensions of globalization: economic, political, cultural, ideological and ecological. He looks at its causes and effects and engages with the hotly contested question of whether globalization is ultimately a good or a bad thing. From climate change to the Ebola virus, Donald Trump to Twitter, trade wars to China's growing global profile, Steger explores today's unprecedented levels of planetary integration as well as the recent challenges posed by resurgent national populism.

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Very Short Introduction Kim Knott offers a succinct and authoritative overview of this major religion and analyses the challenges facing it in the twenty first century She discusses key preoccupations of Hinduism such as the centrality of the Veda as religious texts the role of Brahmins gurus and storytellers in the transmission of divine truths and the cultural and moral importance of epics such as the Ramayana In this second edition Knott considers the impact of changes in technology and the flourishing of social media on Hinduism and looks at the presence of Hinduism in popular culture considering pieces such as Sita Sings the Blues She also analyses recent developments in India and the impact issues such as Hindu nationalism and the politicization of Hinduism have on Hindus worldwide ABOUT THE SERIES The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area These pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly Our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

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