

Why literature is important

A photograph of a modern library. The room is filled with tall, dark wood bookshelves that reach up to the ceiling. The shelves are filled with books. In the center of the room, there is a long, dark wood table. A large window at the end of the aisle provides natural light and a view of the outdoors. The lighting is warm and ambient, highlighting the texture of the books and the wood.

It's a way to help us understand who we are and what drives us, and to connect us with others who have similar experiences. Literature is a universal language that allows us to share stories and connect across borders.

Research confirms that literature positively influences our well-being and health. Even when we read to escape from everyday reality, stories help to put things from our own lives into perspective and to think differently about our own situation.

Dear friends and colleagues,

What will the new world order look like? What do we want this to look like?

In this period, the world is entangled in a state of violent power struggle: rulers intimidate and fight for territory and global hegemony, and there are clashes between and within cultural, political philosophies and ideologies as well as between social and all kinds of other individual views.

The turbulence, together with the impact of the drastic transitions and transformations taking place, leads to gloomy thoughts about the future, a sense of powerlessness and an atmosphere in which dangerous ideologies can arise.



Developments that are not all reassuring. But should we stand by and watch how dangerous ideologies can be or do we ourselves create the right conditions for freedoms, a decent standard of living and for a life with a balanced shared citizenship and cultural differences?

To experience a new era, we must stop waging war and commit ourselves to making the planet liveable for all by working towards the perspective of eco-modernism and technological humanism. Following both of these philosophies can lead us into a new period of well-being.

Time to put shoulders to the wheel, to strengthen international cooperation, and share the earth's treasures more fairly.

The EU and NATO, UN's Pact for the Future, the EPC **(2)**, BIG **(3)** and the implementation of the strategic agenda 2024-2029 with its political priorities **(4)**, must support us in this and protect us against instability and uncertainty.

But this is not enough. As citizens, we also have to make efforts: agree with and participate in constructive agendas and give them more added value, allow yourself more tolerance and continue to develop with the help of departments of learning, science and art.

Hence the list of authors. Give yourself time to absorb and to spread the valuable knowledge the world around us offers, the university of life, so that you can make the future truly meaningful.

Fight evil, read literature

1. 'Common Ground', Magazine European Cultural Foundation;
2. European Political Community to foster political dialogue and cooperation to address issues of common interest;
3. Brussels Institute for Geopolitics, helping Europe get in shape for the new era of great power politics;
4. 'a free and democratic Europe', 'a strong and secure Europe', and 'a prosperous and competitive Europe'.

Hugh Honour & John Fleming
Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche
Theodore Dalrymple
George Steiner
Sarah Bakewell
Avishai Margalit
Dostoyevsky
Barack H. Obama
Thomas Mann
Bernard Mandeville
Robert Musil
Seneca
Nexus Institute
Bertrand Russell
Homeros
Geert Mak
Michael Sandel
Kwame Anthony Appiah
Plutarchus
Desiderius Erasmus
Lev Tolstoy
Milton
Plato
Ibn Rushd
Tom Holland
The Best of The Atlantic Monthly
Benjamin Kaplan
Rob Riemen
Nicholas Tchkotoua
Thomas More
Evgeny Morozov
Aleksandr Poesjkin
Goethe
Margaret Atwood
Alexis de Tocqueville
John Stuart Mill
Charles Darwin
Charles Dickens
Epicurus
Euclid
Amos Oz
Claudio Magris
Tatjana Tolstaja
Aldous Koestler
Archimedes
Apollonius
Cicero
Lucretius
Virgil
Horace
Livy
Ovid
Tacitus
Nicomachus of Gerasa
Alfred North Whitehead

Marcus Aurelius Galens
Plotinus
St. Augustine
The Song of Roland
The Nibelungenlied
The Saga of Burnt Njál
St. Thomas Aquinas
Reinhold Niebuhr
Dante Alighieri
Geoffrey Chaucer
David Marquand
Leonardo da Vinci
Niccolò Machiavelli
Nicolaus Copernicus
Martin Luther
Francois Rabelais
John Calvin
Michel de Montaigne
William Gilbert
Miguel de Cervantes
Edmund Spenser
Francis Bacon
Johannes Kepler
Henry James
Aldous Koestler
Thomas Hobbes
René Descartes
John Milton
Henrik Ibsen
Moliere
Blaise Pascal
Christiaan Huygens
Benedict de Spinoza
John Locke
Jean Baptiste Racine
Isaac Newton
Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz
Daniel Defoe
Jonathan Swift
William Congreve
George Berkeley
Alexander Pope
Charles de Secondat (Montesquieu)
Paul-Michel Foucault
Voltaire
Henry Fielding
Samuel Johnson
David Hume
Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Laurence Sterne
Adam Smith
Immanuel Kant
Edward Gibbon
James Boswell
Colm Tóibín


Epictetus
Ptolemy
Lucian
Liaquat Ahamed
Putnam
Marilynne Robinson
Antoine Laurent Lavoisier
Alexander Hamilton
John Jay
James Madison
Philipp Blom
Anton Tsjechov
Allan Janik
Stefan Zweig
George Santayana
Lenin
Marcel Proust
Christopher Clark
Robert Hughes
Albert Einstein
Hannah Arendt
Jeremy Bentham
Ernest Hemingway
Dubravka Ugrešić
Edgar Allan Poe
Aeschylus
Sophocles
Herodotus
Euripides
Thucydides
Hippocrates
Aristophanes
Aristotle
Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
William Wordsworth
Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Rüdiger Safranski
Jane Austen
Karl von Clausewitz
Stendhal
Lord Byron
Arthur Schopenhauer
Michael Faraday
Charles Lyell
Auguste Comte
Honoré de Balzac
John Maynard Keynes
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Sigmund Freud
Virginia Woolf
Jürgen Habermas
James Joyce
Ivan Toergenjev
Jacques Maritain
Ágnes Heller
Franz Kafka

Moshe Halbertal
Arnold J. Toynbee
Simone Weil
Jean Paul Sartre
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
Rainer Maria Rilke
Anthony Pagden
Michael Sandel
Hans Achterhuis
Alan Greenspan
Stephen Fry
Leo Strauss
M.E. Sarotte
Paul Valéry
George Klein
Walter Whitman
Antonio Scurati
Nikolai Gogol
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier
William Harvey
Dan Diner
Claude Bernard
Henry David Thoreau
Orhan Pamuk
Karl Marx
George Eliot
Herman Melville
Fyodor Dostoevsky
Gustave Flaubert
Machado de Assis
Jules Henri Poincaré
William Shakespeare
Galileo Galilei
George Bernard Shaw
Shmuel Eisenstadt
Pierre Manent
Max Planck
Henri Bergson
John Dewey



“Who doesn’t know anything, has to believe everything”


Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

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Centers involved:

- Nexus Institute
- Leiden University
- Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism | Council for Inclusive Capitalism | CIFA
- CEPS
- GBBC | Odyssey

Feeling EUROPE FNDN promotes and guides European values and affairs, with the aim to improve living conditions, as human condition. The foundation is an outgrowth from the conferences 'Europe: A Beautiful Idea?' (5th) and 'The Sound of Europe'

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