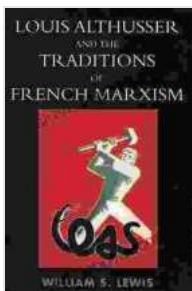


Louis Althusser and the Traditions of French Marxism

Louis Althusser was a French philosopher and sociologist who is considered one of the most important Marxist thinkers of the 20th century. His work has had a profound impact on the development of Marxist theory and on the social sciences more generally.



Louis Althusser and the Traditions of French Marxism

by George B. Cunningham

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 250 pages
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Althusser was born in 1918 in Birmandreis, Algeria, which was then a French colony. He moved to France in 1939 to study at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. After graduating, he taught philosophy at several lycées in France and Algeria. In 1960, he was appointed to a position at the École Normale Supérieure, where he remained until his retirement in 1988.

Althusser's work is characterized by its rigor and its originality. He sought to develop a scientific Marxism that would be free from the distortions of Stalinism and other forms of vulgar Marxism. He also sought to develop a theory of ideology that would account for the ways in which ideology shapes our thoughts and actions.

Althusser's work has been praised by many for its rigor and its originality. However, it has also been criticized for its complexity and its pessimism. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that Althusser is one of the most important Marxist thinkers of the 20th century.

Althusser's Marxism

Althusser's Marxism is based on the idea that there is a fundamental distinction between the economic base and the ideological superstructure of society. The economic base is the material conditions of existence, such as the forces of production and the relations of production. The ideological superstructure is the realm of ideas, values, and beliefs that are produced by the economic base.

Althusser argues that the economic base determines the ideological superstructure. The ideas, values, and beliefs that we hold are shaped by the material conditions of our existence. For example, the belief that capitalism is a natural and inevitable system is a product of the capitalist mode of production.

Althusser also argues that the ideological superstructure has a relative autonomy from the economic base. This means that the ideological superstructure can have its own effects on the economic base. For

example, the belief that capitalism is a natural and inevitable system can lead to policies that support capitalism.

Althusser's Marxism is a complex and sophisticated theory. It has been praised for its rigor and its originality. However, it has also been criticized for its complexity and its pessimism. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that Althusser is one of the most important Marxist thinkers of the 20th century.

Althusser's Theory of Ideology

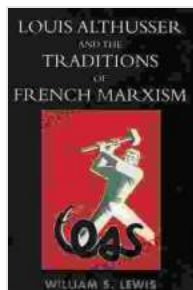
Althusser's theory of ideology is one of the most important and influential theories of ideology in the social sciences. Althusser argues that ideology is a system of representations that produces the illusion of transparency and objectivity. It is a system of beliefs and values that we take for granted as natural and inevitable.

Althusser argues that ideology is not simply a matter of false consciousness. It is not simply a matter of people being unaware of the real nature of their social conditions. Rather, ideology is a system of representations that actively produces the illusion of transparency and objectivity. It is a system of beliefs and values that we take for granted as natural and inevitable.

Althusser's theory of ideology has been praised for its rigor and its originality. However, it has also been criticized for its complexity and its pessimism. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that Althusser's theory of ideology is one of the most important and influential theories of ideology in the social sciences.

Louis Althusser was a French philosopher and sociologist who is considered one of the most important Marxist thinkers of the 20th century. His work has had a profound impact on the development of Marxist theory and on the social sciences more generally. Althusser's work is characterized by its rigor and its originality. He sought to develop a scientific Marxism that would be free from the distortions of Stalinism and other forms of vulgar Marxism. He also sought to develop a theory of ideology that would account for the ways in which ideology shapes our thoughts and actions.

Althusser's work has been praised by many for its rigor and its originality. However, it has also been criticized for its complexity and its pessimism. Nonetheless, there is no doubt that Althusser is one of the most important Marxist thinkers of the 20th century. His work continues to be debated and discussed by scholars around the world.



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