



Against Epistemology: A Metacritique. Studies in Husserl and the Phenomenological Antinomies (Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought)

By Theodor W. Adorno

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Theodor Adorno (1903-1969) was a cultural philosopher, sociologist, literary critic, and historian of music who, along with Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse, and Erich Fromm, founded the Frankfurt School. *Against Epistemology* is one of his most important works. It inspired Habermas and Marcuse and continues to influence other eminent thinkers in philosophy and the social sciences today.

Against Epistemology is in essence a long essay against Western metaphysics or, as Adorno put it, "the lordship of the subject." Traditional philosophy, he noted, leads in practice to fascism. In this book, he combines analytic philosophy, social theory, and cultural criticism to try to show how epistemology betrays experience, using Husserl's work as a concrete model.

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Editorial Review

Review

"There is much ado in philosophy today about the 'end' of epistemology. Certainly Jacques Derrida in France and Richard Rorty in the United States bear responsibility for much of this, but there are others on the contemporary scene who are of the mind that epistemology has had its day. Thus it is that this work written by Adorno in the thirties appears in retrospect as a prophetic voice... Adorno is at his best when he picks away at specific points of Husserlian doctrine, e.g., monadological consciousness, the transcendental ego, intuition, universal essences, the self-givenness of evidence, and constitution."

—*Quarterly Journal of Speech*

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