

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-107-09778-0 — The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought  
Edited by Peter E. Gordon, Warren Breckman  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF  
MODERN EUROPEAN THOUGHT

\*  
VOLUME II:  
The Twentieth Century

This second volume of *The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought* surveys twentieth-century European intellectual history, conceived as a crisis in modernity. Comprised of twenty-one chapters, it focuses on figures such as Freud, Heidegger, Adorno, and Arendt, surveys major schools of thought including Phenomenology, Existentialism, and Conservatism, and discusses critical movements such as Postcolonialism, Structuralism, and Post-structuralism. Renouncing a single “master narrative” of European thought across the period, Peter E. Gordon and Warren Breckman establish a formidable new multi-faceted vision of European intellectual history for the global modern age.

PETER E. GORDON is Amabel B. James Professor of History at Harvard University. He is a resident faculty member at Harvard’s Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, and has held fellowships from the Princeton Society of Fellows and the Davis Center at Princeton University. He is the award-winning author of *Rosenzweig and Heidegger: Between Judaism and German Philosophy* (2003), *Continental Divide: Heidegger, Cassirer, Davos* (2010), and *Adorno and Existence* (2016) and co-editor of several books, including *The Routledge Companion to the Frankfurt School*, with Espen Hammer and Axel Honneth (2018).

WARREN BRECKMAN is the Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught since 1995. He is the author of *Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory* (1999), *European Romanticism: A Brief History with Documents* (2008), and *Adventures of the Symbolic: Postmarxism and Radical Democracy* (2013). He served as co-editor of the *Journal of the History of Ideas* (2006–2016), and co-edited the volume *The Modernist Imagination: Essays in Intellectual History and Critical Theory* (2008), also with Peter E. Gordon.

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF  
MODERN EUROPEAN THOUGHT

*The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought* is an authoritative and comprehensive exploration of the themes, thinkers, and movements that shaped our intellectual world from the late eighteenth century to the present. Representing both individual figures and the contexts within which they developed their ideas, this two-volume history is rich with original interpretive insight, and is written in a clear and accessible style by leading scholars in the field.

Renouncing a single “master narrative” of European thought across the period, Warren Breckman and Peter E. Gordon establish a formidable new multi-faceted vision of European intellectual history for the global modern age.

VOLUME I

*The Nineteenth Century*

EDITED BY WARREN BRECKMAN AND PETER E. GORDON

VOLUME II

*The Twentieth Century*

EDITED BY PETER E. GORDON AND WARREN BRECKMAN

THE CAMBRIDGE  
HISTORY OF  
MODERN EUROPEAN THOUGHT

\*

VOLUME II  
The Twentieth Century

\*

*Edited by*

PETER E. GORDON  
*Harvard University*

WARREN BRECKMAN  
*University of Pennsylvania*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-107-09778-0 — The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought  
 Edited by Peter E. Gordon, Warren Breckman  
 Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE  
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom  
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
 New Delhi – 110025, India  
 103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.  
 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of  
 education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org  
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/ 9781108677462  
 DOI: 10.1017/9781316160879

© Cambridge University Press 2019

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written  
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2019

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow, Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Breckman, Warren, 1963– editor. | Gordon, Peter Eli, editor.

TITLE: The Cambridge history of modern European thought / edited by Warren Breckman,  
 Peter Gordon.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2019–  
 | Includes bibliographical references. Contents: volume I. The nineteenth century.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2018046335 | ISBN 9781107097759 (vol. 1) | ISBN 9781107097780 (vol. 2) |  
 ISBN 9781108677462 (set)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Europe – Intellectual life – 19th century. | Europe – Intellectual life – 20th  
 century. | Philosophy, European – History.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC D359 .C226 2019 | DDC 190–dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018046335>

Two Volume Set ISBN 978-1-108-67746-2 Hardback

Volume I ISBN 978-1-107-09775-9 Hardback

Volume II ISBN 978-1-107-09778-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of  
 URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication  
 and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,  
 accurate or appropriate.

## Contents

*List of Contributors* page vii  
*Preface* xi

Introduction 1

PETER E. GORDON AND WARREN BRECKMAN

1 · Sociology and the Heroism of Modern Life 18

MARTIN JAY

2 · Psychoanalysis: Freud and Beyond 44

KATJA GUENTHER

3 · Modern Physics: From Crisis to Crisis 72

JIMENA CANALES

4 · Varieties of Phenomenology 102

DAN ZAHAVI

5 · Existentialism and the Meanings of Transcendence 128

EDWARD BARING

6 · Philosophies of Life 153

GIUSEPPE BIANCO

7 · The Many Faces of Analytic Philosophy 176

JOEL ISAAC

8 · American Ideas in the European Imagination 200

JAMES T. KLOPPENBERG AND SAM KLUG

9 · Revolution from the Right: Against Equality 233

UDI GREENBERG

*Contents*

- 10 · Western Marxism: Revolutions in Theory 259  
 MAX PENSKY
- 11 · Anti-imperialism and Interregnum 289  
 KRIS MANJAPRA
- 12 · Late Modern Feminist Subversions: Sex, Subjectivity, and  
 Embodiment 311  
 SANDRINE SANOS
- 13 · Modernist Theologies: The Many Paths between  
 God and World 336  
 PETER E. GORDON
- 14 · Modern Economic Thought and the “Good Society” 361  
 HAGEN SCHULZ-FORBERG
- 15 · Conservatism and Its Discontents 391  
 STEVEN B. SMITH
- 16 · Modernity and the Specter of Totalitarianism 417  
 SAMUEL MOYN
- 17 · Decolonization Terminable and Interminable 438  
 JUDITH SURKIS
- 18 · Structuralism and the Return of the Symbolic 464  
 CAMILLE ROBCIS
- 19 · Post-structuralism: From Deconstruction to the  
 Genealogy of Power 490  
 JULIAN BOURG AND ETHAN KLEINBERG
- 20 · Contesting the Public Sphere: Within and against  
 Critical Theory 517  
 DAVID INGRAM
- 21 · Restructuring Democracy and the Idea of Europe 545  
 SEYLA BENHABIB AND STEFAN EICH
- Index* 569

## Contributors

EDWARD BARING is Associate Professor of European History at Drew University. He is the author of *The Young Derrida and French Philosophy, 1945–1968* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and *Converts to the Real: Catholicism and the Making of Continental Philosophy* (Harvard University Press, 2019).

SEYLA BENHABIB is the Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University. Her recent books include *Exile, Statelessness, and Migration: Playing Chess with History from Hannah Arendt to Isaiah Berlin* (Princeton University Press, 2018) and *Dignity in Adversity: Human Rights in Troubled Times* (Polity Press, 2011).

GIUSEPPE BIANCO is a postdoctoral researcher at the Universidade de São Paulo and at the EHESS. His more recent books include *Après Bergson: Portrait de groupe avec philosophe* (Presses Universitaires de France, 2015), and he edited the volume *Georges Politzer, le concret et sa signification: Psychologie, philosophie et politique* (Hermann, 2016).

JULIAN BOURG is Associate Professor of History at Boston College. His books include, *From Revolution to Ethics: May 1968 and Contemporary French Thought* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007; rev. edn., 2017) and the edited collection *After the Deluge: New Perspectives on the Intellectual and Cultural History of Postwar France* (Lexington Books, 2004).

WARREN BRECKMAN is the Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor of Modern European Intellectual History at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Marx, the Young Hegelians, and the Origins of Radical Social Theory: Dethroning the Self* (Cambridge University Press, 1998) and *Adventures of the Symbolic: Postmarxism and Radical Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2013), and he was the executive editor of *Journal of the History of Ideas* from 2006 to 2016.

JIMENA CANALES is faculty at the Graduate College of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Recent books include *A Tenth of a Second* (one of the *Guardian's* Top 10 Books About Time) and *The Physicist and the Philosopher: Einstein, Bergson, and the Debate That Changed Our Understanding of Time* (Best Science Books 2015 Science Friday, NPR, and Brainpickings, Top Reads 2015, the *Independent*, Books of the Year 2016, the *Tablet*).

*List of Contributors*

STEFAN EICH is Perkins-Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts at Princeton University.

PETER E. GORDON is Amabel B. James Professor of History and Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Philosophy at Harvard University. His more recent books include *Continental Divide: Heidegger, Cassirer, Davos* (Harvard University Press, 2010) and *Adorno and Existence* (Harvard University Press, 2016).

UDI GREENBERG is an associate professor of European history at Dartmouth College. He is the author of *The Weimar Century: German Émigrés and the Ideological Foundations of the Cold War* (Princeton University Press, 2014).

KATJA GUENTHER is Associate Professor in the History of Science at Princeton University. She published *Localization and Its Discontents: A Genealogy of Psychoanalysis and the Neuro Disciplines* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), and is currently completing a history of mirror self-recognition in the human sciences.

DAVID INGRAM is Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. His most recent books are *World Crisis and Underdevelopment: A Critical Theory of Poverty, Agency, and Coercion* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) and *The Ethics of Development: An Introduction* (co-author Thomas Derdak) (Routledge, 2018).

JOEL ISAAC is Associate Professor of Social Thought in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *Working Knowledge: Making the Human Sciences from Parsons to Kuhn* (Harvard University Press, 2012) and the co-editor of *The Worlds of American Intellectual History* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

MARTIN JAY is Ehrman Professor of European History Emeritus. Among his many books are *The Dialectical Imagination: A History of the Frankfurt School and the Institute of Social Research, 1923–50* (Little, Brown and Co., 1973) and, more recently, *Reason after its Eclipse: On Late Critical Theory* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2016).

ETHAN KLEINBERG is Professor of History and Letters at Wesleyan University. He is the author of *Haunting History: For a Deconstructive Approach to the Past* (Stanford University Press, 2017) and *Generation Existential: Heidegger's Philosophy in France, 1927–1961* (Cornell University Press, 2005).

JAMES T. KLOPPENBERG is Charles Warren Professor of American History at Harvard University. His recent books include *Reading Obama: Dreams, Hope, and the American Political Tradition*, 2nd edn. (Princeton University Press, 2011); *Toward Democracy: The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought* (Oxford University Press, 2016); and *The Worlds of American Intellectual History*, co-edited with Joel Isaac, Michael O'Brien, and Jennifer Ratner Rosenhagen (Oxford University Press, 2017).

SAM KLUG is a Ph.D. candidate in History at Harvard University and a Graduate Student Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. His dissertation is entitled "Making



*List of Contributors*

the Internal Colony: Black Internationalism, Development, and the Politics of Colonial Comparison in the United States, 1940–1975.”

KRIS MANJAPRA is Associate Professor in the Department of History at Tufts University. His books include *M. N. Roy: Marxism and Colonial Cosmopolitanism* (Routledge, 2010), and *Age of Entanglement: German and Indian Intellectuals across Empire* (Harvard University Press, 2014).

SAMUEL MOYN is Professor of History at Yale University. His most recent book is *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World* (Harvard University Press, 2018).

MAX PENSKY is Professor of Philosophy at Binghamton University. His books include *Melancholy Dialectics: Walter Benjamin and the Play of Mourning* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1993) and *The Ends of Solidarity: Discourse Theory in Ethics and Politics* (SUNY Press, 2008).

CAMILLE ROBCIS is Associate Professor of French and History at Columbia University. She is the author of *The Law of Kinship: Anthropology, Psychoanalysis, and the Family in France* (Cornell University Press, 2013).

SANDRINE SANOS is Associate Professor of Modern European History at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Her most recent publications include *The Aesthetics of Hate: Far-Right Intellectuals, Antisemitism, and Gender in 1930s France* (Stanford University Press, 2013) and *Simone de Beauvoir: Creating a Feminist Existence in the World* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

HAGEN SCHULZ-FORBERG teaches modern global and European history and thought at Aarhus University. He is the co-author with Bo Stråth of *The Political History of European Integration: The Hypocrisy of Democracy-through-Market* (Routledge, 2010) and is currently preparing *Contemporary Europe since the 1970s: (Re-)birth of the Political* (Wiley, 2020).

STEVEN B. SMITH is the Alfred Cowles Professor of Political Science at Yale University. He is the author of *Reading Leo Strauss: Politics, Philosophy, Judaism* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), and most recently *Modernity and its Discontents: Making and Unmaking the Bourgeois from Machiavelli to Bellow* (Yale University Press, 2016).

JUDITH SURKIS is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University. She is author of *Sexing the Citizen: Morality and Masculinity in France, 1870–1920* (Cornell University Press, 2006) and *Sex, Law, and Sovereignty in French Algeria, 1830–1930* (Cornell University Press, 2019).

DAN ZAHAVI is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Oxford, and Director of the Center for Subjectivity Research in Copenhagen. His most recent books include *Self and Other: Exploring Subjectivity, Empathy, and Shame* (Oxford University Press, 2014) and *Husserl's Legacy: Phenomenology, Metaphysics, and Transcendental Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

## *Preface*

When one steps back to reflect upon the historical course of modern European thought since the French Revolution, it is difficult to avoid the impression that the old master narratives have lost all credibility. It is one of the characteristics of the modern condition that our stories and conceptual schemes have grown increasingly pluralistic: fragmentation, not unity, is the sign of the modern. In this regard, cultural and intellectual activity followed a general trend of modernity toward greater differentiation of spheres and tasks. Relations between workplace and home, public and private, state and society, secular and sacred all changed as modern Europe redefined or created new boundaries between these domains. Likewise, modernity has witnessed an ever more complex division of labor. Just as much as other members of society, intellectuals and artists have been affected by these changes, which have drawn (or blurred) anew the lines between producers and consumers of ideas and between mental and manual labor, even while they have also spawned new subcultures of expertise and disciplinary practice. These larger societal conditions and the torsions they produced are an important factor in the extraordinary creativity of European intellectual life in all fields during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Political ideologies have multiplied, and so too have the various fields of philosophical, theological, and scientific inquiry. Intellectual and cultural movements have waxed and waned; various schools have come into being, declaring themselves as *avant-garde* before hardening into new orthodoxies. Intellectuals announce a breakthrough only to be overtaken in turn by new currents of restoration or rebellion; and yet even those phenomena that seemed to vanish without a trace have in fact left an enduring mark on future generations. Nothing is ever truly past. Our present intellectual and cultural life remains unintelligible without some awareness of the persistent force of debates, problems, and styles of thought that emerged over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

*Preface*

*The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought* offers a capacious and detailed survey of this rich and varied intellectual terrain. It combines state-of-the-art research with accessible presentations that can serve as both touchstones for the seasoned scholar and points of entry for students both beginning and advanced. Individual chapters trace crucial movements and figures across a broad range of disciplinary fields and domains of thought; they do so with sensitivity to the complexities both of the internal debates and traditions of intellectual life and of the larger contexts within which writers and artists have pursued their work. The focus is on intellectual concerns that fall roughly into the domain of humanistic inquiry and artistic practice – questions of the self, knowledge, and truth, human nature, the political order, ethics, justice, religion, ontology, psychology, and the symbolic modes whereby humans represent their ideas and experiences. More or less absent are the natural sciences and medicine. While these did of course exercise an important influence, they have their own deep and complicated histories. Their inclusion might have toppled the scale of even the most ambitious compendium of European thought in this period. The two notable exceptions, however, are the Darwinian revolution and the twentieth-century revolution in physics, both truly paradigmatic shifts that found strong resonances in the broader culture. The focus is also narrowed to emphasize the major countries of Western and Central Europe, chiefly but not exclusively France, Germany, Austria, and Great Britain. These were the national cultures that, during the modern era, could be said to have exercised the greatest influence on the intellectual life of the European continent and beyond. But the volumes and chapters also recognize the many entanglements across time and space that must defeat any attempt to narrate a merely provincial history of European ideas. Especially in the modern era during the age of imperialism and decolonization, the intellectual history of Europe cannot be confined within the boundaries of a single nation or geography. Ideas travel, and they also travel back, enriched and transformed by their peregrinations around the globe.

Absent from *The Cambridge History of Modern European Thought* is any master narrative that would tightly unify all of the numerous strands that thread through these volumes. If the French Revolution brought to an end the feudal age of absolutist monarchy, we would do well to recognize that in the history of ideas there is likewise no sovereign theme that wields all of the threads of intellectual history in its powerful hands. But differentiation does

*Preface*

not entail chaos. Even as we recognize the manifold of themes and ideas we also understand that nothing in intellectual history can remain wholly apart from the world. Amply present in this volume is an awareness of the irreducible complexity – the ambiguity but also the creativity – of European intellectual life during these two centuries, alongside a recognition that intellectual history shares in whatever has been good and bad in modern European history. As we embark on the twenty-first century we trust that the ideas of the past may still provide us in some modest way with guidance for the future no matter how formidable its challenges.