

*Theory List: Enlightenment and Its Discontents*

Philosophical Origins

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641)

Pascal, selections from *Pensees* (1670)

Leibniz, selections from *Theodicy* and *Monadology* (1710; 1714)

Spinoza, selections from *Ethics* and *Theological-Political Treatise* (1677)

Hume, selections from *A Treatise of Human Nature* (1740)

“Clearing Up”

Rousseau, *Discourse on the Science and the Arts* (1750)

Voltaire, *Candide* (1759)

Kant, selections from *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*,  
“An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (~1780s)

Mendelssohn, “On the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (1784)

Hamann, “Metacritique on the Purism of Reason” (1784)

Herder, *Another Philosophy of History for the Education of Mankind* (1774)

After 1789

Hegel, selections from the *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807)

Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (1843)

Feuerbach, selections from *The Essence of Christianity* (1841)

Marx, selections from *Capital, volume 1*, selections from *The German Ideology* (with Engels)  
(1867; 1845)

Nietzsche, selections from *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886)

Freud, selections from *The Interpretation of Dreams*, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, “The  
Uncanny” (1900; 1929)

Fascism and the End of Metaphysics

Heidegger, selections from *Introduction to Metaphysics*, “Letter on Humanism”, ““Only a God  
Can Save Us’: An Interview with *Der Spiegel*” (1935; 1960s)

Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (1932)

Horkheimer and Adorno, *The Dialectic of Enlightenment* (1947)

Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History”, “Critique of Violence” (1940)

Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*, “Modernity: An Unfinished Project”  
(~1980)

Lyotard, *The Post-Modern Condition: A Report on Knowledge* (1979)

Deleuze, *Logic of Sense* (1969)

Derrida, “Structure, Sign, and Play”, selections from *Acts of Religion* (1966)

Blumenberg, selections from *The Legitimacy of the Modern Age* (1985)

Reason, Ideology, and the Unconscious

Lacan, “The Instance of the Letter in the Unconscious, or Reason Since Freud”, “Science and  
Truth”, selections from *Seminar XX: Encore* (1957; 1966; 1975)

Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses” (1970)

Foucault, “What is Enlightenment?,” “What is Critique?,” selections from *The Order of Things*  
(1978)

Jameson, selections from *The Political Unconscious* (1982)

Zizek, selections from *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (1989)  
Enlightenment and Religion: Critiques and Revivals of Reason(s)  
Levinas, selections from *Totality and Infinity*, “Religion for Adults”, (1974)  
Sloterdijk, selections from *Critique of Cynical Reason* (1983)  
Milbank, *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* (1990)  
Latour, *We Have Never Been Modern*, “Why Has Critique Run Out of Steam?” (1991; 2004)  
Badiou, *Logics of Worlds*, Introduction and Conclusion (“What Is It to Live?”)  
Meillasoux, *After Finitude: On the Necessity of Contingency* (2008)

Total Primary Texts: 40ish

Interpretations [Reference use only]

Gay, *The Enlightenment: An Interpretation*  
Berlin, selections from *Against the Current: Essays in the History of Ideas*, including “The Counter-Enlightenment”  
Koselleck, *Critique and Crises: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*  
Israel, *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity*  
Gerrard, *Counter-Enlightenments: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present*