

The Very Short Introduction: A Comprehensive Guide to a Celebrated Book Series

The Very Short (VSI) series is a collection of concise, accessible, and engaging books published by Oxford University Press. These books provide overviews of a wide range of academic subjects, written by leading experts in their fields. Since their inception in 1995, VSIs have become a highly successful and influential series, with over 600 titles published to date.



Thomas Aquinas: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions Book 214) by Fergus Kerr

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1277 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 145 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



History and Origins

The VSI series was conceived in the early 1990s as a response to the perceived need for accessible and affordable texts to academic subjects. The series' founders, Nicholas Evans and John Marenbon, aimed to create

books that would be both authoritative and engaging, appealing to both students and general readers alike.

The first VSI, titled *Introducing Shakespeare* by Peter Ackroyd, was published in 1995. The book was an immediate success, and the series quickly gained a reputation for producing high-quality titles to a wide range of subjects.

Format and Style

VSI titles are typically between 100 and 150 pages in length and are written in a clear and concise style. They are designed to be accessible to a wide audience, including students, researchers, and general readers. Each VSI is written by a leading expert in the field and is thoroughly researched and fact-checked.

VSI titles are typically structured around a series of short chapters, each of which covers a specific aspect of the subject. The books often include illustrations, timelines, and other pedagogical features to help readers understand the material.

Subject Coverage

The VSI series covers a wide range of academic subjects, including history, philosophy, literature, science, religion, and the arts. The series is particularly strong in the humanities and social sciences, but it also includes titles on topics such as mathematics, physics, and biology.

Some of the most popular VSI titles include:

- *Introducing Shakespeare* by Peter Ackroyd

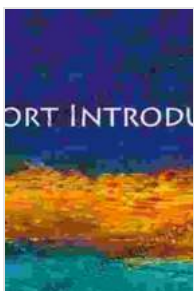
- *Introducing Philosophy* by Bryan Magee
- *Introducing Economics* by John Sloman
- *Introducing Psychology* by Richard Gross
- *Introducing Politics* by Anthony King

Impact and Significance

The VSI series has had a significant impact on the world of publishing and academia. The books have been praised for their high quality, accessibility, and affordability. They have been used as textbooks in universities around the world and have helped to introduce millions of readers to new subjects.

The VSI series has also been credited with helping to democratize knowledge. By making academic subjects accessible to a wide audience, the books have helped to break down the barriers between academia and the general public.

The Very Short series is a unique and valuable resource for students, researchers, and general readers alike. The books provide concise, accessible, and engaging texts to a wide range of academic subjects. The series has had a significant impact on the world of publishing and academia, and it continues to be a popular and respected source of knowledge.



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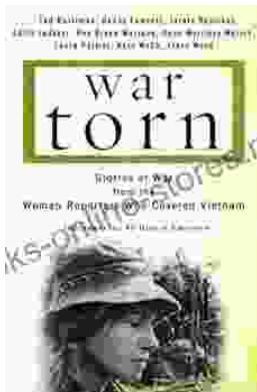
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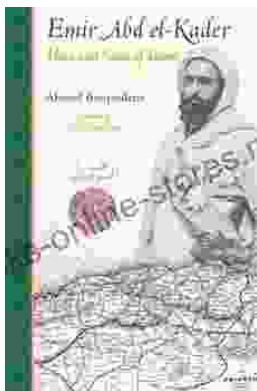
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