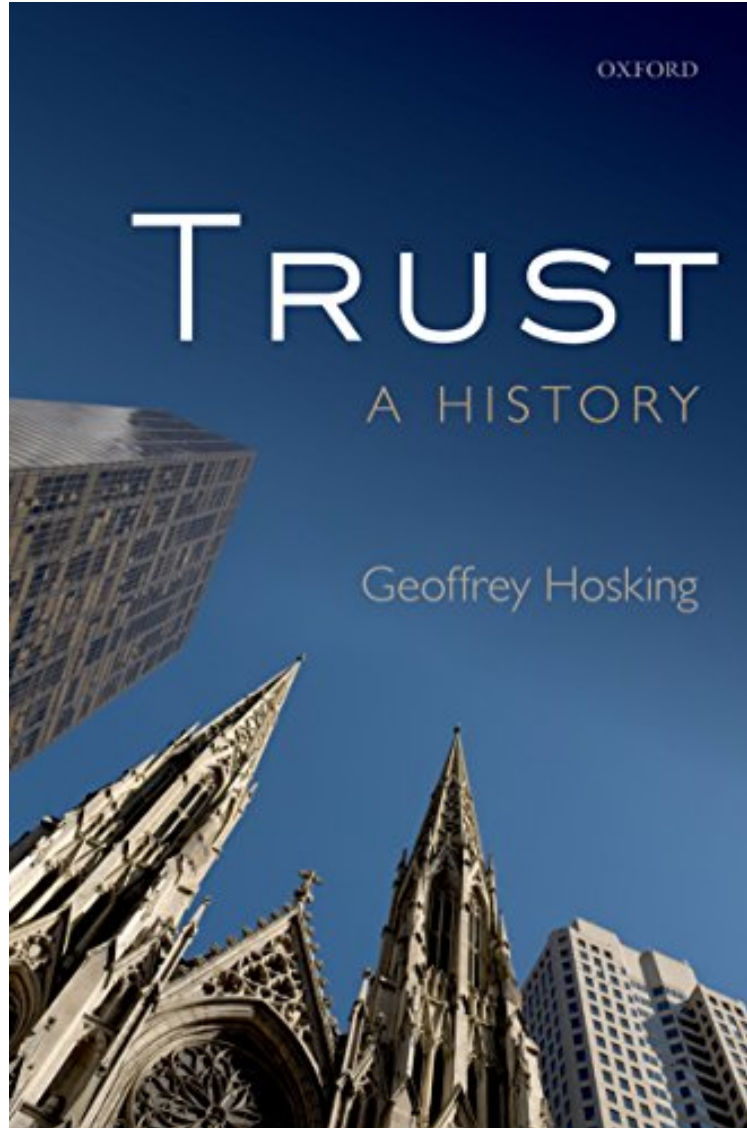


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## Trust: A History

*Geoffrey Hosking*

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**Geoffrey Hosking : Trust: A History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trust: A History:

0 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Denis A. KleinfeldInteresting read

Today there is much talk of a 'crisis of trust'; a crisis which is almost certainly genuine, but usually misunderstood. Trust: A History offers a new perspective on the ways in which trust and distrust have functioned in past societies, providing an empirical and historical basis against which the present crisis can be examined, and suggesting ways in which the concept of trust can be used as a tool to understand our own and other societies. Geoffrey Hosking argues

that social trust is mediated through symbolic systems, such as religion and money, and the institutions associated with them, such as churches and banks. Historically these institutions have nourished trust, but the resulting trust networks have tended to create quite tough boundaries around themselves, across which distrust is projected against outsiders. Hosking also shows how nation-states have been particularly good at absorbing symbolic systems and generating trust among large numbers of people, while also erecting distinct boundaries around themselves, despite an increasingly global economy. He asserts that in the modern world it has become common to entrust major resources to institutions we know little about, and suggests that we need to learn from historical experience and temper this with more traditional forms of trust, or become an ever more distrustful society, with potentially very destabilising consequences.

Hosking's discussion presents intriguing potential for further investigations ... It is important work. \* Dirk Philipsen, *American Historical* \* The book is rich in insight and an absorbing read. \* John Plender, *Financial Times* \* Trust: A history ranges widely and digs deeply into the historical record, social theory and even the human heart ... Hosking's short, sharp book is no just-so story, explaining away our present discontents ... [He] urges us to be more professional, more loyal, more dependable. Trust him: he's a historian \* David Armitage, *The Times Literary Supplement* \* About the Author Geoffrey Hosking has taught at the universities of Essex, Wisconsin-Madison, Cologne, and University College London. An eminent historian, he has held positions on many boards, panels, and committees, including at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, the Britain-Russia Centre, and the Index on Censorship. At various times, he appeared on the editorial boards of *Slavonic East European*, *Journal of Contemporary Nations and Nationalism*, and *Ab Imperio* and *Otechestvennaia istoriia* (the principal Russian Academy of Sciences journal on Russian history). He was a member of the Booker Prize Jury for Russian fiction in 1993.