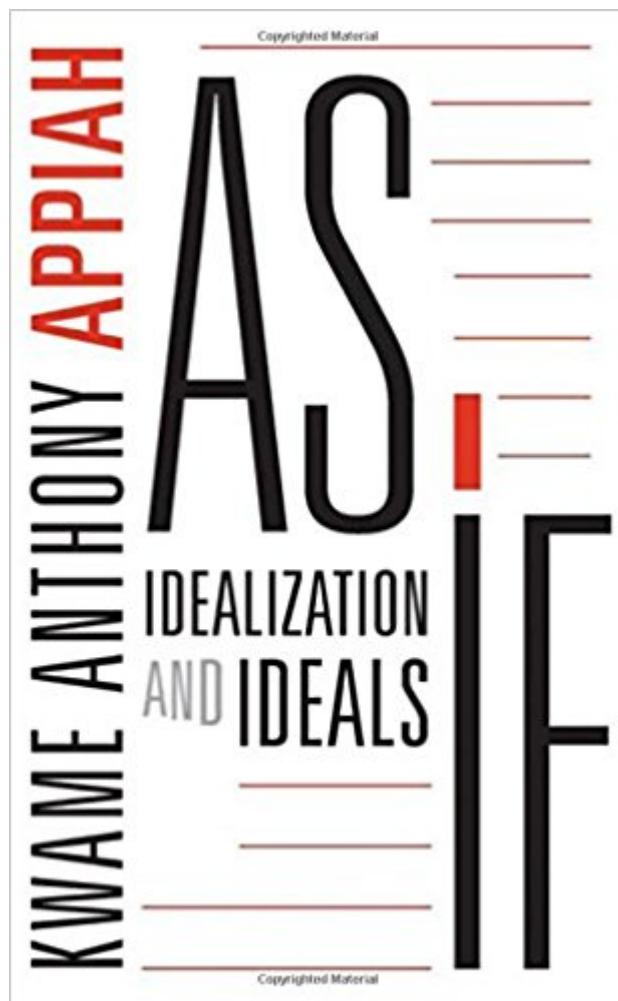


The book was found

# As If: Idealization And Ideals



## Synopsis

Idealization is a fundamental feature of human thought. We build simplified models in our scientific research and utopias in our political imaginations. Concepts like belief, desire, reason, and justice are bound up with idealizations and ideals. Life is a constant adjustment between the models we make and the realities we encounter. In idealizing, we proceed “as if” our representations were true, while knowing they are not. This is not a dangerous or distracting occupation, Kwame Anthony Appiah shows. Our best chance of understanding nature, society, and ourselves is to open our minds to a plurality of imperfect depictions that together allow us to manage and interpret our world. The philosopher Hans Vaihinger first delineated the “as if” impulse at the turn of the twentieth century, drawing on Kant, who argued that rational agency required us to act as if we were free. Appiah extends this strategy to examples across philosophy and the human and natural sciences. In a broad range of activities, we have some notion of the truth yet continue with theories that we recognize are, strictly speaking, false. From this vantage point, Appiah demonstrates that a picture one knows to be unreal can be a vehicle for accessing reality. As If explores how strategic untruth plays a critical role in far-flung areas of inquiry: decision theory, psychology, natural science, and political philosophy. A polymath who writes with mainstream clarity, Appiah defends the centrality of the imagination not just in the arts but in science, morality, and everyday life.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (August 14, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674975006

ISBN-13: 978-0674975002

Product Dimensions: 4.7 x 0.8 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #46,908 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Individual Philosophers #45 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Social Philosophy #109 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements

## Customer Reviews

Appiah is absolutely right that the notion of idealization is both ripe and suitable for significant philosophical exploration. The subject has been central to political theory, epistemology, and philosophy of science. As If: Idealization and Ideals is the first book to explicitly combine and link all of the discussions in a very valuableÃ¢â€”if controversialÃ¢â€”contribution. (Jason Stanley, Yale University)

Kwame Anthony Appiah is Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

As If: Idealization and Ideals Christmas Ideals 2017 (Ideals Christmas) Caviar with Champagne: Common Luxury and the Ideals of the Good Life in Stalin's Russia (Leisure, Consumption and Culture) Ideals, Varieties, and Algorithms: An Introduction to Computational Algebraic Geometry and Commutative Algebra (Undergraduate Texts in Mathematics) Conscience and Its Enemies: Confronting the Dogmas of Liberal Secularism (American Ideals & Institutions) Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader Ideals Face Reality: Jewish Law and Life in Poland, 1550-1655 (Monographs of the Hebrew Union College) Young Radicals: In the War for American Ideals Meditation: A Complete Audio Guide: A Simple Eight Point Program for Translating Spiritual Ideals into Daily Life Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned Into a War on American Ideals Personal Leadership Through Olympic Ideals : A Guide for Young People Public Opinion; Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice Third Edition Henry and Mudge Collector's Set #2: Henry and Mudge Get the Cold Shivers; Henry and Mudge and the Happy Cat; Henry and Mudge and the Bedtime Thumps; ... and Mudge and the Wild Wind (Henry & Mudge) Henry and Mudge Collector's Set: Henry and Mudge; Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble; Henry and Mudge in the Green Time; Henry and Mudge under the ... and Mudge and the Forever Sea (Henry & Mudge) Coins, medals, and seals, ancient and modern: Illustrated and described : with a sketch of the history of coins and coinage, instructions for young ... and American coins, medals and tokens, &c Prayers That Break Curses and Spells, and Release Favors and Breakthroughs: 55 Powerful Prophetic Prayers And Declarations for Breaking Curses and Spells and Commanding Favors in Your Life. The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy, Revised and Expanded: Over 800 Natural, Nontoxic, and Fragrant Recipes to Create Health, Beauty, and Safe Home and Work Environments The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments, ... of The Church of Ireland, Together with The Psalter or Psalms of David..., and the Form and Manner of Making, Ordaining and Consecrating Bishops, Priests and Deacons Atmospheric and Space Flight Dynamics: Modeling and Simulation with MATLABÃ® and

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help