

**SHL Book Club January 2019 READING LIST**  
**(Note: No December Book Club Meeting)**

CHOSEN FOR JANUARY 27 BOOK CLUB MEETING:

**Not seeing God: Atheism in the 21st Century** by Jonathan MS Pearce (2017)  
PB 296p. \$16.99, Kindle \$9.99.

Atheism is an evolving worldview - not the single proposition that God does not exist, but everything else that might or might not go with it. With only a single sentence about the existence of single entity, there is huge scope - necessity, even - for having to reasonably work everything else out. It's a lot more difficult to figure out the world when it's not handed to you in an old, outdated book. The world is sometimes a complicated place. With this in mind, *Not Seeing God* looks at the challenges of leaving religion, arguing for atheism, the role and position of atheism in society and where we go from here. **Yvonne's Review:** I enjoyed this book tremendously for its wit and logic. I highly recommend it.

FOR CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE BOOK CLUB MEETINGS:

(4 votes previously) **The Necessity of Atheism: Classic Literature** by David Marshall Brooks (2017) PB \$4.43 244 p., Kindle \$0.99, HC \$25.95

**Amazon Review:** The author reviews the effects of religious thinking upon various aspects of human history and human thought: science, medicine, morality, witchcraft, warfare, slavery, women, labor, philosophy. He quotes many persons who have written on this subject, both in distant past and in recent years. He argues that the decline of religion and the rise of atheism are inevitable.

**Recommended by Barb Childs**

(4 votes previously) **The square and the tower: networks and power, from the Freemasons to Facebook** by Niall Ferguson (2018) HC 592p., \$17.95, Kindle \$14.99, Audible \$29.92, 17 hrs.

**The New York Times Book Review:** "Captivating and compelling. Whether describing the surprisingly ineffective 18th century network of the mysterious Illuminati that continue to be the subject of crank conspiracy theorists or the shockingly effective 20th century network of Cambridge University spies working for the Soviets, Ferguson manages both to tell a good story and provide important insight into the specific qualities that power successful networks."

(3 votes previously) **Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History** by Kurt Andersen (2017) HC 480p. \$18.18; PB \$14.92, Audible 20 hrs. \$32.95.

(**Review by Dave Brown**, an author/SHL member/former moderator of our book club)

“It's a book that speaks to us about our post truth world we find ourselves in today, how it came to evolve over several centuries of our country's history, and, tellingly, the roll that religion (but particularly Protestantism) has played in setting the stage for its evolution.”

**Amazon review:** A razor-sharp thinker offers a new understanding of our post-truth world and explains the American instinct to believe in make-believe, from the Pilgrims to P. T. Barnum to Disneyland to zealots of every stripe...to Donald Trump

(2) **The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas are Setting Up a Generation for Failure** by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt (2018) HC \$16.80 322p., Kindle \$14.99, Audible \$16.80

**Publishers Weekly:** “In this expansion of their 2015 piece for the *Atlantic*, Lukianoff and Haidt argue that the urge to insulate oneself against offensive ideas has had deleterious consequences, making students less resilient, more prone to undesirable “emotional reasoning,” less capable of engaging critically with others’ viewpoints, and more likely to cultivate an “us-versus-them” mentality... the path they advocate—take on challenges, cultivate resilience, and try to reflect rather than responding based solely on initial emotional responses—deserves consideration.”

**Recommended by Barb Childs**