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Balance**

Arturo Marzano

A History of Gaza

Land, Politics, Conflict



This book traces the history of the Gaza Strip from the 19th century to the present day. Gaza is a crucial territory for understanding the dynamics of both the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Middle Eastern and international politics, a place where issues of self-determination, colonial dynamics, regional rivalries, and global imbalances meet and interact. The author's choice of a chronological approach helps readers follow the evolution of events and grasp the continuities and discontinuities that define the Strip. This book criticises the simplified view that ends up identifying Gaza exclusively with a place of desolation or its population with Hamas. To avoid this misunderstanding, which underpins irreconcilable conflicts, it is necessary to engage in historical research to reconstruct events' political, military, cultural, demographic, social, and economic features.

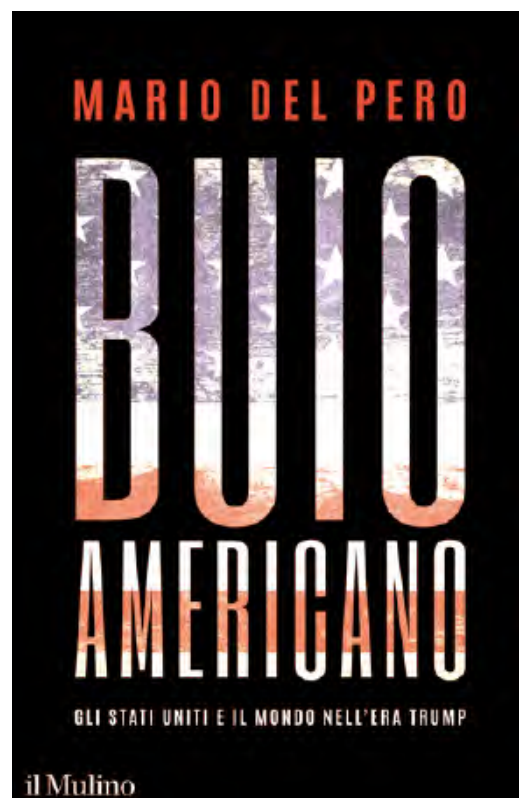
series «Biblioteca storica»
pp. 464
ISBN 9788815394101
publication October 2025

Arturo Marzano teaches Asian History and Institutions at the University of Pisa.

Mario Del Pero

American Darkness

The United States and the World in the Age of Trump



The world once again finds itself having to deal with Donald Trump. His rise to power is not only the result of an election but stems from an identity crisis that no one has really addressed and is now reflected in his every action. The author is one of the most authoritative experts in American history, and in this book he analyses what is happening in the U.S.: how this presidency operates, the substantial failure of liberal and progressive alternatives, the role of economic oligarchies, and the precarious state of American democracy's health. The Trump administration calls history into question along a variety of dimensions: identity, polarisation, isolationism, political dysfunction, economic crisis, inequality, and racial divisions. In this context, Trump is not only a product of American politics but also a symptom and accelerator of a decline and anguish that his country seems unwilling to acknowledge.

series «Contemporanea»
pp. 160
ISBN 9788815394002
publication October 2025

Mario Del Pero teaches International History and History of the United States at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques-SciencesPo in Paris. He has written for "The Washington Post", "The Guardian", "Politico", "The Hill", and "Figaro".

Patrizio Bianchi

Europe Between Trump and China

Trends and Conflicts in the Global World



Amidst growing international tensions and surrounded by wars that constantly evoke the risk that local conflicts could spread and lead the world to disaster, we are witnessing violent shifts towards conservative and reactionary perspectives across all European countries. These shifts challenge the very foundations of our democracies. Such tensions have been exacerbated by Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. Presidential elections: he introduced a confrontational outlook, in which might seems to replace reason in international relations. Faced with the crisis, instead of accelerating the process of integration between countries to present a united front, Europe is crumbling; many governments are backtracking and adopting sovereignist policies that will lead to substantial economic stagnation. Unable to compete, Europe risks being crushed between China and the United States.

English draft available

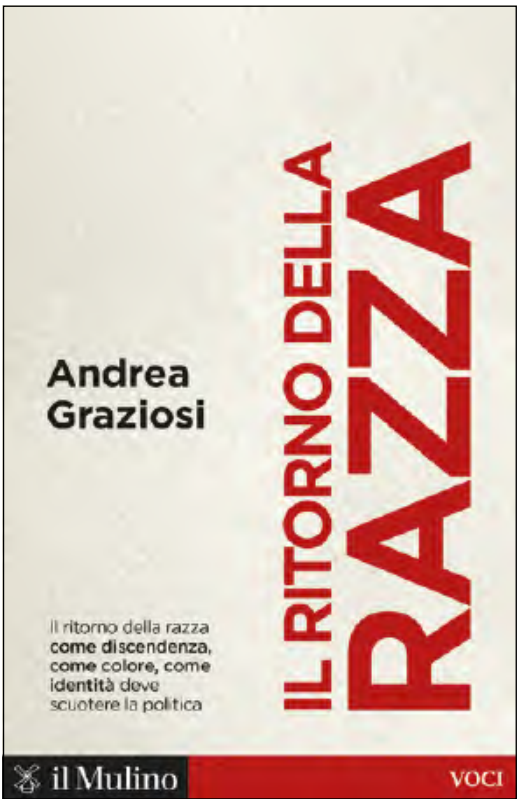
series «Forum»
pp. 168
ISBN 9788815394620
publication October 2025

Patrizio Bianchi formerly taught Applied Economics and holds the UNESCO Chair on Education, Growth and Equality at the University of Ferrara. He was Minister of Education in the Italian government led by Mario Draghi (2021-2022).

Andrea Graziosi

The Resurgence of Race

ALMOST 2.400 COPIES SOLD SINCE PUBLICATION

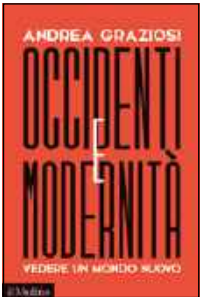


This book explores the complex and remarkable evolution of the concepts of race and ancestry, as well as its impact on human and, therefore, political history. With an account that spans millennia up to the wars and genocides of the 21st century, the author explains the emergence of racism and the idea of history as a struggle between peoples. Today, race is again a relevant concept, powerfully conveyed via skin colour and often placed at the core of identity claims. The fact that individuals freely and proudly recognise themselves as belonging to one or more races does not make the concept any less bogus or any less dangerous. The step from humanity to bestiality is short, especially in times of crisis. Will political systems be able to enact effective initiatives to counter the resurgence of race, or will the latter overwhelm the former?

Andrea Graziosi teaches Contemporary History at the Federico II University in Naples; he is a major expert on Soviet, Ukrainian, and Eastern European history.

series «Voci»
pp. 176
ISBN 9788815391377
publication February 2025

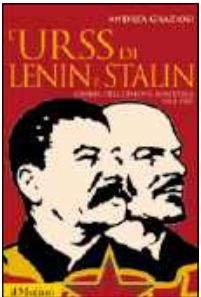
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Antonio Nicita

The Age of Hate



In the first twenty years of this century – ushered in by the attack on the Twin Towers – we have witnessed manifestations of hatred and intolerance that take us back in time. The resurgence of aggressive nationalism, enemy construction, expressions of fanaticism, and acts of discrimination have shattered the illusion of a prosperous and peaceful globalisation. Are we experiencing a historical passage like others that have occurred in the past, or is this something new? Fighting expressions of hate is necessary to address the age of violence; yet it also means overcoming the entrenched misconception that restricting speech in a legally defined form is an act of censorship. In fact, manifestations of hatred prevent their targets from participating in public debates. The abstract and romantic defence of freedom of expression is the manifesto of a society that offers privileges and primacy to attackers' freedom rather than victims'. Protecting hate speech means encouraging an unequal democracy.

Antonio Nicita teaches Political Economy at the LUMSA University (Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta) in Rome. A former member of the Italian Communications Regulatory Authority and the European Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board, he currently sits in the Italian Senate and is a member of its ad hoc commission against intolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and incitement of hatred and violence.

series «Voci»
pp. 180
ISBN 9788815391391
publication January 2025

IN THE SAME SERIES:



Nadia Urbinati
Virtuous Hypocrisy
pp. 176



Francesco Benigno
The History of Today
pp. 170



Egidio Ivetic
East/West
pp. 176



Egidio Ivetic
South/North
pp. 130

Gianluca Sadun Bordoni

War and Human Nature

The Roots of World Disorder



The return of the winds of war threatens Europe, rekindles confrontation even between the great powers, and once again casts doubt on the idea that humanity has enduringly overcome the horror of major armed conflict and that violence is in irreversible decline. Meanwhile, the ongoing revolution in biological and anthropological sciences is radically altering our understanding of the origins and evolution of our species, increasingly acknowledging war as a behaviour that is deeply entrenched in our natural history. Seen in this light, war ceases to be a malignant cultural invention, devoid of evolutionary foundations; nor is there any reason to believe that objective historical trends are lessening war's relevance in the civilised history of humanity. Such a radical paradigm shift in anthropology and politics deserves this focused exploration, which thoughtfully addresses the political and intellectual challenges facing contemporary society.

series «Saggi»
pp. 344
ISBN 9788815391520
publication February 2025

Gianluca Sadun Bordoni teaches Philosophy of Law at the University of Teramo, where he heads the "Europe and the Mediterranean" research centre.

Maurizio Ferraris

Human Thinking in the Age of AI

2.000 COPIES SOLD SINCE PUBLICATION



We experience a constant flow of news concerning artificial intelligence, which instils fear and even dread about the world to come. Many factors account for the attention and the anxiety surrounding AI; yet the latter's greatest philosophical value lies in its shedding light, on the contrary, on *natural* intelligence. An exceptional and authoritative philosopher sets out to accomplish this very goal in this book, which unleashes the author's vast knowledge and ability to create a dense conceptual map, bridging the gap between nature and technology, organisms and mechanisms, souls and automats. Readers thus enjoy an intoxicating voyage through the human mind, with a reassuring epilogue, at least for now: the organic bases of higher thought functions shape the difference between natural intelligence (a form of human life) and artificial intelligence (a mechanical process). Our skin, a veritable organ of perception and understanding, plays a significant role in this process.

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 304
ISBN 9788815391315
publication April 2025

Maurizio Ferraris teaches Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Turin, where he heads the Labont-Centre for Ontology. He has been a visiting professor at several major European and American universities.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



Idiocy Is a Serious Thing

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Post Truth

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Francesca Pongiglione

The Climate Emergency

Re-Imagining the Individual in a Changing World



Thirty-five years have passed since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's first report on the rapid and alarming increase in global temperatures. Since then, much of the scientific community has undertaken a formidable effort to better understand the causes and consequences of this phenomenon and devise strategies to mitigate it, from the energy transition to the development of cutting-edge technologies capable of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. Yet tackling climate change requires not only technological solutions but also a *social* transformation: a restructuring of moral values and human beings' duties towards each other, including future generations. It also entails philosophical reflection and probing the relationship between individuals and the natural environment. This book identifies the essential reasons why individuals must contribute to climate change mitigation, explains why this task is not the responsibility of institutions alone, and invites readers to rethink their place in the world.

series «Saggi»
pp. 200
ISBN 9788815392749
publication April 2025

Francesca Pongiglione teaches Social Philosophy at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan, where she also heads the European Centre for Social Ethics.

Renata Pepicelli

Neither East, Nor West

Living in a New World



From the 8th century onwards, Muslims conquered, at different points in time, Spain, Portugal, parts of France, Sicily, and the Balkans. Many of these territories were later lost, but Muslim cultural legacies remain visible. Today, Europe is experiencing a different kind of "Islamic resurgence", stemming from migratory movements. Let us consider two examples that are significantly different from each other. When Roger II was crowned the first king of Sicily in 1130, Greeks, Latins and Arabs worked together in the royal chancellery in Palermo, and Arabic was still used as the language of the kingdom. In February 2024, the Italian-Tunisian rapper Ghali performed at the Sanremo Music Festival by singing "Italiano vero" ("Real Italian"), an iconic tune written over 40 years ago by Toto Cutugno. This event involving a hugely popular song competition sheds light on a novel reality we inhabit but struggle to recognise. This book traces the history of this new world, through the stories of men and especially women and young people who do not identify with traditional categories. Their lives shape history and challenge politics by speaking the language of the new world.

series «Contemporanea»
pp. 184
ISBN 9788815391292
publication February 2025

Renata Pepicelli teaches Islamology and History of the Contemporary Arab World at the University of Pisa.

Alberto Magnani

The Wings of Africa

Snapshots from a Changing Continent



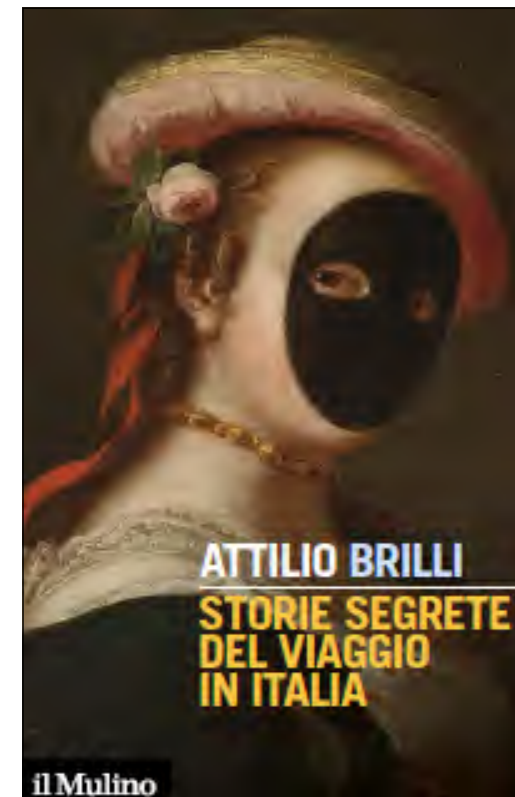
The African continent accommodates a wide range of realities: Johannesburg's luxury restaurants, South Africa's extreme inequality, the tech hubs of Lagos and Nairobi, rural areas with no access to electricity, Senegal's democratic pride, the string of *coups d'état* in the heart of the Sahel, the energy of younger generations, the resistance of old autocrats, parliaments with a majority of women, backsliding on human rights, dreams of integration, and complicated visa procedures. Africa is a continent of the present, featuring intense demographic developments, robust growth rates envied by Western economies, and increasingly overwhelming political turmoil. How many Africas are there? Blending an assortment of voices, analyses, and perspectives, this book offers revealing snapshots of a rising giant and discusses its underlying paradoxes and potential miracles.

series «Contemporanea»
pp. 240
ISBN 9788815394026
publication November 2025

Alberto Magnani is a journalist for the Italian economic daily newspaper "Sole 24 Ore" and reports on economic, political, and financial affairs in Africa.

Attilio Brilli

Secret Tales of the Italian Tour



There was a scandalous, intimate, and secret side to travelling in Italy, and it held many surprises. Erotic adventures and impossible love affairs could be found in the salons and alcoves of both Paris and Venice. Attilio Brilli sheds light on unknown stories of the Grand Tour, featuring students, celebrities, women and men from all over Europe. The enthusiastic expectations of young and not-so-young travellers were counterbalanced by the anxieties and fears of the families of the wealthy puritanical bourgeoisie, who viewed with suspicion the uninhibited Italian customs and unorthodox behaviour of the upper echelons of the Catholic Church. This book captures the spirit of the age, the atmosphere of an era.

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 312
ISBN 9788815392930
publication July 2025

Attilio Brilli is a major expert on travel literature, many of whose books have been translated into several languages.

Egidio Ivetic & Luigi Mascilli Migliorini

Naples and Venice

The Sea as Destiny



Venice and Naples are two unique cities. We think we know everything about Venice and its relations with Byzantium, the East and the North; and about Naples and its Greek, Spanish and French heritages. But can we imagine them *together*, see them reflected in the same Mediterranean Sea? This book's authors tell their readers about these two iconic cities by looking at them from afar, thus achieving unexpected results. Venice, a city of land that ploughs the seas, expresses an amazing vital force as it emerges from the stagnant waters of its Adriatic lagoon, dominates rivers and coastlines, makes the Adriatic its gulf and then expands into the Levant. Naples, brought forth almost three thousand years ago from the pain of a disappointed siren, has been accompanied by fascinating mystery throughout its history and has the sea as its horizon; although its gulf is widely written, painted, and sung about, the city sometimes withdraws from the Tyrrhenian as if it feared its power of seduction.

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 184
ISBN 9788815392152
publication April 2025

Egidio Ivetic teaches History of the Mediterranean at the University of Padova.

Luigi Mascilli Migliorini is a member of Italy's Accademia dei Lincei and teaches Modern History and Modern Global History at the Orientale University in Naples.

ON THE SAME SUBJECT:



Antonio Musarra, Pietro Silanos (eds.)
History of Medieval Mediterranean Sea
Times, Spaces, Interactions

Publication date: March 2025
pp. 472

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



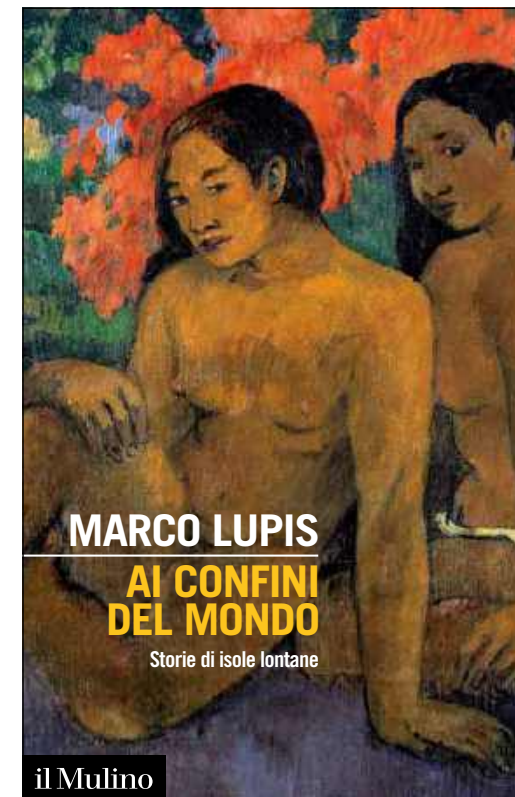
A History of the Adriatic

Rights sold: Worldwide English, Serbian, Polish, Croatian
pp. 456

Marco Lupis

To the Ends of the Earth

Tales of Distant Islands



The Marquesas (a wild archipelago in the middle of the Pacific Ocean), the lonely Tristan da Cunha in the Atlantic, Nauru, and the Kurils are located far from any mainland. These small islands, in isolated and often hostile contexts, reflect the challenges facing our planet. This book leads its readers on an extraordinary journey among lands that are at the edge of the world, inaccessible, and off the usual tourist track. In an age when everything is geo-localised, monitored by satellites, and interconnected, the author shows that there are still corners of the Earth, scattered like a handful of dust in the sea, which elude technological control. Each island – playing a marginal role in the world's socio-economic order – represents a microcosm and features a unique history, made up of traditions, legends, conflicts, and human relationships that seem to belong to another time and place, far removed from global dynamics. This book reminds us that much remains to be discovered in our hyper-connected world and that the real adventures lie there, beyond the familiar maps.

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 288
ISBN 9788815392169
publication April 2025

Marco Lupis is a journalist for the Huffington Post and an expert on East Asia; for many years he was a war reporter and the Hong Kong correspondent for major Italian newspapers.

ON THE SAME SUBJECT:



Antonio Musarra
Neverlands
Imaginary Geographies of Mediterranean and Atlantic Islands

Rights sold: Polish
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BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



Conquering Distance
Voyages, Encounters, Discoveries

pp. 250

Series «Rediscovering Europe»

More than a mere geographical entity, Europe is a civilisation firmly anchored in ancient Greco-Roman culture and Christianity, and its centre of gravity is the Mediterranean Sea. Europe is an open, multi-faceted world where multiple cultural identities have crossed paths, where East and West, North and South have met and permeated each other over the centuries. The «Rediscovering Europe» series leads readers through streets and venues that continue to reflect this shared heritage.

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pp. 280



Yves Mény
Le vie della democrazia
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Anna Foa
Le vie degli ebrei
pp. 184



pp. 256 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815391360
publication May 2025

Livio Zerbini

The Pathways of Roman Cities

Why do we experience a certain familiarity when we walk through capital cities, such as London, Vienna, Paris, and Sofia, yet also in many other European towns? Perhaps because we perceive that their urban layouts share a common pattern, featuring orthogonal axes, the cardo and the decumanus, dating back to ancient Rome. Indeed, anyone who travels to most European countries, in both the West and the East, encounters monuments and vestiges of Roman civilisation, tangible signs, still clearly visible today, of Rome's extraordinary capability for political integration. This book winds its way through "Roman" cities, narrating their history and peculiarities, describing places and monuments, and highlighting contemporary eyewitness accounts.

Livio Zerbini teaches Ancient Roman History at the University of Ferrara, where he heads the Laboratory for the Study of the Ancient Danubian Provinces (LAD). He also heads the Italian Archaeological Missions in Georgia and Romania.



pp. 256 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815391346
publication January 2025

Attilio Brilli

The Pathways of The Grand Tour

To follow in the footsteps of the protagonists of the Grand Tour and to tread along their paths in Europe means reconstructing the routes through which culture spread out between the 17th and early 19th centuries. In that period entire generations of aristocrats and other members of the upper class experienced a veritable rite of initiation and cultural growth. Although the Grand Tour typically served two purposes (profit and pleasure), more attention has generally been paid to the second one, especially to Italy as its leading destination. Rediscovering the Grand Tour's European trajectories allows us to explore the cultural exchanges that helped shape a common consciousness, capable of surviving exasperated nationalisms and world wars. Encompassing continental routes, maritime itineraries, and Alpine passes, the book provides an unparalleled portrait of a much-celebrated yet little-known phenomenon in its continental dimension.

Attilio Brilli is a major expert on travel literature, many of whose books have been translated into several languages.



pp. 296 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815391353
publication October 2025

Andrea Santangelo

The Pathways of War

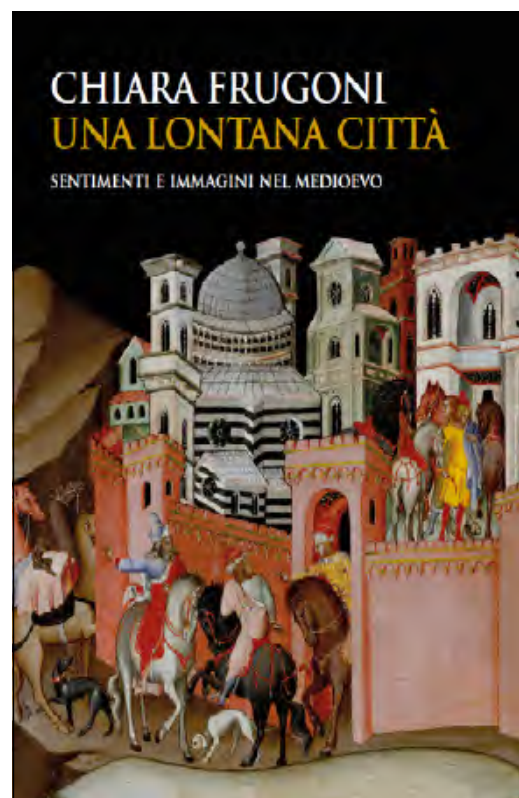
Not everyone is aware that the two places in the world where most fighting has taken place are the Belgian Plain and the Po Valley. Europe bears harrowing signs of the passage of wars everywhere: fortifications, city walls, defensive ramparts, watchtowers, castles, trenches, tunnels, bridges, tree clearings, and river diversions are only part of warfare's legacy. Many places speak to us of this painful past: the beaches of Normandy, the Maginot Line, castles across Europe, the hills of Custoza and Solferino and Waterloo, the bridges of the Dutch city of Arnhem, the Gothic Line in Italy, Hadrian's Wall, the inaccessible Balkan and Baltic fortresses of the Teutonic Knights. This book travels along the routes of war that most ushered in change and left their mark on the continent.

Andrea Santangelo is an archaeologist and an expert on military history.

Chiara Frugoni

A Distant City

Feelings and Images in the Middle Ages



series «Grandi illustrati»
pp. 290 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815394132
publication October 2025

How were cities experienced, imagined, and depicted in the Middle Ages? What emotions and feelings did they arouse in their inhabitants? What spiritual messages could be gleaned from urban areas' physical layout? What kind of society was reflected in those walls enclosing palaces, churches, statues, houses, alleys, and squares? Exploring figurative arts, chronicles, and contemporary texts with her usual finesse, the author takes readers on a journey of discovery into the medieval imagination of cities. They were places built primarily to defend themselves from what lay outside: danger, enemies, chaos, wild nature. The turreted walls represented a boundary between "disorder" and civilisation. Churches, protected by sacred walls, also become a symbol of the defence of souls. The transformation of walled towns into cities of men and women was accomplished through profound changes. Laden with political significance, cities were no longer just refuges or sacred spaces, but venues of shared identity, encounters, and exchanges between citizens. There took shape a new urban consciousness, more secular and linked to a reassessment of art, labour, crafts, and political and associative organisations. From the Carolingian age to communal Italy, from Milan to Naples, from Verona to San Gimignano, up to the symbolic culmination in Ambrogio Lorenzetti's fresco of the Allegory of Good Government in Siena, this book explains how cities shaped by men and women reflected underlying ideals.

Chiara Frugoni (1940-2022) taught Medieval History at the Universities of Pisa, Rome, and Paris.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



A letto nel Medioevo
Come e con chi

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pp. 156



Paure medioevali
Epidemi, prodigi, fine del tempo

9.000 copies sold

pp. 400



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Buon governo e tirannide nel Medioevo di Ambrogio Lorenzetti

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Claudio Ferlan

The Lengthy Trail

The Never-Ending History of North American Indians



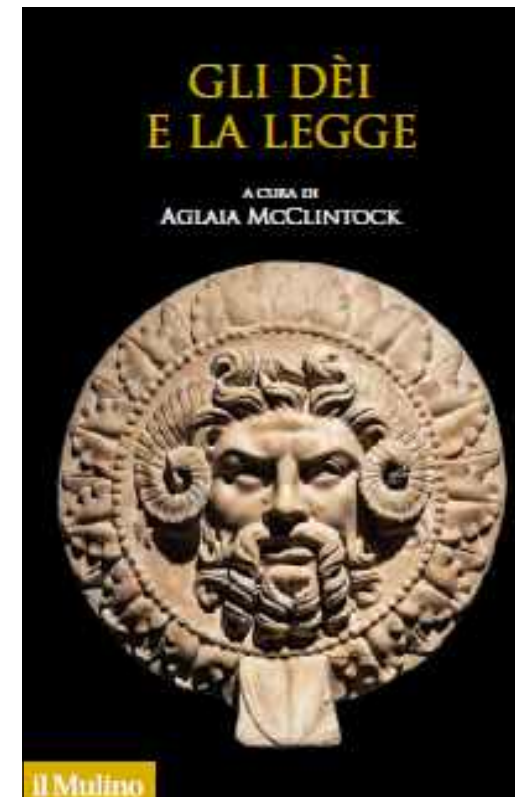
The presence of Native Americans is one of the most significant elements in United States history, yet most historical accounts focus on European settlers and their descendants. For this reason, tracing the history of North American Indians involves a complex journey through centuries of transformation, conflict, and resistance. Key events such as the arrival of Europeans and the first colonial settlements changed the fate of Native Americans forever, introducing war, epidemics, and dispossession. Colonisation entailed not only territorial conquests but attacks on native cultures, which responded by fighting to preserve traditions and identities and asserting their rights. With the westward expansion, violence and abuse intensified, while reservations lost their autonomy. At the same time, the image of natives was shaped by popular culture (such as Western movies and comics), spreading stereotypes that continue to influence today's collective imagination. The author describes the long history of struggle, survival, and rebirth of the American Indian nations.

series «Biblioteca storica»
pp. 248
ISBN 9788815392985
publication September 2025

Claudio Ferlan is a researcher at the Bruno Kessler Foundation's Italian-German Historical Institute in Trento.

Aglaia McClintock (editor)

The Gods and the Law



In the ancient world, Rome was an exception. While all ancient mythologies have cosmological accounts of the origins of the world, the Romans did not have a cosmogony but rather an "urbigony". In fact, they commenced their narrative with the founding of the city. The gods seemed to inhabit the same city as men and be subject to the same laws, and foreign deities required a senatorial decree to be accepted. Omens were open to interpretation, leaving men free to act. However, in war and in relations with human bodies, the link between humans and gods became hierarchical again: to ensure the *pax deorum* and success on the battlefield, it was necessary to appease the deities. This book compares Rome, Greece, and Iran and reflects on the link between law and religion and its current implications.

series «Antropologia del mondo antico»
pp. 270
ISBN 9788815393159
publication October 2025

Aglaia McClintock teaches Institutions and History of Roman Law at the University of Sannio in Benevento.

Laura Minervini

The Invention of the Assassins

Genesis of a Medieval Legend



In the territories conquered by the Crusaders along the Syrian-Palestinian coast between the 12th and 13th centuries, a number of legends took shape that significantly influenced the imagination and the literary history of the medieval West. A particularly important legend focuses on the Old Man of the Mountain, leader of the Nizari Ismaili, known in the West as "Assassins". Using historical facts, this book describes how the peculiar legend originally arose, enjoyed wide circulation until the late Middle Ages, and maintained visibility in the modern and contemporary world, until its radical representation in the Assassin's Creed video game. This evocative interweaving of reality and fantasy reflects the difficult encounter with Arab-Islamic otherness and the feelings of fear and attraction that it awakened in the Middle Ages... and continues to feed even now.

series «Saggi»
pp. 224
ISBN 9788815392411
publication April 2025

Laura Minervini teaches Romance Philology and Linguistics at the Federico II University in Naples.

Paolo Pezzino

The Venues of the Resistance



The period from September 8, 1943 (when Italy and the Allies signed an armistice marking the end to hostilities) to April 25, 1945 (Italy's liberation from Nazi Germany's occupation) was – according to this book's author – a time when "citizens, willingly or unwillingly, found themselves having to make 'political' choices, shaping not only their personal fate but also that of their homeland". The Italian Resistance was a complex phenomenon involving partisans, fighters, Italian military internees, political deportees, but also the actions of many civilians who opposed the German occupation and fascism. These civilians included women who supplied clothes to soldiers who scattered after the armistice, priests, and peasants who sheltered escaped prisoners of war. These acts of courage lie at the heart of this book's itinerary, which pays visits to well-known symbolic sites of the partisan struggle and some of World War II's bloodiest events: Via Rasella in Rome, Porta Lama in Bologna, the Maiella Brigade in the Abruzzo region, Piazzale Loreto in Milan, as well as the Bosio, Marzabotto, and Sant'Anna di Stazzema massacres.

series «Rediscovering Italy»
pp. 168 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815392220
publication April 2025

Paolo Pezzino formerly taught Contemporary History at the University of Pisa. From 2018 to 2024, he headed the National Ferruccio Parri Institute in Milan.

Tiziano Bonazzi

Magritte's *Ignorant Fairy*

American Fragments



After a life spent studying the United States, the author has let himself be seduced by Magritte's "Ignorant Fairy", allowing the painting's half-lit, half-darkened face to help him pursue memories and encounters. The result is this book, which explores the deep core of freedom, America's greatest symbol and goal. But freedom also lies at the black heart of the country, made up of many distinct societies, and where democracy has opulent, often chaotic, plural roots which institutions and parties should help unite. The author leads his readers on a journey from Lincoln to Trump, through religion, enterprising spirit, civil strife, deep rifts, and irreconcilable rivalries... in brief, everything that today's America is and is not.

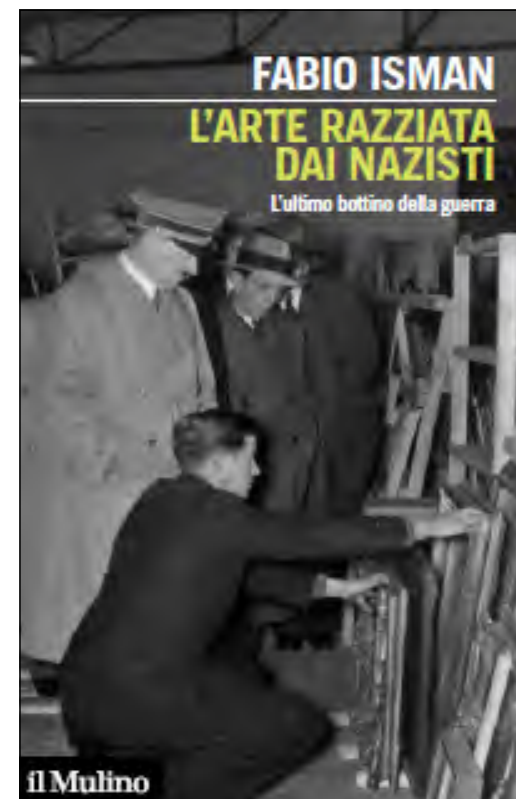
series «Intersezioni»
pp. 208
ISBN 9788815391339
publication January 2025

Tiziano Bonazzi is a professor emeritus at the University of Bologna, where he formerly taught North American History and Institutions.

Fabio Isman

Nazis Plundering Art

The Last Spoils of War



"Everyone thinks of the Nazis as murderers. But first they were thieves. From 1933 onwards in Germany, and then wherever they held sway, that's what they did", said Elie Wiesel. In fact, Nazis seized a quantity of valuable objects – paintings, jewellery, antique books, musical instruments, and religious artefacts – far greater than the spoils amassed by Napoleon or anyone else in ancient times. For many works of art, the war lasted much longer than it was fought. And for items yet to be found, it's still not over. About 100,000 objects are still unaccounted for: they are the last prisoners of World War II. Eighty years after the end of fighting, hardly a week goes by without some works being recovered. This book tells stories of art and people: efforts to recover stolen goods, trials held around the world, restitutions, and crushed lives of those who owned pilfered masterpieces. These incredible stories are authentic thrillers that are mostly unknown or neglected.

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 250
ISBN 9788815394064
publication October 2025

Fabio Isman is a journalist who used to write for Rome's "Il Messaggero" daily newspaper.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



The Rome You Don't Know
Voyage Among the Secrets
of the Eternal City

pp. 200

Guido Formigoni

A Basic History of International Politics

1945-2025



In 1945, the end of the Second World War marked a decisive turning point and the advent of a new international order. European states, exhausted by the war, ceded power to the United States and the Soviet Union, which divided the world into two rival blocs. This book explores the decline of empires, the rise of the Cold War, and the ensuing decisive changes. Détente, decolonisation, and globalisation are key milestones in a century marked by persistent precarious balances. From the 1980s to 2008, the world seemed to be moving towards a new era of global cooperation and a convergence towards shared fundamental values. The financial crisis and the re-emergence of nationalism and hostility have ushered in contradictory scenarios, as the turmoil of the 21st century calls into question the future of the world order.

series «Universale paperbacks»
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ISBN 9788815394156
publication October 2025

Guido Formigoni teaches Contemporary History at the IULM University of Languages and Communication in Milan.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



International Politics in the 20th Century

pp. 364



History of Italy during the Cold War (1943-1978)

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Emanuele Felice

Prosperity and Decline

An Economic History of Italy



Over its millennia-long history, Italy has experienced alternating phases of prosperity and decline, like perhaps no other nation. After the successes of the twentieth century, for years it now seems stranded in the shallows of a long stagnation. How was it possible to go from one of the most flourishing economies to the current decline? The origin of Italy's successes and failures is to be found in the country's political and institutional structure, in its ruling classes, and in the way they have influenced, for better or worse, the underlying conditions of growth. The book that every Italian concerned about the fate of his country should have is now in a new, expanded edition updated to the last twenty years of Italian history.

series «Storica paperbacks»
pp. 416
ISBN 9788815382382
publication September 2025

Emanuele Felice is a full professor of Economic History at IULM University in Milan and is a columnist for the Italian daily newspaper «Domani». He was head of Economics for the Democratic Party.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



The Quest for Rights Interpreting Human History

English manuscript available
pp. 368



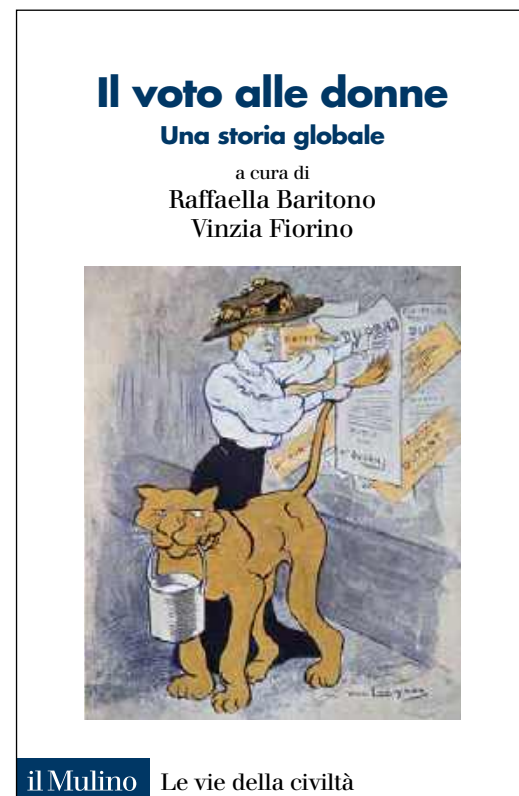
An Economic History of Happiness

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Raffaella Baritono & Vinzia Fiorino (eds.)

Women at the Polls

A Global History



What milestones have marked the struggle for women's right to vote across different national contexts? Examining the situation in Europe, the United States, Africa, India, and the Arab world, the book focuses on the similarities and the discontinuities of the non-linear processes that led to the recognition of women's right to vote. Mobilising movements, political alliances and strategies, system permeability, domestic events, and international dynamics all helped shape women's electoral participation. A group of contemporary historians takes stock of an ongoing, global historical trend.

series «Le vie della civiltà»
pp. 304
ISBN 9788815391438
publication March 2025

Raffaella Baritono teaches United States History and Politics at the University of Bologna.

Vinzia Fiorino teaches Contemporary History and Intersectional Gender Studies at the University of Pisa.

Divina Centore

Pharaohs and Flowers

The Marvel of Ancient Egyptian Gardens



Thebes, 1350 BCE – under the blazing sun, a hidden gem shines: the garden of Nebamun, a high official of the Temple of Amun. At the heart of this lush oasis, adorned with date palms, fig plants and persea trees, there lies a rectangular pond where fish and ducks swim among water lilies and papyrus. Grape-laden vines promise wine, food, and medicine, reflecting the owner's power and wealth. Egyptian civilisation has often been depicted as situated in arid and desert lands. Archaeological evidence, on the other hand, tells of fertile green landscapes along the Nile: archaeo-botanical remains, ancient texts, and paintings highlight an extraordinary variety of flora and remarkable irrigation techniques nourishing gardens rich in food, offering stimulating tales, and suggesting sustainable practices for our future.

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 256 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815391322
publication March 2025

Divina Centore, an Egyptologist, has worked at the Egyptian Museum in Turin since 2018, where she is in charge of museum interpretation and editorial coordination of publications. She curated the "Open Courtyard: The Flora of Ancient Egypt" exhibition in 2022 and the "Egyptian Gardens: The Kitchen Garden and the Funerary Garden" exhibition in 2024.

FROM OUR "ARCHAEOLOGY" SECTION:



Marcella Frangipane
One Fragment at a Time
Ten Archaeology Lessons

Rights sold: French, Turkish
pp. 280



Paolo Matthiae
Laid Bare
Recollections
of The Archaeologist
Who Discovered Ebla

pp. 168

Antonio Rizzo & Paolo Legrenzi

Thinking with Artificial Intelligence

A Potential Ally



series «Universale paperbacks»
pp. 232
ISBN 9788815393036
publication July 2025

Language, a complex cognitive function, shapes our thinking and our understanding of the world because it allows us to convey information and especially, due to its dialogical nature, makes it possible to create new knowledge. Today, for the first time in evolutionary history, we have the opportunity to further extend our way of thinking and reasoning via a new reality: artificial intelligence. AI is a tool created by humans in an attempt to understand human intelligence, but it has led to one (or more!) unconventional forms of intelligence, quite distinct from our own. This book describes how various types of AI came into being and explains that the most appropriate and efficient way to use them is to extend human cognition, at both the individual and social level, as suggested by the original insights of pioneers Frank Rosenblatt, Warren McCulloch, J.C.R. Licklider and contemporary scholars Fei-Fei Li, Demis Hassabis and Geoffrey Hinton.

Antonio Rizzo teaches Cognitive Sciences and Technologies and Interaction Design at the University of Siena.

Paolo Legrenzi is a professor emeritus of Psychology at the Ca' Foscari University in Venice.

Mario De Caro & Benedetta Giovanola

Intelligences

Ethics and Politics of AI



series «Itinerari»
pp. 176
ISBN 9788815393487
publication September 2025

Artificial intelligence is often discussed in extreme terms: some imagine apocalyptic scenarios, while others attribute to it almost life-saving potential. With a balanced approach, this book's aim is to consciously assessing both the risks and opportunities that AI brings. From this perspective, its nature is explored from two perspectives: as a potential ethical subject and as a factor capable of transforming our actions. In the first case, it investigates the possibility of AI understanding language, becoming creative, and developing a conscience; in the second, it analyzes the risks and opportunities associated with the exercise of political, civil, and socioeconomic rights, as well as the future of democratic systems. The book's readership is all those interested in artificial intelligence, whether in the technical-scientific field or in the humanities and social sciences.

Mario De Caro is a full professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Roma Tre and a visiting professor at Tufts University in Boston. He was president of the Italian Society of Moral Philosophy and a Fulbright Fellow at Harvard.

Benedetta Giovanola is a full professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Macerata and holds the Jean Monnet EDIT (Ethics for an Inclusive Digital Europe) Chair.

Paolo De Bernardis

All the Colours of the Black Body



series «Voci»
pp. 152
ISBN 9788815392978
publication September 2025

The formula for “black-body radiation”, first derived by the physicist Max Planck in 1900, is of exceptional conceptual and practical significance: it demonstrated the need for a new physics after the triumphs of classical physics, particularly electromagnetism, in the 19th century, thus effectively anticipating the advent of quantum mechanics. It is fundamental for the quantitative study of countless physical systems: in astronomy, it is crucial to understanding the early universe, stars, and planets; in environmental science, it contributes to the comprehension of the Earth’s atmosphere and heat balance. It is necessary for designing technological applications, including satellites, air conditioning, night vision systems, and remote sensing missions. This book describes the different meanings of this formula and offers historical, conceptual, and technological insights.

Paolo De Bernardis teaches Astrophysics and Observational Cosmology at the Sapienza University in Rome, is a member of the Accademia dei Lincei, a former co-ordinator of the BOOMERanG experiment, and a co-investigator of the European Space Agency’s Planck mission, aimed at creating a map of the early universe.

Andrea Ferrero

Reaching for the Stars

The Forgotten Heroes and Heroines of Space Exploration



series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 168
ISBN 9788815394170
publication October 2025

This book tells the incredible stories of women and men who changed or shaped the course of space exploration, yet often remained in the shadows. Their names are unknown or forgotten, never mentioned in the newspapers, yet they belonged to pioneers and visionaries capable of transforming fantasies and ideals into reality, making the impossible possible. The author provides a journey through the history of space travel that starts from afar, from the early 19th-century imaginings of interstellar missions to the experimental rockets of the beginning of the 20th century, to the role of more recent astronautics and research. In sum, this book is a tribute to individuals who, while keeping their feet firmly on the ground, helped humanity realise its dream of reaching for the stars.

Andrea Ferrero is a spacecraft engineer at Thales Alenia Space and is vice-president of the Italian Committee for the Control of Claims on Pseudoscience (CICAP). He has been involved in the design of habitation modules for the International Space Station and Earth observation satellites and is currently participating in the European Space Agency’s Euclid mission.

Maurizio Casiraghi & Telmo Pievani

United for Life

Tales of Symbiosis and Cooperation



series «Intersezioni»
pp. 200
ISBN 9788815392923
publication October 2025

Symbiosis is everywhere, a fundamental driver of evolution, a hidden force that connects the lives of all organisms – plants, animals, and microbes – and lurks in every corner of nature. Long relegated to the role of curious anecdotes or oddities, it is time to recognise symbionts' role in veritable relationships that have shaped the Earth. The authors lead readers on a journey that combines tales of life and sheds light on a natural world of alliances, conflicts, and armed truces. From the controversial insights of Konstantin Mereschkowski in early 20th-century Russia to the revolutionary resolve of Lynn Margulis, who challenged neo-Darwinism in the 1970s, this book explains how the theory of symbiogenesis definitively changed the way we view evolution. Readers learn about extreme parasitism, surprising mutualism, microscopic alliances, and relationships between diverse organisms where cooperation and competition achieve dynamic balance. Observing life through the lens of symbiosis also leads readers to reflect on the complexities of human relationships.

Maurizio Casiraghi teaches Zoology and Evolution at the Bicocca University in Milan. Combining his long-time enthusiasm for insects with evolutionary biology, he studies the sociality of wasps, parasitism, and symbiosis between animals and bacteria.

Telmo Pievani teaches Philosophy of Biological Science, Bioethics, and Natural Science Communication at the University of Padova. He is also a columnist for the Italian daily newspaper "Il Corriere della Sera", the Italian edition of "Scientific American", and "Micromega".

BY MAURIZIO CASIRAGHI:



Remarkable Lives
Getting to Know Insects

pp. 230



More and More Alone
On the Verge
of the Sixth Extinction

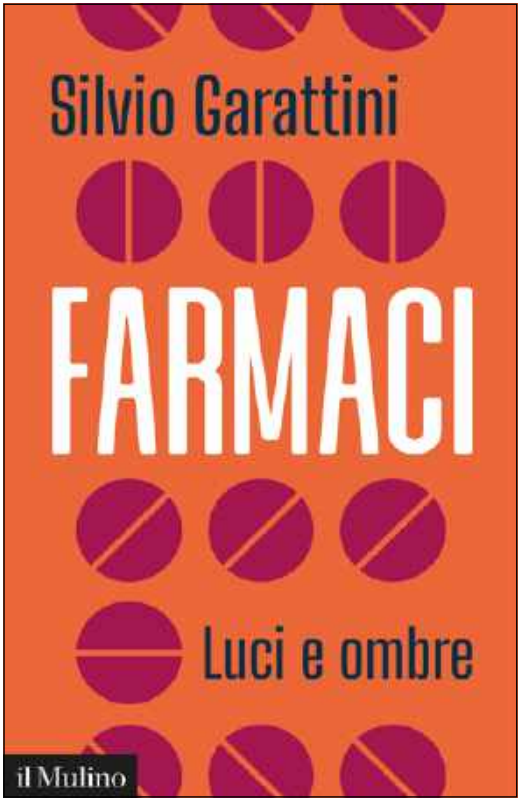
pp. 248

Silvio Garattini

Pharmaceuticals

Lights and Shadows

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series «Contemporanea»
pp. 192
ISBN 9788815391285
publication January 2025

Every day we use drugs to prevent or treat illnesses, but the truth is that our knowledge about them is scant; we know truly little about how they work, how they are tested and approved, the costs genuinely incurred by those who produce them and by the healthcare system. Have we ever asked ourselves why more than one drug exists for the same problem? And how does the pharmaceutical market work? This book answers these questions (and others), guiding us through a complex world and helping us make more informed choices. In recent years the pharmaceutical industry has undeniably made enormous progress in therapy and rehabilitation, yet it has also worked to further expand its influence, producing comparable drugs and promoting research that does not always cater to patients' actual needs.

Silvio Garattini is a physician and, in 1961, founded the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research in Milan, and is its current president. He has worked in several drug policy organisations and held various international posts.

Andrea Crisanti

Genetic Chain Reaction

Overturning the Rules of Evolution



The most dangerous animals for humans are often the smallest... as tiny as mosquitos, capable of transmitting viruses and parasites and responsible, together with other similar creatures, for around 200 million cases of disease and 700,000 deaths every year. Many countries have managed to rid themselves of this danger through the strenuous use of insecticides and environmental reclamation initiatives; unfortunately, such approaches are not applicable everywhere. The scientific community has been searching for more effective, simple, and economical solutions for years. A recently identified strategy is the focus of this book: the "Gene Drive", a revolutionary technology for transmitting a genetic modification from a few specimens created in the laboratory to entire populations of mosquitoes, leading to their complete eradication. This extraordinary scientific breakthrough, which overturns the traditional laws of heredity, makes for a compelling story featuring a small community of researchers who have overcome an array of obstacles and achieved the impossible.

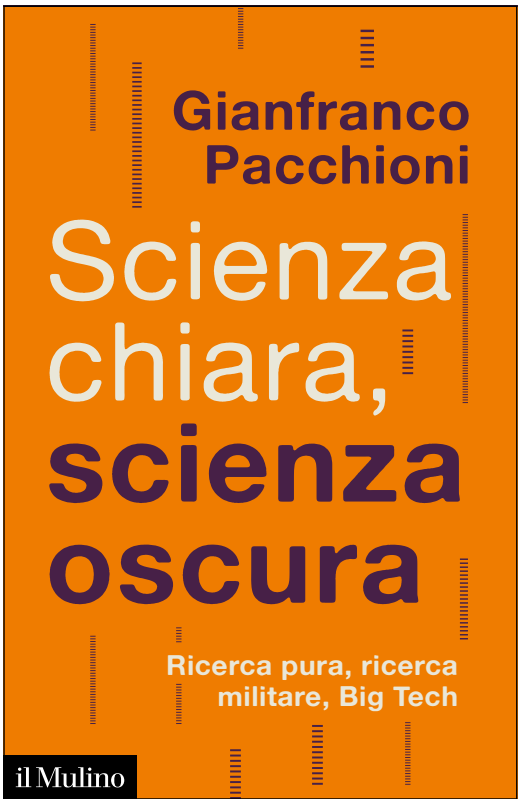
series «Contemporanea»
pp. 152
ISBN 9788815392138
publication May 2025

Andrea Crisanti heads the Department of Molecular Medicine at the University of Padova and its hospital's Virology and Microbiology Laboratory. He is a pioneer in the study of the human malaria vector *Anopheles gambiae*. He is currently a senator in the Italian Parliament.

Gianfranco Pacchioni

Clear Science, Dark Science

Basic Research, Military Research, Big Tech



In recent decades, scientific and technological research has undergone extraordinary changes in terms of both its results and the innovative paths it has taken: from the original Earth-orbiting satellites to Elon Musk's Starlink revolution; from pioneering liver transplants to futuristic gene therapies based on CRISPR/Cas9; from neural interfaces to the explosive evolution of ChatGPT. Once a sphere dominated by public institutions working towards the common good, science is increasingly under the control of large private companies and military forces, operating in the shadows to develop revolutionary and potentially disruptive technologies. In this scenario, this book addresses crucial issues raised by the growing influence of Big Tech and the use of science for economic and political purposes. We need to ask: can we still trust science? The author engages in a profound and provocative reflection that invites readers to review science's relationship with progress and society and urges them to look beyond the façade of technological evolution.

series «Contemporanea»
pp. 240
ISBN 9788815392114
publication April 2025

Gianfranco Pacchioni teaches Materials Chemistry at the Bicocca University in Milan. His scholarly interests focus on the quantum theory of matter. A member of Italy's Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, he is a recipient of the Humboldt Award and the European Academy of Sciences Blaise Pascal Medal.

Ilaria Giovannelli, Maria Giuseppina Pacilli & Stefano Pagliaro

Health and Gender Prejudice

A Psychosocial Approach



series «Aspetti della psicologia»
pp. 192
ISBN 9788815393166
publication October 2025

Gender is one of the main social determinants of health. Alone or in combination with other factors, it can shape experiences in many contexts. Social psychology has explored this influence in great depth, providing crucial insights into the processes underpinning this link, its potential consequences, and the available strategies for ensuring that gender does not negatively impact people's physical and psychosocial well-being. The authors offer an overview of gender's effects on well-being and health and provide both theoretical ideas and practical and operational guidelines. In addition to being a valuable tool for psychology graduates, the text can be used by anyone working in health-related contexts such as healthcare venues, workplaces, and everyday life.

Ilaria Giovannelli teaches Social Psychology and Psychology of Health in Social Contexts at the University of Chieti in Pescara.

Maria Giuseppina Pacilli teaches Social Psychology at the University of Perugia.

Stefano Pagliaro teaches Social Psychology and Group Dynamics in Organisations at the University of Chieti in Pescara, where he heads the Group Processes and Morality Lab.

Giuseppe Craparo, Silvestro Lo Cascio, Giulia Costanzo & Vincenzo David

The Development of Psychopathy

A Psychodynamic Approach



series «Aspetti della psicologia»
pp. 240
ISBN 9788815393173
publication September 2025

According to Robert Hare, author of the Psychopathy Checklist Revised, psychopaths are "intraspecies predators who use charm, manipulation, intimidation, and violence to control others and to satisfy their selfish needs". Psychopaths, like all predators, need to harm other organisms in order to survive through parasitism and predation. Unlike other animals, however, they do not respect any hierarchy and never display solidarity. After reconstructing the origins of the construct of psychopathy and its development in the individual, the authors analyse and classify distinct types of psychopathy and relate them to other disorders (such as dissociation, narcissism, and perversion). Finally, they provide an overview of the DSM-5 guidelines for the diagnosis of psychopathy, describe current assessment tools, and illustrate a selection of clinical cases.

Giuseppe Craparo is a psychologist, psychotherapist and psychoanalyst, and teaches Clinical Psychology and Clinical Psychodiagnostics at the Kore University in Enna.

Silvestro Lo Cascio is a psychologist and psychotherapist, and teaches Clinical Psychology at the Kore University in Enna.

Giulia Costanzo is a psychologist and psychotherapist, and teaches Clinical Psychology at the Kore University in Enna.

Vincenzo David is a psychologist and psychotherapist, and teaches Clinical Psychology at the Kore University in Enna.

Giuseppe Riva

Me, Us, Them

Relationships in the Age of Social Media and AI



The debate on the influence of social media on young people's mental health is characterised by increasing degrees of apprehension. Within this context, this book offers an innovative perspective based on recent social and cognitive neuroscience studies: social media *per se* are not necessarily bad for young people; what is harmful is their impact on our ability to create and maintain a "sense of Us". The author argues that artificial intelligence and online platforms' engagement strategies are progressively eroding individuals' ability to participate in non-digital communities, with significant repercussions on social relations, friendships, and couple relationships. This book is intended for a broad audience and, striking a balance between naïve optimism and alarmist despair, provides an even-handed and accessible overview of how technology is affecting our interpersonal relationships.

series «Universale paperbacks»
pp. 224
ISBN 9788815391469
publication February 2025

Giuseppe Riva teaches Psychology of Communication at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, where he heads the Humane Technology Lab.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



Fake News
Live and Survive
in a Post-Truth World

Rights sold: Chinese,
Portuguese (Brazil)
pp. 200

Andrea Girolami

Content Creators

What They Do, How They Do It and Why



Although they might not say so, many digitally native teenagers aspire to a digital career and act accordingly. They are imitated by many adults who sense an opportunity for success. But who are content creators? They are the authors, directors, journalists, and entrepreneurs in an era in which the boundaries between the written word, images, and videos have coalesced into a single digital blob: "content". They create, perform, and innovate, exploiting platforms that are no longer mere social networks but veritable entertainment and business ecosystems. This book describes distinct types of creators (streamers, YouTubers, TikTokers, bloggers), their symbiotic relationship with platforms, their monetisation strategies, and their approaches to crisis management.

series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 160
ISBN 9788815393067
publication September 2025

Andrea Girolami is a journalist and senior digital content development manager at Gruppo Mediaset Group. In the past, he has worked for MTV and Wired Italia.

Laila Craighero

Learning Before Birth

The Mysterious Prenatal World



We know more about the surface of Mars than we do about a place that is significantly closer and crucial to our everyday existence: the protected environment in which human beings form their first experiences, i.e., the womb. What stimuli enliven this milieu? Are these stimuli really perceived? Do we learn to interact with them? The author explores this mysterious reality and how contact with the prenatal environment shapes the senses and abilities that prepare unborn children to perceive and interface with the world that awaits them. As in an investigative report, the text draws on clues gathered from multiple disciplines – neuroscience, developmental biology, animal psychology, behavioural science – to reveal how much of our future is forged in this hidden space, so near yet still largely unexplored.

series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 144
ISBN 9788815393074
publication September 2025

Laila Craighero teaches Psychobiology at the University of Ferrara.

New in the series
«Farsi un'idea»

 il Mulino

 FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE

Angelo Bianchetti & Marco Trabucchi

Alzheimer's Disease

The Ailing, Their Families, and Losing the Past



Alzheimer's disease is a form of dementia that impairs the most important cognitive functions – thinking, planning, remembering – with devastating effects on the quality of life of both patients and their family members. In this new edition, updated with the latest research on the subject, the authors outline the clinical characteristics of Alzheimer's (symptoms, plausible causes, therapies, preventive measures) and offer useful tips for dealing with everyday problems and accessing information on diagnosis, treatment, and care services.

series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 184
ISBN 9788815393081
publication September 2025

Angelo Bianchetti, a geriatrician and neurologist, heads the Multifunctional Rehabilitation Unit at the Domus Salutis Fondazione Teresa Camplani Health Clinic in Brescia.

Marco Trabucchi is the scientific director of the Brescia Geriatric Research Group and heads the Italian Geriatric Psychiatry Association.

New in the series
«Farsi un'idea»

 il Mulino

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Ottavio Bosello & Massimo Cuzzolaro

Ten Questions about Obesity and Related Issues



Obesity is often portrayed as a simple matter of excess weight, poor choices, or miracle cures (such as the life-changing drugs recently celebrated by the journal "Science"). Actually, obesity – with its global reach and countless individual variations – is terribly complex. Dualistic simplifications (nature vs. culture), linear causal explanations, and one-size-fits-all remedies cannot be applied to this phenomenon. This book – addressing ten questions and drawing on biology, psychology, and culture – develops a network of connections around obesity.

series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 184
ISBN 9788815394187
publication October 2025

Ottavio Bosello formerly taught Internal Medicine at the University of Verona. He is a co-founder and former president of the Italian Society of Obesity and the Italian Society for the Study of Eating Disorders.

Massimo Cuzzolaro formerly taught Psychiatry and Clinical Psychology at the Sapienza University in Rome. He is a co-founder of the Italian Society of Obesity and the Italian Society for the Study of Eating Disorders and former president of the latter.

Maria Pontillo & Stefano Vicari

Fear of Disconnection

Adolescence and Internet Addiction



Across the world, millions of youths aged between 11 and 17 engage in the compulsive, unrestrained use of social and streaming platforms, and even more, primarily boys, are at risk of video game addiction. Many teenagers, sometimes barely older than children, spend their days in front of a screen or with a phone constantly in their hands. They do not ask for help, and only with great anxiety do they manage to live outside their invisible circle of relationships. Why do they fear disconnection so much? What are they afraid of losing? Using true stories, the authors provide an account of this increasingly common disorder: the ways in which it is expressed, the individual and environmental factors that facilitate addiction, the warning signs, and strategies for dealing with it.

series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 128
ISBN 9788815392374
publication May 2025

Maria Pontillo is a cognitive and behavioural psychotherapist and a psychology manager at the Childhood and Adolescence Neuropsychiatry Division of the Bambino Gesù Paediatric Hospital in Rome.

Stefano Vicari teaches Child Neuropsychiatry at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome and heads the Childhood and Adolescence Neuropsychiatry Division of the Bambino Gesù Paediatric Hospital in Rome.

New in the series
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Roberto Baldoni

Digital Sovereignty

National Cybersecurity and the Weaknesses in Its Defences



In an increasingly interconnected and technologically advanced world, digital security has become a top priority for all nations. But are we truly ready to face the challenges of cyberspace? The author, a cybersecurity pioneer, analyses crucial issues related to information technology security and addresses timely topics: increasingly frequent cyber-attacks, the technological competition between the United States and China, the role of Europe, and the potential threat to national sovereignty posed by the hostile use of artificial intelligence. This book explores key transformative digital technologies and serious emerging threats, without neglecting the global competition for a skilled workforce and the geopolitical implications of digital transformation.

series «Farsi un'idea»
pp. 176
ISBN 9788815392381
publication May 2025

Roberto Baldoni served as the first director general of Italy's National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN), after having taught computer science at the Sapienza University in Rome.

Series «Tales of Numbers»

A series of 12 books, edited by Umberto Bottazzini. This new book series has an informative slant and is aimed at educated but non-specialist readers. «Numbers» are not just for counting; in fact, they have played an exceptionally significant role in the history of Western thought. Each book focuses on a specific number and each number provides an opportunity to explore cultural topics and issues with an original perspective. Every contribution to the series offers stories and suggestions drawn from a wide variety of contexts, such as philosophy, theology, literature and music.

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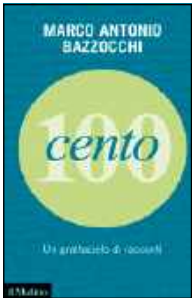
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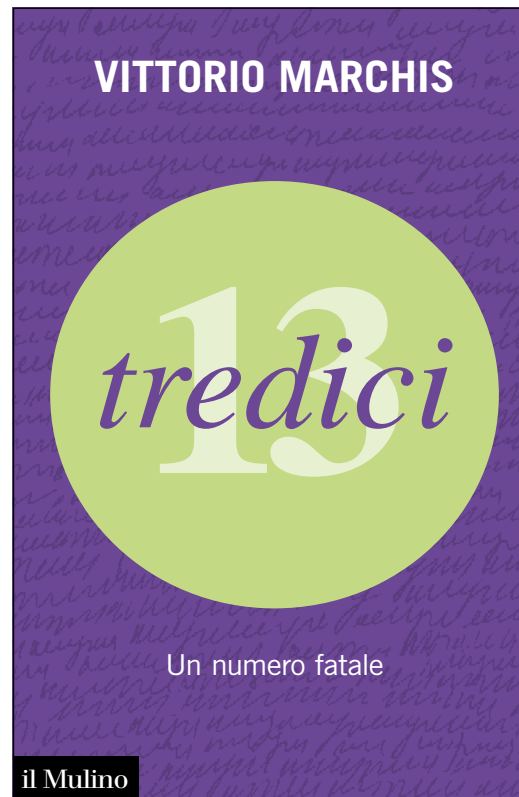
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New in the series

Vittorio Marchis

Thirteen A Fated Number



Everything starts with a famous painting, "The Last Supper", by Leonardo da Vinci, featuring thirteen figures: Jesus and his twelve apostles, including Judas. Thirteen is a number that raises many questions. Perhaps Apollo 13 was an unlucky lunar mission, but going back in time one discovers that for the Maya there were thirteen phases of the moon in a year of twelve months, and therefore thirteen was a sacred number. For mystery writers, first and foremost Agatha Christie, thirteen dinner guests may indicate an uncertain or dangerous scenario. The number is also linked to esoterism and the Kabbalah. Thirteen is also the seventh element in the Fibonacci sequence. Flowers with thirteen petals are rare. Drawing on science, literature, music, art, and sports, the author tells the tale of the boundless and fascinating connections associated with this number.

series «Voci»
«Tales of Numbers»
pp. 160
ISBN 9788815392282
publication June 2025

Vittorio Marchis is a professor emeritus at the Polytechnic University in Turin, where he studies social history and the anthropology of techniques.

Gennaro Carillo Temperance

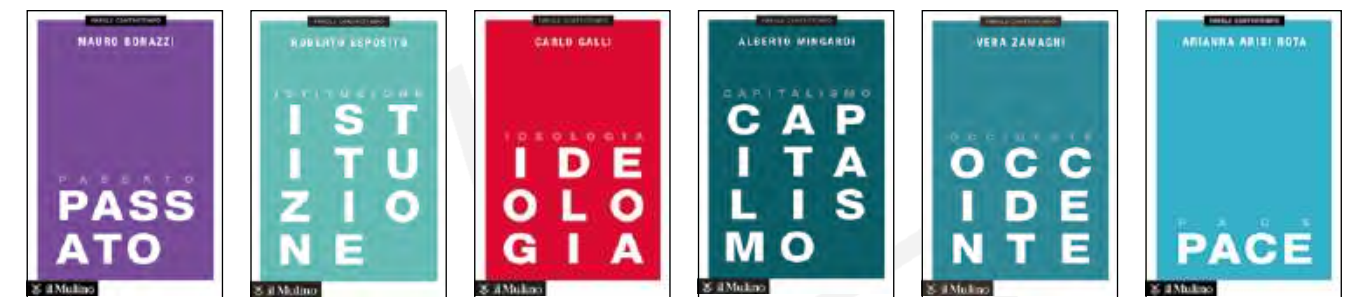


The word "temperance" appears old-fashioned, for it is identified with a sort of faceless mediocrity, a meekness at odds with contemporary vitality. In public discourse, its opposite, "intemperance", tends to be more widespread. A sense of moderation and restraint is now seen as a manifestation of weakness; verbal incontinence and hate speech as freedom of expression; ferocity and cynicism as political realism. But temperance is not only a check on otherwise destructive impulses and the surfeit of freedom that borders on abuse. Its ambiguous history over the centuries shows that temperance has also been a means for achieving happiness, harmony between opposites, and the foundation of concord among citizens. Reconstructing its history piece by piece and linking classics such as Plato and Thucydides with modern voices such as Simone Weil and Cristina Campo, this book underlines temperance's role as an ethical and political act. This is especially relevant in a world that seems to be falling apart.

series «Voci»
«Parole controtempo»
pp. 144
ISBN 9788815394088
publication October 2025

Gennaro Carillo teaches History of Political Thought and History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy at the Suor Orsola Benincasa University in Naples.

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Massimo Cerulo

Secrecy



What is the status of secrecy in contemporary society? Why do secrets arise, and why are they kept? What responsibilities do they imply for those who do not reveal them? How do we manage the tension between the need to preserve secrets and the temptation to share them? Alongside the ability to speak, knowing how to keep silent is equally important in the history of human societies. Secrets create and destroy groups, inevitably generating inclusion and exclusion and shaping behaviour and relationships. Spies, criminal organisations, lovers, and even ordinary people build their existence around secrecy. Yet, at the same time they are aware that it always carries with it the risk of being betrayed. And today, in our digital society, where the search for truth and hidden information seems to be so entrenched, a customary practice even in politics, and where a mere click can destroy people's identities and stability, what is the meaning of "secrecy"?

series «Voci»
«Parole controtempo»
pp. 144
ISBN 9788815392275
publication April 2025

Massimo Cerulo teaches Sociology and Sociology of Emotions at the Federico II University in Naples and works with the CERLIS social science research laboratory at the Paris Cité-Sorbonne Nouvelle University.

Maurizio Ciampa

A Brief History of Our Inertia



Inertia has a long and troubled history. It is not just a matter for analysis and reflection, but something that engages us, in which we are enmeshed, that we are part of. This lurking monster can manifest itself as indomitable restlessness or, conversely, torpor, indolence, melancholic withdrawal, or tormented sadness. It can entail a struggle to be oneself, psychic withdrawal, a state of subtle narcosis, a step backwards that belies any notion of progress. Why should inertia be evoked today, in a fast-moving world that is undergoing dizzying changes in ways of thinking and facing new experiences of time and space? Lacking memory and imagination, politics is in turmoil and seems incapable of plotting a course for the future. Humanity's development is faltering, as catastrophes such as climate change advance at a rapid pace. Inertia reveals itself as the opaque backdrop against which the frenzy of our age plays out, the shadowy side of its energy, a state of stasis. So how can we survive this bewilderment? How can we live within it?

series «Intersezioni»
pp. 176
ISBN 9788815392947
publication September 2025

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Maurizio Ciampa formerly taught at the University of Teramo and worked for RAI (Italian public television and radio).

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Philosophy

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Giuseppe Cambiano
Aristoteles and Técnica



series «Saggi»
pp. 240
ISBN 9788815393128
publication September 2025

Aristotle did not devote a specific work to exploring *téchne*, a broad term that refers to both handcrafted products and what we now call artistic ones. Yet his writings often comment on *téchne*, which thus becomes a topic of analysis and reflection. This book identifies and discusses the concerns raised by the great philosopher and his attempts to find solutions. Carrying out a technical activity necessarily entails the mastery of forms of knowledge. But what kinds of knowledge? What is the cognitive path that leads to the constitution of a *téchne*? What relationship does technical knowledge have with the information and know-how provided by sensory perception, memory, and experience? Can this knowledge also be attained by non-human animals, or is there something that makes it superior and therefore reserved exclusively to humans? And above all, what does this type of knowledge consist of? As he follows or, conversely, drifts away from his teacher Plato, Aristotle's ideas revolve around such questions.

Giuseppe Cambiano formerly taught History of Philosophy at the University of Torino and the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR:



Seven Reasons to Love Philosophy

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pp. 216

Philosophy

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Carlo Galli
Technology
Consolidating and Subverting Power Relationships



series «Contemporanea»
pp. 184
ISBN 9788815394071
publication October 2025

In the current age of techno-capitalism, is technology now in control? For the benefit of whom: everybody or just the few? Or are we serving the machine? Does technology represent a challenge to human domination of the world, or is it an indispensable resource for achieving it? Never neutral, but always tightly connected with human history, technology is intrinsically ambiguous. It expresses itself in its dual nature as a tool for freedom and domination, in its ability to relieve us of effort and need, and in its simultaneous production of imbalances, conflicts, and ruptures. It never engages in manufacturing alone, but inherently entails decisions and, consequently, power. This essay embraces neither salvific myths nor apocalyptic disapprobation; rather, it analyses technology's accomplishments as a combination of knowledge and willpower, as a source of inequalities and transformations, as a necessity that conceals underlying choices and interests. And it is precisely at this juncture between compulsion and freedom that a decisive space emerges – that of political action.

Carlo Galli formerly taught History of Political Doctrines at the University of Bologna.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR IN THE SERIES «PAROLE CONTROTEMPO»:



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Philosophy

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Stefano Poggi

Individuals and Fate

Germany and Its Philosophers in the Interwar Era



In the first thirty years of the 20th century, Germany featured a particularly lively philosophical environment, fed by debates on topics and problems that, even a century later, remain relevant. This applies to the philosophy of existence, ontology, and hermeneutics, but also analytical philosophy and the reflection on the foundations of science. This book focuses on a paradigmatic and fascinatingly ambiguous issue: fate, destiny, individuals' awareness of the future's opacity. The author tackles a wide variety of themes and involves thinkers such as Simmel, Dilthey, Spengler, Löwith, Jaspers, and Adorno. Interwar Germany's uncertain future loomed over the defeated nation, but also over Western civilisation as a whole.

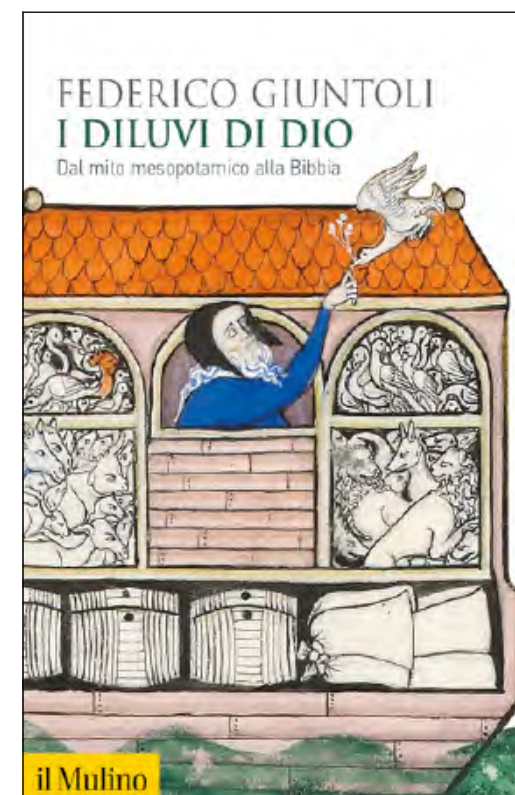
series «Studi e ricerche»
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ISBN 9788815391544
publication January 2025

Stefano Poggi formerly taught History of Philosophy at the University of Florence.

Federico Giuntoli

The Floods of God

From Mesopotamian Myth to the Bible



The biblical account of the Great Flood (Genesis 6:9) is one of the best-known episodes in the Old Testament. However, not everyone knows that the description of the end of humanity by means of a cataclysm delivered by the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sparked centuries of debate and controversy between supporters and opponents of the literary truth of that narrative. Then, on December 3, 1872, news broke of the deciphering of a clay tablet in the Akkadian language, originating from Nineveh and probably dating back to the 2nd millennium BCE. The tablet contained an account remarkably similar to the story of the biblical flood. This book's author underlines the links between the biblical tale of Noah and ancient Sumerian, Akkadian, and Greek texts, showing how the former stems from previous sources and highlighting their intentional discontinuities.

series «Biblioteca storica»
pp. 264 with illustrations
ISBN 9788815393364
publication June 2025

Federico Giuntoli teaches Old Testament Exegesis at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and is a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Federico Condello

The Ferocity of Medea

The Tragedy of Euripides



series «Intersezioni»
pp. 208
ISBN 9788815392954
publication September 2025

The story of Medea is a tale of heinous cruelty. The mythological figure, mad with jealousy after being abandoned by her husband Jason, plots revenge, kills her rival, and then even slays her own children. Although her heart is torn asunder, she gets away with it, flying away on the Sun's chariot and leaving Jason to curse her. Medea is a mother who commits infanticide, a horrific crime never before depicted on stage and therefore bound to shock the audience, who watches helplessly as her bloody plan unfolds. With skilful writing, the author revives Medea as she appeared to bewildered Athenian spectators on a spring morning in 431 BCE. This book reveals her ferocity, hidden for centuries by revisionist accounts emphasising her innocence and exotic nature, and helps readers relive the paralysing effect of a literally unprecedented narrative.

Federico Condello teaches Classical Philology at the University of Bologna and heads its Laboratory of Translation from Ancient Greek and Latin (TraSLA).

Chiara Giaccardi & Mauro Magatti

Detached Machines

Mechanising Humanity or Humanising the World?



series «Contemporanea»
pp. 200
ISBN 9788815392916
publication August 2025

What remains today of Zygmunt Bauman's "liquid" modernity? The development model that dominated the turn of the century seems to have faded away. The question now is how to hold together an increasingly large and fragmented society that, in the name of personal freedom, is shedding the traditional moral order embodied in the principle of authority. Digital technology offers novel opportunities but is also at the root of challenging issues. Elevated levels of systemic efficiency coexist with widespread communicative chaos. Thus, while AI-driven machines are becoming increasingly human-like, humans increasingly resemble "detached machines", disconnected individuals incapable of solidarity, performing given movements with intensifying obsession. The authors examine how the framework that supports social life is changing and the reasons underpinning the rising tide of hatred and war. To overcome the crisis of liquid modernity, the way forward is to revive the participatory spirit of democracy, open to new social and economic models, which are increasingly necessary to rebuild what no longer seems to fit together.

Chiara Giaccardi teaches Sociology and Anthropology of the Media at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan.

Mauro Magatti teaches Sociology at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan and writes opinion columns for the Italian news dailies "Corriere della Sera" and "Avvenire".

BY THE SAME AUTHORS:



Generating Freedom
How to Uphold Life Without
Destroying the World

pp. 160

Franco Garelli & Stefania Palmisano

Religions in the Global World



The overall landscape of religions in the world is currently undergoing rapid change. Christianity is still the religion with the largest number of followers, but its centre of gravity is increasingly shifting from the West to the South of the world. Islam, divided internally, continues to dominate in the Middle East, but is most widespread in Asia, where it struggles to coexist with the historical creeds of local populations. Atheism and agnosticism are rampant, but 80% of the world's population still acknowledges a religious identity. This book provides tools for understanding this complex reality, explores novel approaches, and examines the supply and demand for religion, which continues to play an important public role even if it exerts diminishing influence on people's moral consciences.

series «Le vie della civiltà»
pp. 392
ISBN 9788815393012
publication September 2025

Franco Garelli formerly taught Cultural Sociology and Sociology of Religions at the University of Turin.

Stefania Palmisano teaches Sociology of Religion at the University of Turin.

Angelo Panebianco

Identities and Institutions

Individuals, Groups, Politics



How are political identities formed? What connects personal, individual identities to group identities? What is the relationship between political identities, groups, and institutions? Answering these questions requires a combination of knowledge acquired from scientific psychology (on the topic of individual and collective identities) and institutional analysis (involving the genesis, functioning, and transformations of political organisations and institutions). The author pursues two goals: developing a focus on the various aspects of a complex phenomenon, such as political identity, and reminding scholars (political scientists, sociologists, and psychologists) that, in order to make this possible, it is necessary to cross disciplinary boundaries and barriers.

series «Saggi»
pp. 168
ISBN 9788815394194
publication October 2025

Angelo Panebianco is a professor emeritus of Political Science at the University of Bologna and currently teaches Political Theory and International Relations at the San Raffaele University and the IULM University of Languages and Communication in Milan.

Gianfranco Di Pietro & Andrea Lipparini

The Courage and the Vision

Alexander the Great and Generative Leadership



series «Guide»
pp. 328
ISBN 9788815393098
publication July 2025

In this book, Alexander the Great is the source of inspiration for leaders. His skills in battle and military strategy and his commanding grasp of its implementation are well known. He perfectly embodied the archetype of the conqueror and explorer: curious, determined, and courageous in facing new challenges. However, even that great leader experienced failure: when they reached the ends of the known world, his soldiers, who had been motivated to follow him until then, said “enough!” and forced him to return. Alexander’s story teaches us that a lack of a sense of one’s limits and a vision in which followers no longer identify can weaken an organisation’s generative vitality.

Gianfranco Di Pietro formerly taught Philosophy and History. An expert in transactional analysis of organisations, he provides consultancy services to large firms’ top management.

Andrea Lipparini has earned a doctorate and teaches Strategic Alliances and Networks at the University of Bologna, where he is associate dean at the Bologna Business School.

Alberto Acerbi

Technopanic

New Media, Reasonable Caution, Unfounded Fear



series «Universale paperbacks»
pp. 192
ISBN 9788815391476
publication March 2025

The spread of fake news, the power of conspiracy theories, the influence of algorithms on our choices and behaviour, the impact of social media on youth’s mental health, and other similar phenomena all lead us to wonder whether these forms of social panic are related to current digital communication technology. History teaches us that, all things considered, every innovation – from the printing press to social media – has always aroused concerns that turned out to be overblown. Are we experiencing a reiteration of this commonplace observation? In an accessible style, this book debunks a set of widespread myths and argues that we can deal intelligently and mindfully with the challenges of the digital age. The author provides readers with an indispensable tool for coping with both justified concerns and unwarranted anxiety.

Alberto Acerbi teaches Sociology at the University of Trento. His research interests focus on cultural evolution, cognitive anthropology, and the effects of digital media.

Giacomo Lev Mannheimer

Merchants in the Corridors of Power

Doing Business, Doing Politics



How do laws regulating food delivery riders come about? How did Uber and other micro-mobility companies' approach to politics affect their bottom lines? And how could firms like Huawei or TikTok enjoy a friendlier climate in the West? Businesses have always had a dialogue with politics, but the relationships between companies and institutions take place in a space accommodating *relationships*, devoid of economic transactions. In this space, decisions are made on the basis of persuasiveness, information quality, the art of compromise, and indirect or reputational advantage. This book deals with businesses that, rather than "buying" the support of the political establishment, attempt to win it over through the power of ideas and mutual trust. The author reveals the hidden facets of these interactions, showing – through the illustration of actual events – how they can generate value for both companies and the community. The text is a guide for managers, entrepreneurs and professionals seeking to successfully navigate the complex world of economic and political power relations.

series «Guide»

pp. 160

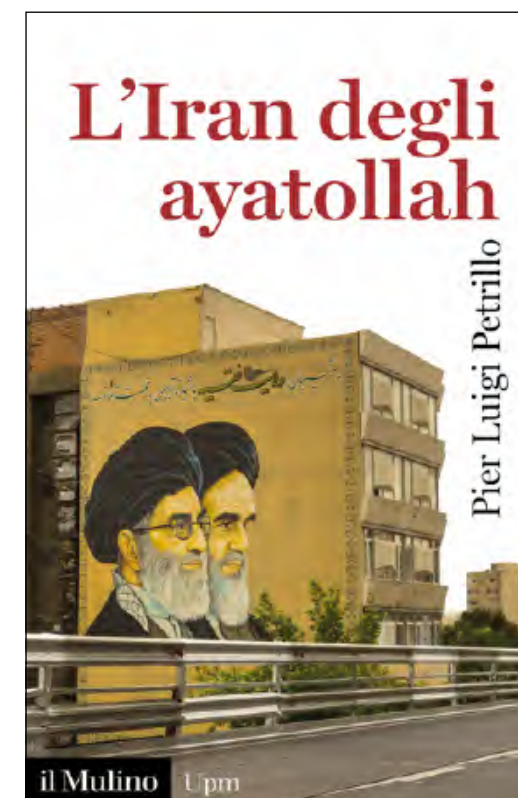
ISBN 9788815391483

publication January 2025

Giacomo Lev Mannheimer, currently Head of Government Affairs at Apple, has worked for start-ups, corporations, consulting firms, think tanks, political candidates, and institutions. He is a research fellow at the Bruno Leoni Institute, a member of the board of directors of the Institute for the Study of International Politics (ISPI), and a member of the general council of the Italian Association of Information and Communication Technology.

Pier Luigi Petrillo

The Iran of the Ayatollahs



Iran is not just a country: it is a *unique* country, with one of the most singular political systems in the Muslim world. Power (both overt and covert) functions differently from all other Islamic states, most of which are hostile neighbours that consider Iran "heretical". From a historical and geographic perspective, Iran is a bridge between the Arab world and the Islamic world but belongs to neither. Even today, Iranians' idea of their place in the world is shaped by the ancient Persian empire. Combining a description of its government (the regime founded by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979) with long-term cultural, social, and economic data, this book takes the reader on a journey featuring a thousand colours and contradictions. The author also explores the meaning of the protests that, in recent years, have shaken official institutions. The current situation features, on the one hand, a widespread desire to build a different future and, on the other, a rejection of any form of foreign hegemony.

series «Universale paperbacks»

pp. 192

ISBN 9788815394163

publication October 2025

Pier Luigi Petrillo teaches Comparative Public Law and Comparative Cultural Heritage at the Unitelma Sapienza University in Rome, where he holds the UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law and heads the School of Advanced Studies on Cultures, Politics and Democracy. His recent works include *The Legal Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Comparative Perspective* (Springer, 2019).



History
series «Voci»
pp. 170
ISBN 9788815390363
publication September 2024

Francesco Benigno The History of Today

Current crises – such as climate change, the pandemic, and wars – have highlighted the fragility of established patterns and generated a widespread sense of uncertainty. These crises reflect an ongoing, decades-long change in our relationship with the past. History no longer seems to proceed by meaningful adjustments and discontinuities, and to avoid losing ourselves, we end up seeking refuge in the eternal present of memory; we ask historians to become popularisers, narrators of small individual stories, dispensers of reparations to those wounded by history – in order to soften the sense of rupture between acknowledgement and understanding. Reflecting on what we are asking of history today, the author explains how historians can help us not to give in to the temptation to interpret the past as a manipulation-prone fiction but rather deal with its complexity.

Francesco Benigno teaches Modern History at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa.



History
series «Voci»
pp. 130
ISBN 9788815389275
publication May 2024

Egidio Ivetic South/North The Mediterranean as Global Border

Over the centuries, the line separating North and South has changed its latitude. In today's world, the direct North/South confrontation occurs along two borders: the one separating Mexico from the United States and the one that intersects the Mediterranean. This change in latitude defines a North (including Europe, which thinks of itself as the West and intends to protect and defend its borders) as opposed to a global South (that continually attempts to transcend such boundaries). And so, the Mediterranean ceases to be a place of opportunity but rather becomes a mere ribbon of sea and – to quote Gloria Anzaldúa – an open wound «where the Third World grates against the First and bleeds».

Egidio Ivetic teaches History of the Mediterranean at the University of Padova.

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History
series «Faustiana»
in «Intersezioni»
pp. 200
ISBN 9788815388728
publication March 2024

Giulia Sissa Genders and History The Ongoing Metamorphosis of the Feminine and the Masculine

Once upon a time, there was sex – an obvious characteristic that branched off into female and male ways of being in the world. But genetics does not explain everything. Today we have a term to describe how, in any society, human beings experience their sexed bodies. How do we learn to become womanly or manly? How do we accept or reject the sex we are assigned at birth? That's when *genders* come into play. This word helps us express attitudes, roles, and identities but also reveals disparities in morals and social representations. This book is a long journey from the recognition of the universal rights in Western societies to the appreciation of gender as an attributed, transformable and transferable difference.

Giulia Sissa is Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

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Science
series «Biblioteca storica»
pp. 220
ISBN 9788815390547
publication October 2024

Daniele Caligiore Health Care and Artificial Intelligence

Image-based diagnostics, robotic surgery, and telemedicine are among the already established applications employing artificial intelligence. Bordering on science fiction yet affecting our daily lives, this new world inspires both major hopes and great fears. Since health, in fact, is a key theme, understanding how these innovative technologies can help us to heal, attain well-being, and improve our lives is of utmost importance. Relying on the author's wide-ranging experience, this book addresses the strengths and shortcomings of AI in the field of health; it also provides a framework for developing clear and mindful knowledge about an aspect of life that influences all of us.

Daniele Caligiore is senior researcher at the Italian National Research Council's Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies. He co-founded and heads the Advanced School in AI; he is one of the founders of the ISTC-CNR AI2Life spin-off company, an innovative start-up devoted to developing AI solutions promoting social development and personal wellbeing.

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Psychology
series «Saggi»
pp. 270
ISBN 9788815389367
publication August 2024

Fausto Caruana & Elisabetta Palagi

Why We Laugh

The Origins of the Social Brain

Laughter – a spontaneous, uncontrolled behaviour everyone experiences – is a basic feature of our lives. However, although laughing is a commonplace activity, we find it difficult to explain *why* we laugh. This book's authors, a neuroscientist and an ethologist, take us into the world of laughter and explore its origins. We will discover that laughter is not an exclusively human behaviour. We will understand what happens in our brains when we laugh. We will see how laughter is complex and that there are many types of laughter with different meanings. Studied by philosophers, linguists, psychologists and ethologists, laughter is examined here from the novel perspective of evolutionary theory, focusing on the origins and functions of an engaging, fascinating and enjoyable activity.

Fausto Caruana is a member of the Italian National Research Council's Neuroscience Institute and teaches Neuroscience and Language at the University of Parma.

Elisabetta Palagi teaches Ethology at the University of Pisa. In 2020 she was awarded the Animal Behaviour Society Fellowship Award for her studies on animal behaviour.



Psychology
series «Saggi»
pp. 200
ISBN 9788815285584
publication 2021

Georg Northoff

The time Code

Brain, Mind, Consciousness

Time is something both impalpable and central to our life experiences, from both a philosophical and a psychological point of view. This book accompanies readers through the wrinkles of time and makes them understand how time is extremely important for defining ourselves. Time lies at the heart of our consciousness and the mind-body nexus. The author expertly combines philosophy, psychology and neuroscience to explain human nature and the difference between humans, other animals and the novel machines run by artificial intelligence. In such an advanced world, technology not only overlaps with men and women but even replaces them, especially in the realms of thought and emotion that have always seemed to be distinctively human qualities. The author leads readers to a deeper understanding of what time is and why time makes us uniquely human.

Georg Northoff – one of the world's foremost neuroscientists – teaches Psychiatry at the Institute of Mental Health Research of the University of Ottawa and conducts research concerning the neural bases of identity and consciousness.

English text available

Simplified Chinese, Japanese, Turkish and Portuguese (Portugal) rights sold.



Philosophy
series «Voci»
«Parole controtempo»
pp. 140
ISBN 9788815390370
publication September 2024

Arianna Arisi Rota

Peace

«Peace» is an abused, tired catchphrase, continuously invoked, a concept often trivialised or used to provide comfort. We have forgotten its true meaning. Why, when we attempt to define peace, do we mostly speak of the absence or cessation of war? Yet, achieving peace remains a powerful existential need, an ideal and an all-encompassing goal for many... and a tangible accomplishment for few. Peace – not to be confused with pacifism – is a genuine intellectual and behavioural challenge, a manifold notion, and a foundation for spiritual and secular undertakings. Today, in the third millennium, we are disoriented and surrounded by many traditional and non-traditional wars – this is why it may still be worthwhile to embrace the idea that peace needs to be *achieved*. This book traces the idea of peace, highlighting the contribution of women, its past and present status, as well as missed opportunities, visions and lessons drawn from experience.

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Equilibrium

How to Pursue a Good Work-Life Balance

Achieving a good work-life balance can help us express better performance levels, improve our health, and cultivate hobbies and passions that are critical to our well-being. Until now, work-life balance has been managed by acknowledging an underlying trade-off: in order to achieve positions of excellence in one's job or set up a healthy family, one has to choose between one's career or one's private life. Today, instead, we desire to pursue both goals, whatever the cost. Based on research and studies conducted over the past four decades, this book identifies roles and strategies that can be adopted by four leading players: individuals, businesses, bosses and the society in which we live. Taking into account managerial concerns, the author provides entertaining examples and valuable pointers for attaining an excellent work-life balance, eliminating the guilt we experience when we take time off from work and promoting conditions that enable the greatest number of people to strike a new balance.

Marcello Russo teaches Business Organization at the University of Bologna and heads the Global Master's in Business Administration programme at the Bologna Business School.