



## **Habermas and Modernity (Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought)**

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All of these essays focus on the concept of modernity in the philosophical work of Jürgen 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 neoconservativism, 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.

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