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society is always "materialistic, spiritually bankrupt, and devoid of human values. Modern people are always displaced, rootless, psychologically scarred, and isolated from one another." (LJ 2/15/97)

★Randall, John H., Jr. **The Making of the Modern Mind: A Survey of the Intellectual Background of the Present Age.** Columbia Univ. 1976. 696p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-231-04143-8. pap. \$29.50.

Randall was one of the great American minds of the 20th century, and this was his classic textbook written for Columbia's contemporary civilization course. First published in 1926 and last revised in 1940, this is another book that Gress sees as an example of the Grand Narrative, but as he points out, it was "brilliantly learned and well written." It thus still serves as a solid introduction to the history of ideas for undergraduates and adults.

Weber, Eugen. **Apocalypses: Prophecies, Cults, and Millennial Beliefs Through the Ages.** Harvard Univ. 1999. 294p. index. ISBN 0-674-04080-5. \$24.95.

As we approach the "fin de siècle," Weber informs us that for Western man, "It is not the siècle, but the fin that matters." Since Zoroaster and the Old and New Testaments, the end of history with its final battle between good and evil has been a common belief and not just among religious crazies. Weber argues that this belief stems from the hope that human suffering will ultimately be justified by a final "apocalyptic rupture." (LJ 4/1/99)

PHILOSOPHY

★Christian, James L. **Philosophy: An Introduction to the Art of Wondering.** 7th ed. Harcourt. 1998. 738p. illus. index. ISBN 0-15-505592-5. \$71.

This undergraduate textbook, originally published in 1973, also holds a good deal of appeal for adult readers. Christian believes that philosophy is critical thinking about the "Big Picture." He thus addresses the concerns that most people "wonder" about: Does life have meaning? Does God exist? How do you know right from wrong? and so on. Christian has also filled the book with interesting sidebars, illustrations, and relevant cartoons. This is philosophy made intelligible and fun.

Danto, Arthur C. **Connections to the World: The Basic Concepts of Philosophy.** Univ. of California. 1997. 281p. index. ISBN 0-520-20842-0. pap. \$15.95.

Danto argues that the principal concern of philosophy has always been the theory of knowledge (epistemology) because men must know how they can get accurate knowledge about the world. We (subject) connect to the world (object) by our perceptions (representations) of the world. Philosophers are concerned with how we get our representations and how we know they are true. Danto's short chapters can be read like daily meditations. (LJ 4/1/97)

Magee, Bryan. **Confessions of a Philosopher: A Journey Through Western Philosophy.** Random. 1998. 480p. index. ISBN 0-375-50028-6. \$25.95.

Magee, Bryan. **The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy.** Oxford Univ. 1988. 352p. illus. index. ISBN 0-19-282201-2. pap. \$13.95.

★Magee, Bryan. **The Story of Philosophy.** DK. 1998. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-7894-3511-X. \$29.95.

Magee has taught philosophy at Oxford, and in each of these volumes he attempts to make philosophy understandable to the lay reader. The DK book devotes just a few pages to each of the major thinkers and is lavishly illustrated. It would be suitable for high school, college, and public libraries. *Great Philosophers* is a series of conversations with important contemporary philosophers about the major historical figures, originally produced for the BBC. *Confessions* is an autobiographical excursion through Western philosophy.

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