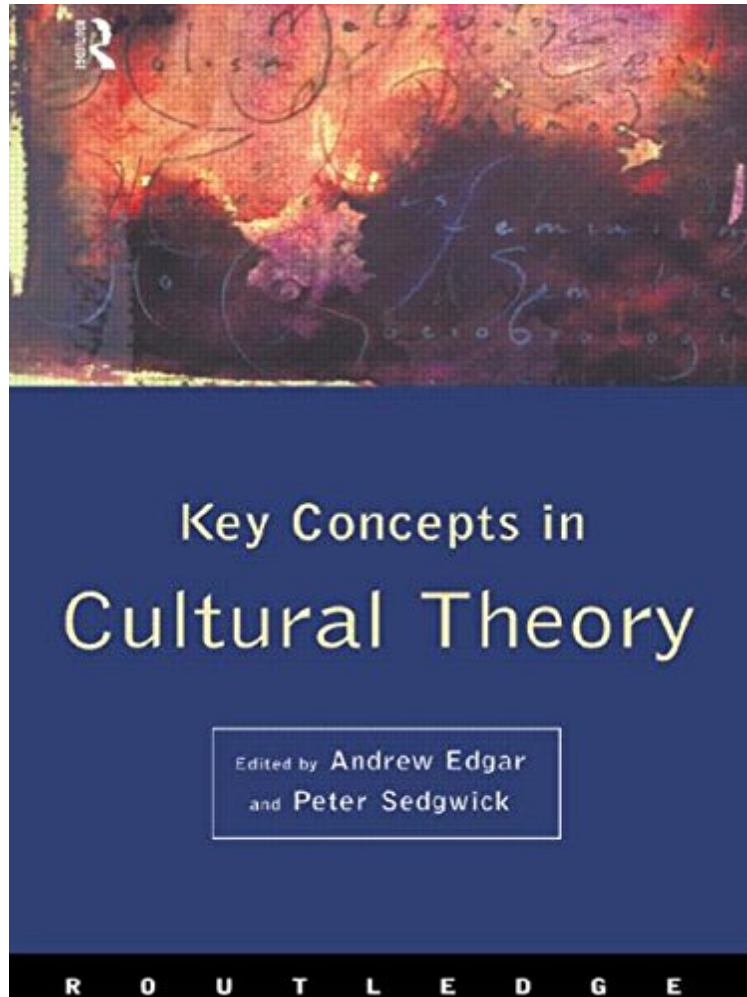


[PDF] Key Concepts in Cultural Theory (Routledge Key Guides)

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From Routledge : Key Concepts in Cultural Theory (Routledge Key Guides) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Key Concepts in Cultural Theory (Routledge Key Guides):

38 of 41 people found the following review helpful. Flawed but useful
By A Customer
The idea is a great one: a handy dictionary of terms for the jargon-laden and often impenetrable vocabulary of cultural theory. Just what is the "Frankfurt School"? Can anyone please deconstruct "Deconstructionism"? What exactly is "punk" and do I need to understand "symbolic interactionism"? Entries on these and other terms are helpful, and the book includes quite a few unexpected little essays on cinema, popular music, etc. However, many of the entries fall victim to the same kind of jargoneering they purport to demystify; I must fault in particular the writing of one of the editors, Peter Sedgwick, whose entries are often obfuscatory or just plain badly written, e.g., in this description of "essentialism": "Whether or not adoption of this view commits one to holding that these properties must exist in reality prior to the act of naming

an object, so that a definition, if it is true is a priori true (see Lyotard's criticism of essentialism in "The Differend: Phrases in Dispute" (1988), Section 88) is perhaps an open question. "Whew! The editor needs an editor. In all this is a helpful book (with a helpful index and bibliography as well), but sometimes suffers from the ills of its field.

An up-to-date and comprehensive survey of over 350 of the key terms encountered in cultural theory today. Each entry provides clear and succinct explanations for students throughout a wide range of disciplines.

Given a field notorious for its often dense vocabulary and sometimes intentional subversions of conventional terminology, this dictionary will serve a useful purpose, [as] many of its articles are reasonably clear and self contained. ARBA 2000
About the Author
Dr Peter Sedgwick and Dr Andrew Edgar are lecturers in the philosophy department of the University of Wales, Cardiff.