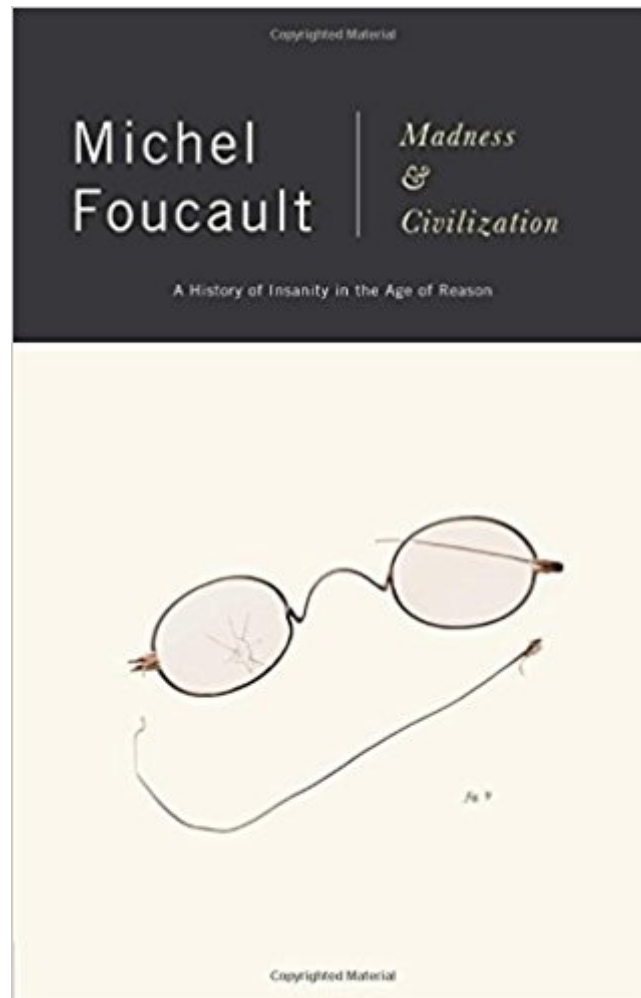




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Madness And Civilization: A History Of Insanity In The Age Of Reason



Synopsis

Michel Foucault examines the archeology of madness in the West from 1500 to 1800 - from the late Middle Ages, when insanity was still considered part of everyday life and fools and lunatics walked the streets freely, to the time when such people began to be considered a threat, asylums were first built, and walls were erected between the "insane" and the rest of humanity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Superb scholarship rendered with artistry" --The Nation

Text: English, French (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Delightful romp through the history of mental illness and how we still treat people less than human who are sick. Good for a few laughs.

An excellent way to food for thought!

I read this book years ago as a college student and went back to it as part of my researches on the history of psychiatry. It is a magnificent piece of literature and is very scholarly and creative. However, it is way off the mark with regard to severe mental illness, and the debatse we have had

about how to help these people since at least the industrial revolution. Although many past efforts were marked by their cruelty and rigid adherence to one doctrine or another, it is a tremendously complex problem, and the author does not seem to have much patience for this idea.

I am only in the middle of this book at the moment but his book is full of history. The style of the writing is beautiful.

A FOUNDATIONAL TEXT FOR UNDERSTANDING DERRIDA: This manuscript by Foucault will either complicate or simplify your comprehension of Derrida; but it should be understood that the two thinkers are closely related in their approach to phenomenology. "Madness" appeared in France in 1964. Derrida's "Grammatology" appeared in France in 1967 (just three years later). Although they differed in their appropriation of Descartes; Derrida professed a considerable appreciation for Foucault's work on "Madness". FOUCAULT INTRODUCED THE IDEA OF NEGATING THE CLASSICAL NOTION OF LOGOS that Derrida adapted. It is a first moment to be articulated in this text. From there, the self engages passage on the "ship-of-fools" in search of entering the City-of-Reason

I have to confess it is a bit above my reading capacity. The way of presenting ideas resorted to by Mr. Foucault is quite hard to get on with. Even I put 100% concentration on it, I know I can only get less than what I might be satisfied what Mr. Foucault really wanted to convey. And I recommend a basic reading about literature and art of Middle Age Europe does help to read this book. It is a good book though, a very new way of expressing the intimacy between unreason and reason in civilisation (he seemed to tell they are interchangeable!) It does make me feel depressed when I get myself out of the book world and once again into the real world I am living. Very gloomy, Bleak, Broken.... Though it is the commonest indicator of knowing myself get some new knowledge.

Great!

It's one of the more Important books in the long way of the science, and it will be.

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