

Chibber, V. (2022). *Class Matrix: Social Theory after the Cultural Turn*. Harvard University Press.

Review by Michael Beyea Reagan

In his new book, *The Class Matrix: Social Theory after the Cultural Turn*, Marxist scholar and activist Vivek Chibber seeks to further explore the promise of Marx's materialism. Part defense of materialism, part modification to address the critiques of the 'cultural turn,' Chibber gives us a strong case for the power of materialist theory. However, in the final analysis Chibber's version of materialism is too closely hewn to unreconstructed Marxism, leaving many of the problems and questions present in materialist thought unaddressed. Since Marx we've had more than a hundred years of scholarship that sought to build from the materialist foundation in a meaningful way, taking its contributions and moving beyond its limitations. And even a quick look at history tells us that material class analysis is important, but ultimately constitutes only part of a compelling social theory.

At its strongest, the book demonstrates the continuing power of materialism. In five chapters Chibber shows how class structure relates to the process of class formation, a contingent and elusive phenomenon of workers coming to class consciousness and collective political action. Class formation, he tells us, doesn't necessarily lead to resistance. Instead, it is dependent on questions of consent and what he calls 'resignation,' a position by which the working class makes individual decisions to accommodate the system, rather than challenge it headlong. This process contributes to social stability and is a materialist explanation for why we haven't seen the types of collective revolutions predicted in Marx. Using game theory, Chibber says the economic structure produces resignation, a rational response to a constrained set of conditions. He then weaves together the relationship between structure and agency in a way that allows explanatory power for both, before concluding with an analysis of how his 'class matrix' framework can help us understand the current political economy.

Chibber's big contention is that class is special. "The peculiarity of class," he writes, "resides in that fact that it is the only social relation that directly governs the material well-being of its participants"(p. 17). This fixed materiality places peoples' "meaning orientation" as "causally dependent" on their structural location in the class system. Culture, for all its independent variability, Chibber says, is ultimately rooted in one's class position, and class at its base is unique from other forms of social formation in that it is material. Important for him is that a "causal arrow thus runs *from* the class structure to the meaning orientation of its actors"(p. 17). Infrequently this will lead to collective action of resistance, Chibber says, as workers seek individual solutions to class problems, try to overcome free-rider issues of collective action, and only rarely may seek to contribute to Marx's 'class for itself' conception of collective political struggle against all these obstacles. This is the foundation upon which the 'class matrix' operates. Class formation is far from a determined process, but a highly contingent and even difficult process. As workers "resign"

Cultural Turn

Cristiana Pugliese



Cultural Turn:

Cultural Turns Doris Bachmann-Medick, 2016-01-15 The contemporary fields of the study of culture the humanities and the social sciences are unfolding in a dynamic constellation of cultural turns This book provides a comprehensive overview of these theoretically and methodologically groundbreaking reorientations It discusses the value of the new focuses and their analytical categories for the work of a wide range of disciplines In addition to chapters on the interpretive performative reflexive postcolonial translational spatial and iconic turns it discusses emerging directions of research Drawing on a wealth of international research this book maps central topics and approaches in the study of culture and thus provides systematic impetus for changed disciplinary and transdisciplinary research in the humanities and beyond e g in the fields of sociology economics and the study of religion This work is the English translation by Adam Blauhut of an influential German book that has now been completely revised It is a stimulating example of a cross cultural translation between different theoretical cultures and also the first critical synthesis of cultural turns in the English speaking world [The Cultural Turn in U. S. History](#) James W. Cook, Lawrence B. Glickman, Michael O'Malley, 2008 An account of one of the most dominant trends in recent historical writing this book takes stock of the field even as it showcases exemplars of its practice Taken together the essays present a broad picture of the state of American cultural historical scholarship *State/Culture* George Steinmetz, 2018-05-31 What impact does culture have on state formation and public policy How do states affect national and local cultures How is the ongoing cultural turn in theory reshaping our understanding of the Western and modernizing states long viewed as the radiant core of a universal context free rationality This eagerly awaited volume brings together pioneering scholars who reexamine the sociology of the state and historical processes of state formation in light of developments in cultural analysis The volume first examines some of the unsatisfying ways in which cultural processes have been discussed in social science literature on the state It demonstrates new and sophisticated approaches to understanding both the role culture plays in the formation of states and the state's influence on broad cultural developments The book includes theoretical essays and empirical studies the latter essays are concerned with early modern European nations non European countries undergoing political modernization and twentieth century Western nation states A wide range of perspectives are presented in order to delineate this emergent area of research Together the essays constitute an agenda setting work for the social sciences **Culture and Economy After the Cultural Turn** Larry Ray, Andrew Sayer, 1999-10-06 Traditionally social science treated culture as a peripheral issue but the last twenty years have witnessed a cultural turn throughout the social sciences Culture is now at the core of debate Culture and Economy After the Cultural Turn examines the impact of the cultural turn for the social sciences in relation to the decline of interest in economic aspects of society It presents a number of responses to the changing relationship between culture and economy and to the way in which the cultural turn has sought to understand it Contributors from a wide range of disciplines present differing views on these matters in relation to issues

of political sensibilities and movements equality and recognition cultural management class ethnicity and gender and cultural values

The Cultural Turn David Chaney,2002-11 This book explains the turn to culture and the lessons to be drawn from this movement The author also provides an elegant and informative guide to the importance of culture in the postmodern world A key work in understanding culture

Cultural Turns/Geographical Turns Simon Naylor,James Ryan,Ian Cook,David Crouch,2018-10-08 Introduces undergraduates to the key debates regarding space and culture and the key theoretical arguments which guide cultural geographical work This book addresses the impact significance and characteristics of the cultural turn in contemporary geography It focuses on the development of the cultural geography subdiscipline and on what has made it a peculiar and unique realm of study It demonstrates the importance of culture in the development of debates in other subdisciplines within geography and beyond In line with these previous themes the significance of space in the production of cultural values and expressions is also developed Along with its timely examination of the health of the cultural geographical subdiscipline this book is to be valued for its analysis of the impact of cultural theory on studies elsewhere in geography and of ideas of space and spatiality elsewhere in the social sciences

The Cultural Turn in International Aid Sophia Labadi,2019-09-12 The Cultural Turn in International Aid is one of the first volumes to analyse a wide and comprehensive range of issues related to culture and international aid in a critical and constructive manner Assessing why international aid is provided for cultural projects rather than for other causes the book also considers whether and how donor funded cultural projects can address global challenges including post conflict recovery building peace and security strengthening resilience or promoting human rights With contributions from experts around the globe this volume critically assesses the impact of international aid including the diverse power relations and inequalities it creates and the interests it serves at international national and local levels The book also considers projects that have failed and analyses the reasons for their failure drawing out lessons learnt and considering what could be done better in the future Contributors to the volume also consider the influence of donors in privileging some forms of culture over others creating or maintaining specific memories identities and interpretations of history and their reasons for doing so These rich discussions are contextualised through a historical section which considers the definitions approaches and discourses related to culture and aid at international and regional levels Providing consideration of manifold manifestations of culture The Cultural Turn in International Aid will be of great interest to scholars students and practitioners It will be particularly useful for those engaged in the study of heritage anthropology international aid and development international relations humanitarian studies community development cultural studies politics or sociology

Social Research after the Cultural Turn S. Roseneil,S. Frosh,2012-01-12 This collection explores the contested meanings and diverse practices of social research in the context of contemporary theoretical debates in cultural and social theory addressing fundamental questions facing those working in the social and human sciences today

The Cultural Turn in U. S. History James W. Cook,Lawrence B. Glickman,Michael

O'Malley,2008 An account of one of the most dominant trends in recent historical writing this book takes stock of the field even as it showcases exemplars of its practice Taken together the essays present a broad picture of the state of American cultural historical scholarship

Cultural Turns/geographical Turns Ian Cook,2000 This book addresses the impact significance and characteristics of the cultural turn in contemporary geography It focuses on the development of the cultural geography subdiscipline and on what has made it a peculiar and unique realm of study It demonstrates the importance of culture in the development of debates in other subdisciplines within geography and beyond In line with these previous themes the significance of space in the production of cultural values and expressions is also developed Along with its timely examination of the health of the cultural geographical subdiscipline this book is to be valued for its analysis of the impact of cultural theory on studies elsewhere in geography and of ideas of space and spatiality elsewhere in the social sciences The scope of the book is therefore broad covering work that spans the geographical discipline and even going beyond that to touch on debates in the social sciences and humanities The book s potential readership is also broad The summary chapters which precede each section will appeal to undergraduate students whilst chapters written by individuals leading their fields will be compulsory reading for researchers at all levels of higher education

The Cultural Turn Fredric Jameson,2020-05-05 Fredric Jameson a leading voice on the subject of postmodernism assembles his most powerful writings on the culture of late capitalism in this essential volume Classic insights on pastiche nostalgia and architecture stand alongside essays on the status of history theory Marxism and the subject in an age propelled by finance capital and endless spectacle Surveying the debates that blazed up around his earlier essays Jameson responds to critics and maps out the theoretical positions of postmodernism s prominent friends and foes

THE CULTURAL TURN IN STATE THEORY. M. MARINETTO,2005

Environment and Planning ,2006 *The Utah Educational Review* ,1910

War and the Cultural Turn Jeremy Black,2012 In this stimulating new text renowned military historian Jeremy Black unpacks the concept of culture as a descriptive and analytical approach to the history of warfare Black takes the reader through the limits and prospects of culture as a tool for analyzing war while also demonstrating the necessity of maintaining the context of alternative analytical matrices such as technology Black sets out his unique approach to culture and warfare without making his paradigm into a straightjacket He goes on to demonstrate the flexibility of his argument through a series of case studies which include the contexts of rationale Gloire strategy early modern Britain organizations the modern West and ideologies the Cold War These case studies drive home the point at the core of the book culture is not a bumper sticker it is a survival mechanism Culture is not immutable it is adaptable Wide ranging international and always provocative War and the Cultural Turn will be required reading for all students of military history and security studies

Richard Hoggart and Cultural Studies Susan J. Owen,2008-10-14 In this new collection of essays a range of established and emerging cultural critics re evaluate Richard Hoggart s contribution to the history of ideas and to the discipline of Cultural Studies They examine

Hoggart's legacy identifying his widespread influence tracing continuities and complexities and affirming his importance
Translation as Cultural Transfer Cristiana Pugliese, 2005 Pusley; Or, My Summer in a Garden, Etc Charles Dudley Warner, 1873 *Journal of the Bath and West Southern Counties Society Vol. III Fourth Series* Bath and West and Southern Counties Society, 1893 **The Shoshone-Bannocks** John W. Heaton, 2005 Even in the face of internal disputes between cattlemen and hay cutters the people of Fort Hall found innovative ways such as participation in new religious experiences cultural redefinition and regular community gatherings to manage the contradictions that stemmed from market integration Heaton tells how the Shoshone Bannocks made a meaningful choice between productive commerce and a more typical reliance on subsistence and wage labor Their leaders found new ways to unite disparate bands and kin groups to resist attempts to open reservation land to exploitation by non Indians and through careful land cessions they were able to obtain the capital needed to develop reservation resources themselves

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