

Table of Contents

Introduction	ix
Chapter One: Karl Marx's Lessons on the Universe of Contemporary Politics	1
Resituating <i>The Civil War in France</i>	1
Defining the Essence of the Paris Commune	3
The Paris Commune as a Government Based on Direct Democracy	7
The Commune and the Radical Destruction of the State	12
The Paris Commune and the Revolution of the Political Superstructure and Political Power	17
Recovering the Universal Historical Value of the Paris Commune	21
Chapter Two: Walter Benjamin's Lessons on the Present and Future of Art	31
Chapter Three: Fernand Braudel's Lessons on Historical Time	53
<i>Longue Durée</i> Historical Time	55
The <i>Longue Durée</i> and Eastern Temporality	58
The Many Forms of Pre-Capitalist "Lived Time"	61
Capitalist Time and the Capitalist Temporal Framework	64
The Line of Analysis Established by the Theory of Different Historical Times	68
Chapter Four: Mikhail Bakhtin's Lessons on the Codes of Popular Culture	79
Bakhtin: Mysterious Figure and Transparent Theorist	79

viii | LESSONS IN CRITICAL THEORY

Mikhail Bakhtin and the Relevance of the Dialogic Principle	81
Mikhail Bakhtin: Theorist of Popular Culture	87
Chapter Five: E. P. Thompson's Lessons on Rebellion and the Moral Economy of the Crowd	99
On the Evolution of the Concept of the "Moral Economy of the Crowd"	99
The Moral Economy of Latin American Crowds	101
Chapter Six: Carlo Ginzburg's Lessons on the Limitations of Modern Bourgeois Rationality	121
Chapter Seven: Immanuel Wallerstein's Lessons on Explaining the Contemporary World	151
So-Called "Globalization" and Its Key Avatars	151
The Age-Old Content of "Globalization"	153
The "Dark Sides" of the Concept of Globalization	156
The Pending Agenda of Globalization	159