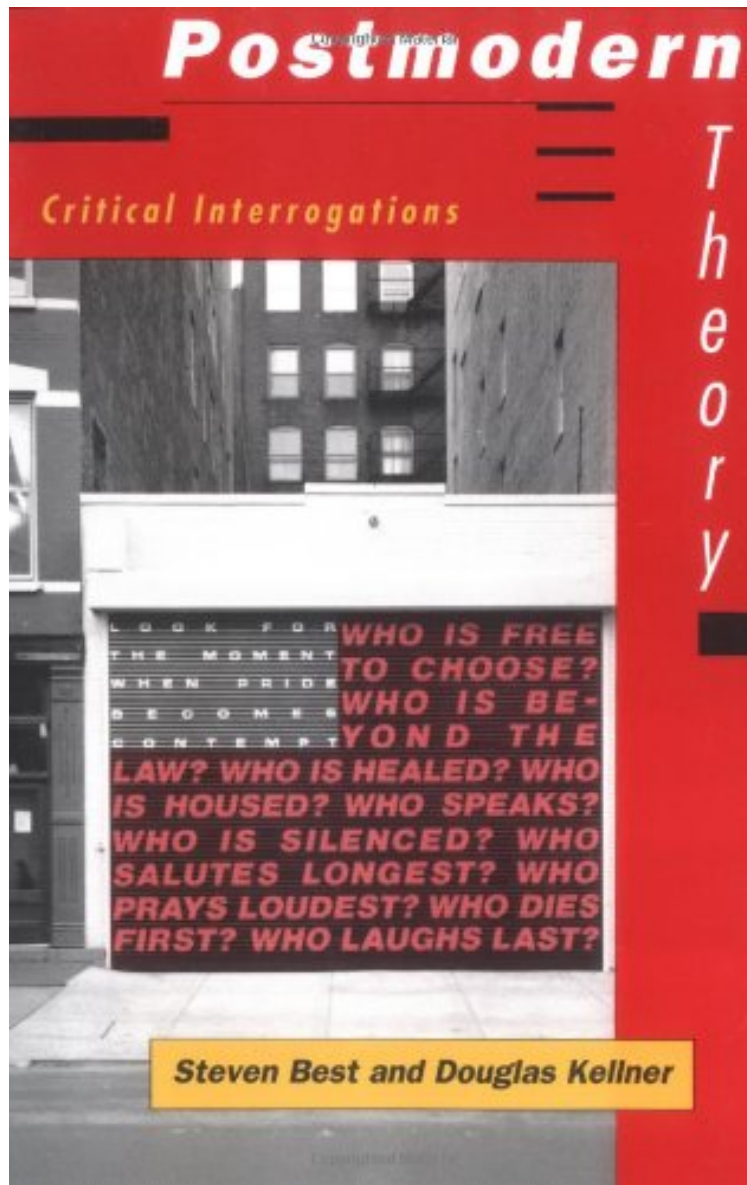


Postmodern Theory

Steven Best PhD, Douglas Kellner
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Steven Best PhD, Douglas Kellner : Postmodern Theory before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Postmodern Theory:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Michael Reville Excellent
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By John Beneke Great introduction into post-modern thought.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Habermas vs Lyotard By J. C. Davis I concur with the majority of the reviews here that

this book deserves a solid four stars for its academic strength and scope. It is an excellent starting point for delving into postmodern theory and critical theory. Chapters read like a series of encyclopedia articles. They are focused on theoretical content with little in the way of biographical sketch. After an enlightening introduction. Best and Kellner start with Foucault, Deleuze/Guattari, Baudrillard, and Lyotard. Towards the end there is a chapter that focuses on the debate between postmodern theory and critical theory. Habermas represents critical theory in opposition to the postmodernism of Lyotard. Postmoderns hold Nietzsche as a common starting point and promote anti-totalizing philosophies in opposition to Enlightenment modernism. Habermas would accuse postmoderns of throwing the baby out with the bathwater and attempt to salvage some characteristically modern theorizing and progress. Overall, the book is a nice starting point for delving into the pool of postmodern and critical theory. The book makes reference to over a hundred mostly French works of postmodern and critical theory, but I would have appreciated more lengthy quotations from primary texts in order to support claims as opposed to taking an authoritarian tone. Analyses of various positions in general place one theorist against the other and aim at consensus, which could be taken as sympathy for Habermas. A good deal of work and scholarship went into this work. It is a worthwhile read.

In this timely volume, the authors systematically analyze postmodern theory to evaluate its relevance for critical social theory and radical politics today. Best and Kellner provide: * An introduction and critique of the work of Foucault, Deleuze and Guattari, Baudrillard, Lyotard, Laclau and Mouffe, and Jameson, which assess the varying contributions and limitations of postmodern theory* A discussion of postmodern feminist theory and the politics of identity* A systematic study of the origin of the discourse of the postmodern in historical, sociological, cultural, and philosophical studies. The authors claim that while postmodern theory provides insights into contemporary developments, it lacks adequate methodological and political perspectives to provide a critical social theory and radical politics for the present age.

"It's a clear, useful anthology. Excellent for classroom use." --Dr. Paul Swann, Temple University; Course: Postmodern Criticism; Graduate "Postmodern Theory covers the difficult, sometimes treacherous, and always labyrinthine terrain of modern critical theory about as well as it can be done. This text explores the intricate--and often dense--discourses of writers like Foucault, Baudrillard, Jameson, and Habermas with admirable clarity and insight. If a good deal of postmodern theorizing is opaque and unreadable, this volume is eminently coherent and readable. If postmodernism seems all too often to be engaged in a flight from politics, Best and Kellner manage to bring the theoretical enterprise back to its political moorings. And this is no easy task. This book is highly recommended for any student of social and political theory." --Carl Boggs, National University "The most detailed introduction to postmodern social theory I have yet seen, including valuable critical readings of the major debates." --Fredric Jameson, Duke University "Offers a significant engagement with many of the leading figures in current philosophical debates about contemporary history, culture, and politics. Postmodern Theory's rigor, insight, and unique focus make it an important work to be reckoned with....An invaluable resource and example for anyone interested in media theory and cultural studies." --Lawrence Grossberg, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill