

THE NORTON DICTIONARY OF

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EDITED BY

ALAN BULLOCK AND STEPHEN TROMBLEY

THE NORTON DICTIONARY OF MODERN THOUGHT

Edited by Alan Bullock and Stephen Trombley
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Introduction

The Norton Dictionary of Modern Thought is the result of more than twenty-five years of work. It contains 3,764 entries by 326 contributors; 711 entries were deleted from the second edition; 984 entries are wholly new to this edition, and the majority of those that remain have been recommissioned or revised to reflect the changes that have occurred over a quarter-century. Though many of the ideas and concepts of the original edition have survived, very few have escaped substantial revision. These include not only the basic foundations of the twentieth-century intellectual climate (Darwinism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, etc.), but even old and well-established subjects as diverse as mathematics and theology. In the decade that has passed since the second edition, the pace of change has been enormous. Much of that change has been the result of technologies that have greatly influenced the way we live. Ten years ago, it would have been unthinkable that the entire text of this book could be generated on a personal computer via a combination of databases and word-processing software, and delivered to the publisher in a matter of seconds via twenty-six e-mail attachments. In the last edition of this book, random access memory and central processing units were entries; today they require no explanation that cannot be found in an ordinary dictionary. We now live in a world of hypertext, virtual reality and fuzzy logic. Biotechnologies have brought about a different order of change. Today (and tomorrow) ideas such as gene therapy and cloning are realities which pose fresh challenges in law and human rights, and have led to new disciplines such as bioethics to help meet those challenges.

But most change has by no means been technology-driven. Movements like feminism have now matured into full-blown disciplines with a history that is already long and complex, complete with schools, factions, revisionists and a vanguard that continues not only to explore concepts but to exert powerful influence on our social structures. The same is true in the area of environmental studies, a subject that has been much expanded in the present edition. Identity politics—whether of race, gender or sexual identity—has become, in the past decade, a cornerstone of the new Western academic tradition. These disciplines not only embrace and challenge the foundations on which twentieth-century thought is based but have had an immense impact on both the political culture and the wider social attitudes of Western democracies.

The question of what to include, what to omit, and what to delete is one that has vexed us for a quarter of a century, and has been perhaps most difficult in the preparation of the present edition. In the end, as editors whose intellectual and cultural experiences are quite different, but which embrace most of the

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twentieth century and two continents, we have followed our own counsel in deciding upon the contents of this book, and on our choices of contributors. It is unthinkable that we can satisfy all readers; but we hope we have satisfied the majority of most readers' enquiries.

Finally: throughout the book we have used the third person pronoun 'he' and its possessive pronoun 'his'. We recognise that in many hundreds of instances 'she' and 'her' are equally applicable. But to use 'she/he' and 'her/his' would have put a strain on the pages allotted to us. In submitting to these constraints, we wish to make clear that we imply no preference as to gender.

Alan Bullock
Stephen Trombley

Acknowledgements

In the preparation of the third edition, the editors have benefited greatly from the labours of Alf Lawrie, assistant editor, whose broad learning and wide-ranging curiosity proved invaluable. We are also grateful for his able execution of the enormous volume of administrative work that goes into an enterprise such as this.

We would also like to thank Ingaret Eden for her careful copy-editing and inputting of text. We are grateful to Bruce Eadie, assistant editor of the second edition, who made himself available to answer many queries from the editors.

A large debt of thanks is due to our agent, Andrew Best. He has been present from the start, when he was with Curtis Brown, not only by introducing the editors of this book but also in offering a keen critical and publishing intelligence which has helped to shape the first and subsequent editions. Thanks are also due to Jonathan Lloyd, Managing Director, Curtis Brown, London, and to John F. Thornton of the Spieler Agency, New York, for their support.

We would like to thank our publishers for their continuing faith in this project. In their days at Fontana, Helen Fraser and Simon King nurtured the previous edition through the press. At HarperCollins, Stuart Proffitt and Toby Mundy have been active collaborators, and they are ably succeeded by Michael Fishwick and Richard Johnson. We wish also to thank Ian Paten, whose careful reading of the text led to many improvements. We are fortunate to have W. W. Norton as our American publishers, and we are grateful to Donald S. Lamm and Angela von der Lippe for their commitment to this new edition.

Our main thanks go to our contributors. Over the past twenty-five years we have had the privilege of working with men and women of outstanding ability who have invariably risen to the difficult task of communicating their specialist knowledge to a general reader. While the editors have made every effort to supply information about the contributors that is correct at the time of going to press, certain contributors whose entries have survived from previous editions have proved impossible to trace. The editors and publishers would be grateful to receive information which will enable them to put matters right where necessary in future printings.

How to Use This Book

The arrangement of this book should be largely self-explanatory, and the best general rule is: follow your nose. Words and phrases should always, in the first instance, be sought directly, not under some more comprehensive term; this is a dictionary rather than an encyclopaedia. The term sought *may*, of course, prove to be explained under some other heading; if so, there will always be a cross-reference. Thus, a reader wishing to learn the meaning of 'acquired characteristics' will find **acquired characteristics**, see under LAMARCKISM.

Alphabetical arrangement. This is on the word-by-word principle – meaning, for example, that phrases beginning with the word 'art' – '**art autre**', '**art history**', '**art nouveau**', and so on – precede terms such as '**artificial intelligence**' (which, on the letter-by-letter principle, would come before '**art nouveau**'). Acronyms are treated as if they were words, so that, for example, '**ABC art**' comes between '**Abbaye de Créteil**' and '**abduction**'.

Phrases. These are mostly to be found under the first word of the phrase. For example, '**abstract expressionism**' is found under the letter 'A'. In certain cases, however, the phrase has been inverted because the important word is not the first (for example, '**science, sociology of**', not 'sociology of science').

Full or abbreviated heading. Entries on organizations or concepts commonly known by their initials (UN, ESP) will be found under their initials, and *not* the full name, which in many cases (such as KGB) might be known only to specialists. However, where the abbreviation tends to be confined to professionals addressing other professionals (such as 'AI' for '**artificial intelligence**'), or where the full term is very well known (such as '**Exchange Rate Mechanism**' for '**ERM**'), then the full term has been adopted.

Cross-references. Cross-references within the dictionary are indicated by SMALL CAPITALS, and most entries contain one or more references to other entries in the book. However, the cross-reference will have been included only if it seems genuinely relevant to the context.

In many cases, the cross-references in small capitals are to a slightly different form of the word or phrase thus given. Singulars and plurals are regarded as interchangeable, as are the terminations -ISM and -IST: for example, a reader following up an allusion to 'MARXIST thought' will find the entry not under 'marxist' but under '**marxism**'.

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- M.S.B. the late M. S. Bartlett, FRS, formerly Emeritus Professor of Biomathematics, University of Oxford
- M.S.BR. Malcolm Bradbury, novelist, critic and Professor Emeritus of American Studies, University of East Anglia
- M.S.E. Mary Evans, Professor of Women's Studies, the University of Kent at Canterbury
- M.S.P. Michael Piraino, Executive Assistant to the President and College Council, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania
- M.V.B. Sir Michael Berry, FRS, Professor of Physics, University of Bristol
- M.V.P. Michael Posner, formerly Economic Director, National Economic Development Office, London
- M.W. Michael Walters, formerly postgraduate at the University of Kent at Canterbury
- N.A.R. Norman Routledge, PhD, formerly Fellow of King's College,