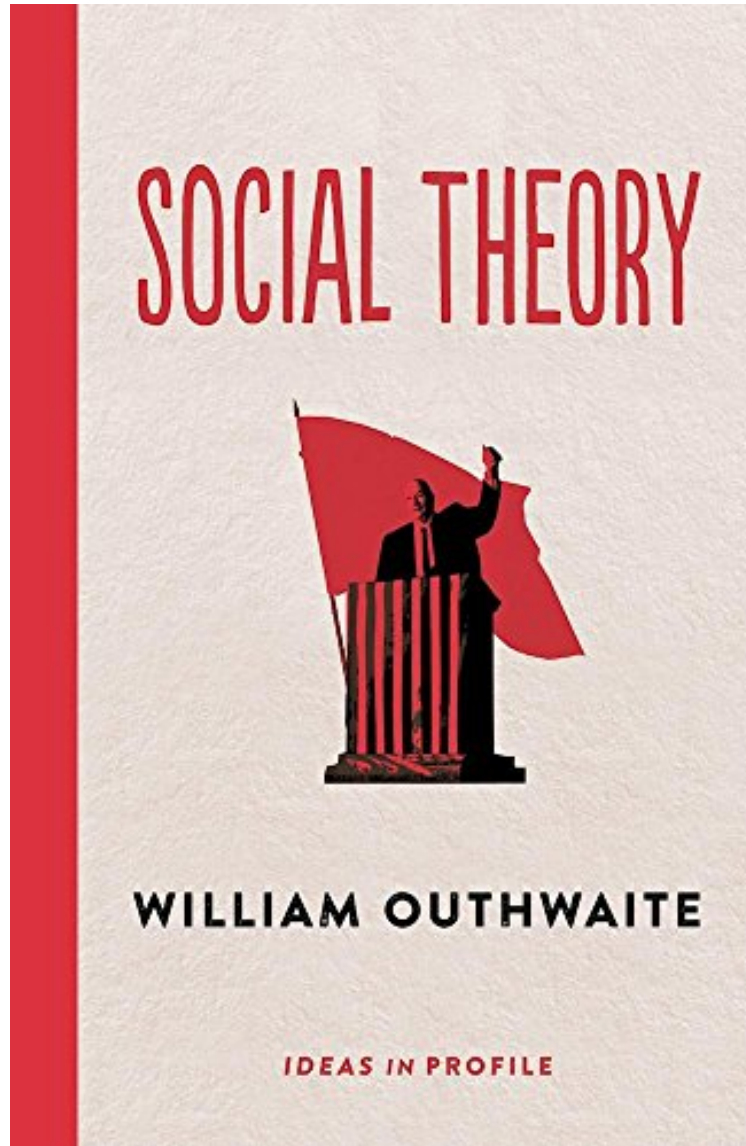


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Social Theory: Ideas in Profile

William Outhwaite

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Broad Introduction to Social TheoryBy Jerry RichardsonThe author begins this book with a functional definition of Social Theory. Social Theory explains the links between Politics, Economics, and Culture, Gender, and Ethnic Studies. Imagine an academic sociologist researching the historical development of Capitalism with ideas from Anthropology and you get an idea of the approach. This kind of

multidisciplinary approach can and has produced valuable results: Critical Theory and Marxism come to mind. We don't experience life in neatly wrapped academic specializations. Terms like "Globalization", "Modernity", and "Capitalism" lose some cogency viewed through a single academic perspective. The author presents a case for a very inclusive and broad Social Theory, including the ideas of Freud and systems theory. The book is about as easy reading as you could hope for in a subject like this. A good introduction for general readers and undergraduates.

Ideas in Profile: Small Introductions to Big Topics In a world that is constantly changing, understanding the world has never been more important. But by thinking in neat segments, we miss the big picture. When economists think about globalisation, they often see trade; politicians see institutions and power; artists see a new global aesthetic. Social theory is what sees them all together. Renowned theorist William Outhwaite takes us on a journey through the major thinkers and topics of this often misunderstood discipline. We move from the work of Rousseau to the still powerful insights of Marx and on to the great sociologists, Weber and Durkheim. We probe the big questions - why is religion powerful, where does capitalism come from - and move through the key ideas of the twentieth century thought from the Frankfurt School to Bourdieu and Giddens. Lastly Outhwaite questions the role of social theory today. Where does this vital discipline go next and how will its wide horizons help us stand up to the challenge of the twenty-first century?