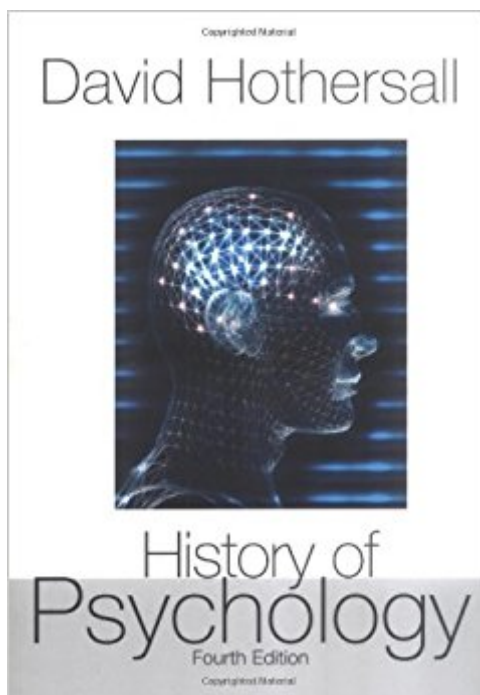


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# History Of Psychology, 4th Edition



## Synopsis

Employing a biographical approach, this text details the important scientific accomplishments of psychology through the lives of the men and women who pioneered the seminal theories driving the discipline. The successes and failures of these distinguished psychologists provide a thorough and complete history of the field and show students its relevance to contemporary psychology.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well written, easy to comprehend. Great undergraduate textbook.

This book is amazing. How much detail the author obtain to give a historic background to psychology being a historian, not a presentist. Even goes back to ancient philosophy to explain the long past of psychology.

Good read. Very interesting information about how psychology started. was needed for a class but I would have bought it on my own anyway

As a doctoral-level text for psychological studies, this book does a great job of covering historical figures and ideas in a succinct way and linking them to contemporary knowledge and ideas. The book's pace is nice and quick, and it provides a good depth of the material.

GREAT ITEM

I gave this seller a 5 star transaction. I was looking for a book that would supplement the e-version of another book in the same subject area. This book had all the pertinent theorists needed to study for my course. The book arrived to me quickly and in good condition! Minimal highlighting, cover in good condition and book in overall good condition. Great transaction.

Review of Hothersall's *A History of psychology* by Paul F. Ross Reading Bahrack et al (2013)  
Life span maintenance of knowledge, I became aware of Hothersall's *A History of psychology* (2003) and searched for a supplier on .com. The bookseller had a hardcover version, my preference, for an attractive price. I ordered. The book arrived. It was Hothersall's first edition (1984), not his fourth (2003). What, after all, could have happened in my fields of science in the last thirty years about which I did not already have solid background information? I began my read with enthusiasm. Having appreciated very much Stigler's *A history of statistics* (1986), another field of high interest to me, I knew I wanted the perspective that a good history would add to my understanding of my behavioral and management sciences. I was not disappointed. Hothersall obviously worked from a timeline, although he does not present it to us, and chose key names from that timeline illustrating the growth of philosophy and psychology, psychology emerging from philosophy when psychology turned to empirical thoughts and studies. Hothersall picks key individuals and presents their biographies, their contributions, and their connections to others. His history extends from Democritus, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle in the fifth and fourth centuries Before the Current Era, through Hobbes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Descartes, and the Mills of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries in the Current Era to Wundt, Fechner, Weber, and Ebbinghaus of the nineteenth century. Hothersall includes the cul de sacs of thought like phrenology and eugenics. Individual differences and the measurement of those characteristics won attention from Galton, Binet, Munsterberg, Terman, and Cattell in the twentieth century. Learning was studied by Angell, Thorndike, Pavlov, Watson, Skinner, Hull, and Guthrie, and education by Dewey in the twentieth century. The structure of the human mind and psychodynamics were explored by Tichener and by Freud. The physiologists extended the understanding of the brain and neural system. Hothersall writes in an engaging way, shows sparks of humor, displays important streams of human concern. I enjoyed the read and very much appreciated the information I was reviewing or seeing for the first time. Hothersall has adopted the same focus as *œtraditional psychology* itself has adopted in its historical development the individual human being is the proper subject of psychology along with his/her sensing of the

environment, means for learning, emotions, drives, and departures from the ordinary. Stepping beyond the individual, in this traditional view, is stepping into another field of science. Hothersall has an academic's perspective on science | all scientific knowledge comes from academia, the central purpose for science is to build theory, psychology is as university-based academic science has defined it to be. Thus his history makes no connection to social groups as through social psychology, sociology, economics, political science, or business management. It seldom gets beyond the laboratory in its search for data and so omits seeing factor analysis or multiple regression and their means for gaining insight into complex influences on personality, life history, or decision making. It has no historical insight into the development of human behavior as it might gain through anthropology and archaeology (see especially Pinker, 2011, for a more complete insight into the historical development of human behavior). Hothersall's history gives very little attention to practical applications as in treating the mentally ill, improving educational efficiencies, or enhancing the performance of individuals and groups in organizations. If you were to inquire of the approaching 100,000 members of the American Psychological Association and the American Psychological Society today, overlooking for the moment the Canadian Psychological Association, the British Psychological Association, etc. etc. on around the world, inquiring about what it is that they do, a very, very small number of the total would say | teach in university, | do my research in a laboratory, | and | The work I do is best helped by an extension of psychological theory. | In fact, the American Psychological Association became so very much oriented toward clinical psychology that the American Psychological Society was formed in the late twentieth century (not mentioned in Hothersall's first edition although the action was already history at the time he was writing | the American Psychological Association's formation from two organizations in the late 1920s is another event that escapes coverage in Hothersall's first edition) just so the experimental and research-and-publication-oriented psychologists could maintain their core control of the image of psychology and its | proper | definition. Ask a lay person what a psychologist does, and s/he will tell you that the psychologist meets with individuals who are under stress for the purpose of helping the individual escape the stress | pointing only to clinical psychology. This reviewer, as you may already have guessed, has worked for a career applying what psychology knows to assist individuals and organizations perform at their very best | not building theory (although I have built some theory), not doing research in a laboratory (my research gets done in organizations, in | the field |), not talking only to psychologists and graduate students of psychology (nearly everyone I meet and with whom I work has been trained in

a field outside psychology, usually outside the fields of behavioral and management science). Having read Hothersall, one has the impression that empirically-based psychology came into being in Europe and has flowered in the United States. The rest of the world knows nothing about psychology. I doubt that this is a valid perspective. So vast fields of psychology and related behavioral and management sciences are not touched in Hothersall's (first edition) history. I have to purchase his fourth edition to see if the horizons there have expanded. What is available in this history is very interesting, well worth reading for the professional psychologist, but, in my view, is an inadequate introduction to psychology and its direction of maturation for the young person at the time that person is entering graduate studies. The student needs to have the whole field of psychology described along with the related fields of behavioral and management sciences and how they got to be the way they are. Given that there are now four editions, apparently the history sells well. I hope it is not teaching more students to have an "individual only" view of psychology for, if people are a key interest of yours, this "individual only" view is inadequate, misleading.

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16 December 2013

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Hothersall, David History of psychology 1984, First Edition, Temple University Press, Philadelphia PA  
Hothersall, David History of psychology 2003, Fourth Edition, McGraw Hill, New York NY  
Stigler, Stephen M. The history of statistics: The measurement of uncertainty before 1900 1986, Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA

Well, I used this book for my History and Systems of Psych class and I found it to be extremely boring and drawn-out. It just seemed like everything in it, I had heard about before, but the book managed to make it even more boring than the first time I heard about the research! I fully understand that, yes, it is a history book, but I guess I thought that there would be more to it, seeing as how it's a psych book. Then again, it was my last semester and nothing I read that semester truly satisfied me, so it could just be me! It wasn't completely terrible, but it could've stood for improvement! Then again, if you are reading this review, you are most likely buying this for a class, and don't have much of a choice over what you'll be reading anyway! Enjoy!

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