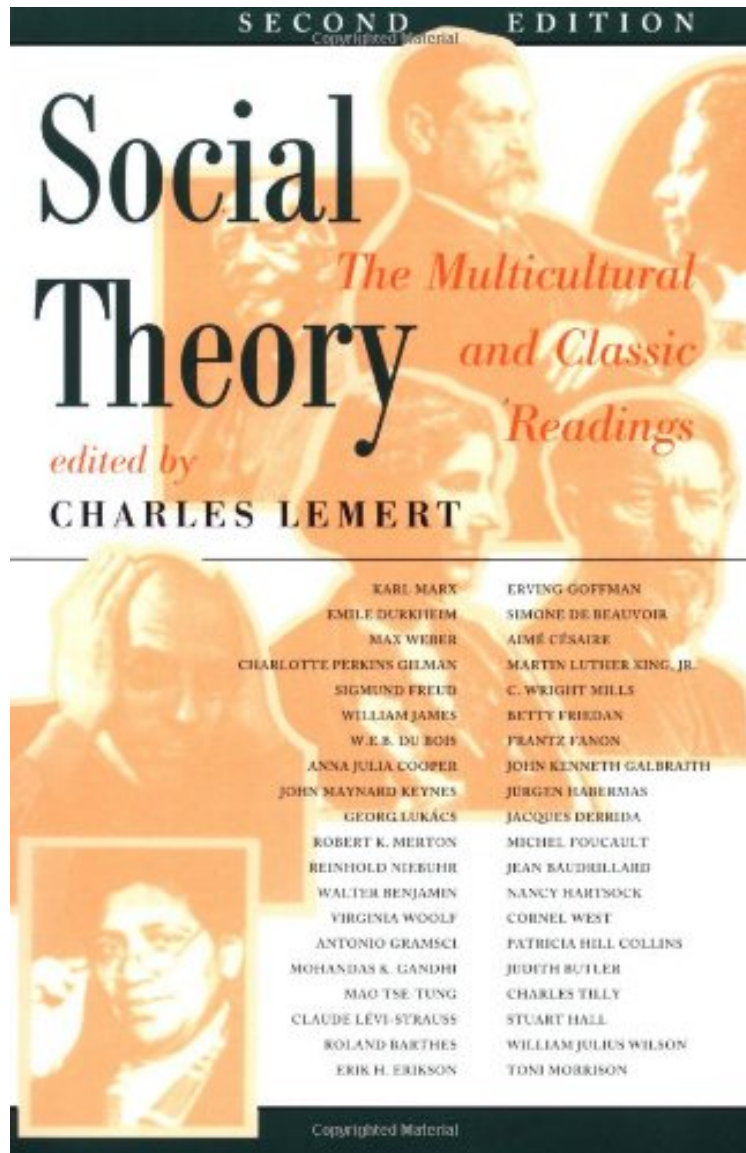


Social Theory : The Multicultural and Classic Readings

Charles C. Lemert

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A textbook . . . By Foster J. Dickson As someone pursuing a master's degree in literature, I bought this book for a course in sociology to serve as my minor. If you're studying sociology, this book is a very good, very inclusive anthology. If you're not planning on being a sociologist, like me, you'll

probably find this reading cumbersome and hard to follow. The editor Lemert has done a good job introducing the material, making social theory into a real-life thing, not just an academic discipline, but this ain't beach reading.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read and covers several topicsBy GFGreat read and covers several topics! If any one theory or topic interests you more then you can supplement this reading with more books that delve into that particular subject.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Boring TextbookBy EddieI bought this because it was required reading and I never even used it for any of my papers. It was a waste of time and money. I read about half the book and was not impressed.

This first truly multicultural anthology collects important, readable texts representative of the full range of social theory as it has developed from the nineteenth century to the present. Now that social theory is practiced in many disciplines, it is time to reflect on the variety of theories being read today and the earlier sources that are customarily neglected. If today we read Donna Haraway, Henry Louis Gates, and Michel Foucault, we should also read and understand Charlotte Perkins Gilman and W.E.B. Du Bois, alongside Weber, Simmel, William James, and others of their contemporaries from the end of the nineteenth century. This book, therefore, sets a wider gauge for the understanding of the history of social thought than could have been possible before. It brings texts together in unexpected and exciting ways: those of Parsons and Dorothy Smith, Merton and Lacan, Wallerstein and Frantz Fanon, James Coleman and Molefi Asante. Extensive introductory essays by the editor situate the writings in their times, identifying the currents of social change that shaped fundamental questions of modern and postmodern life. The second edition includes new readings, a new section covering the postmodern controversies of recent years, and a postscript that addresses the changes and directions in social theory.

About the AuthorCharles Lemert is professor of sociology at Wesleyan University and the author of several books including *Sociology After the Crisis* (Westview Press 1995) and *Social Theory, The Multicultural and Classic Readings*, Third Edition (Westview Press 2004).