

# Reaktion Books Press Release

## ALDOUS HUXLEY

Jake Poller

**Publication: 10th September 2021**

---

paperback £11.99 208 pp 20 illus CRITICAL LIVES

---

‘Jake Poller, in his new biography of Aldous Huxley, does the impossible. He covers the ground revealed previously by other scholars, but also manages to add fresh details, knowledgeable insights and astute critiques – and in far fewer pages than in any earlier treatments. This book is not only a marvel of concise and readable scholarship but a welcome and necessary update of the life of one of the 20th century’s most provocative intellectuals.’

– Dana Sawyer, professor of religion and philosophy,  
Maine College of Art and author of *Aldous Huxley: A Biography*

‘Jake Poller’s *Aldous Huxley* is not just an engagingly written introduction to the life and work; this well-researched and wide-ranging critical biography provides many fresh insights into the less familiar aspects of Huxley’s oeuvre, such as Eastern religions, parapsychology and ecology. An outstanding book.’

– James Sexton, editor of *Selected Letters of Aldous Huxley*

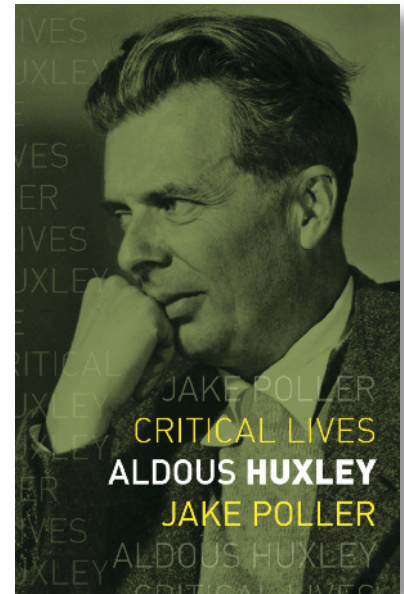
---

Aldous Huxley was one of the twentieth century’s most prescient thinkers. This new biography is a rich and lucid account that charts the different phases of Huxley’s career: from the early satirist who depicted the glamorous despair of the postwar generation, to the committed pacifist of the 1930s, the spiritual seeker of the 1940s, the psychedelic sage of the 1950s – who affirmed the spiritual potential of mescaline and LSD – to the New Age prophet of *Island*.

While Huxley is still best known as the author of *Brave New World*, Poller argues that it is *The Perennial Philosophy*, *The Doors of Perception* and *Island* – Huxley’s blueprint for a utopian society – that have had the most cultural impact.

---

Jake Poller teaches in the English department at Queen Mary, University of London. He is the author of *Aldous Huxley and Alternative Spirituality* (2019) and the editor of *Altered Consciousness in the Twentieth Century* (2019).



For further information  
please contact  
Maria Kilcoyne  
Publicity Director  
[maria@reaktionbooks.co.uk](mailto:maria@reaktionbooks.co.uk)

Reaktion Books  
Unit 32, Waterside  
44-48 Wharf Road  
London N1 7UX

[www.reaktionbooks.co.uk](http://www.reaktionbooks.co.uk)  
[@ReaktionBooks](https://twitter.com/ReaktionBooks)

