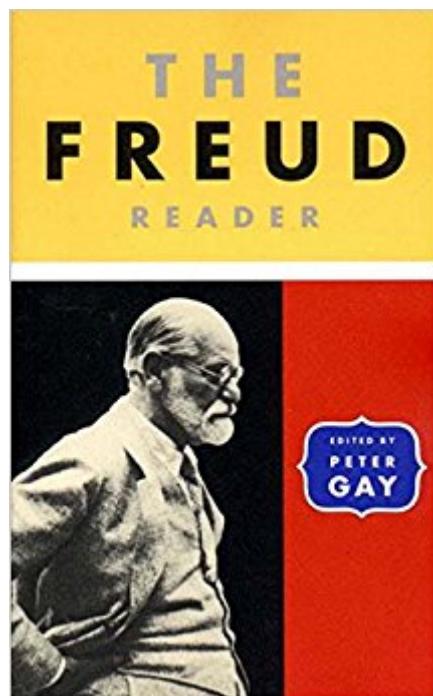


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# The Freud Reader



## Synopsis

The first single-volume work to capture Freud's ideas as scientist, humanist, physician, and philosopher. What to read from the vast output of Sigmund Freud has long been a puzzle. Freudian thought permeates virtually every aspect of twentieth-century life; to understand Freud is to explore not only his scientific papers—on the psycho-sexual theory of human development, his theory of the mind, and the basic techniques of psychoanalysis—but also his vivid writings on art, literature, religion, politics, and culture. The fifty-one texts in this volume range from Freud's dreams, to essays on sexuality, and on to his late writings, including *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Peter Gay, a leading scholar of Freud and his work, has carefully chosen these selections to provide a full portrait of Freud's thought. His clear introductions to the selections help guide the reader's journey through each work. Many of the selections are reproduced in full. All have been selected from the Standard Edition, the only English translation for which Freud gave approval both to the editorial plan and to specific renderings of key words and phrases.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Author of numerous books on Freud, including a highly regarded biography ( *Freud*, *LJ* 7/88), Gay offers the general reader a comprehensive survey of Freud's psychoanalytical, political, and philosophical writings. Preceded by a meaty introduction that emphasizes Freud's commitment to science and reason, this single-volume work includes some 50 of Freud's texts, organized chronologically with headnotes. The selections range from case studies and theoretical discussions

about dreams, anxiety, and anal eroticism to essays on lay analysis and religion as humankind's obsessional neurosis. Read sequentially, they allow readers to trace Freud's conceptual shift from a topographic theory of the mind to his structural theory of drives. A scholarly work for students and those wanting more than a cursory look.- Janice Arenofsky, formerly with Arizona State Lib., PhoenixCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Freudian thought permeates virtually every aspect of 20th century life. To understand Freud is to explore not only his scientific papers but also his vivid writings on art, literature, politics, religion and culture. The Freud Reader is the first single-volume work to bring together in accessible form Freud's ideas as a scientist, humanist, doctor and philosopher. It contains fifty-one key texts, spanning Freud's entire career from early case histories through his work on dreams, essays on sexuality, and on to his late writings, including *Civilisation and Its Discontents*. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Like many people, I had a passing familiarity with Freudian concepts (repression, the unconscious) that had entered the general culture, and had read small bits of Freud in college. Peter Gay is one of Freud's foremost biographers, and his mastery of Freud's work is reflected in his selections for this anthology. Each selection is arranged chronologically (except for a brief autobiographical piece by Freud, which serves as an introduction) to show the evolution of Freud's thought. Professor Gay adds helpful introductory notes to put each individual piece in context, and relate it to the body of Freud's work. The anthology also has extensive references for further reading. For me, the revelation of this anthology is how the Freud of popular culture is not the Freud that emerges in his work. For example, Freudian theory is commonly regarded as "pathologizing" homosexuality. However, it becomes clear from reading the selections here that, clinically, Freud saw homosexual orientation as no more or less "pathological" than "normal" heterosexuality. He regarded the "pathology" as a matter of social convention, and noted how homosexuality was admired in ancient cultures. This is not to say that Freud himself undertook to challenge the homophobia of his place and time, but it does show how his thinking was more far more nuanced than the popular image we've inherited. The selections also give a fascinating glimpse at the mindset of late nineteenth and early twentieth century medicine: Freud's entire theory evolved out an effort to treat somatic complaints that appeared to have no organic cause. Professor Gay has assembled an extraordinarily well-crafted selection of Freud's writings. They provide an excellent overview of

Freud's actual work, and the development of his thought.

This book is exactly what it says it is: Freud's therapeutic approaches to neuroses. I have it handy in my bookshelf for quick reviews. Recommendable.

one of the most important books that has even been written...freud's contribution to the intellectual culture of the world can not be overestimated. we read this book in my 100A class in UC Berkeley. a must-read for every academic.

excellent

Found this at the Salvator Dali museum after a wonderful day going through that masterpiece full of Dali masterpieces. I love it! Freud deeply influenced Dali and many other artists. The simplified text, yet clear and concise manner in which it was translated it amazing.

It is a good book, contains extracts and important parts of Freuds work.

Good basic introduction.

Hard read needed for class.

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