



Mass Communication and American Social Thought: Key Texts, 1919-1968 (Critical Media Studies: Institutions, Politics, and Culture)

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This anthology of hard-to-find primary documents provides a solid overview of the foundations of American media studies. Focusing on mass communication and society and how this research fits into larger patterns of social thought, this valuable collection features key texts covering the media studies traditions of the Chicago school, the effects tradition, the critical theory of the Frankfurt school, and mass society theory. Where possible, articles are reproduced in their entirety to preserve the historical flavor and texture of the original works. Topics include popular theater, yellow journalism, cinema, books, public relations, political and military propaganda, advertising, opinion polling, photography, the avant-garde, popular magazines, comics, the urban press, radio drama, soap opera, popular music, and television drama and news. This text is ideal for upper-level courses in mass communication and media theory, media and society, mass communication effects, and mass media history.

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Editorial Review

Review

Mass Communication and American Social Thought is a tour de force, a collection like no other in our field. Peters and Simonson have not simply compiled our greatest essays. This volume maps nearly all we know about the essential dynamics of mass communication, constructing a fierce dialogue among brilliant writers who never had the chance to argue in person. It is a compelling approach, bringing the famous essays together with forgotten works into one powerful book. This collection will change how we think about our discipline and is required reading for students, scholars, and anyone with an interest in the evolution of American mass media. (Susan Herbst, Temple University)

This collection of classics is a major step toward the grounding of collective memory for our field. (Elihu Katz, Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania)

This is an enormously useful collection, not only for students of the history of communications, but for all who are interested in the history of American social thought. It should also help in the important task of putting questions of large scale communication at the center of contemporary debates about the future of democracy. (Craig Calhoun, president, Social Science Research Council; professor of sociology and history, New York University)

Some of the work gathered in this remarkable collection of excerpts?from essays, books, journals, fiction, academic research, and popular writing?has long been out of print, and Peters and Simonson's intention was to make these works available to a broad readership. In their introductory chapter, the editors provide an informative, enthusiastic rationale for the project and their choices and also an overview of the evolution of writing and thought about mass communication. Peters and Simonson also provide lists of supplementary collections and of films that 'raise questions about the meaning of media for modern social life.' They close their valuable collection with a selected bibliography. Recommended. (*CHOICE*)

Includes nearly 70 papers or excerpts from important theorists and researchers over a half century period vital to the formation of an academic discipline. A very useful addition to the literature which should open links for new readers to important historical work. (*Communication Booknotes Quarterly*)

About the Author

John Durham Peters is F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Iowa. Peter Simonson is associate professor of communication at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Users Review

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Sherrill Height:

This book untitled *Mass Communication and American Social Thought: Key Texts, 1919-1968 (Critical Media Studies: Institutions, Politics, and Culture)* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year,

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The reason why? Because this Mass Communication and American Social Thought: Key Texts, 1919-1968 (Critical Media Studies: Institutions, Politics, and Culture) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret this inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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