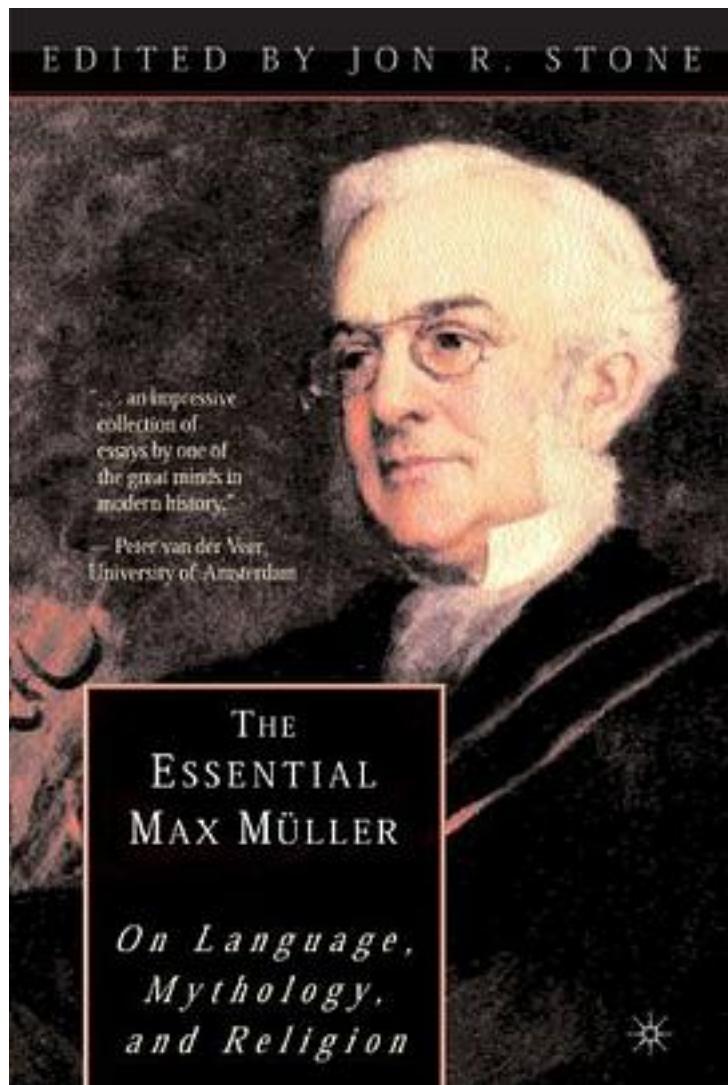


# The Essential Max Müller



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Max Muller is often referred to as the "father of religious studies", having himself coined the term "science of religion" (or *religionswissenschaft*) in 1873. It was he who encouraged the comparative study of myth and ritual, and it was he who introduced the oft quoted dictum: "He who knows one (religion), knows none". Though a German born and German educated philologist, he spent the greater part of his career at Oxford, becoming one of the most famous of the Victorian armchair scholars. His 1856 essay on "Comparative Mythology", for instance, influenced a generation of British folklorists. Not surprisingly, for nearly half a century, from 1856 until his death in 1900, Muller was in great demand both as an essayist and as a lecturer in academic settings. In 1878, he delivered the inaugural Hibbert Lectures and was twice invited to deliver the Gifford Lectures (in 1890 and 1891). Muller also wrote extensively on Indian philosophy and Vedic religion, translated major sections of the Vedas, the Upanisads, and all of the Dhammapada, yet never visited India. To be sure, his work bears the stamp of late 19th century sensibilities, but as artifacts of Victorian era scholarship, Muller's essays are helpful in reconstructing and comprehending the intellectual concerns of this highly enlightened though highly imperialistic age. As influential as Muller had been to the young fields of anthropology, linguistics, folklore, and comparative religions, his essays and addresses have remained unavailable to the modern scholars or to students of 19th century intellectual history. The publication of this collection of Muller's best known essays, though long overdue, brings Muller back to life, and brings needed historical depth to the continuing theoretical and methodological debates in the academic study of religion.

作者介绍:

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标签

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评论

Gifford Lectures on Natural Religion

缪勒过世百年后的第一部精选集，选取了缪勒研究语言、神话和宗教的代表性文章。编者Jon R. Stone是学识渊博、态度客观的宗教学者。他的前言和引言语调恳切，史料丰富，对缪勒的学生和学者生涯概述精要，对缪勒在思想史和学术史的地位评价客观，是我读到的最好的介绍。

根据松泽智子的评价，这可以说是第一部对穆勒的生平和学术做出全面记述与评价的著作了。它按照时间顺序（不过对其后期作品偏爱更大一些）分门别类地列出19条条目，其中大多是将穆勒作为公众演讲家的作品精选。不过，此书的缺点在于缺少目录学上的介绍与涉及文章来源的信息，使我们难以获得有关文献或者历史背景的了解，所以最好搭配其它相关书目阅读。

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