



## French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States

By Francois Cusset

Download now

Read Online →

### French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset

“A great story, full of twists and turns. . . . Careers made and ruined, departments torn apart, writing programs turned into sensitivity seminars, political witch hunts, public opprobrium, ignorant media attacks, the whole ball of wax. Read it and laugh or read it and weep. I can hardly wait for the movie.” —Stanley Fish, *Think Again, New York Times*

“In such a difficult genre, full of traps and obstacles, French Theory

is a success and a remarkable book in every respect: it is fair, balanced, and informed. I am sure this book will become the reference on both sides of the Atlantic.” —Jacques Derrida

“The Atlantic Ocean has two sides, and so does French Theory. Reinvented in America and betrayed in its own country, it has become the most radical intellectual movement in the West with global reach, rewriting Marx in light of late capitalism. Breathtakingly moving back and forth between the two cultures, Francois Cusset takes us through a dazzling intellectual adventure that illuminates the past thirty years, and many more decades to come.” —Sylvere Lotringer

During the last three decades of the twentieth century, a disparate group of radical French thinkers achieved an improbable level of influence and fame in the United States. Compared by at least one journalist to the British rock ‘n’ roll invasion, the arrival of works by Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Jean-François Lyotard, Jean Baudrillard, Gilles Deleuze, and Félix Guattari on American shores in the late 1970s and 1980s caused a sensation.

Outside the academy, “French theory” had a profound impact on the era’s emerging identity politics while also becoming, in the 1980s, the target of right-wing propagandists. At the same time in academic departments across the country, their poststructuralist form of radical suspicion transformed disciplines from literature to anthropology to architecture. By the 1990s, French theory was woven deeply into America’s cultural and intellectual fabric.

French Theory is the first comprehensive account of the American fortunes of these unlikely philosophical celebrities. François Cusset looks at why America proved to be such fertile ground for French theory, how such demanding writings could become so widely influential, and the peculiarly American readings of these works. Reveling in the gossipy history, Cusset also provides a lively exploration of the many provocative critical practices inspired by French theory. Ultimately, he dares to shine a bright light on the exultation of these thinkers to assess the relevance of critical theory to social and political activism today—showing, finally, how French theory has become inextricably bound with American life.

François Cusset, a writer and intellectual historian, teaches contemporary French thought in Paris at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques and at Columbia University’s Reid Hall. His books include *Queer Critics* and *La Décennie*.

Jeff Fort is assistant professor of French at the University of California, Davis. He has translated works by Maurice Blanchot, Jean Genet, and Jean-Luc Nancy.

 [Download French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & C ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & ...pdf](#)

# French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States

*By Francois Cusset*

**French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States** By Francois Cusset

“A great story, full of twists and turns. . . . Careers made and ruined, departments torn apart, writing programs turned into sensitivity seminars, political witch hunts, public opprobrium, ignorant media attacks, the whole ball of wax. Read it and laugh or read it and weep. I can hardly wait for the movie.” —Stanley Fish, *Think Again*, *New York Times*

“In such a difficult genre, full of traps and obstacles, French Theory

is a success and a remarkable book in every respect: it is fair, balanced, and informed. I am sure this book will become the reference on both sides of the Atlantic.” —Jacques Derrida

“The Atlantic Ocean has two sides, and so does French Theory. Reinvented in America and betrayed in its own country, it has become the most radical intellectual movement in the West with global reach, rewriting Marx in light of late capitalism. Breathtakingly moving back and forth between the two cultures, Francois Cusset takes us through a dazzling intellectual adventure that illuminates the past thirty years, and many more decades to come.” —Sylvere Lotringer

During the last three decades of the twentieth century, a disparate group of radical French thinkers achieved an improbable level of influence and fame in the United States. Compared by at least one journalist to the British rock ‘n’ roll invasion, the arrival of works by Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Jean-François Lyotard, Jean Baudrillard, Gilles Deleuze, and Félix Guattari on American shores in the late 1970s and 1980s caused a sensation.

Outside the academy, “French theory” had a profound impact on the era’s emerging identity politics while also becoming, in the 1980s, the target of right-wing propagandists. At the same time in academic departments across the country, their poststructuralist form of radical suspicion transformed disciplines from literature to anthropology to architecture. By the 1990s, French theory was woven deeply into America’s cultural and intellectual fabric.

French Theory is the first comprehensive account of the American fortunes of these unlikely philosophical celebrities. François Cusset looks at why America proved to be such fertile ground for French theory, how such demanding writings could become so widely influential, and the peculiarly American readings of these works. Reveling in the gossipy history, Cusset also provides a lively exploration of the many provocative critical practices inspired by French theory. Ultimately, he dares to shine a bright light on the exultation of

these thinkers to assess the relevance of critical theory to social and political activism today-showing, finally, how French theory has become inextricably bound with American life.

François Cusset, a writer and intellectual historian, teaches contemporary French thought in Paris at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques and at Columbia University's Reid Hall. His books include *Queer Critics* and *La Décennie*.

Jeff Fort is assistant professor of French at the University of California, Davis. He has translated works by Maurice Blanchot, Jean Genet, and Jean-Luc Nancy.

### **French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset Bibliography**

- Rank: #973626 in Books
- Brand: Francois Cusset
- Published on: 2008-04-01
- Original language: French
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.10" w x 6.00" l, 1.24 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 408 pages

 [Download French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & C ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset**

---

### **Editorial Review**

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Carlos Wesley:**

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or even goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They may be reading whatever they take because their hobby is actually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, individual feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States.

#### **Dan Villanueva:**

Book is usually written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can recognize everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A publication French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States will make you to always be smarter. You can feel far more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think in which open or reading a book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you searching for best book or acceptable book with you?

#### **Henry McMahan:**

Reading a book tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their reader with their story or their experience. Not only situation that share in the publications. But also they write about the information about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write on their book. One of them is this French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States.

#### **Lynn Jordan:**

The book untitled French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your ex idea with easy

technique. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was authored by famous author. The author gives you in the new age of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or gadget, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice study.

**Download and Read Online French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset #9AU31O04YXR**

# **Read French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset for online ebook**

French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset books to read online.

## **Online French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset ebook PDF download**

### **French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset Doc**

**French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset Mobipocket**

**French Theory: How Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze, & Co. Transformed the Intellectual Life of the United States By Francois Cusset EPub**