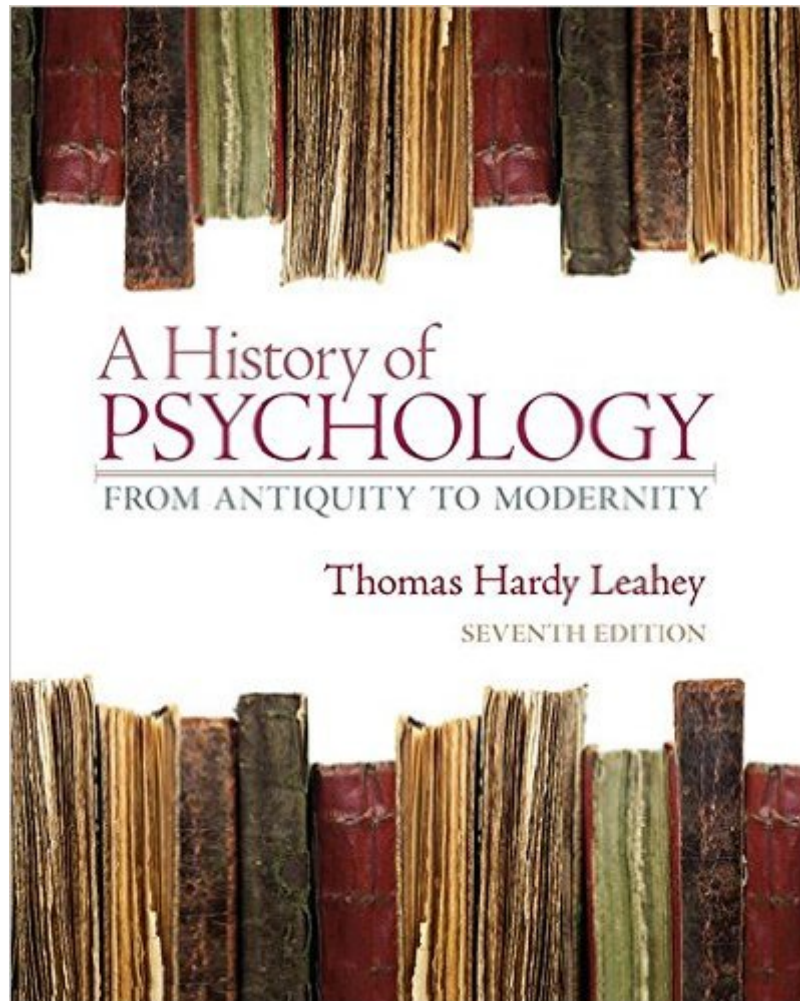


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# A History Of Psychology: From Antiquity To Modernity, 7th Edition



## Synopsis

Provides a narrative history of psychology. *A History of Psychology: From Antiquity to Modernity* begins tracking psychology from the development of folk psychology as the key adaptation of humans at the dawn of history. It then traces the Classical, medieval, and early modern periods to present day psychology. The text covers scientific, applied, and professional psychology. Although theoretical and empirical arguments inside psychology about the nature of mind and behavior are not neglected, *A History of Psychology* shows how psychology's development has been shaped by social, economic, and political forces external to it, and, in turn, how the mature psychology of the late 20th century has begun to shape the society in which it arose. The text carefully examines how issues in psychology reflect and affect concepts that lie outside the technical concerns of psychology as a science and profession. Upon completing this text, readers will be able to:

- Know the events in the history of scientific, applied, and professional psychology
- Understand how psychology's development was shaped by external forces
- Describe how psychology has and continues to shape society

## Book Information

Hardcover: 576 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 7 edition (July 9, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0132438496

ISBN-13: 978-0132438490

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #371,415 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #180 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > History](#) #207 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > History](#) #3384 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

Leahey's book is by far my preference of the history of psych textbooks (I've also examined Brennan's and Kendler's books). I use the book for personal reading and to give a sense of history and development to other courses. His book is especially notable for considering a wide variety of psychological ideas, and its consideration of the interaction of cultures, societies, and psychology. The only reason I give it four stars is because it's not quite as exciting as a novel and I want to see

certain sections expanded - (eg. the intellectual-cultural roots of founding psychologists in Germany and Vienna) - but the bibliographies are especially meaty for a textbook.

This is the only major textbook that really tries to cover the undercurrent of ideas that gave rise to modern Psychology. Other books may be easier (not that this book is difficult) to read or even to claim to be more profound, but this one is the only one that does not simplify the ideas to the point of caricature and does not plunge too deeply into side-issues. Also, this book has no flesh and blood heroes -- no one author is presented as such. The real protagonists are ideas, concepts and world views. Read in this light, the book is every bit as fascinating as a "who done it". While the analysis of pre-20th Century and European Psychology could be developed and expanded, I consider the explanation of the origin of behaviorism and cognitivism really revealing and masterful. Leahey links them to a single world view (and I think he is more right than wrong) and stresses that both perspectives derive from the North-American view of Science and Mind (or lack of it). Cognitivism is a new version of behaviorism, and not a revolutionary new view of Psychology. The book is very well written, and the few redundant parts are unavoidable in such a large book and in such a large field of study. As a suggestion for future development I would like to propose: Ethology (mainly Uexkull and Lorenz), Piaget, Gestalt and the overall more or less Kant-inspired European visions of Mind and Behavior. For anyone who is considering to teach the 'History of Psychology' course, I think this book is a must read; for any psychologist that wants to know why he uses his methodology and his ideas, this is even a more important book. Five stars, a really good book. Hearty congratulations and a very sincere 'thank you' to T.H. Leahey.

Thomas Leahey's History of Psychology has long been the preferred text for the graduate-level history of psychology course at the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science at the New School University in New York. The reasons are its intellectual depth and challenge (appropriate for graduate students) that exceeds other texts; its unsurpassed attentiveness to a wide range of historical scholarship; its emphasis on a strong externalist (contextual) analysis of the history of psychology (especially appropriate here at The New School); and its suitability for separating the serious scholars among the graduate students from those who are not that committed to the intellectual life. The course this book serves plays a strong role in determining which students will continue on in the Ph.D. program. As with any history book for this huge and diverse field scholars will be able to argue about an emphasis or interpretation or omission here and there. But there is no more intellectually spirited writing at the high-end of the currently in press history-of-psychology

texts than is found in this book. Some students cave in under the challenge of the book. The truly bright, interested, and motivated students, however, really shine when they study it.

I found much of the history biased, incomplete and byzantine; the chapter on the unconscious covers only proper Freudian Analysis and neglects to discuss Free Association, thus leaving young students of psychology with a grossly skewed perspective of one of the most influential theoretical systems. The book reads Freud in a decidedly negative light, seemingly unable to manage the ambivalence of the complexity of his character; both remarkable intelligent and riddled with err. The chapter ends posing the question of the fate of psychoanalysis; pre-free-association Freudian Analysis (ie., use of Hypnosis) was arguably fated by 1920, and thus the author's skewed portrayal of psychoanalysis leads readers to the incorrect conclusion about the contemporary applicability of this theoretical orientation. In reality, psychodynamic psychology is still booming with short-term dynamic approaches, offering the interpersonal focus to nearly all conceptual psychological frameworks (ie., the cognitive-behavior Interpersonal Psychotherapy as well as synergistic therapies like Interpersonal Reconstructive Therapy), and synergistic therapies (ie., Transtheoretical and Systematic Treatment Selection), just to give a few examples. While it is correct that proper Freudian Analysis has not found significant contemporary footing, direct offshoots such as Ego Psychology (ie., Erikson) and Adler's focus on Inferiority, reactionary dynamic theories like Object Relations in Britain and Sullivan's Interpersonal in American, Berne's Transactional Analysis that seems to reconcile Object Relations and Psychoanalysis, and the vast plethora of recent dynamic therapy manuals cannot be overlooked. Additionally, the book sometimes reads in a confusing manner, making relatively simple constructs or historical developments into an intellectual struggle to comprehend, such as the final sections of the Cognitive Science chapter on embodied theories.

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