Happiness A History Darrin M Mcmahon

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an intellectual history of the modern concept of happiness in human life which maintains that a change in human expectations took place during the enlightenment which made happiness a motivating ideal

the humanities and human flourishing series publishes edited volumes that explore the role of human flourishing in the central disciplines of the humanities and to what degree the humanities can increase human happiness this volume examines the relationship between history and human flourishing and more broadly investigates the ways in which the arts and humanities are related to human well being the essays here represent the efforts of a varied and distinguished group of professional historians to consider a deceptively simple question what is the value of history for life each author asks in what ways historians their work and the objects of their inquiry might contribute to human well being and how they might be encouraged to do so history in this volume refers not just to the past writ large but also to the discipline and

practice of historical inquiry along with the production and consumption of works of historical representation thinking of history in these ways the contributors address a wide variety of subjects in connection to issues of well being considering history across time and place as a vocation a source of the sublime a site of play and a repository of meaning with surprising analogues to religious experience overall history and human flourishing uses personal experience insight into the professional and scholarly world of historians and a variety of historical periods and approaches to highlight the value of studying history in discussions of human flourishing the essays in this volume identify history and the historical craft as tremendous potential resources for human well being and of vital importance for our times

the worlds of american intellectual history follows american thinkers and their ideas as they have crossed national institutional and intellectual boundaries the volume explores ways in which american ideas have circulated in different cultures it also examines the multiple sites from social movements museums and courtrooms to popular and scholarly books and periodicals in which people have articulated and deployed ideas within and beyond the borders of the united states

the handbook provides a comprehensive evaluation of approaches topics and research areas of the rapidly developing field of historical animal studies the so called animal turn specifically inspired new takes on writing history this upsurge in research has led to immense amounts of new empirical studies as well as approaches to historiography which this handbook aims to systemize

how do disraeli s fictions represent uncover and express the interplay of his roles as political theorist and practitioner social commentator and author travelling well beyond his political trilogy of coningsby 1844 sybil 1845 and tancred 1847 this volume examines his letters political writings biographies and silver fork novels including alroy 1833 contarini fleming 1832 henrietta temple 1837 venetia 1837 vivian grey 1826 and the young duke 1831 it assesses disraeli s representation and analysis of political conservatism and traces the fascinating interaction between political theory and literary representation bringing together studies of disraeli and his canon by contemporary and multidisciplinary scholars of the nineteenth century and of disraeli himself this book provides a uniquely multifaceted collection of fresh literary historical and political scholarship

the first history of postwar mathematics offering a new interpretation of the rise of abstraction and axiomatics in the twentieth century why did abstraction dominate american art social science and natural science in the mid twentieth century why despite opposition did abstraction and theoretical knowledge flourish across a diverse set of intellectual pursuits during the cold war in recovering the centrality of abstraction across a range of modernist projects in the united states alma steingart brings mathematics back into the conversation about midcentury

american intellectual thought the expansion of mathematics in the aftermath of world war ii she demonstrates was characterized by two opposing tendencies research in pure mathematics became increasingly abstract and rarified while research in applied mathematics and mathematical applications grew in prominence as new fields like operations research and game theory brought mathematical knowledge to bear on more domains of knowledge both were predicated on the same abstractionist conception of mathematics and were rooted in the same approach modern axiomatics for american mathematicians the humanities and the sciences did not compete with one another but instead were two complementary sides of the same epistemological commitment steingart further reveals how this mathematical epistemology influenced the sciences and humanities particularly the postwar social sciences as mathematics changed so did the meaning of mathematization axiomatics focuses on american mathematicians during a transformative time following a series of controversies among mathematicians about the nature of mathematics as a field of study and as a body of knowledge the ensuing debates offer a window onto the postwar development of mathematics band cold war epistemology writ large as steingart s history ably demonstrates mathematics is the social activity in which styles of truth here abstraction become synonymous with ways of knowing

every business knows that the best customer is a happy customer they return again and again bring their friends and family and deliver tons of free advertising via word of mouth and social media but in order to grow that loyal base you must be keenly aware of your customers needs and preferences drawing on the latest research in the exploding field of positive psychology columbia business school professor bernd schmitt offers three unique approaches any business can use to turning a casual customer into a committed fan the feel good method use the experience of pleasure and positive emotion to hook new customers and watch those feel good moments transform an impulsive buyer into a committed loyalist the values and meaning method attract passionate customers by appealing to their core values like being socially responsible protecting the environment or living a simple life the engagement method get customers to notice a unique or limited offer immerse them in the experience and have them share it with friends and family schmitt shows marketers brand managers and entrepreneurs how to design an authentic and successful campaign that will reach grow and sustain a devoted base of customers

this fascinating and refreshing book is more necessary than ever a must read thomas piketty fascinating new york times winner of the 2024 jacques barzun prize in cultural history equality is in crisis our world is filled with soaring inequalities spanning wealth race identity and nationality yet how can we strive for equality if we don't understand it as much as we have struggled for equality we have always been profoundly sceptical about it how much do we want and for whom darrin m mcmahon's equality is the definitive intellectual history tracing equality s global origins and spread from the dawn of humanity through the enlightenment to today equality has been reimagined continually in the great world religions and the politics of the ancient world by revolutionaries and socialists nazis and fascists and post war reformers

and activists a magisterial exploration of why equality matters and why we continue to reimagine it equality offers all the tools to rethink equality anew for our own age

vols for 1969 include a section of abstracts

writing contemporary history brings together some of the world's most pre eminent historians to discuss the core issues confronting students of contemporary history today tackling ten key questions of current historiographical debate each chapter sets in parallel and in opposition the contributions of two scholars questions include does gender history have a future when does colonial history end what is cultural history now about this volume takes to heart the central rationale of the writing history series namely to combine theoretical reflection with the practice of producing historical texts it introduces the reader to a variety of important theoretical approaches in the field of contemporary history writing and asks how these approaches have shaped historical writing in this important sub discipline writing contemporary history an invaluable introduction to the central debates that have shaped the field of contemporary history

modern european intellectual history is thriving as never before it has recovered from an era in which other trends like social and cultural history threatened to marginalize it but in spite of enjoying a contemporary renaissance the field has lost touch with the tradition of debating why and how to study ideas and thus lacks both a well articulated set of purposes and a range of arguments for exactly what it means to pursue those purposes this volume revives that tradition recalling past attempts to showcase the diversity and differentiation of modern european intellectual history this volume also documents how much has changed in recent decades some authors are much readier to defend a history of ideas practiced over the long term once the defining sin of the field others go so far as to insist on how ideas are always open to reappropriation and reevaluation beyond their original contexts suggesting that it is an error to reduce the ideas to those contexts others still argue that under threat from trends like social history intellectual historians have forsaken any attempt to resolve for themselves how ideas are socially embodied the volume also registers old and new trends in history that have affected the study of ideas including the history of science the history of academic disciplines the history of psychology and self international and global history and women s and gender history

happiness and its pursuit have been a constant source of fascination and attraction for thousands of years in ancient greek tragedy happiness was considered a gift of the gods now we consider it a right why did this change and what does it tell us about our society in in pursuit of happiness cultural historian darrin mcmahon offers a brilliant summation of the history of happiness and its evolution from divine

gift to natural human entitlement central to the development of christianity ideas of happiness assumed their modern form during the enlightenment mcmahon follows this great search through to the present day showing how our modern quest for the holy grail of happiness continues to generate new forms of pleasure but also paradoxically new forms of pain perfect happiness like the holy grail may exist only in our minds and mcmahon helps us discover that as for cervantes knight of sad countenance quixote to travel is better than to arrive

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