L. S. Vygotsky was an early twentieth-century Russian psychologist whose writing exerts a significant influence on the development of social theory in the early twenty-first century. His nondeterministic, nonreductionist account of the formation of mind provides current theoretical developments with a broadly drawn, yet very powerful sketch of the ways in which humans shape and are shaped by social, cultural, and historical conditions. The dialectical conception of development insists on the importance of genetic or developmental analysis at several levels. *The Cambridge Companion to Vygotsky* is a comprehensive text that provides students, academics, and practitioners with a critical perspective on Vygotsky and his work.

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