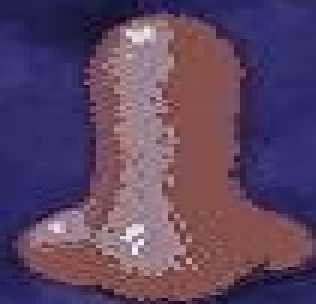


BY THE AUTHOR OF *VOLTAIRE'S BASTARDS*

# *The* DOUBTER'S COMPANION

A Dictionary of Aggressive Common Sense

JOHN RALSTON SAUL



# Doubters Companion A Dictionary Of Aggressive Common Sense

**Marlene Derlet, Judy Foster**



## **Doubters Companion A Dictionary Of Aggressive Common Sense:**

The Doubter's Companion John Ralston Saul, 2012-11-06 A long and distinguished tradition of writers have used the form of a satirical dictionary to undermine the received ideas of their day Voltaire wrote a sharply humorous Philosophical Dictionary while Samuel Johnson's dictionary of the English language was derisive and opinionated These early dictionaries and encyclopedias were really weapons in a struggle for the soul of civilization between forces of humanistic enlightenment and the forces of orthodoxy and dogmatism Their authors attacked and exposed the half truths of their day by showing that it was possible to think differently about the social and political arrangements that everyone took for granted But as John Ralston Saul argues in this decidedly unorthodox book modern dictionaries have once again been captured by the forces of orthodoxy albeit this time a rationalist orthodoxy Our language has become as predictable fragmented and rhetorical as it was in the 18th century divided as it is by special interest groups into dialects of expertise that are hermetically sealed off and inaccessible to citizens In The Doubter's Companion a marvelous subversive contribution to the great 18th century tradition of the humanist dictionary Saul skewers and discredits the accepted content of common terms like Advertising Academics and Air Conditioning defined as an efficient means for spreading disease in enclosed public spaces Cannibal Conservative and Croissant Dandruff Death and Dictionary opinions presented as truth in alphabetical order and several hundred others including Biography a respectable form of pornography Museum safe storage for stolen objects and Manners people are always splendid when they're dead There is much in this volume that will stimulate offend provoke perplex and entertain But Saul deploys these tactics of guerilla lexicography to advance the more serious purpose of reclaiming public language from the stultifying dialects of modern expertise

Doubters Companion John Ralston Saul, 2014-08-19 How are citizens to enter into a public debate if the concepts which define our society and decide the manner in which we are governed are open neither to understanding nor to questioning According to bestselling novelist and essayist John Ralston Saul the ramifications of asking this question are enormous We live in an era of specialization where decision makers administrators and process minded experts have fortified their positions of authority by insulating themselves from public accountability An important instrument in their ascension has been language or more precisely a language so technically specific and laden with jargon that it has isolated the individual citizen

*Invisible Women of Prehistory* Marlene Derlet, Judy Foster, 2013-06-01 Based on many years of research into ancient history and prehistory this insightful tome argues that three million years of peace a period when women's status in society was much higher than it is now preceded the last 6 000 years of war during which men have come to hold power over women The book challenges the idea accepted in academia that history is a linear development in which society is steadily moving out of a violent and patriarchal past to a more equitable and peaceful future and it reexamines both the archaeological work of Marjia Gimbutas and recent research into the prehistories of Africa Asia the Americas and Australia and Oceania

**Reflections on War, Diplomacy, Human**

**Rights and Liberalism** Adam Hughes Henry, 2020-12-01 For most people the idea that extremist ideologies glorify themselves through warfare and commit crimes against humanity and genocide is the natural extension of their moral and philosophical failings As this volume outlines liberal democracies such as Australia and others also glorify in war and they may also at various times engage in support or turn a blind eye to crimes against humanity or genocide However liberal democracies such as Australia the US and the UK among others routinely present themselves as arbiters of liberal values defenders of human rights and guardians of virtue This book explores the obvious contradiction between the ideals of liberalism and how liberal democracies ignore and at times even justify their failure to uphold the principles they espouse

Managing the Modern Herbarium Sheila C. Byers, Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, Royal Ontario Museum, 1999 A joint project by The Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections The Royal Ontario Museum **Common Sense; or, Hints on your nearest and most considerable affairs**, 1841 *Fear and Common Sense* E. H. Welford, 1953

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