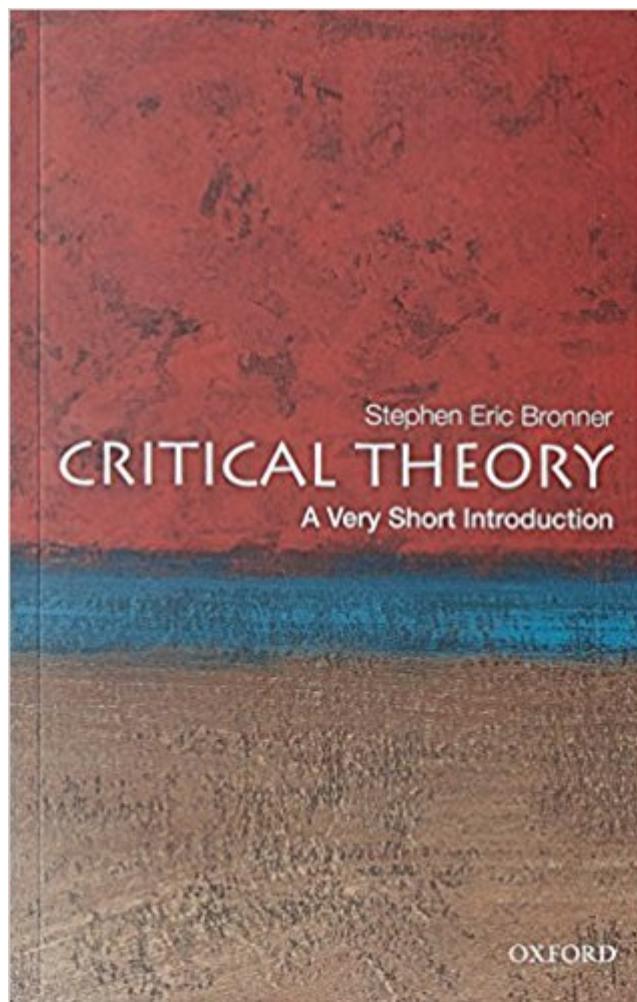


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# Critical Theory: A Very Short Introduction



## Synopsis

Critical Theory emerged in the 1920s from the work of the Frankfurt School, the circle of German-Jewish academics who sought to diagnose-and, if at all possible, cure-the ills of society, particularly fascism and capitalism. In this book, Stephen Eric Bronner provides sketches of leading representatives of the critical tradition (such as George LukÁfÁjcs and Ernst Bloch, Theodor Adorno and Walter Benjamin, Herbert Marcuse and Jurgen Habermas) as well as many of its seminal texts and empirical investigations. This Very Short Introduction sheds light on the cluster of concepts and themes that set critical theory apart from its more traditional philosophical competitors. Bronner explains and discusses concepts such as method and agency, alienation and reification, the culture industry and repressive tolerance, non-identity and utopia. He argues for the introduction of new categories and perspectives for illuminating the obstacles to progressive change and focusing upon hidden transformative possibilities. Only a critique of critical theory can render it salient for a new age. That is precisely what this very short introduction provides.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1st edition (March 18, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199730075

ISBN-13: 978-0199730070

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.4 x 4.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #83,146 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Communism & Socialism #124 in Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Political Science > Political Ideologies #213 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > History & Surveys

## Customer Reviews

"This is the only book of its kind: it's a readable, yet expertly crafted, tour through the Frankfurt School, along with a forceful account of why the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory still matters a decade into the new millennium. I can't recommend it highly enough." --Jeffrey T. Nealon, professor of English, Penn State University; co-editor of *Rethinking the Frankfurt School* "The book's forthright critique and call to transformation are a breath of fresh air."-- Joan Braune, *Philosophy in Review*

Stephen Eric Bronner is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director for Global Relations at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University.

Very interested in art criticism and in turn social critique as seen regularly in The New Yorker. Funny how I became aware of Critical Theory by watching the "Shameless" series on HBO. This book offers a good historical overview with many disparate views for uses of this particular field. Art criticism has been advanced by David Salle and revisiting Pragmatism. The study of Critical Theory is useful for a greater appreciation of art and its usefulness for the greater good at a time when art has become overly commoditized with the absurdity of hedge fund managers becoming artists.

This is fabulous Intro to Critical Theory written by the leading American expert on the subject. It's clear, accessible, sophisticated and comprehensive---highly recommended!

A very worthwhile read for anyone who is interested in finding out more about the subject area. Highly recommended for that purpose.

I love this series, very informative.

Excellent view. Don't take the red pill!

Good

A very good concise précis. Gives the reader a summary overview of the Critical Theory's (Marxist) origins. A few dollars and worth it.

as with all such books, the information is not academic, not presented with full logic and is more propaganda than information.

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