

GEORG SIMMEL AND GERMAN CULTURE

The significance of the German philosopher and social thinker, Georg Simmel (1858–1918), is only now being recognised by intellectual historians. Through penetrating readings of Simmel's thought, taken as a series of reflections on the essence of modernity and modern civilisation, Efraim Podoksik places his ideas within the context of intellectual life in Germany, and especially Berlin, under the Kaiserreich. Modernity, characterised by the growing differentiation and fragmentation of culture and society, was a fundamental issue during Simmel's life, underpinning central intellectual debates in Imperial Germany. Simmel's thought is depicted here as an attempt at transforming the complexity of these debates into a coherent worldview that can serve as an effective guide to understanding their main parameters. Paying particular attention to the genealogy and usage of the concepts of *Bildung*, culture and civilisation in Germany, this study offers contextual analyses of Simmel's philosophies of culture, society, art, religion and the feminine, as well as his interpretations of Dante, Kant, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Goethe and Rembrandt.

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GERMAN CULTURE

Unity, Variety and Modern Discontents

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Note on Translations and References

All of Simmel's writings have been published in *Georg Simmel Gesamtausgabe*, twenty-four volumes, edited by O. Rammstedt (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1989–2015), hereafter cited as GSG. In the present book, all citations have been rendered in English. Where available, I used an existing English translation. In these cases, the reference is to the text in English, while the corresponding location in GSG is given in square brackets. Where no English translation exists, or where I disagreed with the existing translation, the translation is my own, and the reference is directly to GSG. To prevent confusion, all references to GSG are made according to the formula: GSG, volume number, page numbers, without using 'ibid'.

When other German sources are rendered in accordance with an existing English translation, the reference is to that translation. When the reference is directly to the German text, the translation is my own.

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