

The final chapter is devoted to a discussion by the philosopher Alison Wylie of the relationships between politics and science. Much of the very sensible argument (made elsewhere by her and by others) is based on a consideration of whether the conceptual tools of oppression (which in the past has included Western science) can be transformed into the instruments of liberation. Wylie is perhaps more aware than the other contributors to this volume that this issue cannot be resolved by appealing to stock versions of positivist or post-positivist philosophy of science, and that little can be considered to be cut and dried. The fundamental questions raised by a consideration of how knowledge is produced and justified are not, and cannot be, resolved simply by calling for a commitment to listening to the "Other", especially when it is at the expense of a rigorous and fearless use of the principles of empirical inquiry. In the end (as has been argued since the Enlightenment) rationality and liberation are not mutually exclusive and that while this might be uncomfortable for some, the alternatives leave us in a much greater mess.

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by

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The Cambridge Illustrated History of Archaeology is another in a series of volumes devoted to the history of archaeology that have appeared in recent time. Paul Bahn, the editor of the volume, has broken down his coverage of the history of worldwide archaeology into the following arrangement: "The Archaeology of Archaeology", "Old Worlds and New, 1500-1760", "Antiquarians and Explorers, 1760-1820", "Science and Romanticism, 1820-1860", "The Search for Human Origins, 1860-1920", "Archaeology Comes of Age, 1920-1960", "New Techniques and Competing Philosophies, 1960-1990", and "Current Controversies and Future Trends". Bahn's volume explores many of the major developments in archaeological practice from both in the classical world and as from the practice of archaeology in the Americas. The volume even gives the reader a glimpse into the origins and growth of archaeology in New Zealand. Of particular interest is coverage of the history of early archaeological efforts having to do with early studies of human origins. This topic is rarely part of any published history of archaeology and the reader will greatly benefit from the discussion. The reader is also given an excellent discussion of many of the well-known and less well-known discoveries in both the ancient and New Worlds. The text of the volume is supported with excellent illustrations and rare photographs/paintings of early archaeologists. On the whole the volume is an excellent introduction to the origins and development of archaeology and will serve as a good starting point to learn more by students having an interest in the history of science, particularly in the history of archaeology. This volume is recommended to become a part of the reference collections of libraries in universities and colleges.