



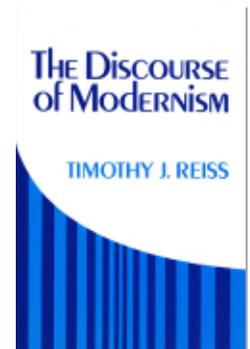
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The Discourse of Modernism

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Contents

· Preface	9
· A Note on Punctuation	17
1 · On Method, Discursive Logics, and Epistemology	21
2 · Questions of Medieval Discursive Practice	55
3 · From the Middle Ages to the (W)Hole of <i>Utopia</i>	108
4 · Kepler, His <i>Dream</i> , and the Analysis and Pattern of Thought	140
5 · Campanella and Bacon: Concerning Structures of Mind	168
6 · The Masculine Birth of Time	198
7 · Cyrano and the Experimental Discourse	226
8 · The Myth of Sun and Moon	261
9 · The Difficulty of Writing	277
10 · Crusoe Rights His Story	294
11 · Gulliver's Critique of Euclid	328
12 · Emergence, Consolidation, and Dominance of a Discourse	351
· Bibliography	387
· Index	403

I was young then and did not know how difficult it is for Western man to understand the dream-heavy classical soul. They are so far apart. The god of superlative shape has been replaced by the god of superlative force and between the two conceptions there is all space.

—Eric Ambler, *Journey into Fear*

Expressing their thoughts in words of which they are not the masters, enclosing them in verbal forms whose historical dimensions they are unaware of, men believe that their speech is their servant and do not realize that they are submitting themselves to its demands.

—Michel Foucault, *Les mots et les choses*

It may always be asserted that determinant paths *must* exist between the slave system characteristic of Greek society and the miracle of geometry, that the appearance of the applied sciences from the neo-classical era on *must* be conditioned in various ways by the mercantile economy of modern Europe, and so on. It can be asserted. It is correct to do so. That does not change the fact that the outline of these paths, the detailed description of such conditions is non-existent. The matter has perhaps been logically demonstrated, it has not been shown.

—Michel Serres, “Les sciences”