With a New Preface by the Authors

Marcuse brings back to centerstage one of the most celebrated and controversial philosophers of the turbulent 1960s, the man Time called the “guru of the New Left.”

In Reason and Revolution, Eros and Civilization, One-Dimensional Man, and other notable works, Herbert Marcuse crystallized the essence of counterculture philosophy. His neo-Marxist critique of Western capitalism was widely embraced by revolutionaries, “hippies,” and an entire generation of academics who condemned political, economic, and sexual repression in American society. So complete was Marcuse’s identification with the New Left that, with its demise, he and his works fell out of favor. But, as this volume persuasively demonstrates, Marcuse remains vitally relevant for us today.

Fifteen leading Marcuse scholars, including Marcuse’s son Peter, assess the philosopher’s ideas in the radically different theoretical and political contexts of the 1990s. The range of topics covered is distinctly contemporary—Foucault and postmodern theories, analytical Marxism and the demise of the Soviet Union, women’s studies and feminist psychoanalytic theory, aesthetic consciousness and postmodern art, radical ecology and cybernetic technology—and includes Douglas Kellner’s revealing first look at the unpublished manuscripts in the Marcuse Archives in Frankfurt.

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