



Encyclopedia of Social Theory (Two Volume Set)

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The **Encyclopedia of Social Theory** is an indispensable reference source for anyone interested in the roots of contemporary social theory. It examines the global landscape of all the key theories and the theorists behind them, presenting them in the context needed to understand their strengths and weaknesses. Led by internationally renowned scholar George Ritzer, the **Encyclopedia of Social Theory** draws together a team of more than 200 international scholars covering the developments, achievements, and prospects of social theory from its inception in the 18th century to the present. Understanding that social theory can both explain and alter the social world, this two-volume set serves as not only a foundation for learning, but also an inspiration for creative and reflexive engagement with the rich range of ideas it contains.

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Editorial Review

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Myriad areas of specialization pertinent to social theory are covered in this set, among them macrosociological and microbehaviorist theories, cultural theory, Marxist theory, feminist theory, and national traditions (e.g., American, British, French, and German social theory). Readers interested in better understanding key concepts, theorists, schools, or texts in these areas will not be disappointed. Qualified scholars from 14 countries provide 300-plus entries ranging from 400 to 6,000 words. Examples of entry headings include *Annales school*; *Consumer culture*; *Globalization*; *Imperialism*; *Marx, Karl*; *Queer theory*; *Social Darwinism*; and *revolution*. Entries conclude with a brief listing of further readings and a set of cross-references. A "Chronology of Social Theory," a "Master Bibliography," and an index conclude the set; the chronology and bibliography provide significant added value.

Balanced coverage of historical and contemporary social theory, as well as of the areas of specialization pertinent to social theory, is one of the hallmarks of this set. Also notable is the consistently high quality of the scholarship and general accessibility of the entries. The set is, to date, without direct competition, and there is much to recommend it to advanced social-science students, including undergraduates with a more scholarly inclination or those with theoretical interests, as well as researchers and scholars.

This carefully focused work will be a useful complement to standard sociology reference sources that provide broad coverage of the social sciences or social thought in general. It should prove a welcome addition to academic and large public library collections. *Sarah Watstein*

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Review

"On the whole, this will be a useful resource for beginning researchers in the social sciences, or users requiring basic definitions or biographies. Recommended for large public and academic libraries." (Ellen D. Gilbert *LIBRARY JOURNAL* 2005-01-01)

"Ritzer has assembled a wonderfully rich resource on social theory. Any subject encyclopedia's aims are to be on point, authoritative, and intelligible, and to lead readers to further information; Ritzer's meets those aims. . . . Highly recommended." (S.W. Nicholson *CHOICE* 2005-03-01)

This scholarly guide surveys the fundamental ideas of social theory and the contributions of social theorists from the Enlightenment to the present. . . . this useful guide provides an excellent starting place for both student and scholar, and it is highly recommended for academic libraries. (John R.M. Lawrence *Lawrence Looks at Books* 2005-05-01)

About the Author

George Ritzer is Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, where he has also been a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher and won a Teaching Excellence Award. He was awarded the Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award by the American Sociological Association, an honorary doctorate from LaTrobe University in Australia, and the Robin Williams Lectureship from the Eastern Sociological Society. His best-known work, *The McDonaldization of Society* (8th ed.), has been read by hundreds of thousands of students over two decades and translated into over a dozen languages. Ritzer is also the editor of

McDonaldization: The Reader; and author of other works of critical sociology related to the McDonaldization thesis, including *Enchanting a Disenchanted World*, *The Globalization of Nothing*, *Expressing America: A Critique of the Global Credit Card Society*, as well as a series best-selling social theory textbooks and *Globalization: A Basic Text*. He is the Editor of the *Encyclopedia of Social Theory* (2 vols.), the *Encyclopedia of Sociology* (11 vols.; 2nd edition forthcoming), the *Encyclopedia of Globalization* (5 vols.), and is Founding Editor of the *Journal of Consumer Culture*. In 2016 he will publish the second edition of *Essentials of Sociology* with SAGE.

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