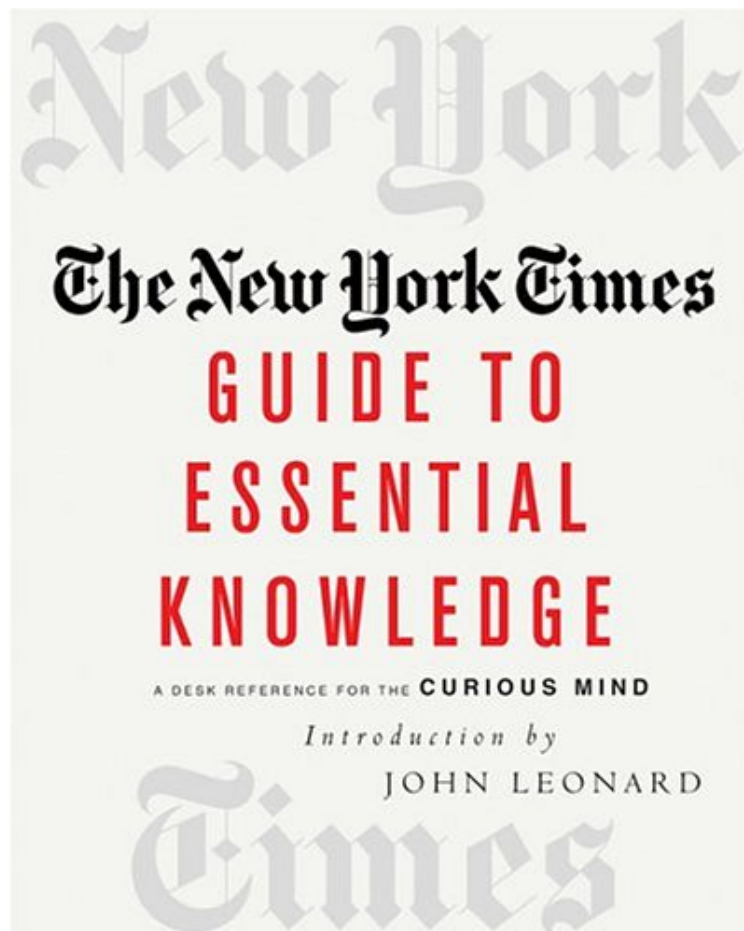


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By Twong
Though this heavy reference guide touches on nearly every topic imaginable, I find it extremely light on details. The information is well written and factual but offers only a cursory examination of subject matter. For example, I was really interested in learning more of the story of Abraham's willing sacrifice of his son Isaac from the book of Genesis in the Bible, but instead found a single sentence to encapsulate the entire story: "The second part of the book tells the stories of Abraham and Sarah, blessed by God and sent to find a new land, and the generations that follow: Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in Egypt." No mention of God's test of Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac only to spare his life at the last moment because Abraham had proved his faith. Additionally, the book reads a lot like any other reference book - encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, etc. - so if you are seeking some 'personality' in the writing, you might want to look elsewhere. There are names, dates, numbers, some charts, and many lists. Nevertheless, to its credit, the book is thoroughly comprehensive in scope and I enjoy turning to a random page and learning something entirely new.

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