



A Critique of Postcolonial Reason

By Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak

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Are the "culture wars" over? When did they begin? What is their relationship to gender struggle and the dynamics of class? In her first full treatment of postcolonial studies, a field that she helped define, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, one of the world's foremost literary theorists, poses these questions from within the postcolonial enclave.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In recent years, a growing body of literary and historical scholarship has explored the complex relationship of Western elite culture to the postcolonial societies of the Southern hemisphere. Spivak, a prominent literary theorist based at Columbia University, is widely known for her sophisticated deconstructive approach to questions of feminism, North-South relations, and the politics of subaltern studies. This book is based on a number of her published essays, including the influential 1988 article "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Spivak focuses on the relationship of debates in philosophy, history, and literature to the emergence of a postcolonial problematic. Overall, she seeks to distance herself from mainstream postcolonial literature and to reassert the value of earlier theorists such as Kant and Marx. Readers unfamiliar with recent trends in literary studies may find Spivak's deliberately elusive prose impenetrable. On the other hand, those already invested in the postmodern and postcolonial debates may find her style invigorating. Recommended for university libraries.

A Kent Worcester, Marymount Manhattan Coll., New York

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Review

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, one of the foremost thinkers in postcolonial theory, looks at the place of her discipline in the academic "culture wars." *A Critique of Post-Colonial Reason* includes a reworking of her most influential essay, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" which has previously appeared in only one anthology. (*Publishers Weekly*)

Gayatri Spivak's long-awaited book...sets out to challenge the very fields Spivak has herself been most associated with--postcolonial studies and third world feminism...[*A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*] is remarkable for the warnings it provides--powerful critiques of diverse positions structure the author's stance--as guardian in the margin. Spivak forcefully interrogates the practices, politics and subterfuges of intellectual formations ranging from nativism, elite poststructuralist theory, metropolitan feminism, cultural Marxism, global hybridism, and "white boys talking postcoloniality."

--Yogita Goyal (*New Formations*)

A Critique of Postcolonial Reason is almost above all else self-conscious, self-aware, self-deprecating. In 139 brilliant footnotes to "Culture," Spivak carries on a running engagement with the flotsam and jetsam (what Walter Benjamin called the "detritus" of culture or "Trash of History") of what passes for public life and the attendant information and culture industry in this global thing we live in: ad campaigns by clothing designers, articles and stories from the *New York Times* or "Good Morning America"...Spivak's tone makes the book a constant pleasure. A mocking smile seems always present, along with sincere engagement with important issues...From the first page of the preface to her footnote almost 400 pages later about the exchange with the World Bank official at the European Parliament, Spivak focuses on the ignorant, arrogant Eurocentric destruction of people and the environment and the enabling practices of culture that make it possible...This is a most important and significant book.

--David S. Gross (*World Literature Today*)

Spivak focuses on the relationship of debates in philosophy, history, and literature to the emergence of a postcolonial problematic. Overall, she seeks to distance herself from mainstream postcolonial literature and to reassert the value of earlier theorists such as Kant and Marx...Those already interested in the postmodern and postcolonial debates may find her style invigorating.

--Kent Worcester (*Library Journal*)

Gayatri Spivak's most recent text, *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*, brings together in a single volume a wide range of her work in postcolonial studies...She weaves together these multiple levels of critique brilliantly, presenting a rigorous reading of the discourses of imperialism... *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason* presents a scrupulous discussion of imperialism in European philosophy, literature, history, and culture.

--Rachel Riedner (*American Studies International*)

Review

A founder of postcolonial studies surveys the current state of the field and finds much to criticize. This is vintage Spivak--dazzling, often exasperating, but unfailingly powerful.

--Partha Chatterjee, author of *The Nation and Its Fragments*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Primeaux:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that query above. Every person has several personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't wish do that. You must know how great in addition to important the book *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*. All type of book would you see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

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Desiree Grajeda:

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