Political Psychology Subfield Reading List

This list is meant not as a required list or even as a canon but rather as a list of books that some of us who consider ourselves “political psychologists” have found inspirational, fun or useful. I’ll note the people who recommended them, and hope you can add to this list and share it with others.

**From George Marcus at Williams College**  
*The Federalist Papers*  
Hobbes, *The Leviathan*  
Aeschylus, *The Oresteia Trilogy*  
Thucydides *The History of the Peloponnesian War*  
Milton Rokeach - *Three Christs of Ypsilanti* (Don’t make the common mistake of thinking this is about “them” and not about “us”). From Wikipedia: *The Three Christs of Ypsilanti* was first published in 1964. Rokeach came to think that his research had been manipulative and unethical, and he offered an apology in the afterword of the 1984 edition of the book: "I really had no right, even in the name of science, to play God and interfere round the clock with their daily lives."  
Hugh Duncan - Communication and Social Order

**From Kristen Monroe at UCI**  
Alexis DeTocqueville. *The Old Regime and the French Revolution*. Short book, took over 20 years to research and develops concept of revolution of rising expectations and idea of relative deprivation 100 years before contemporary social science got to them.  
Bruno Bettelheim. *The Informed Heart*. Intellectual autobiography  
Arthur Koestler. *Arrival and Departure*. Novel shows how the mind works to drive our behavior.


**From Rose McDermott at Brown University**

1. *Descartes Error* by Antonio D'amasio. Hard to exaggerate its importance.  
2. *Thinking Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. A masterwork by an absolutely master.  
3. *Demonic Males* by Dale Petersen and Richard Wrangham. Only academic book I've ever read in one sitting. Explains more than you want to know about men

**From Shawn Rosenberg, UCI**  
Historical development of political psychology:

Graham Wallas (1920). Human Nature and Politics. (free ebook)  

Conceptual (attempts to specify the relationship between the individual and the society/polity)
George Herbert Mead (1934). Mind Self and Society. Chicago: University of Chicago

From Adam Martin, former UCI student, now teaching at Graceland

Kristen Monroe’s Heart of Altruism,
Aristotle's Politics and Nicomachean Ethics
Harold Lasswell's Psychopathology and Politics,
Ernest Becker's "The Denial of Death", roots of terror management theory
Albert Camus 'The Rebel' and "The Myth of Sisyphus" (esp. the former)
A bit more philosophical, but Eric Hoffer's "The True Believer"
Anything by Rose McDermott
Anything by Dan McAdams, but especially "The Redemptive Self" and his profile of G.W. Bush
Anything by Erik Erikson, but especially "Childhood and Society" and "Identity and the Life Cycle", "Insight and Responsibility"
Jonathan Haidt on the Moral Self The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion.

From Jennifer Jones, Recent ABD at UCI

16. Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson. Metaphors We Live By. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago
Jen’s Advancement Reading List
Select key publications in political psychology & American politics
Also, publications I’ve read… and remember.
Most (personally) influential papers in bold
Baumeister, Roy F., Kathleen D. Vohs, and David C. Funder. “Psychology as the Science of Self-


Inbar, Yoel, David A. Pizarro, Joshua Knobe, and Paul Bloom. “Disgust Sensitivity Predicts
Personality, and
Jost, John T., Christopher M. Federico, and James L. Napier. “Political Ideology: Its Structure,
Kahneman, Daniel, and Amos Tversky. “Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision Under
Risk.”
Kahneman, Daniel, and Amos Tversky. “Choices, Values, and Frames.” American psychologist
American psychologist 58, no. 9 (2003): 697.
Kinder, Donald R, Mark D Peters, Robert P Abelson, and Susan T Fiske. “Presidential
Prototypes.”
Kinder, Donald R, and David O Sears. “Prejudice and Politics: Symbolic Racism Versus Racial
562-595.
Klandermans, P. G. “Identity Politics and Politicized Identities: Identity Processes and the
Dynamics
Knight, Kathleen. “Transformations of the Concept of Ideology in the Twentieth Century.”
American
Political Science Review 100, no. 4 (2006):
Koleva, Spassena P., Jesse Graham, Ravi Iyer, Peter H. Ditto, and Jonathan Haidt. “Tracing the
Threads: How Five Moral Concerns (Especially Purity) Help Explain Culture War Attitudes.”
480.
Lakoff, George. The Political Mind: Why You Can’t Understand 21st-Century Politics With an
18th-
77, no.
Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson. Metaphors We Live By. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago
Lakoff, George. Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things. What Categories Reveal About the Mind.
Lane, Robert E. Political Life: Why People Get Involved in Politics. The Free Press of Glencoe,
1959.


McCarty, Nolan M., Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. *Polarized America: The Dance of*


Schwarz, Norbert, and Gerald L. Clore. “How Do I Feel About it? The Informative Function of
Sears, David O. “College Sophomores in the Laboratory: Influences of a Narrow Data Base on Social Psychology’s View of Human Nature.” *Journal of personality and social psychology* 51, no. 3 (1986): 515.


**From David Feldman at UCI**


*From Michael TEssler, UCI*

From Michael Tessler, UCI

Here's my top-ten list, which is very behavior/race driven:


