



Key Thinkers

from Critical Theory
to Post-Marxism



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'Tormey and Townshend have succeeded not only in making accessible the

notoriously evasive ideas of 'Post-Marxist' thinkers, they have begun the vital work of critically examining their contribution to Marx's project of overcoming capitalism' - James Martin, Goldsmiths College, University of London 'In language which is clear without being simplistic, Tormey and Townshend help readers think about ways to live "with and without Marx" in the wake of marxism's historical failures as well as its continuing relevance to life under globalizing capitalism. Insofar as such an era calls for critical theories which hold out the potential of collective social action and transformative politics in an increasingly capitalist but nonetheless plural world -- without presupposing a particular form, outcome or teleology -- this is an important book for our time' - Mark Rupert, Syracuse University

Key Thinkers in Critical Theory to Post Marxism is the first comprehensive introduction to perhaps the most key intellectual trend in contemporary critical theory. In jargon-free language, it seeks to unpack, explain and review many of the key figures behind the rethinking of the legacy of Marxism in theory and practice. Key thinkers covered include Cornelius Castoriadis, Jean-Francois Lyotard, Deleuze and Guattari, Laclau and Mouffe, Agnes Heller, Jacques Derrida, Jürgen Habermas and post-Marxist feminism. Each chapter covers a key thinker or contribution and thus can be read as a stand alone introduction to the principal aspects of their approach. Each chapter is followed by a summary of key points with a guide to further reading. Underlying the text is also the central question: What is Post-Marxism? Instead of viewing Post-Marxism as an ideology, movement or tradition of theorizing, the authors advocate Post-Marxism as a loose appellation describing those who have problematised Marx's approach to understanding and challenging contemporary capitalism. As such the book also offers an engaging commentary on some of the key political developments of our time including, for example, the anti-globalisation movement. Key Thinkers in Critical Theory to Post Marxism provides an ideal introduction to a hitherto complex subject and will be essential reading for all students of contemporary social and political inquiry today.

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