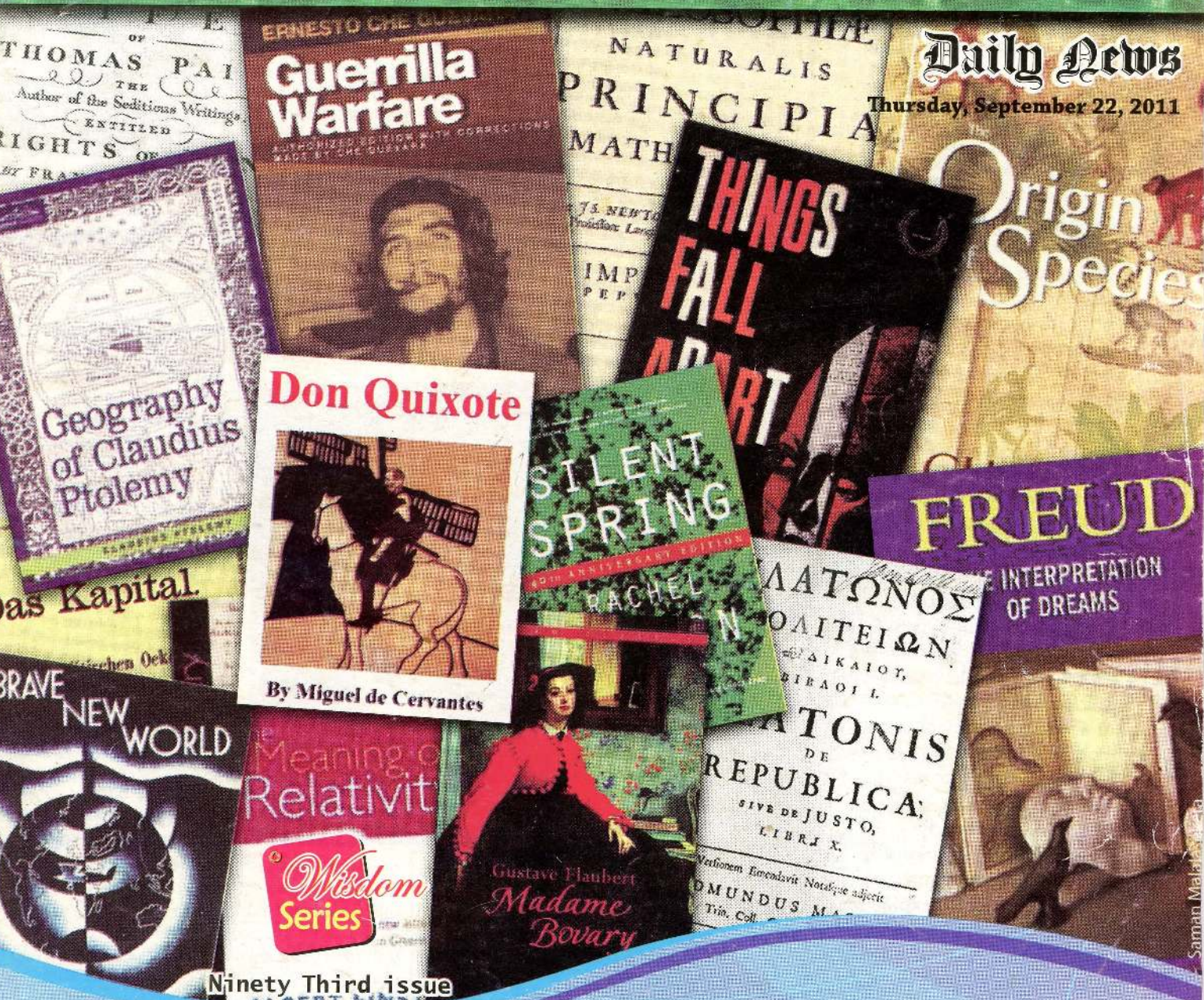


BOOKS

that changed the world



Ninety Third issue



Digitized by Noolaham Foundation
noolaham.org | aayanaham.org
towards an innovative and knowledge rich society



We Care. Always

Compiled by
Rohana Aryaratna

The Daily News in the issue of the wisdom series is embarking on a unique path to cultivate a different interest in its readers by introducing a few of the thousands of great books that made history and set the world on a different course.

They comprise classics of philosophy, politics sociology, science and religion. These books that influenced the thinking process of humans from the earliest ages touch upon every field of human endeavour from poetry to politics, from fiction to philosophy, from theology to anthropology and from economics to physics. They portray the great achievements of human intellect that shaped our ideologies, values and enhanced the understanding of the nature of our world and also enabled technological advancements.

These books brought about reforms and revolutions; toppled governments; started wars. They changed people's hearts and minds; altered people's lives. Even today these books continue to stir passions and cause controversy. They are true classics because they still go on changing the world.

Human beings generally possess an irresistible curiosity which demands an explanation of the world in which he finds himself. If you too are in a similar state of mind the best way to satisfy your curiosity is to introduce yourself to these monumental books that changed the world.

Set yourself on a thought-provoking journey.

THE RIGHTS OF MAN

by Thomas Paine

Like Rousseau and Locke before him. Thomas Paine believed that environmental influences create the individual and that a benevolent form of government can bring about human happiness. This basic assumption continues to inform our political debates today.

Paine's book *The Rights of man* states that the government's role is to protect the rights of its citizens, and when the government cannot do so, it should be overthrown. This book was written to defend the French Revolution and was an inspiration for democracy around the world.

All the books in this 'Squashed Philosophers' series are impressive. But few of their author's lives are as impressive as that of Thomas Paine.

Born in Thetford, Norfolk, in 1737, he achieved little at school and left aged 12. He was apprenticed to his father, a corset-maker, but failed to take up the trade. He briefly went to sea, and then worked as an excise officer until he was dismissed for agitating for improved pay.

In 1774, a chance meeting with Benjamin Franklin in London led him to part from his wife and travel to America, where he added the 'e' to his surname and established his fame by writing the pamphlet *Common Sense* (1776), an explanation of the war with England. He was appointed secretary to the Committee of Foreign Affairs in 1777, but lost his post two years later after making some rather indiscreet revelations about French alliances.

He was elected to the French Convention in 1792, but his opposition to the execution of Louis XVI led to his arrest. He wrote much of *The Age of Reason*, a biting criticism of the Bible and religion, in prison, and on the fall of the revolutionary leader Robespierre, returned to America in 1802. But times and

politics had changed, he found strong opposition to his religious views, was shunned by society and died in near-poverty six years later in New York. Some biographies describe him as a drunkard in his last years, but, then, Thomas Paine made as many bitter enemies as he continues to make grateful friends.

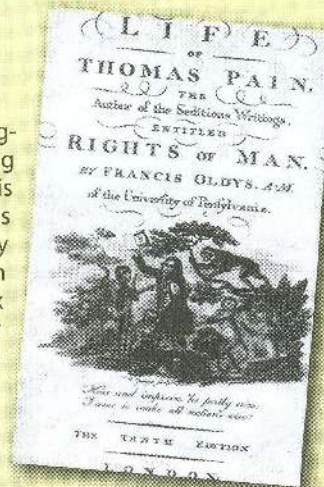
This philosophical argument written in two parts published separately in 1791 and 1792, answers Edmund Burke's vituperative attack on the French Revolution in *REFLECTION ON THE REVOLUTION IN FRANCE* (1790) by justifying the principles of modern republican governments. Paine attempts not only to justify the French Revolution but also to use the United States as a primary example of democracy in action.

In Part I, Paine attacks the notion of monarchy and privilege. Unlike Burke, who supported hereditary privilege, Paine argues that each generation has the

right to establish its own system of government. No nation can legally be ruled by a hereditary monarchy.

The French people, therefore, could rightfully depose Louis XVI and establish a republican regime. Government is for the living, not the dead, so hereditary power is by definition illegitimate.

No generation has the right to establish a government binding on future generations, so Burke's argument for hereditary power is essentially bankrupt.



DAS KAPITAL

by Karl Marx



Workers are exploited by the capitalist mode of production. Karl Marx in his memorable analysis of capitalism - Das Kapital attempts to explain why change is necessary in a nation ruled by capitalism. He also provides a history of past exploitations. He argues that the capitalist system is ultimately unstable because it cannot endlessly sustain profits. Thus it provides a more technical background to some of his more generally accessible works, like the communist manifesto.

Karl Heinrich Marx (5 May 1818 - 14 March 1883) was a German philosopher, sociologist, economic historian, journalist, and revolutionary socialist who developed the socio-political theory of Marxism. His ideas have since played a significant role in the development of social science and the socialist political movement.

He published various books during his lifetime, with the most notable being The Communist Manifesto (1848) and Capital (1867-1894), many of which were co-written with his friend, the fellow German revolutionary socialist Friedrich Engels.

Karl Marx proposes that the motivating force of capitalism is in the exploitation of labour, whose unpaid work is the ultimate source of profit and surplus value.

The employer can claim right to the profits (new output value), because he or she owns the productive capital assets (means of production), which are legally protected by the State through property rights. In producing capital (money) rather than commodities (goods and services), the workers continually reproduce the economic conditions by which they labour.

Capital proposes an explanation of the "laws of motion" of the capitalist economic system, from its origins to its future, by describing the dynamics of the accumulation of capital, the growth of wage labour, the transformation of the workplace, the concentration of capital, commercial competition, the banking system, the decline of the profit rate, land-rents, et cetera.

Karl Marx's Capital can be read as a work of economics, sociology and history. He addresses a myriad of topics, but is most generally trying to present a systematic account of the nature, development, and future of the capitalist system.

There is a strong economic focus to this work, and Marx addresses the nature of commodities, wages and the worker-capitalist relationship, among other things. This study guide focuses on one component of Capital, Marx's schema of how the capitalist system functions.

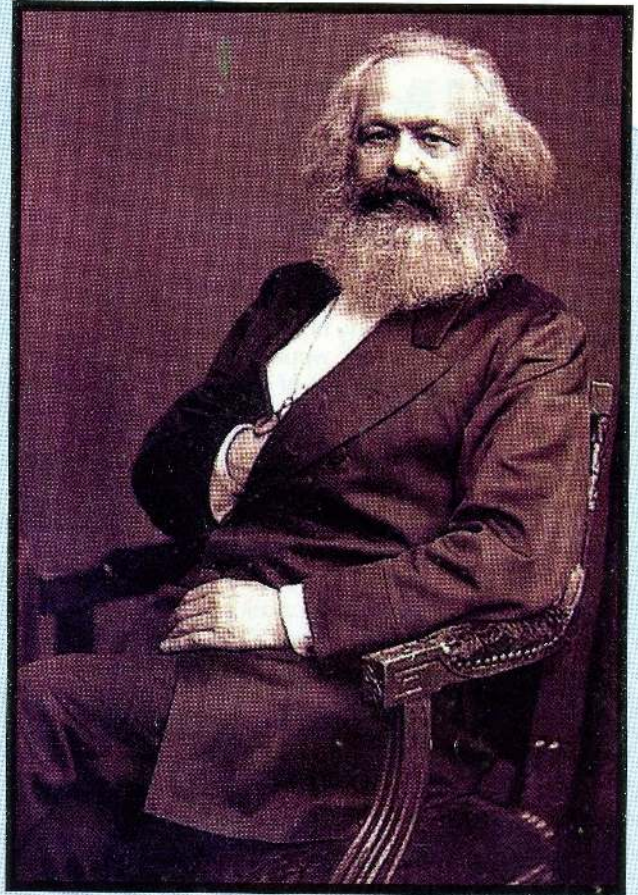
Marx argues that commodities have both a use-value and an exchange-value, and that their exchange-value is rooted in how much labor-power went into them. While traditionally people bought commodities in order to use them, capitalists use commodities differently. Their final goal is increased profit.

Therefore, they put out money and buy commodities, in order to sell those commodities for a profit. The cycle then repeats itself. The reason why the capitalists are able to make a profit is that they only need to pay workers their value (how much it takes to keep them functional), but the workers produce more

than that amount in a day.

Thus, the workers are exploited. The capitalists are able to do this because they have more power, and control the means of production.

Furthermore, the workers' character is negatively affected by the system. They don't own the products of their labor, and the repetitive work they have to do makes them little more than machines.



Sri Lanka
Telecom
Mobitel

We Care. Always.

Get the latest in Cricket
on Tony Talks
Dial 123

PHILOSOPHAE NATURALIS PRINCIPIA MATHEMATICA

by Sir Isaac Newton

If Isaac Newton, farm boy had been wasting his time in that capacity we would not be aware of the law of gravity, of the principle by which the whole universe exists and move. To call him the greatest English mathematician is poor praise for one of his achievements.

At the age of twenty four he had discovered the binomial theorem and the principles of integral calculus. The invention of a reflecting telescope brought him to the notice of the Royal Society and later he was annually elected president of the society for the last 25 years of his life.

That and a knighthood were the only tangible rewards given to one whose genius established for mankind "Nature and Nature's laws."

Written while Cambridge was closed because of the plague, Newton wrote his thoughts on gravity, mechanics, calculus, and light and colour.

This book set the stage for modern thinking on math and physics.

Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica, Latin for "Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy", often referred to as simply the Principia, is a work in three books by Newton, first published 5 July 1687. Newton also published two further editions, in 1713 and 1726.

The Principia states Newton's laws of motion, forming the foundation of

classical mechanics, also Newton's law of universal gravitation, and a derivation of Kepler's laws of planetary motion (which Kepler first obtained empirically). The Principia is "justly regarded as one of the most important works in the history of science".

In formulating his physical theories, Newton developed and used mathematical methods now included in the field of calculus. But the language of calculus as we know it was largely absent from the Principia; Newton gave many of his proofs in a geometric form of infinitesimal calculus, based on limits of ratios of vanishing small geometric quantities.

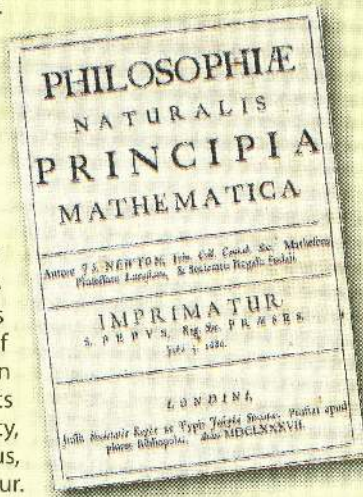
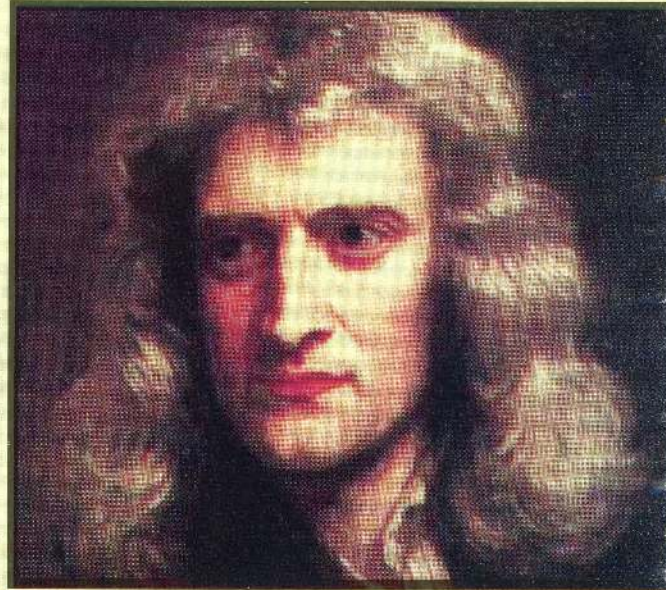
The 'Principia' deals primarily with massive bodies in motion, initially under a variety of conditions and

hypothetical laws of force in both non-resisting and resisting media, thus offering criteria to decide, by observations, which laws of force are operating in phenomena that may be observed. It attempts to cover hypothetical or possible motions both of celestial bodies and of terrestrial projectiles.

It explores difficult problems of motions perturbed by multiple attractive forces. Its third and final book deals with the interpretation of observations about the movements of planets and their satellites.

Isaac Newton was born on Dec. 25, 1642, in Woolsthorpe, England. His father died before he was born, and when he was only three his mother, Hannah Newton, remarried and moved away, leaving him to be raised by an uncle.

He was sent to the local grammar school, and for a time it was expected that he would grow up to manage his mother's property. But he nonetheless persisted in the pursuit of his wider interests, and after leaving the grammar school he enrolled at Trinity College, at the University of Cambridge, in 1661. He received his bachelor of arts in 1665, and was named a fellow of the College two years later.



We Care. Always.

Ladies Only... Liyawarena
Lifestyle portal for ladies
Dial 222

ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

by Charles Darwin

Few books have been greeted with such a storm of controversy as the "Origin of Species," in which Charles Darwin set forth his theory of Natural Selection as the means of evolution. The new theory shocked the church and astonished the layman, but scientists after careful consideration, supported it and today although parts of the theory have been modified, scientists still accept it.

The name of Charles Darwin will always live, for his was the great mind that gave us a new conception of creation and his observations were revolutionary in his time and still continue to be studied and debated today.

Charles Robert Darwin FRS (12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882) was an English naturalist. He established that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestry, and proposed the scientific theory that this branching pattern of evolution resulted from a process that he called natural selection.

He published his theory with compelling evidence for evolution in his 1859 book *On*

the *Origin of Species*, overcoming scientific rejection of earlier concepts of transmutation of species.

Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, published on 24 November 1859, is a work of scientific literature which is considered to be the foundation of evolutionary biology. Its full title was *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. For the sixth edition of 1872, the short title was changed to *The Origin of Species*.

Darwin's book introduced the

scientific theory that populations evolve over the course of generations through a process of natural selection. It presented a body of evidence that the diversity of life arose by common descent through a branching pattern of evolution. Darwin included evidence that he had gathered on the *Beagle* expedition in the 1830s and his subsequent findings from research, correspondence, and experimentation.

Various evolutionary ideas had already been proposed to explain new findings in biology. There was growing support for such ideas among dissident anatomists and the general public, but during the first half of the 19th century the English scientific establishment was closely tied to the Church of England, while science was part of natural theology.

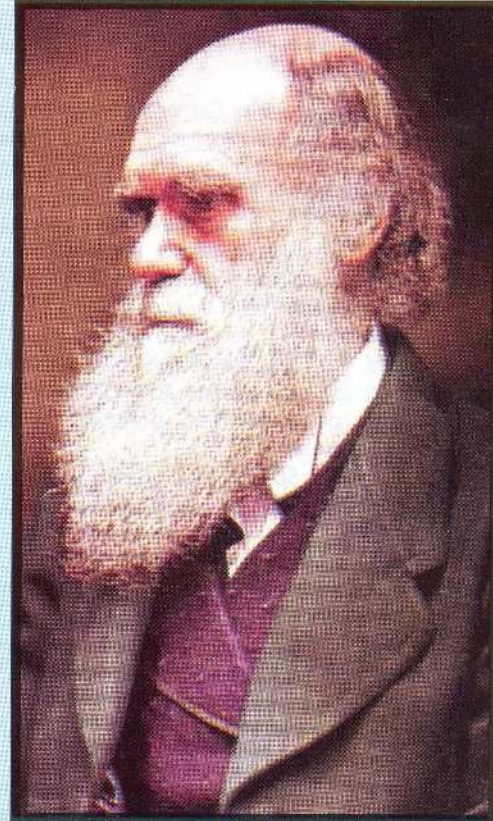
Ideas about the transmutation of species were controversial as they conflicted with the beliefs that species were unchanging parts of a designed hierarchy and that humans were unique, unrelated to animals.

The political and theological implications were intensely debated, but transmutation was not accepted by the scientific mainstream.

The book was written for non-specialist readers and attracted widespread interest upon its publication. As Darwin was an eminent scientist, his findings were taken seriously and the evidence he presented generated scientific, philosophical, and religious discussion.

The debate over the book contributed to the campaign by T.H. Huxley and his fellow members of the X Club to secularise science by promoting scientific naturalism.

Within two decades there was widespread scientific agreement that evolution, with a branching pattern of common descent, had occurred, but scientists were slow to give natural



selection the significance that Darwin thought appropriate.

During the "eclipse of Darwinism" from the 1880s to the 1930s, various other mechanisms of evolution were given more credit. With the development of the modern evolutionary synthesis in the 1930s and 1940s, Darwin's concept of evolutionary adaptation through natural selection became central to modern evolutionary theory, now the unifying concept of the life sciences.

Sri Lanka
Telecom
Mobitel
We Care. Always.

Daily Astrological Readings with My Astro
Type MyAstro<space><your name>
and send to 1312
* Rs.30/- + taxes per month

SILENT SPRING

by Rachel Carson

Rachel Carson's controversial but realistic work - "Silent Spring" is very much topical to third world countries such as Sri Lanka, which have been the dumping grounds for destructive products of the Rich countries. This book was widely read - especially after its selection by the Book-of-the-Month Club and the New York Times best-seller list and inspired widespread public concerns with pesticides and pollution of the environment.

"Silent Spring" facilitated the ban of pesticide DDT in 1972 in the United States.

Rachel Carson wrote on the topic of environmental justice in a book that inspired readers to think seriously about their relationship to the Earth. This book helped the modern environmental movement get off the ground.

The New Yorker started serializing Silent Spring in June 1962, and it was published in book form (with illustrations by Lois and Louis Darling) by Houghton Mifflin later that year. When the book Silent Spring was published, Rachel Carson was already a well-known writer on natural history, but had not previously been a social critic.

The book documented detrimental effects of pesticides on the environment, particularly on birds. Carson accused the chemical industry of spreading disinformation, and public officials of accepting industry claims uncritically.

The primary inspiration for the book was a friend of Carson's who was concerned about dying birds in her hometown where the authorities had sprayed DDT to control mosquitoes. At about the same time, a disastrous pesticide campaign against the fire ant of the



Southeast was receiving national attention.

Formerly a science writer for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Carson already had some acquaintance with research on pesticides, and she was ready to speak out. Originally planned as an article, Silent Spring became a book of more than two hundred pages when the only outlet she could find was the book publisher Houghton Mifflin.

Though Silent Spring is without question her best-known book today, Carson was already a national literary celebrity when it came out. As work of social criticism, Silent Spring represented a considerable departure from the natural history with which she had made a name for herself.

Whether this would have been a turning point in her career or merely a detour is impossible to know because Carson succumbed to breast cancer only a year and a half after Silent Spring appeared. What is clear, however, is that her public image was irrevocably transformed.

Average Americans

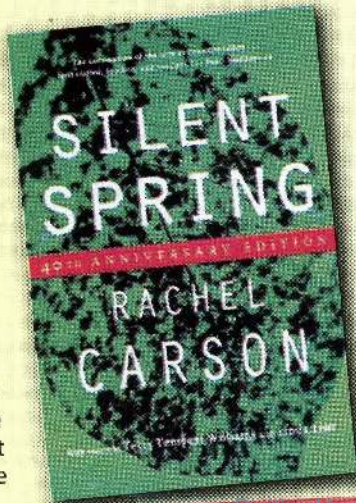
came to see her as a noble crusader while the chemical industry would quickly spend more than a quarter of a million dollars to discredit her.

Few books have had as much impact on late twentieth-century life as Carson's Silent Spring. Though an environmental consciousness can be discerned in American culture as far back as the nineteenth century, environmentalism as it is known today has only been around for about forty years, and Carson's book is one of its primary sources.

Her tirade against humankind's attempt to use technology to dominate nature wrenched environmentalism from its relatively narrow, conservationist groove and helped transform it into a sweeping social movement that has since impacted almost every area of everyday life.

The book argued that uncontrolled and unexamined pesticide use was harming and even killing not only animals and birds, but also humans. Its title was meant to evoke a spring season in which no bird songs could be heard, because they had all vanished as a result of pesticide abuse.

Its title was inspired by a poem by John Keats, "La Belle Dame sans Merci", which contained the lines "The sedge is wither'd from the lake, And no birds sing."



MADAME BOVARY

by *Gustave Flaubert*

Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" his greatest novel is a study of a certain type of woman so accurate that her name has been added to the nomenclature of psychology. "Bovaryism" is the term applied to the almost maniacal self-deception practised by numerous women who spend their lives dreaming of what might happen, what ought to happen - but which seldom does. But this novel is not a case history.

It is a vividly real story of life in a French provincial town whose uneventful background throws into stronger relief the violence of its protagonists' emotions.

Flaubert's story of a woman who engages in adulterous affairs in an attempt to escape from a loveless marriage was subjected to censorship, and Flaubert was taken to trial over the novel. After his acquittal, Madame Bovary became renowned as a masterpiece of the Realism movement.

Madame Bovary (1856) is Gustave Flaubert's first published novel and is considered his masterpiece. The story focuses on a doctor's wife, Emma Bovary, who has adulterous affairs and lives beyond her means in order to escape the banalities and emptiness of provincial life.

Though the basic plot is rather simple, even archetypal, the novel's true art lies in its details and hidden patterns. Flaubert was notoriously a perfectionist about his writing and claimed always to be searching for *le mot juste* ("the right word").

The novel was attacked for obscenity by public prosecutors when it was first serialized in *La Revue de Paris* between 1 October 1856 and 15 December 1856, resulting in a trial in January 1857 that made the story notorious. After the

acquittal on 7 February 1857, it became a bestseller when it was published as a book in April 1857, and now stands virtually unchallenged not only as a seminal work of Realism, but as one of the most influential novels ever written.

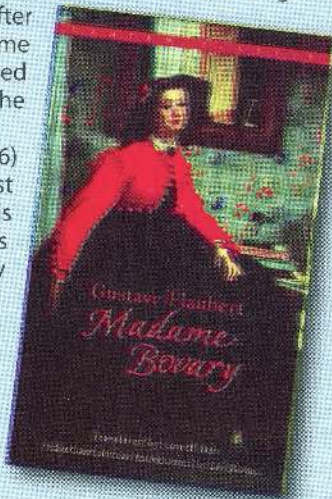
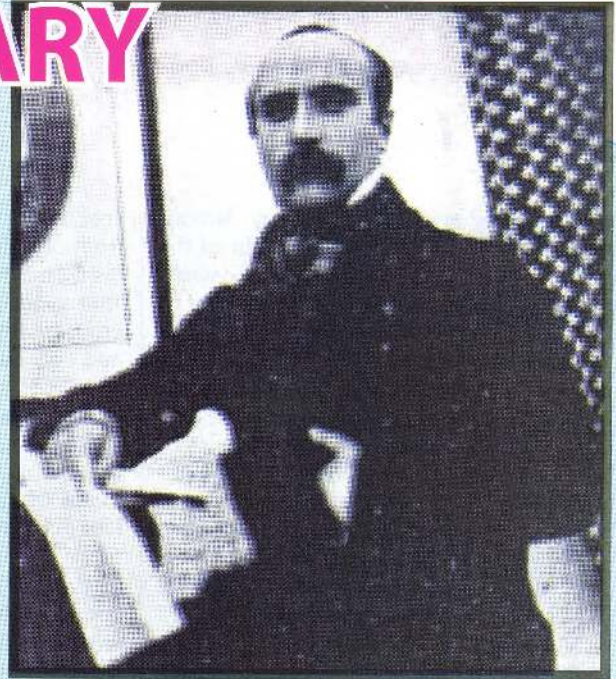
The setting of Madame Bovary is crucial to the novel for several reasons. First, it is important as it applies to Flaubert's realist style and social commentary.

Secondly, the setting is important in how it relates to the protagonist Emma.

It has been calculated that the novel begins in October 1827 and ends in August 1846. This is around the era known as the "July Monarchy," or the rule of King Louis-Philippe. This was a period in which there was a great up-surge in the power of the bourgeois middle class. Flaubert detested the bourgeoisie. Much of the time and effort, therefore, that he spends detailing the customs of the rural French people can be interpreted as social criticism.

Flaubert put much effort into making sure his depictions of common life were accurate. This was aided by the fact that he chose a subject that was very familiar to him. He chose to set the story in and around the city of Rouen in Normandy, the setting of his own birth and childhood.

This care and detail that Flaubert gives to his setting is important in looking at the style of the novel. It is this faithfulness to the mundane elements of country life that has garnered the book its reputation as the beginning of the literary movement known as



"literary realism".

The book, loosely based on the life story of a schoolfriend who had become a doctor, was written at the urging of friends, who were trying (unsuccessfully) to "cure" Flaubert of his deep-dyed Romanticism by assigning him the dreariest subject they could think of, and challenging him to make it interesting without allowing anything out-of-the-way to occur.

The Realist movement used verisimilitude through a focus on character development. Realism was a reaction against Romanticism. Emma may be said to be the embodiment of a romantic; in her mental and emotional process, she has no relation to the realities of her world. She inevitably becomes dissatisfied since her larger-than-life fantasies are impossible to realize.

Flaubert declared that much of what is in the novel is in his own life by saying, "Madame Bovary, c'est moi" ("Madame Bovary, it's me").

Long established as one of the greatest novels ever written, the book has often been described as a "perfect" work of fiction. Henry James writes: "Madame Bovary has a perfection that not only stamps it, but that makes it stand almost alone; it holds itself with such a supreme unapproachable assurance as both excites and defies judgment."

GUERRILLA WARFARE

by Che Guevara

Marxist revolutionary famous for helping the plight of the oppressed, Guevara wrote this book *Guerrilla Warfare* as an instruction manual of revolt for those trapped in a totalitarian regime. It has become a guidebook for thousands around the world, not only those living in an oppressive state.

Ernesto "Che" Guevara (June 14, 1928 – October 9, 1967), commonly known as El Che or simply Che, was an Argentine Marxist revolutionary, physician, author, intellectual, guerrilla leader, diplomat and military theorist. A major figure of the Cuban Revolution, his stylized visage has become a ubiquitous countercultural symbol of rebellion and global insignia within popular culture.

Che Guevara's *Guerrilla Warfare* is a practical manual for how a small band of guerrilla fighters might use specific strategies and tactics to resist and defeat an oppressive state enemy in asymmetrical warfare. The manual is based on lessons learned from his part in the successful anti-Batista revolution in Cuba in 1959.

It makes the political case for the guerrillas' militancy, and explains step-by-step how an insurgency can be grown in strength and number, taking advantage of local and regional conditions, relations with sympathetic inhabitants, and tactics of ambush, sabotage, and psychological warfare. Guevara describes in detail not only these tactics but also the ideal behavior and attitude of an effective guerrilla fighter.

Guerrilla Warfare hardly mentions communism or socialism, and doesn't refer to Marx or Lenin. In an Epilogue, Guevara warns that "they will attack us as Communists, but they are not going to eliminate us as imbeciles." Despite the

specter of Communist Che arising from popular culture and history, in his own book Guevara laments that "the word 'Communism' began to envelop the figures of the leaders and of the triumphant guerrilla fighters."

This label serves only to give the United States a reason to rise up in the name of "anti-communism" on behalf of "all those who resented the loss of their unjust privileges." Rather than a communist revolution, Guevara describes the Cuban "war of liberation" as a fairly straightforward anti-imperialist affair, offering broad generalized guerrilla principles for the peoples of the Americas.

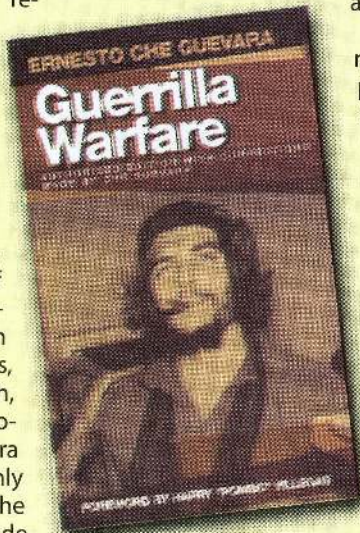
It is the political aim of the guerrillas, therefore, to delegitimize the political authority of the oppressor, through the development of popular opposition, dissemination of propaganda, and sabotage and violence which powerfully undermine the state's monopoly of security and force.

As the insurgency continues to grow, effective provision of social services, revolutionary economic infrastructure, and imposition of revolutionary justice upholding law and order in liberated territory would help to legitimize the guerrillas' political struggle.

In the first stages of the war, the guerrillas' main supplier of arms and ammunition will be the enemy itself, and the stockpiles derived thereof must

be jealously guarded. For the guerrillas, each bullet counts, and "to abandon a weapon [on the battlefield constitutes] a grave offense". Upon a guerrilla's death, his ammo and arms must be recovered by his comrades.

The striking difference between the two forces in terms of expense of



firepower is revealed by Guevara's anecdote about a guerrilla who under necessary circumstances fired an excessive amount of bullets at an advancing column. His comrades, accustomed to discerning the enemy forces' whereabouts by their wasteful use of firepower, became concerned that their defensive position had been taken.

Guevara presents preconditions for a successful guerrilla campaign against an oppressive government: "full help" from the inhabitants; knowledge of the environment; intelligence regarding enemy troop positions and movements; and mastery of the "chosen point of action".

Guevara's text is important because it does reflect the optimism of the post-Cuban revolution years. In this one instance, the formula worked out. The recipe for the guerrilla insurgency seems naïve in the light of subsequent failures and revisions, but the general expectations of fighters engaged in asymmetrical warfare still hold. Against a militarily dominant enemy, tactics of ammunition conservation, sabotage, and even terrorism against selected targets might make sense.

THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS

by Sigmund Freud

Sigmund Freud M D (1856-1939) was professor of Neurology, Vienna University - 1902-38. An eminent psychoanalyst, author of many books on his subject. He left Austria to take up permanent residence in England.

Freud included the basics of his theories on psychoanalysis in this landmark work that is still read worldwide. While many current scholars disagree with many of Freud's theories, the fact that he brought the science of psychology to the public marks this book as one that changed the world.

Freud is best known for his theories of the unconscious mind and the mechanism of repression, and for creating the clinical method of psychoanalysis for investigating the mind and treating psychopathology through dialogue between a patient (or "analysand") and a psychoanalyst.

Sigmund Freud is universally considered the "father" of psychoanalysis,

and many date the birth of psychoanalytic theory from the 1899 publication of *The Interpretation of Dreams* (copyright 1900). Although Freudian theory, since its inception, has been relentlessly attacked from all sides, critics and proponents alike agree that Freud's ideas have exerted a profound influence on twentieth-century thought and culture.

Throughout *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Freud analyzes his own dreams as examples to prove his new theory of the psychology of dreams. Freud makes a distinction between the "manifest," or surface-level, dream content and the "latent," or unconscious, "dream thoughts" expressed through the special "language" of dreams.

Freud explains that the process of "censorship" in dreams causes a "distortion" of the dream content; thus, what appears to be trivial nonsense in a dream, can, through the process of analysis, be shown to express a coherent set of ideas.

The "dream work" is the process by which the mind condenses, distorts, and translates "dream thoughts" into dream content. Freud proposes that the ultimate value of dream analysis may be in revealing the hidden workings of the unconscious mind.

The Interpretation of Dreams presents Freud's early theories in regard to the nature of the unconscious dream psychology, the significance of childhood experiences, the psychic process of "censorship," the "hieroglyphic" language of dreams, and the method he called "psychoanalysis."

Freud opens *The Interpretation of Dreams* by stating the nature of his theoretical accomplishment in writing the book:

In the following pages I shall provide proof that there is a psychological technique which allows us to interpret dreams, and that when this procedure is applied, every dream turns out to be a meaningful, psychical

formation which can be given an identifiable place in what goes on within our waking life.

Freud provides an overview of the scientific and theoretical findings on the interpretation of dreams up to that point in history. He notes that the first written work on dream psychology dates back to the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle's tract *On Dreams and Dream Interpretation*.

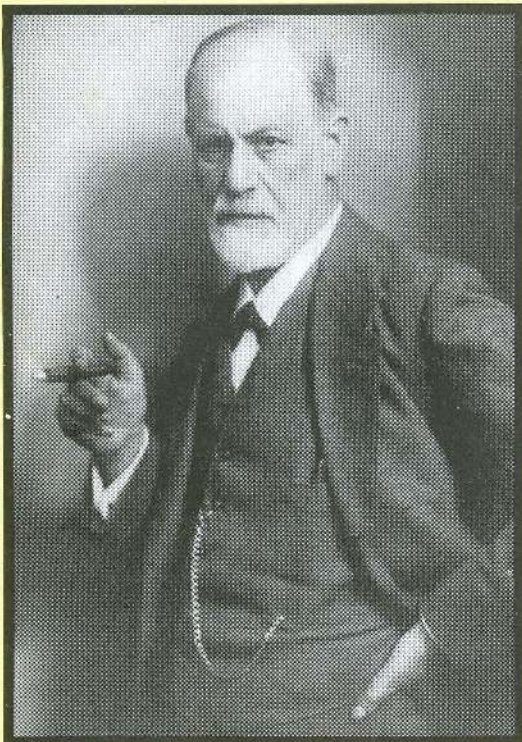
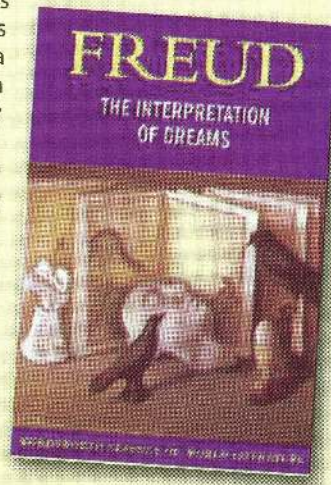
However, he claims that no convincing theory of dream interpretation has yet been formulated; he asserts, "In spite of being concerned with the subject over many thousands of years, scientific understanding of the dream has not got very far." He laments that "little or nothing touching the essential nature of the dream or offering a definitive solution to any of its riddles" has been accomplished.

Freud observes that, while scientific opinion has come to dismiss the idea that dreams can be interpreted, "popular opinion" has "stubbornly" held on to the notion that dreams do indeed have meaning.

He asserts that, contrary to the reigning scientific opinion, he will prove that it is possible to interpret dreams using a scientific method.

Freud's fundamental conclusion about dreams is that "wish-fulfillment is the meaning of each and every dream, and hence there can be no dreams besides wishful dreams."

Further, dreams are not meaningless but are in fact "constructed by a highly elaborate intellectual activity."



THINGS FALL APART

by Chinua Achebe

Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" portrays an extremely topical influence that should be cultivated in all the countries colonised by powerful Western nations. The rich cultural traditions and beliefs that were preserved for centuries were damaged and destroyed by these colonialists who influenced the thinking of their victims. All citizens of these colonies such as Sri Lanka and also who have been possessing this colonial mentality should read Achebe's novel "Things Fall Apart."

The theme of preserving cultural history in the face of Western domination in this novel gave voice to the oppressed in Africa and caught the attention of the world. This novel, written in 1958, is still widely read and studied as an example of the damage of colonialism.

Things Fall Apart is a 1958 English language novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe. It is a staple book in schools throughout Africa and widely read and studied in English-speaking countries around the world. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first African novels written in English to receive global critical acclaim.

The title of the novel comes from William Butler Yeats's poem "The Second Coming". In 2009, Newsweek ranked Things Fall Apart on its list of Top 100 Books: The Meta-List.

Chinua Achebe is a Nigerian novelist,

poet, professor, and critic. He is best known for his first novel and magnum opus, Things Fall Apart (1958), which is the most widely read book in modern African literature.

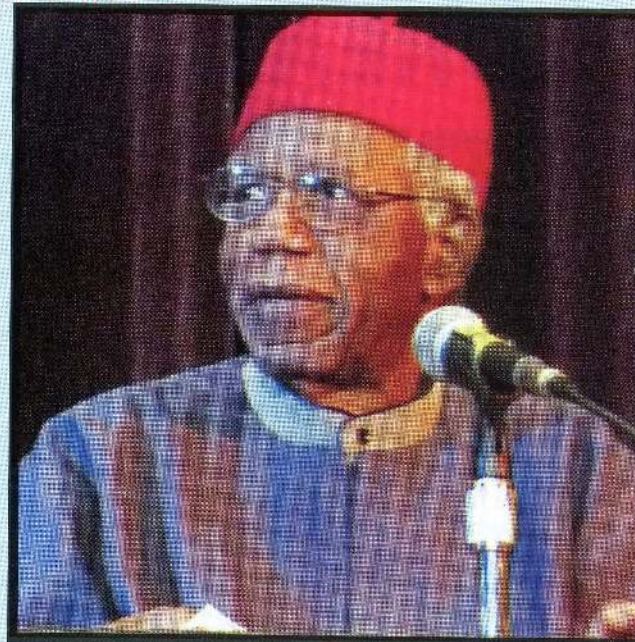
The novel depicts the life of Okonkwo, a leader and local wrestling champion in Umuofia—one of a fictional group of nine villages in Nigeria, inhabited by the Igbo ethnic group.

In addition it focuses on his three wives, his children, and the influences of British colonialism and Christian missionaries on his traditional Igbo (archaically "Ibo") community during the late nineteenth century.

Achebe depicts the Igbo as people with great social institutions in accordance with their particular society, ie, wrestling, human sacrifice and suicide. Their culture is heavy in traditions and laws that focus on justice and fairness. The people are ruled not by a king or chief but by a kind of democracy, where the males meet and make decisions by consensus and in accordance to an "Oracle" that should be written down.

It is the Europeans, who often talk of bringing democratic institutions to the rest of the world, who upset this system. Achebe emphasizes that high rank is attainable for all freeborn Igbo men—he attained his through fighting as opposed to reading or ploughing the land and growing herbal remedies, vegetation, rearing cattle, fowl etc.

He also depicts the injustices of Ibo society. No



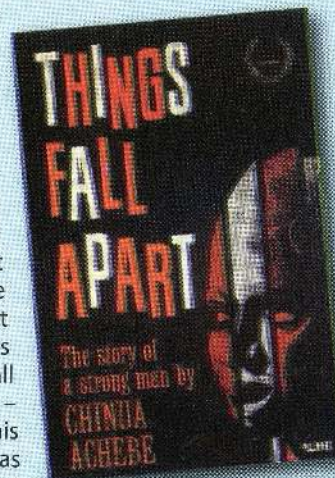
more or less than Victorian England of the same era, the Ibo are a patriarchal society. They also fear twins, who are to be abandoned immediately after birth and left to die of exposure. The novel attempts to repair some of the damage done by earlier European depictions of Africans.

Things Fall Apart is a milestone in African literature. It has achieved the status of the archetypal modern African novel in English, and is read in Nigeria and throughout Africa. It is studied widely in Europe and North America, where it has spawned numerous secondary and tertiary analytical works.

It has achieved similar status and repute in India and Australia. Con-

sidered Achebe's magnum opus, it has sold more than 8 million copies worldwide.

Time Magazine included the novel in its TIME 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005.



SMART
Pre Paid
Daily Delight

100MB
a day for Rs.20

SMS D20 to 7678 to activate

Conditions apply

SMART

Sri Lanka
Telecom
Mobile



GEOGRAPHIA

by Ptolemy

main work besides the *Almagest*. It is a treatise on cartography and a compilation of what was known about the world's geography in the Roman Empire of the 2nd century. Ptolemy relied mainly on the work of an earlier geographer, Marinus of Tyre, and on gazetteers of the Roman and ancient Persian empire.

The *Geographia* comprises two parts: Book one, a discussion

of the data and of the methods used; and

coordinates, is carried out since 1998 by members of the cartography group, school of surveying engineering, at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Ptolemy had mapped the whole world from the *Fortunatae Insulae* (Canary Islands) eastward to the eastern shore of the *Magnus Sinus*. This known portion of the world was comprised within 180 degrees.

In his extreme east Ptolemy placed *Serica* (the Land of Silk), the *Sinarum Situs* (the Port of the Sinae), and the emporium of *Cattigara*. On the 1489 map of the world by Henricus Martellus, which was based on Ptolemy's work, Asia terminated in its southeastern point in a cape, the Cape of *Cattigara*.

Cattigara was understood by Ptolemy to be a port on the *Sinus Magnus*, or Great Gulf, the actual Gulf of Thailand, at eight and a half degrees north of the Equator, on the coast of Cambodia, which is where he located it in his *Canon of Famous Cities*. It was the easternmost port reached by shipping trading from the Graeco-Roman world to the lands of the Far East.

As a geographer, Astronomer and mathematician Ptolemy was considered a celebrated pioneer in these fields. His "*Geographia*" (Guide to Geography) dominated its own particular sphere and his concept of the world was held until the 15th century. "*Geographia*" was chiefly a set of maps and a list of places with calculations of their latitude and longitude.

These calculations were based on an underestimate of the size of the earth and contained serious errors, but his maps were not improved as for more than 12 centuries. Hence Ptolemy's "*Geographia*" can be considered as a pioneering work that changed the world.

Ptolemy wrote and mapped the world according to the knowledge he had in the 2nd century. These works were used for hundreds of years afterward. Today's cartography is directly descended from Ptolemy's work.

Claudius Ptolemy c. AD 90 – c. AD 168), was a Roman citizen of Egypt who wrote in Greek. He was a mathematician, astronomer, geographer, astrologer, and poet (of a single epigram in the Greek Anthology). He lived in Egypt under Roman rule, and is believed to have been born in the town of Ptolemais Hermiou in the Thebaid. He died in Alexandria around AD 168.

The *Geographia* (also known as *Geographia*, *Cosmographia*, or *Geographike Hyphegesis*) is Ptolemy's

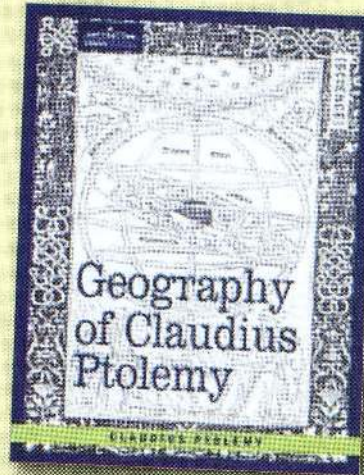
of the data and of the methods used; and Books 2–5, an atlas. The original work included maps, but due to the difficulties involved in copying them by hand, the original maps have fallen out of the manuscript transmission.

Maps redrawn from the coordinates in the text have been re-added to medieval copies of the work.

The oldest copy of the work, the 13th-century *Codex Seragliensis G1 57* was found in the Topkap Palace in Istanbul. It was used as the base of a new edition of the work in 2006.

This new edition was used to "decode" Ptolemy's coordinates of *Germania Magna*, *Gallia Belgica*, *Raetia* and *Noricum* by an interdisciplinary team of TU Berlin, presented in a 2010 publication.

Relevant research on Ptolemy's *Geographia* manuscripts and printed editions, concerning the *Geographia* versions



Sri Lanka
Telecom
Mobitel
We Care. Always.

Get the latest in Cricket
on Tony Talks
Dial 123

THE MEANING OF RELATIVITY

by Albert Einstein

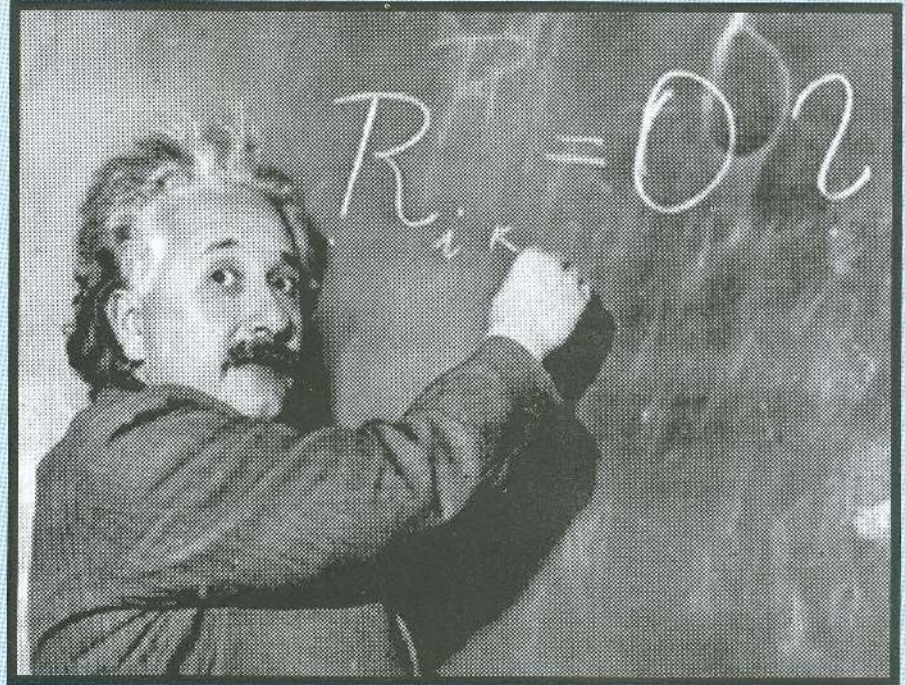
The theory of relativity for which Albert Einstein is most famed, has had the greatest influence on modern physics, both theoretical and experimental. This Nobel Prize winner for Physics in 1921 is also famous for his passionate belief in peace and human welfare. He called for the international control of atomic energy, one of the fundamental necessities for world unity in the future as he believed.

But earlier he was also an active member of the small group of scientists who persuaded the US Government to go forward with the atomic bomb project early in the Second World War (1939-1945).

The meaning of relativity published as one book, this is actually four lectures Einstein gave at Princeton in 1921.

From 1905 to 1915 Albert Einstein revolutionized the conception of space and time and gravity that had been central in physics since Isaac Newton.

In the early years of this century, a young physicist named Albert Einstein began formulating his theories of relativity. From the beginning, this revolution-



ary work attracted attention; but in 1919, scientists conducting experiments on the effect of the sun's gravity found that their results conclusively proved Einstein's predictions. In one fell swoop, the standing model of reality for over 200 years was overthrown...and a new media star was born.

Einstein's special theory of relativity also related mass and energy. Einstein published a formula relating mass and energy, $E=mc^2$ (Energy=mass times speed of light squared). Einstein's equation implied that tremendous energies were contained in small masses.

Along with advancements in atomic theory, Einstein's insights ultimately allowed the development of atomic weapons during World War II and the dawn of the nuclear age.

Special relativity also gave rise to a number of counterintuitive paradoxes dealing with the passage of time (e.g., the twin paradox) and with problems dependent upon an assumption of

simultaneity. According to the postulates of special relativity, under certain conditions it would be impossible to determine when one event happened in relation to another event.

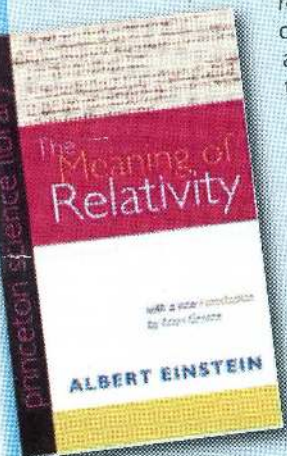
Einstein's theory of relativity is a famous theory, but it's little understood. Basically, the theory of relativity refers to two different elements of the same theory: general relativity and special relativity.

The theory of special relativity was introduced first, and was later considered to be a special case of the more comprehensive theory of general relativity.

Einstein's theory of special relativity - localized behavior of objects in inertial frames of reference, generally only relevant at speeds very near the speed of light

Lorentz transformations - the transformation equations used to calculate the coordinate changes under special relativity

Einstein's theory of general relativity - the more comprehensive theory, which treats gravity as a geometric phenomenon of a curved spacetime coordinate system, which also includes noninertial (i.e. accelerating) frames of reference



We Care. Always.

The latest Sports Updates
with Haritha Perera
Dial 123

BRAVE NEW WORLD

by Aldous Huxley

Aldous Huxley (1894-1963) was unique among the novelists of the inter-war years. He declared that nothing deserved to be taken seriously save the suffering men inflict upon themselves by their own crimes and follies. He criticised both the traditional "social" novel of personal relationships and the more poetic individualism of James Joyce, Virginia Woolf etc, as reflecting conventional values that create suffering and help to perpetuate misery. Although Huxley's highly intelligent satires are very different in style from those of any other twentieth century writer, his themes look forward to those of some of the more important post-war novelists.

Another dystopian novel, this one by Huxley is often considered one of the great novels of the 20th century. Huxley's novel looked unfavorably on the loss of an individual's identity through technological advancements. Some of the developments Huxley wrote about have become startlingly accurate as the future he predicted in 1931 has come closer to reality.

In 1999, the Modern Library ranked *Brave New World* fifth on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. *Brave New World*'s ironic title derives from Miranda's speech in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Act V, Scene I

O wonder!

How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is!
O brave new world!
That has such people in it!

Huxley wrote *Brave New World* in 1931 while he was living in Italy (he moved to Amber Rock, California in 1937). By this

time, Huxley had already established himself as a writer and social satirist. *Brave New World* was Huxley's fifth novel and first dystopian work.

Brave New World warns of the dangers of giving the state control over new and powerful technologies. One illustration of this theme is the rigid control of reproduction through technological and medical intervention, including the surgical removal of ovaries, the Bokanovsky Process, and hypnopædic conditioning.

Another is the creation of complicated entertainment machines that generate both harmless leisure and the high levels of consumption and production that are the basis of the World State's stability.

Soma is a third example of the kind of medical, biological, and psychological technologies that *Brave New World* criticizes most sharply.

While the attitudes and behaviors of World State citizens at first appear bizarre, cruel, or scandalous, many clues point to the conclusion that the World State is simply an extreme—but

logically developed—version of our society's economic values, in which individual happiness is defined as the ability to satisfy needs, and success as a society is equated with economic growth and prosperity.

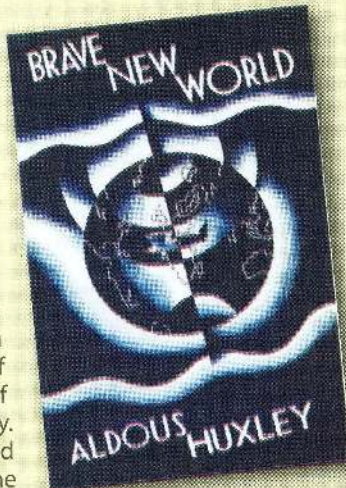
Brave New World is full of characters who do everything they can to avoid facing the truth about their own situations. The almost universal use of the drug soma is probably the most pervasive example of such willful self-delusion.

Soma clouds the realities of the present and replaces them with happy

hallucinations, and is thus a tool for promoting social stability. But even Shakespeare can be used to avoid facing the truth, as John demonstrates by his insistence on viewing Lenina through the lens of Shakespeare's world, first as a Juliet and later as an "impudent strumpet." According to Mustapha Mond, the World State prioritizes happiness at the expense of truth by design: he believes that people are better off with happiness than with truth.

Brave New World has been banned and challenged at various times. In 1932, the book was banned in Ireland for its language, and for supposedly being anti-family and anti-religion. The American Library Association ranks *Brave New World* as #52 on their list of most challenged books.

In 1980, it was removed from classrooms in Miller, Missouri among other challenges. In 1993, an unsuccessful attempt was made to remove the novel from a California school's required reading list because it "centered around negative activity".



Sri Lanka
Telecom
Mobitel
We Care. Always.

Say good bye to long queues
Dial 365 and reserve your
intercity train tickets
*Available for
Colombo-Kandy route



DON QUIXOTE

by Miguel de Cervantes

has promoted this book to the popularity it still enjoys today, and it continues to inspire others to create movies, stories, and more based on the story of the man of La Mancha.

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (9 October 1547; died 23 April 1616) was a Spanish novelist, poet, and playwright. His magnum opus *Don Quixote*, considered the first modern novel, is a classic of Western literature, and is regarded amongst the best works of fiction ever written.

His influence on the Spanish language has been so great that the language is often called *la lengua de Cervantes*

("the language of Cervantes"). He was dubbed *El Príncipe de los Ingenios* ("The Prince of Wits").

Don Quixote is considered the most influential work of literature from the Spanish Golden Age in the Spanish literary canon.

As a founding work of modern Western literature, and one of the earliest canonical novels, it regularly appears high on lists of the greatest works of fiction ever published. In one such list, *Don Quixote* was cited as the "best literary work ever written".

Don Quixote (spelled "Quijote" in modern Spanish) is two separate volumes now nearly always published as one, that cover the adventures of *Don Quixote*, also known as the knight or man of La Mancha, a hero who carries his enthusiasm and self-deception to unintentional and comic ends.

On one level, *Don Quixote* works as a satire of the romances of chivalry, which ruled the literary environment of Cervantes' time. However, the novel also allows Cervantes to illuminate various aspects of human nature, by using the ridiculous example of the delusional *Quixote*.

Because the novel, particularly the first part, was written in individually published sections, the composition includes several incongruities.

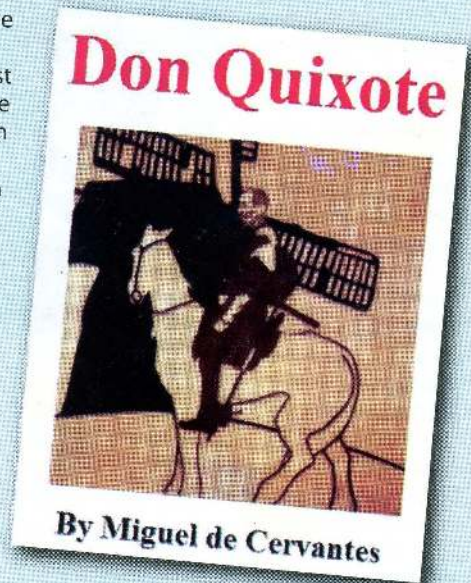
Cervantes himself however pointed out some of these errors in the preface to the second part; but he disdained to correct them, because he conceived that they had been too severely condemned by his critics.

Cervantes felt a passion for the vivid painting of character. *Don Quixote* is noble-minded, an enthusiastic admirer of everything good and great, yet having all these fine qualities accidentally blended with a relative kind of madness. He is paired with a character of opposite qualities, *Sancho Panza*, a man of low self-esteem, who is a compound of grossness and simplicity.



When a book lives for over 300 years, appeals to young and old of many nations and has a freshness for each generation of readers you may be sure that it possesses some rare qualities. The Spanish romance entitled (after its hero) *Don Quixote*; is one of a very few such books. As has been said of it, "Children turn its leaves, young people read it grown men understand it, old folk praise it."

This novel, originally published as two books, is one of the most influential and popular novels to emerge from Spain. The adventure, symbolism, and characterization contained in this novel



Don Quixote is cited as the first classic model of the modern romance or novel, and it has served as the prototype of the comic novel. The humorous situations are mostly burlesque, and it includes satire. *Don Quixote* is one of the Encyclopædia Britannica's Great Books of the Western World, and the Russian author *Fyodor Dostoyevsky* called it "the ultimate and most sublime work of human thinking".



Fax Machine on your Phone
 SMS 'mFAX' to 7575
 Rs. 150/- + taxes per month

THE REPUBLIC

by Plato

Plato (427-347 BC) the great Athenian philosopher, pupil of Socrates, teacher of Aristotle. He founded a school in Athens under the name of the Academy, where he taught philosophy and mathematics. His great work is his "Dialogues" which includes

"The Republic," the longest and most celebrated of them all.

The Republic is a Socratic dialogue written by Plato around 380 BC concerning the definition of justice and the order and character of the just city-state and the just man. The dramatic date of the dialogue has been much debated and though it must take place some time during the Peloponnesian War, "there would be jarring anachronisms if any of the candidate specific dates between 432 and 404 were assigned".

Why do men behave justly? Is it because they fear societal punishment? Are they trembling before notions of divine retribution? Do the stronger elements of society scare the weak into submission in the name of law? Or do men behave justly because it is good for them to do so? Is justice, regardless of its rewards and punishments, a good thing in and of itself? How do we define justice? Plato sets out to answer these questions in The Republic. He wants to define justice, and to define it in such a way as to show that justice is worthwhile in and of itself.

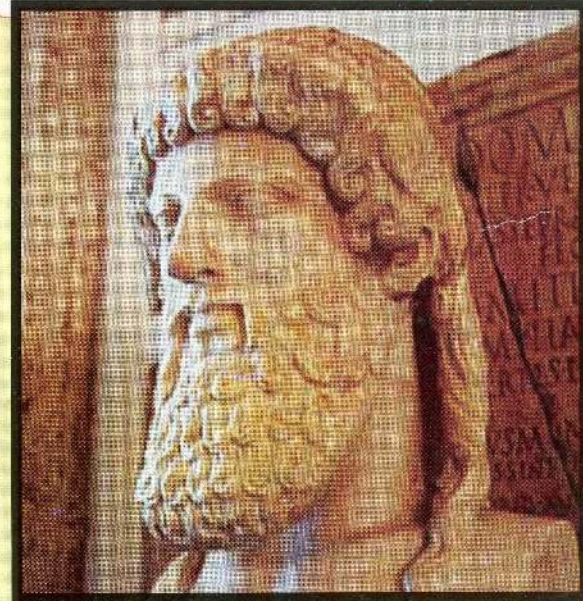
Plato's strategy in The Republic is to first explicate the primary notion of societal, or political, justice, and then to derive an analogous concept of individual justice. In Books II, III, and IV, Plato identifies political justice as harmony in a structured political body. An ideal society consists of three main classes of people—producers (craftsmen,

farmers, artisans, etc.), auxiliaries (warriors), and guardians (rulers); a society is just when relations between these three classes are right. Each group must perform its appropriate function, and only that function, and each must be in the right position of power in relation to the others. Rulers must rule, auxiliaries must uphold rulers' convictions, and producers must limit themselves to exercising whatever skills nature granted them (farming, blacksmithing, painting, etc.)

In a series of three analogies—the allegories of the sun, the line, and the cave—Plato explains who these individuals are while hammering out his theory of the Forms. Plato explains that the world is divided into two realms, the visible (which we grasp with our senses) and the intelligible (which we only grasp with our mind).

The visible world is the universe we see around us. The intelligible world comprises of the Forms—abstract, changeless absolutes such as Goodness, Beauty, Redness, and Sweetness that exist in permanent relation to the visible realm and make it possible. (An apple is red and sweet, the theory goes, because it participates in the Forms of Redness and Sweetness.) Only the Forms are objects of knowledge, because only they possess the eternal unchanging truth that the mind—not the senses—must apprehend.

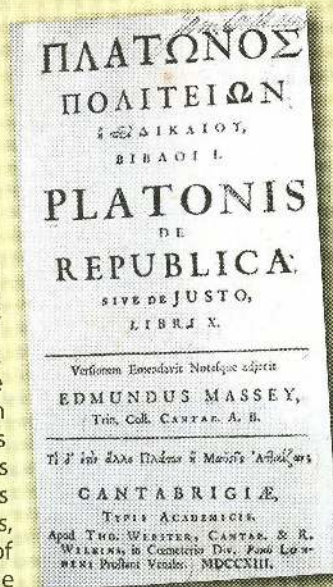
Philosophers form the only class of men to possess knowledge and are also the most just men. Their souls, more than others, aim to fulfil the desires of the rational part. After comparing the philosopher king to the most unjust type



of man—represented by the tyrant, who is ruled entirely by his non-rational appetites—Plato claims that justice is worthwhile for its own sake. In Book IX he presents three arguments for the conclusion that it is desirable to be just. By sketching a psychological portrait of the tyrant, he attempts to prove that injustice tortures a man's psyche, whereas a just soul is a healthy, happy one, untroubled and calm.

One might notice that none of these arguments actually prove that justice is desirable apart from its consequences—instead, they establish that justice is always accompanied by true pleasure. In all probability, none of these is actually supposed to serve as the main reason why justice is desirable. Instead, the desirability of justice is likely connected to the intimate relationship between the just life and the Forms.

Plato ends The Republic on a surprising note. Having defined justice and established it as the greatest good, he banishes poets from his city. Poets, he claims, appeal to the basest part of the soul by imitating unjust inclinations. By encouraging us to indulge ignoble emotions in sympathy with the characters we hear about, poetry encourages us to indulge these emotions in life. Poetry, in sum, makes us unjust. In closing, Plato relates the myth of Er, which describes the trajectory of a soul after death. Just souls are rewarded for one thousand years, while unjust ones are punished for the same amount of time. Each soul then must choose its next life.





Sri Lanka Post & Mobitel introduce another valuable service for the benefit of the community



Reload at your doorstep

Now you can reload your SMART prepaid connection from the Postman who comes to your doorstep as well as at all post offices and sub post offices. You can also pay your Mobitel Bills at over 500 post offices islandwide.

SMART

Delivered by Moolthan Telecom
Hotline: 1717

Sri Lanka
Telecom
Mobitel

We Care. Always.

Printed and published by The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited at No. 5, D.R. Wijewardena Mawatha, Colombo 10, on Thursday, September 22, 2011