

The Idea of a Critical Theory

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Raymond Geuss

THE IDEA OF A CRITICAL THEORY

Habermas &
the Frankfurt
School

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Habermas and earlier members of the Frankfurt School have presented critical theory as a radically new form of knowledge. It is differentiated from the natural sciences as essentially 'reflective': the knowledge it provides guides us towards enlightenment as to our true interests, and emancipation from often unsuspected forms of external and internal coercion. Its first paradigms are in the writings of Marx and Freud. In this book Raymond Geuss sets out these fundamental claims and asks whether they can be made good. Is a science which does not simply describe and explain social phenomena, but also criticizes? The concept of ideology plays a crucial role in this discussion. Geuss carefully analyses it here, its relation to our beliefs and interests, and the account of truth and confirmation required by its critique and the concomitant goal of self-knowledge. The book does not presuppose acquaintance with the works of the Frankfurt School and can serve as a lucid introduction to their central, distinctive theses. But in its scrupulous and incisive consideration of these, and the modified support for them that emerges, it will also interest experts on critical theory and others concerned with the methods and purposes of the social sciences in general.

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雷蒙·盖斯为英国剑桥大学哲学系教授，政治哲学学者，主要研究19世纪和20世纪的欧洲哲学，同时也涉猎欧陆哲学史以及艺术哲学研究。

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评论

受不了中文版僵硬拗口的翻译，所以看了原版。阅后感：理论阐述复杂，没有明了易懂的框架，需要靠读者阅后自己提炼，极其不适合法兰克福学派（哈贝马斯）研究入门

跟上一位读者的读后感恰恰相反，我觉得这本书的理论框架很清楚，论证要点也明了，很适合做法兰克福学派以及意识形态研究的入门书。由于是本小书，具体的论证难免有不够详尽和清楚的地方，但这些不详实之处恰恰为进一步阅读提供了机会。另外，作者在脚注里很贴心地标注了哈贝马斯已有的英语译本页码，对不懂德语的读者来说，提供了很有用的参考。最后，Geuss的文笔蛮好的，也蛮有幽默感，作为学术书可读性还是很不错的。

P.S.上一位读者还批评了此书的中文译本，我手头没有，所以并未翻阅。但我读英文版恰是由于另一位读过此书中文版的朋友的推荐。据他说，中文译本还是蛮流畅的，可读性并不弱。此书英文并不难，如果有朋友仅是想粗略一翻，猜测中文版仍是不错的选择。

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