

John Poulos: An Intellectual Journey through Paris

An Intellectual Journey through Paris traces the history of Paris as a pivotal point in the development of western thought. Paris has long been known as the intellectual capital of the world, the first modern city and the capital of modernity. Paris' reputation as the intellectual capital of the world is more than justified. Writers, philosophers, composers, artists, scientists and many others flooded into Paris, not in their hundreds but in their thousands.

This book is not just about Paris but is an epic journey through history: following Julius Caesar, in one of the greatest military victories in history, vanquishing Gallic tribes; the rise of Christianity and the Crusaders roasting of babies in the Holy Land; the beheading of Saint Denis; and the castration of Abelard; exploring the philosophers from Aristotle through to Descartes to Marx and on to Sartre and his brain twisting existentialism; the conflicts between England and France and why

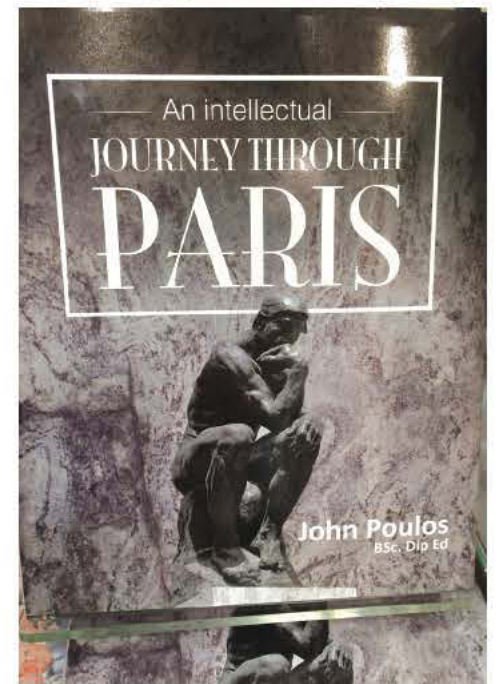
leading figures in English history are buried not far from Paris; and on to the revolutionaries with Liberty, Equality and Fraternity on their lips as they man the barricades again and again.

The great scientists are tracked: from the clash of astronomers over 'Io', one of Jupiter's moons, to the execution of Lavoisier, the discoverer of Oxygen, through to the first automobile and to Foucault swinging a giant pendulum in the Pantheon to prove that the Earth rotates; to Pasteur's Germ Theory, the man who said more germs are transmitted in shaking hands than in kissing; and on to the discoveries of quinine, chlorophyll, and caffeine, and the synthesizing new chemicals not found in nature.

The book follows the great naturalists piecing together the fossil bones of dinosaurs on the way to unfold the Theory of Evolution. Also there are the literary figures such as Hugo, Balzac, Flaubert, Zola, Hemingway,

Verne, and so many others those stories we are often familiar with: Don Juan; Madame Bovary, The Three Musketeers; the Hunchback of Notre Dam; Around the world in 80 Days; Ali Baba; Little Red Riding Hood; Tom Thumb; Sleeping Beauty; and Cinderella; they are all French stories.

Then there are the artists such as: Matisse with his 'violent' use of color, and Picasso's five nude prostitutes; and Manet who 'shocks and awes' with his nude Olympia; Courbet's The Stonebreakers, one of the most important paintings in Art History; and Toulouse Lautrec painting at the Moulin Rouge. As well there are the sculptors; with Rodin's, The Kiss, the sensual embrace of two lovers, and The Thinker, thinking with every ounce of his being. Paris was also the music capital of the world; where the music of French composers can be heard in movies and TV Ads: Debussy's Clair de Lune in Oceans Eleven; Ravel's Bolero in the movie 10, Saint-Saens' The Carnival of



Animals in Babe, and Bizet's Carmen making Paris the artistic centre of the world.

This book gains increasing momentum as it integrates Art, Literature, Music, Science, Philosophy, Economics and many other disciplines to reveal how all of history is interconnected.

(John Poulos is a Science teacher who taught at a number of different schools in Sydney and was a former editor of education journals. He has written extensively on educational, political and social issues. John has always been interested in methodology in education and wanted to teach across disciplines and integrating those disciplines. This book is the culmination of all of his ideas and life teachings into one epic journey through history. John lives in Bondi Beach with his beautiful wife Sophia. They have two sons Nicholas and Alexander.)

Maro Vanezis: Rags to Stitches

Cypriot quilting has been around for centuries where, like in other places, women recycled rag and old clothes into quilts sewn by hand. But 20 years ago, when Maro Vanezis went to settle in Nicosia in Cyprus, there was no contemporary quilting, so a group of friends with overseas connections started making quilts in a contemporary style. They had to import all the equipment from the UK and hunted around for cotton fabrics. Since then, one of the group opened up a quilting shop and quilting took off. Maro and her business partner, Noni met at the shop and started their quilting website patchaouri.com. Maro gets inspiration from a place or a fabric or a pattern that she encounters. One of her quilts, called Bangkok Canals, was a response to the city of Bangkok. Another one was inspired by the Cyprus banking crisis of 2013 and made in the style called 'one block wonder' that creates swirling whirling motifs. This produced a sense of free-wheeling chaos bedded in a dramatic black background. After the front patchwork of a quilt is complete, the backing must be made. It might be pieced or be just a solid colour. Then a sandwich is created with batting and the layers quilted to hold them together. The quilting nowadays is done on a computerised 4.5 metre sewing machine after a specific pattern and thread colour are chosen. In the past, the

whole process was done by hand.

Any working quilter must have a huge stash of fabric and sometimes it may take years to find the appropriate fabrics that go together. Most quilting fabrics are good quality cotton but Maro has also used recycled antique silk kimonos, old shirts and a hand-woven Lebanese tablecloth.

Maro comes from a Cypriot background but was born in London after her parents met there. At age 14, after the Cyprus conflict of 1974, the family moved to Cyprus and settled in Nicosia for 5 years. They then moved to Australia when Maro's father was posted here as the Cypriot High Commissioner. Maro then trained as a Science teacher and worked in Canberra teaching Maths and Science at secondary school.

In 1994 Maro decided to go travelling using Cyprus as a base. She travelled extensively in the Middle East and North Africa, developing a strong affinity with the desert landscape and the culture of its peoples. She also travelled in Italy, France, Greece and the UK, finally settling in Cyprus where she mostly worked as a teacher. Today, she and her family divide their time between Sydney and Nicosia. At present, Maro has been in Australia for 18 months but will return to Cyprus this year to continue working with Patchaouri (<http://www.patchaouri.com/>) and promoting handicrafts in Cyprus.

