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CRITICAL PRACTICE FROM VOLTAIRE TO FOUCAULT, EAGLETON AND BEYOND

CONTESTED PERSPECTIVES

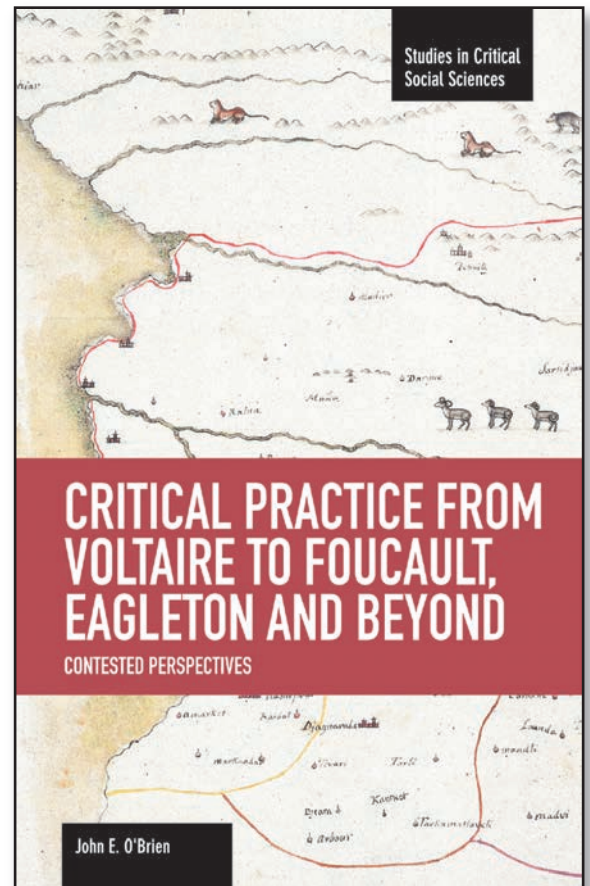
By John E. O'Brien

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USING THE HISTORICAL-MATERIALIST METHOD to unravel the promise and limits of critical practice since the Revolutionary Age, John E. O'Brien investigates the problems and prospects of cultural criticism for the 21st century through absorbing studies of the contested perspectives of Voltaire, Friedrich Schiller, Jean Baudrillard, Michel Foucault, Terry Eagleton and Hayden White.

In spite of recurrent crises due to a flawed Western political-economy, why is there so much critical intellectual activity with so little effect? Framing his study with the early work by Max Horkheimer, Luc Boltanski and Teresa Ebert, O'Brien's investigation of resistance in America and Europe challenges the bourgeois philosophy of history, pointing to the urgency of critique as mode of analysis and intervention.

JOHN E. O'BRIEN, Ph.D. (1971), University of Wisconsin, formerly Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies, Portland State University, Oregon, now independent researcher in Paris, with projects on the European Community and India, where he lectures on Systems Management in a Global Political Economy.



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