

Henri Lefebvre's magnum opus: a monumental exploration of contemporary society.

"A savage critique of consumerist society." *Publishers Weekly*

Henri Lefebvre's three-volume *Critique of Everyday Life* is perhaps the richest, most prescient work by one of the twentieth century's greatest philosophers. Written at the birth of post-war consumerism, the *Critique* was a philosophical inspiration for the 1968 student revolution in France and is considered to be the founding text of all that we now know as cultural studies, as well as a major influence on the fields of contemporary philosophy, geography, sociology, architecture, political theory and urbanism. A work of enormous range and subtlety, Lefebvre takes as his starting-point and guide the "trivial" details of quotidian experience: an experience colonized by the commodity, shadowed by inauthenticity, yet one which remains the only source of resistance and change.

This is an enduringly radical text, untimely today only in its intransigence and optimism.

VOLUME 2 Identifies categories within everyday life, such as the theory of the semantic field and the theory of moments.

Henri Lefebvre (1901–1991), former resistance fighter and professor of sociology at Strasbourg and Nanterre, was a member of the French Communist Party from 1928 until his expulsion in 1957. He was the author of sixty books on philosophy, sociology, politics, architecture and urbanism.

Also available:

Critique of Everyday Life Volume 1

Critique of Everyday Life Volume 3: From Modernity to Modernism

SOCIOLOGY/PHILOSOPHY



www.versobooks.com

\$34.95/£21.99

ISBN 978-1-84467-192-2



9 781844 671922

Contents

Translator's Note	vii
Preface <i>by Michel Trebitsch</i>	ix
1 Clearing the Ground	1
2 The Formal Implements	100
1 Axioms and axiomatization	100
2 The role of hypothesis	109
3 Transduction and transducers	117
4 The idea of level	118
5 Continuity and discontinuity	126
6 Micro and macro	139
7 Indexes, criteria, variables	143
8 Dimensions	148
9 The idea of structure	156
3 The Specific Categories	180
1 The concept of totality	180
2 The idea of reality	193
3 Alienation	206
4 Lived and living	216
5 The spontaneous	218
6 The idea of ambiguity	219
7 Challenge and mistrust	226
8 Social space, social time	231
9 Praxis	232

10 Logos, logic, dialectic	244
11 Logic and characterology	263
12 The total field	272
4 The Theory of the Semantic Field	276
1 The semantic field	276
2 Signals	278
3 Signs	280
4 The symbol	284
5 The image	287
6 On several confusions	290
7 The properties of the semantic field	294
8 Consciousness and the semantic field	296
9 The laws of the semantic field	300
10 The social text	306
11 Dialogue, discussion, conversation	312
5 The Theory of Accumulative and Non-accumulative Processes	315
1 Critique of the idea of progress	315
2 Uneven development	315
3 Non-accumulative societies	317
4 The concept of the process of accumulation	322
5 Generalization of the concept	325
6 Non-accumulative processes	332
7 The pedagogic and culturalist illusion	337
6 The Theory of Moments	340
1 Typology of repetition	340
2 Moments and language	341
3 The constellation of moments	344
4 Definition of the moment	348
5 An analytics of moments	350
6 Moments and the everyday	356
Notes	359
Index	369