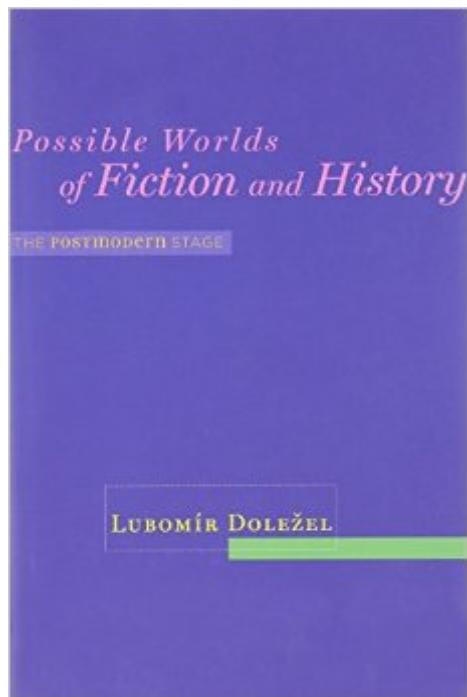


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Possible Worlds Of Fiction And History: The Postmodern Stage



Synopsis

With Possible Worlds of Fiction and History, Lubomír Doležel reexamines the claim made first by Roland Barthes and then popularized by Hayden White that "there is no fundamental distinction between fiction and history." Doležel rejects this assertion and demonstrates how literary and discourse theory can help the historian to restate the difference between fiction and history. He challenges scholars to reassess the postmodern viewpoint by reintroducing the idea of possible worlds. Possible-worlds semantics reveals that possible worlds of fiction and possible worlds of history differ in their origins, cultural functions, and structural and semantic features. Doležel's book is the first systematic application of this idea to the theory and philosophy of history. Possible Worlds of Fiction and History is the crowning work of one of literary theory's most engaged thinkers.

Book Information

Hardcover: 184 pages

Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press (March 2, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801894638

ISBN-13: 978-0801894633

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,021,626 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #305 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Postmodernism #17645 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

Customer Reviews

Lubomír Doležel is professor emeritus of comparative literature at the University of Toronto and author of *Heterocosmica: Fiction and Possible Worlds*, also published by Johns Hopkins.

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