Critical Theory constitutes one of the major intellectual traditions of the twentieth century and is centrally important for philosophy, political theory, aesthetics and the theory of art, the study of modern European literatures and music, the history of ideas, sociology, psychology, and cultural studies. In this volume an international team of distinguished contributors examines the major figures in Critical Theory, including Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Benjamin, and Habermas, as well as lesser known but important thinkers such as Pollock and Neumann. The volume surveys the shared philosophical concerns that have given impetus to Critical Theory throughout its history, while at the same time showing the diversity among its proponents that contributes so much to its richness as a philosophical school. The result is an illuminating overview of the entire history of Critical Theory in the twentieth century, an examination of its central conceptual concerns, and an in-depth discussion of its future prospects.
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The Cambridge Companion to CRITICAL THEORY

Edited by
Fred Rush
University of Notre Dame
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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CHRONOLOGY

1918  First World War ends. German Socialist Revolution.  
      Ernst Bloch [1885–1977], *Spirit of Utopia*
1919  Treaty of Versailles. Founding of the Weimar Republic.  
      Walter Benjamin [1892–1940], *The Concept of Art Criticism in German Romanticism*
1923  Institute of Social Research founded in Frankfurt, funded by a private donation of Hermann Weil, a multimillionaire importer and grain merchant. Carl Grünberg, the “Father of Austrian Socialism,” is installed as its first director, with Friedrich Pollock [1894–1970] as his assistant. The *Archive of the History of Socialism and the Labor Movement*, which Grünberg founded in 1910, relocates to Frankfurt and becomes the house organ of the Institute.  
      Karl Korsch [1886–1961], *Marxism and Philosophy*
      György Lukács [1885–1971], *History and Class Consciousness*
1928  Theodor Adorno [1903–69] begins his association with the Institute.  
      Benjamin, *The Origin of German Tragic Drama*
1933  End of the Weimar Republic. Hitler becomes chancellor. Institute buildings are searched by the Gestapo and
Chronology

converted to use for the Nazi Student League. Institute moves provisionally to Geneva.

1934

1936
Franz Neumann (1900–54) joins the Institute. Publication of the collaborative Studies on Authority and the Family

1937
Horkheimer “Traditional and Critical Theory”

1938
Adorno becomes a formal member of the Institute and moves to New York.

1939

1940
Fleeing the Nazis, Benjamin commits suicide in Port-Bou on the French–Spanish border. Hannah Arendt, who crosses the border at the same point a few months later, passes on to Adorno a manuscript copy of Benjamin's Theses on the Philosophy of History. The Institute publishes them in 1942.

1941
Bombing of Pearl Harbor and expansion of the war to the Pacific. Horkheimer, Adorno, and Marcuse resettle in Santa Monica, outside Los Angeles, forming part of a southern California German émigré colony including inter alia the novelist Thomas Mann, the composer Arnold Schönberg, and the poet and playwright Bertolt Brecht. Pollock and Neumann remain on the east coast. Last issue of Studies in Philosophy and Social Sciences appears, ending the Institute's ongoing serial publication of its work.

1942
Fromm, Escape from Freedom
Marcuse, Reason and Revolution

Marcuse and Neumann have joined the OSS (Office of Strategic Services), the war era precursor to the CIA, in Washington, DC. Pollock works for the US Department of Justice's anti-trust division. Löwenthal consults for the
Chronology

Office of War Information. This leaves only Horkheimer and Adorno to pursue purely theoretical work.
Neumann, *Behemoth*

1945 World War Two ends.

1947 Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

1949 Horkheimer and Adorno return to Frankfurt to reestablish the Institute there. Löwenthal leaves the Institute and remains in America, as do Marcuse and Neumann.

1951 Adorno, *Minima Moralia*


Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*

1964 Marcuse publishes the best-selling *One-Dimensional Man* and becomes a philosophical mentor to the American New Left and Student movements.

1966 Adorno, *Negative Dialectics*

1968 Habermas, *Knowledge and Human Interests* and *Technology and Science as “Ideology”*

1969 SDS protests in Frankfurt. Adorno summons the police to arrest students who have “occupied” his offices. Rupture between the German student movement and the Institute. Adorno dies on holiday in Switzerland.

1970 Posthumous publication of Adorno’s unfinished *Aesthetic Theory*. Habermas turns down offer to direct the Institute and instead takes a position at the Max Planck Institute in Starnberg, outside of Munich. Beginning of a two decade-long period during which the Institute ceases to be the focus for Critical Theory. Various themes in post-Adornian critical theory taken up in the writings of Karl-Otto Apel (1922–), Claus Offe (1940–), and Albrecht Wellmer (1939–), among others.

1981 Habermas, *Theory of Communicative Action*

1992 Axel Honneth (1949–), *Struggle for Recognition*

1997 Honneth joins the Institute.
ABBREVIATIONS

COLLECTIONS


FRANKFURT SCHOOL JOURNALS

SPSS Studies in Philosophy and Social Science
ZfS Zeitschrift für Sozialforschung

ADORNO


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**JA**  

**K**  

**MM**  

**ND**  

**NL I**  

**NL II**  

**NS**  
_Nachgelassene Schriften_. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1993–.

**P**  

**PDGS**  

**PMM**  

**Q**  

**SF**  

**BENJAMIN**

**A**  

**BGS**  

**I**  

**OT**  
xviii  List of abbreviations


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<tr>
<td>STP</td>
<td>The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere</td>
<td>T. Burger, F. Lawrence</td>
<td>MIT Press</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>TJ</td>
<td>Truth and Justification</td>
<td>B. Fultner</td>
<td>MIT Press</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>TP</td>
<td>Theory and Praxis</td>
<td>J. Viertal</td>
<td>Beacon Press</td>
<td>1973</td>
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<td>TRS</td>
<td>Towards a Rational Society</td>
<td>J. Shapiro</td>
<td>Beacon Press</td>
<td>1971</td>
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<td>TW</td>
<td>Technik und Wissenschaft als “Ideologie.”</td>
<td>R. Horkheimer</td>
<td>Suhrkamp</td>
<td>1968</td>
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<td>BPSS</td>
<td>Between Philosophy and Social Science</td>
<td>G. F. Hunter, M. Kramer, J. Torpey</td>
<td>MIT Press</td>
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<td>CIR</td>
<td>The Critique of Instrumental Reason: Lectures and Essays since the End of World War II</td>
<td>M. O’Connell</td>
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<td>CT</td>
<td>Critical Theory</td>
<td>M. O’Connell</td>
<td>Continuum</td>
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<td>DE</td>
<td>Dialectic of Enlightenment (with Adorno)</td>
<td>E. Jephcott</td>
<td>Stanford University Press</td>
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<td>ER</td>
<td>Eclipse of Reason</td>
<td>E. Jephcott</td>
<td>Continuum</td>
<td>1974</td>
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<td>HGS</td>
<td>Gesammelte Schriften</td>
<td>G. Schmid-Noerr and A. Schmidt</td>
<td>Fischer</td>
<td>1987–</td>
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<td>KT</td>
<td>Kritische Theorie</td>
<td>R. Horkheimer</td>
<td>Fischer</td>
<td>1968</td>
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<td>AD</td>
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<td>A. Marcuse</td>
<td>Beacon Press</td>
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<td>CR</td>
<td>Counterrevolution and Revolt</td>
<td>A. Marcuse</td>
<td>Beacon Press</td>
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