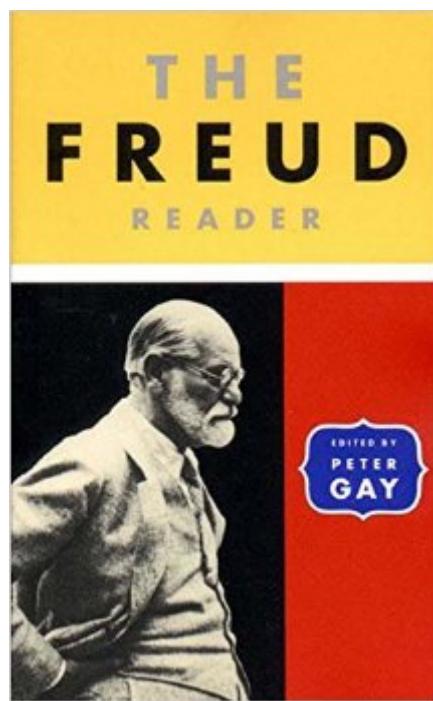


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The Freud Reader



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.

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Customer Reviews

Sigmund Freud was the first clinical psychotherapist, the first to discover and investigate the possibilities of "a talking cure". His contributions have made possible effective psychotherapeutic treatments for ailments encompassing not only acute psychological symptoms, such as traumatic, dissociative, phobic, depressive, and conversion disorders. Psychoanalytic psychotherapy is also the treatment of choice for broader personality difficulties which often give rise to more generalized

problems in living, for example, difficulties in love relationships, self-esteem, and work achievement. To summarize briefly Freud's views on how psychotherapy works is a daunting task. His psychoanalytic writings spanned some forty-three years, from 1895 to 1938, and fill twenty-three hefty volumes. As the first to enter this clinical and theoretical territory, he had nearly to invent *de novo* a model of the human mind. Based on observations from both in and outside the clinical setting, his model would include psychological development from earliest infancy, how one eventually arrives, or fails to arrive, at a relatively stable personality structure. Moreover, the Freudian model accounts for the human potential for resumed growth and change throughout life. Psychoanalysis also seeks to understand the continuous process of mental function from moment to moment, as might be observed through introspection or in a session of psychotherapy. Freud recognized that psychological life intrinsically is inseparable from relations with other people, "object relations", starting with an infant's relations to its mother, later continuing with the child's relations to both his parents and siblings, and ultimately to the wider surrounding community.

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