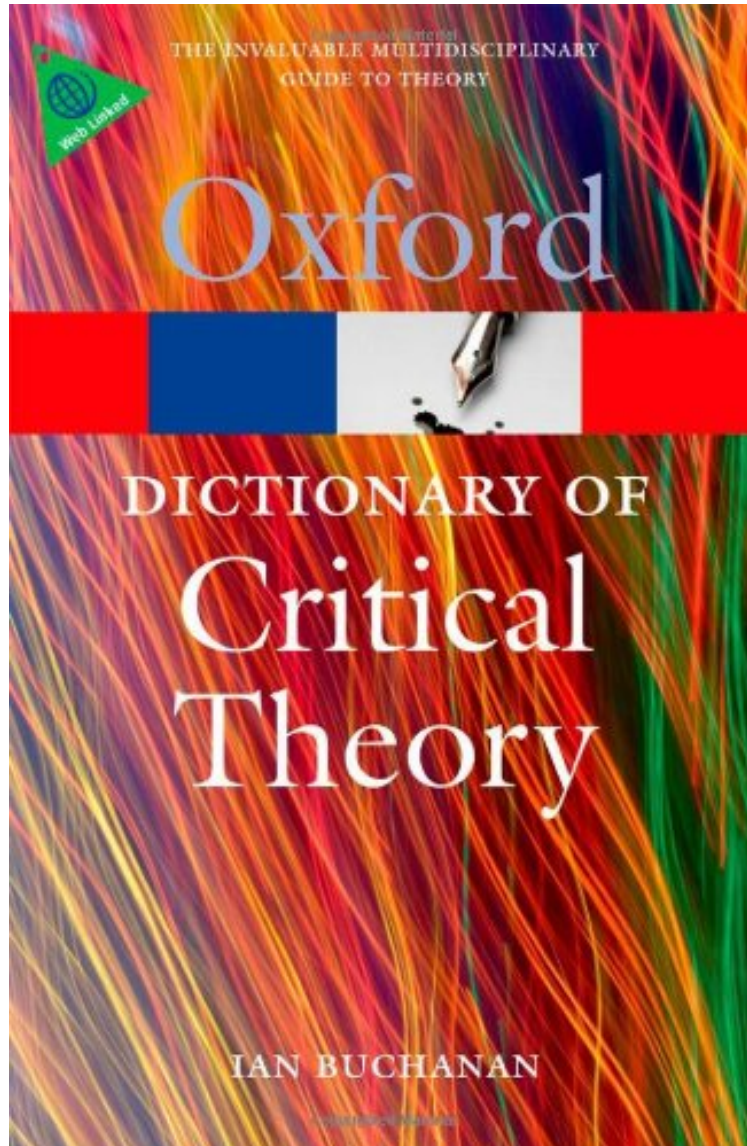


[Download] A Dictionary of Critical Theory (Oxford Quick Reference)

## A Dictionary of Critical Theory (Oxford Quick Reference)

*Ian Buchanan*

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**Ian Buchanan : A Dictionary of Critical Theory (Oxford Quick Reference)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Critical Theory (Oxford Quick Reference):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Oxford's A Dictionary of Critical Theory by Ian Buchanan By Hanan Al-Alawi Oxford's A Dictionary of Critical Theory by Ian Buchanan explains key theoretical terms in a concise yet informative manner. It also renders an intelligent contextual overview of influential figures that changed the course of history. The dictionary is accessible to a myriad range of non-specialized readers as well as versed academics. Its

direct and unpretentious language offers lucid explanations without over-simplifying complex theoretical concepts. The accuracy of dates and information provided within its entries makes the dictionary a reliable source. The comprehensiveness of the dictionary lies in its interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary. Its interdisciplinary aspect delineates theoretical terms that destabilize rigid lines between many academic disciplines such as literature, psychology, political science, economics, philosophy etc. It merges cross-cultural knowledge into a new comprehensible whole. The dictionary's multidisciplinary aspect draws from multiple disciplines (without blurring their boundaries) to redefine specific terms beyond normative thinking. The dictionary engages non-specialized readers by highlighting terms that are directly relevant to their subjective daily experiences. The term "McDonaldization," for example, helps them view the fast-food chain from a different perspective. Viewing a mundane act, which is buying food from McDonald's, from a sociological standpoint attracts non-specialized readers. The dictionary guides its readers to the original references that the terms are derived from. It also mentions coined terms in their source language next to the English- translated entries. Polylingual speakers will enjoy reading the original terms within parenthesis. The dictionary also provides a list of further readings after most entries. The fact that some of the further readings are web-linked magnifies the dictionary's appeal. The text is linked to the dictionary's webpage online to ease the process of finding relevant websites. Directions on how to use the websites through the main page are also provided. The layout of the dictionary is one of its merits. Its font, categorization of terms, overleaves, lists of further readings and web links are elements that attract readers. The overleaf is designed to offer a break from regular entries. Therefore, the equilibrium between the dictionary's organized form and rich content is extremely appealing to those interested in critical theory. I highly recommend Oxford's A Dictionary of Critical Theory to students and academics, as well as non-specialized readers who would like to obtain a comprehensive view of the world.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Strictly for Novices, Who Won't Learn Much  
By Mary Wilbur  
This book is long -- very long -- on biography and short on concepts. It's strictly for people who have heard the phrase and haven't the time or don't care to make the effort to read Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy's entry on the subject: [plato.stanford.edu/entries/critical-theory/](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/critical-theory/). A much better book newly published this year by Routledge is "Critical Theory, the Key Concepts." The author, Dino Franco Felluga, included an introduction which will orient you. Be sure to read it before you enter the wonderland of critical theory. It's as disorienting as Alice's experience after falling down the rabbit hole.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Covers the field but cheaply printed  
By Kindle Customer  
Seems like it covers a lot of the area and is quite up to date. Haven't explore it sufficiently to give it 5 stars and maybe it's only three but I think four is a good start. The book is printed on cheap somewhat grey paper and not well bound.

Boasting more than 750 entries, this is the most wide-ranging and up-to-date dictionary of critical theory available, covering the whole range of critical theory, including the Frankfurt school, cultural materialism, cultural studies, gender studies, film studies, literary theory, hermeneutics, historical materialism, internet studies, sociopolitical critical theory, and much more. Entries clearly explain even the most complex of theoretical discourses, such as Marxism, psychoanalysis, structuralism, deconstruction, and postmodernism. There are biographies of important figures in the field, with feature entries for those who have heavily influenced areas of the discipline. Entries are fully cross-referenced and contain further reading where appropriate. To provide relevant extra information, this edition features recommended web links for many entries, accessible via the Dictionary of Critical Theory companion website, where they are checked regularly and kept up to date. Covering all aspects of the subject from globalization and race studies, to queer theory and feminism, this multidisciplinary A-Z is essential for students of literary and cultural studies and is useful for anyone studying a subject requiring a knowledge of theory.

About the Author Ian Buchanan is Chair of Critical and Cultural Theory at Cardiff University.