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# Habermas And The Unfinished Project Of Modernity Critical Essays On The Philosophical Discourse Of Modernity Studies In Contemporary German Social Thought

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Cultural-political Interventions in the Unfinished Project of Enlightenment  
Europe

The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity

Legitimation Crisis

Democracy, Power and Legitimacy

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Habermas and the Unfinished Project of Modernity

Reason After Its Eclipse

The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon

The Limits of Scientific Reason

The Unfinished Project

A Political Companion to Frederick Douglass

The Habermas Handbook

Jurgen Habermas (III)

The Oxford Handbook of Dewey

Habermas and Modernity  
German Philosophy in the Twentieth Century  
The Way We Argue Now  
Habermas and the Public Sphere  
Habermas  
Habermas: A Very Short Introduction  
Unmodern Philosophy and Modern Philosophy

*Habermas And  
The Unfinished  
Project Of  
Modernity  
Critical Essays  
On The  
Philosophical  
Discourse Of  
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Studies In  
Contemporary  
German Social  
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## **BANKS MAXIMILIAN**

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### **Cultural-political Interventions in the Unfinished Project of Enlightenment**

University of Chicago  
Press

Written by award-winning  
scholar Jonathan H  
Turner, this is a  
comprehensive, in-depth  
and detailed review of  
present-day theory in  
sociology.

Europe MIT Press

To the surprise of many  
readers, Jürgen Habermas  
has recently made religion  
a major theme of his  
work. Emphasizing  
both religion's prominence  
in the contemporary  
public sphere and  
its potential contributions  
to critical thought,  
Habermas's  
engagement with religion  
has been controversial

and exciting, putting  
much of his own work in  
fresh perspective and  
engaging key themes  
in philosophy, politics and  
social theory. Habermas  
argues that the once  
widely accepted  
hypothesis of progressive  
secularization fails to  
account for the  
multiple trajectories of  
modernization in the  
contemporary world. He  
calls attention to the  
contemporary significance  
of  
"postmetaphysical" thought  
and "postsecular"  
consciousness - even in  
Western societies that  
have embraced a  
rationalistic  
understanding of  
public reason. Habermas  
and Religion presents a  
series of original  
and sustained  
engagements with  
Habermas's writing on  
religion in the public  
sphere, featuring new  
work and critical  
reflections from leading  
philosophers, social and  
political theorists,  
and anthropologists.  
Contributors to the

volume respond both  
to Habermas's ambitious  
and well-developed  
philosophical project  
and to his most recent  
work on religion. The book  
closes with an extended  
response from Habermas -  
itself a major statement  
from one of today's most  
important thinkers.  
*The Philosophical  
Discourse of Modernity*  
Routledge  
Jürgen Habermas's  
reconstruction of Critical  
Theory has been  
subjected to extensive  
scrutiny in recent years.  
However, three of this  
philosophy's fundamental  
presuppositions have  
remained unexamined:  
the concept of "Occidental  
rationalism"; the notion of  
an unfinished project of  
modernity; and the claim  
to universality of  
modernity. This  
dissertation examines the  
philosophy of Habermas  
with reference to these  
three principles.  
Habermas's extended  
project---to recover a  
normative foundation for  
the tradition of Critical  
Theory---can be,

figuratively at least, divided into two stages. I consider the first stage of Habermas's task to have concluded with the publication of *Knowledge and Human Interests* in 1968. The second stage of Habermas's reconstructive plan began with the publication of the *Theory of Communicative Action* in 1981. I argue that Habermas's reconstructive project fails to overcome the arguments of Horkheimer and Adorno's thesis on the antagonistic nature of enlightenment, and therefore his reconstruction of Critical Theory remains problematic. On the substantive level, I aim to examine the question, "Does the term 'Modernity' refer to a specific culture, or can it be employed more broadly?" I will challenge Habermas's unfinished project of modernity by introducing the concept of a "plurality of modernities." Referring to Habermas's implicitly Eurocentric claim of the universality of modernity, based in an "Occidental understanding of the world," I will argue that universalization cannot be achieved on the basis of a specific world-interpretation. Arguing

against the feasibility of completing "the project of modernity" once and for all, I suggest that there are not only numerous paths to modernity, but that diverse historical conditions and sociocultural environments give rise to varied forms of modernity in different parts of the world. I argue that an emancipatory theory, which is what Habermas's is believed to be, ought to address itself to an understanding of the transformation of culture rather than simply the logic of communication, and, consequently, it should address cultural as well as cross-cultural conflicts in various societies, including non-western ones.

*Legitimation Crisis*  
Routledge

Jürgen Habermas is one of the most influential philosophers of our time. His diagnoses of contemporary society and concepts such as the public sphere, communicative rationality, and cosmopolitanism have influenced virtually all academic disciplines, spurred political debates, and shaped intellectual life in Germany and beyond for more than fifty years. In *The Habermas*

*Handbook*, leading Habermas scholars elucidate his thought, providing essential insight into his key concepts, the breadth of his work, and his influence across politics, law, the social sciences, and public life. This volume offers a comprehensive overview and an in-depth analysis of Habermas's work in its entirety. After examining his intellectual biography, it goes on to illuminate the social and intellectual context of Habermasian thought, such as the Frankfurt School, speech-act theory, and contending theories of democracy. The *Handbook* provides an extensive account of Habermas's texts, ranging from his dissertation on Schelling to his most recent writing about Europe. It illustrates the development of his thought and its frequently controversial reception while elaborating the central ideas of his work. The book also provides a glossary of key terms and concepts, making the complexity of Habermas's thought accessible to a broad readership.

*Democracy, Power and Legitimacy* SIU Press

Spinoza's *Modernity* is a major, original work of intellectual history that

reassesses the philosophical project of Baruch Spinoza, uncovers his influence on later thinkers, and demonstrates how that crucial influence on Moses Mendelssohn, G. E. Lessing, and Heinrich Heine shaped the development of modern critical thought. Excommunicated by his Jewish community, Spinoza was a controversial figure in his lifetime and for centuries afterward. Willi Goetschel shows how Spinoza's philosophy was a direct challenge to the theological and metaphysical assumptions of modern European thought. He locates the driving force of this challenge in Spinoza's Jewishness, which is deeply inscribed in his philosophy and defines the radical nature of his modernity.

### **Spinoza's Modernity**

Princeton University Press  
In this original work, Maria Pia Lara develops a new approach to public sphere theory and a novel understanding of the history of the feminist struggle.

*Modernity's Unfinished Project* John Wiley & Sons  
In this compelling book, Rafik Abdessalem unpacks two major lines

of thought. Firstly, he examines why many Westerners dismiss Islam's vast intellectual, social, theological and cultural heritage as flawed, violent, rigid and fanatical, despite knowing virtually nothing about it. He usefully traces the genesis of this attitude, focusing on how scholars such as Weber, Habermas and others have helped to consolidate the West's view of itself as civilised, superior, developed and progressive, and how the demonisation of Islam acts as a necessary foil for these notions.

Secondly, he explains that Islam is subject to a variety of interpretive choices and schools of thought ranging from legalistic fundamentalism, through rigid rationalism, to spiritual Sufism. By treating Islam, secularity and modernity as distinct and separate, rather than as interconnected and overlapping, Abdessalem makes no attempt to reconcile Islam with modernity or secularity, nor does he place one in opposition to the other. Instead, he looks at the interconnections between these broad and complex subjects. Abdessalem's analysis is useful in encouraging us to rethink both modernity and Islam,

and their relationship with each other. In this rethinking lies the potential for a better understanding of the geopolitics of what is often called 'the Muslim world', including the MENA region.

*Theodor W. Adorno's Philosophy, Society, and Aesthetics* Oxford

University Press, USA

In this book, scholars from a wide range of disciplines respond to Habermas's most directly relevant work, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*. The relationship between civil society and public life is in the forefront of contemporary discussion. No single scholarly voice informs this discussion more than that of Jürgen Habermas. His contributions have shaped the nature of debates over critical theory, feminism, cultural studies, and democratic politics. In this book, scholars from a wide range of disciplines respond to Habermas's most directly relevant work, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*. From political theory to cultural criticism, from ethics to gender studies, from history to media studies, these essays challenge, refine, and extend our

understanding of the social foundations and changing character of democracy and public discourse. Contributors Hannah Arendt, Keith Baker, Seyla Benhabib, Harry C. Boyte, Craig Calhoun, Geoff Eley, Nancy Fraser, Nicholas Garnham, Jürgen Habermas, Peter Hohendahl, Lloyd Kramer, Benjamin Lee, Thomas McCarthy, Moïshe Postone, Mary P. Ryan, Michael Schudson, Michael Warner, David Zaret

*A Democratic Theory of Judgment* MIT Press

The portentous terms and phrases associated with the first decades of the Frankfurt School – exile, the dominance of capitalism, fascism – seem as salient today as they were in the early twentieth century. The Routledge Companion to the Frankfurt School addresses the many early concerns of critical theory and brings those concerns into direct engagement with our shared world today. In this volume, a distinguished group of international scholars from a variety of disciplines revisits the philosophical and political contributions of Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Max

Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse, Jürgen Habermas, Axel Honneth, and others. Throughout, the Companion’s focus is on the major ideas that have made the Frankfurt School such a consequential and enduring movement. It offers a crucial resource for those who are trying to make sense of the global and cultural crisis that has now seized our contemporary world.

[Rethinking Modernity](#)

Afro-Middle East Centre

First Published in 2001.

Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

*Between Facts and Norms*

University of Wisconsin Pres

Over a career spanning nearly seven decades, Jürgen Habermas - one of the most important European philosophers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries - has produced a prodigious and influential body of work. In this Lexicon, authored by an international team of scholars, over 200 entries define and explain the key concepts, categories, philosophemes, themes, debates, and names associated with the entire constellation of Habermas's thought. The entries explore the

historical, philosophical and social-theoretic roots of these terms and concepts, as well as their intellectual and disciplinary contexts, to build a broad but detailed picture of the development and trajectory of Habermas as a thinker. The volume will be an invaluable resource for students and scholars of Habermas, as well as for other readers in political philosophy, political science, sociology, international relations, cultural studies, and law.

**Philosophical Interventions in the Unfinished Project of Enlightenment** Yale University Press

How do the ways we argue represent a practical philosophy or a way of life? Are concepts of character and ethos pertinent to our understanding of academic debate? In this book, Amanda Anderson analyzes arguments in literary, cultural, and political theory, with special attention to the ways in which theorists understand ideals of critical distance, forms of subjective experience, and the determinants of belief and practice. Drawing on the resources of the liberal and

rationalist tradition, Anderson interrogates the limits of identity politics and poststructuralism while holding to the importance of theory as a form of life. Considering high-profile trends as well as less noted patterns of argument, *The Way We Argue Now* addresses work in feminism, new historicism, queer theory, postcolonialism, cosmopolitanism, pragmatism, and proceduralism. The essays brought together here-- lucid, precise, rigorously argued--combine pointed critique with an appreciative assessment of the productive internal contests and creative developments across these influential bodies of thought. Ultimately, *The Way We Argue Now* promotes a revitalized culture of argument through a richer understanding of the ways critical reason is practiced at the individual, collective, and institutional levels. Bringing to the fore the complexities of academic debate while shifting the terms by which we assess the continued influence of theory, it will appeal to readers interested in political theory, literary studies, cultural studies, gender studies, and the

place of academic culture in society and politics.

**Jurgen Habermas** MIT Press

Latest introduction in the Modern European Thinkers series, ideal for undergraduates.

*Contemporary Sociological Theory*

Rowman & Littlefield

As humanity becomes increasingly interconnected through globalization, the question of whether community is possible within culturally diverse societies has returned as a principal concern for contemporary thought. Lorenzo Simpson charges that the current discussion is stuck at an impasse-between postmodernism's fragmented notions of cultural difference and humanism's homogeneous versions of community. Simpson proposes an alternative-one that bridges cultural differences without erasing them. He argues that we must establish common aesthetic and ethical standards incorporating sensitivity to difference if we are to achieve cross-cultural understanding.

The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere John Wiley & Sons

Arguing for the idea of

connected histories, Bhabra presents a fundamental reconstruction of the idea of modernity in contemporary sociology. She criticizes the abstraction of European modernity from its colonial context and the way non-Western "others" are disregarded. It aims to establish a dialogue in which "others" can speak and be heard.

*The Routledge Companion to the Frankfurt School*

Univ of Wisconsin Press

Through a close engagement with some key thinkers, Norris argues that

deconstruction is part of the "unfinished project of modernity." a project whose interest and values it upholds by continuing to question them in a spirit of enlightened self-critical inquiry.

**Migrants in the**

**Profane** University of Toronto Press

Payrow Shabani situates Habermas's current philosophical orientation by laying out its historical background and theoretical sources in the work of Kant and Hegel, and charting its movement towards an account of communicative rationality

**The Claim to Universality of**

**Modernity and Its Relation with Occidental Rationality**

John Wiley & Sons

These thirteen essays by noted philosophers and social theorists continue a timely celebration and examination of Jurgen Habermas's unfinished project of reconstructing enlightenment rationality. Focusing on the cultural and political aspects of Habermas's work, the essays take up critical theory and political practice, the sociology of political practice, historical-philosophical reflections on culture, moral development in childhood and society, and the foundations of critical social theory. Essays in a companion volume, *Philosophical Interventions in the Unfinished Project of Enlightenment*, look at the metaphysical aspects of Habermas's work. Together, the two volumes underscore the richness and variety of Habermas's project. Contributors: Johann P. Amason. Andrew Arato. Seyla Benhabib. Hauke Brunkhorst. Cornelius Castoriadis. Jean Cohen Helmut Dubiel. Klaus i1r. Giinter Frankenberg. HansGeorg Gadamer. Axel Hormeth. Johann Baptist Metz. Gertrud Nunner-

Winkler. Claus Offe.

*Islam and Modernity*

Beacon Press

All of these essays focus on the concept of modernity in the philosophical work of Jurgen Habermas - an ambitious and carefully argued intellectual project that invites, indeed demands, rigorous scrutiny. Following an introductory overview of Habermas's work by Richard Bernstein, Albrecht Wellmer's essay places the philosopher within the tradition of Hegel, Marx, Weber, and Critical Theory. Martin Jay discusses Habermas's views on art and aesthetics, and Joel Whitebook examines his interpretations of Freud and psychoanalysis, Anthony Giddens offers a critical reading of Habermas's major work, "The Theory of Communicative Action. Richard Rorty criticizes the whole thrust of his program by way of a comparison with the work of the French philosopher of postmodernity, Jean-Francois Lyotard. And Thomas McCarthy concentrates on the question of the selectivity of rationalization processes in the modern age. Habermas himself has three contributions -

on Marcuse, on neoconservatism, and a reply to the other essayists. Richard J. Bernstein is T. Wistar Brown Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College. He was editor of the journal "Praxis International, in which these essays recently appeared. "Habermas and Modernity "is included in the series *Studies in contemporary German Social Thought*, edited by Thomas McCarthy. *Moral Textures* Columbia University Press These 11 essays by noted philosophers and social theorists take up the philosophical aspects of Jürgen Habermas's unfinished project of reconstructing enlightenment rationality. They range in subject matter from classical problems to contemporary debates, covering historical perspectives, theoretical issues, and post-enlightenment challenges. A companion volume of essays will take up the cultural and political aspects of the work. Together, the two volumes underscore the richness and variety of Habermas's project. Contributors Karl-Otto Apel, Richard J. Bernstein, Peter Bürger, Martin Jay,

Thomas McCarthy,  
Herbert Schnädelbach,

Charles Taylor, Michael  
Theunissen, Ernst

Tugendhat, Albrecht  
Wellmer

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