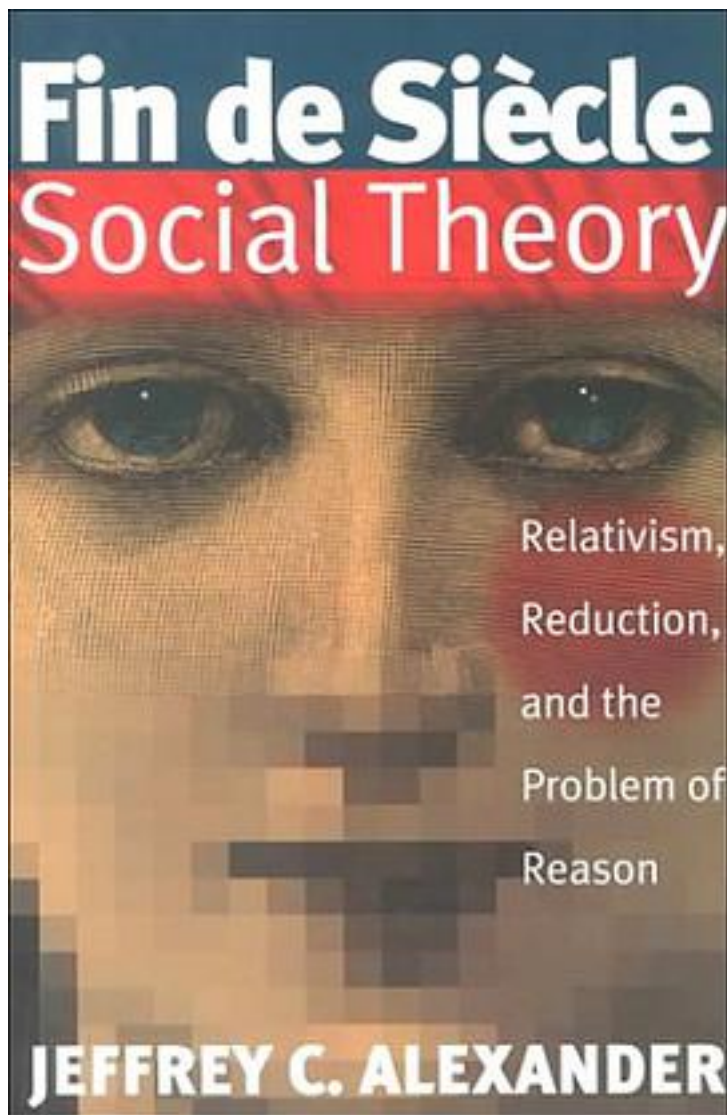


# Fin De Siecle Social Theory



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著者:Jeffrey C. Alexander

出版者:Verso

出版时间:1995-7-17

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9781859840917

In four closely interwoven studies, Jeffrey Alexander identifies the central dilemma that provokes contemporary social theory and proposes a new way to resolve it. The dream of reason that marked the previous fin de siècle foundered in the face of the cataclysms of the twentieth century, when war, revolution, and totalitarianism came to be seen as themselves products of reason. In response there emerged the profound skepticism about rationality that has so starkly defined the present fin de siècle. From Wittgenstein through Rorty and postmodernism, relativism rejects the very possibility of universal standards, while for both positivism and neo-Marxists like Bourdieu, reductionism claims that ideas simply reflect their social base. In a readable and spirited argument, Alexander develops the alternative of a "neo-modernist" position that defends reason from within a culturally centered perspective while remaining committed to the goal of explaining, not merely interpreting, contemporary social life. On the basis of a sweeping reinterpretation of postwar society and its intellectuals, he suggests that both antimodernist radicalism and postmodernist resignation are now in decline; a more democratic, less ethnocentric and more historically contingent universalizing social theory may thus emerge. Developing in his first two studies a historical approach to the problem of "absent reason," Alexander moves via a critique of Richard Rorty to construct his case for "present reason." Finally, focusing on the work of Pierre Bourdieu, he provokes the most sustained critical reflection yet on this influential thinker. *Fin de Siècle Social Theory* is a tonic intervention in contemporary debates, showing how social and cultural theory can properly take the measure of the extraordinary times in which we live.

作者介绍:

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## 评论

很刻薄，不过我挺喜欢的。

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有中译本，但还是推荐看原版，以及中译本真的翻译成“楼规瑞·亚历山大”吗？虽然 Randall Collins 还是我最爱的社会理论家，这本书让我对亚历山大的印象大大改观。文笔行云流水（和他本人毫不性感的讲话风格完全不同）；内容上，对布迪厄的批判深得我心（虽然仍有所保留）。

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## 书评

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