

# **Critique Of Everyday Life Henri Lefebvre**

Recent years have witnessed a burgeoning interest in the study of everyday life within the social sciences and humanities. In Critiques of Everyday Life Michael Gardiner proposes that there exists a counter-tradition within everyday life theorising. This counter-tradition has sought not merely to describe lived experience, but to transform it by elevating our understanding of

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the everyday to the status of a critical knowledge. In his analysis Gardiner engages with the work of a number of significant theorists and approaches that have been marginalized by mainstream academe, including: \*The French tradition of everyday life theorising, from the surrealists to Henri Lefebvre, and from the Situationist International to Michel de Certeau \*Agnes Heller and the relationship between the everyday, rationality and ethics \*Carnival, prosaics and intersubjectivity in the work of Mikhail Bakhtin \*Dorothy E. Smith's feminist

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perspective on everyday life. Critiques of Everyday Life demonstrates the importance of an alternative, multidisciplinary everyday life paradigm and offers a myriad of new possibilities for critical social and cultural theorising and empirical research.

Shows how Lefebvre's theory of space developed out of direct engagement with architecture, urbanism, and urban sociology.

The great French Marxist philosopher weighs up the contributions of the three major critics of modernity With the translation of Lefebvre's

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philosophical writings, his stature in the English-speaking world continues to grow. Though certainly within the Marxist tradition, he consistently saw Marx as an 'unavoidable, necessary, but insufficient starting point'. Unsurprisingly, Lefebvre always insisted on the importance of Hegel to understanding Marx. But the imposing Metaphilosophy also suggested the significance he ascribed to Nietzsche, in the 'realm of shadows' through which philosophy seeks to think the world. Lefebvre proposes here that the modern world is at the same time

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Hegelian in terms of the state; Marxist in terms of the social and society; and Nietzschean in terms of civilization and its values. As early as 1939, Lefebvre pioneered a French reading of Nietzsche that rejected the philosopher's appropriation by fascism, bringing out the tragic implications of Nietzsche's proclamation that 'God is dead' long before this approach was followed by such later writers as Foucault, Derrida and Deleuze. Forty years later, in the last of his philosophical writings, Lefebvre juxtaposes the contributions of the three great

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thinkers, in a text whose themes remain surprisingly relevant today.

Philosopher, sociologist and urban theorist, Henri Lefebvre is one of the great social theorists of the twentieth century. This accessible and innovative introduction to the work of Lefebvre combines biography and theory in a critical assessment of the dynamics of Lefebvre's character, thought, and times. Exploring key Lefebvrian concepts, Andy Merrifield demonstrates the evolution of Lefebvre's philosophy, while stressing the way

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his long and adventurous life of ideas and political engagement live on as an enduring and inspiring interrelated whole.

Higher Education in Austerity Europe

Economy, Sociology, Geography

Spatial Dialectics

Critique of Everyday Life, Vol. 1

Or the Realm of Shadows

Space, history, theory

Henri Lefebvre has been celebrated as one of the most influential social theorists of the twentieth century.

Understanding Henri Lefebvre places Lefebvre in his

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historical and intellectual context and analyzes the extraordinary range of his work, across politics, philosophy, history, literature and culture. Particular emphasis is given to Lefebvre's trilogy of inspirational thinkers—Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche; his links to contemporaries such as Heidegger, Axelos and the Situationists; and his critiques of existentialism and structuralism. Analysis of his writings on cities are balanced with those on rural communities, the production of space connected to ideas of time and history, and everyday life linked to the festival and cultural revolution. Understanding Henri Lefebvre offers the most wide-ranging and reliable account of this central theorist available.

The financial crisis of 2007/2008 prompted governments



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across Europe to adopt austerity measures aimed at the reduction of their escalating budget deficits. Higher Education in Austerity Europe explores how the resulting cuts in public expenditure - together with the increasing reliance on the privatisation of services - have impacted on higher education directly through the reduction of public sector provision and indirectly as a result of the social and political consequences of that reduction. Moreover, it explores how the effects of these economic policies have differed markedly across the national regions of Europe, with the result that inequality has increased significantly both within and between national regions, and this, in turn, has led to social and political dislocation within and across communities. It is only by viewing higher education within

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this broader context that we can begin to understand the full implications of the austerity measures introduced over the last ten years. Jon Nixon draws together leading scholars to delve into the complexity of impact and response generated by these measures. Part 1 focuses on cross-European perspectives; Part 2 on the impact of austerity measures within national systems; and Part 3 on new perspectives and possibilities. The volume also includes considered responses from 'outsiders' by academics located in Asia, Australia, and the USA, providing an additional dimension to the analysis. As well as analysing the full impact of austerity measures across some of the worst hit national regions of Europe, the contributors also identifying openings and possibilities for renewal.

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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. The first volume presented an introduction to the concept of everyday life. Written twenty years later, this second volume attempts to establish the necessary formal instruments for analysis, and outlines a series of theoretical categories within everyday life such as the theory of the semantic field and the theory of moments. The moment at which the book appeared—1961—was significant both for France and for Lefebvre himself: he was just beginning his career as a lecturer in sociology at Strasbourg, and then at Nanterre, and many of the ideas which were influential in the events leading up to 1968 are to be found in this critique. In its

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impetuous, often undisciplined prose, the reader may catch a glimpse of how charismatic a lecturer Lefebvre must have been.

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.

Two Works Series Vol. 3

The Three-Volume Text

Metaphilosophy

Attention Equals Life

Critical Theory of Communication

Social Theory and Its Discontents

***A new, affordable edition of French Marxist and proto-Situationist Henri Lefebvre's***

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***classic text on the everyday, illustrated by Julie Mehretu The work of French Marxist sociologist and philosopher Henri Lefebvre radically transformed the discourse of political geography. Witness to the rapid urbanization of the 20th century, Lefebvre conceptualized public space as socially produced--a mirror image of capitalist ideology--and levied a humanitarian slogan in response: "the right to the city," a notion that has energized the thought of leading American geographers such as David Harvey and Edward Soja. Lefebvre also***

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***worked closely with the Situationist International, collaborating with them on urban experiments in the '50s and '60s. Arguably his greatest legacy, however, is his theory of "the everyday"--a topic he returned to throughout his life, culminating in his three-volume magnum opus, The Critique of Everyday Life. Like public space, Lefebvre argued, the everyday is a social structure concurrent with modernity: "the everyday is a product, the most general of products in an era where production engenders consumption." In this edition of***

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***Lefebvre's classic but largely unavailable text, New York-based artist Julie Mehretu responds to Lefebvre's 1987 essay, reflecting upon its implications during a time when conceptions of "the everyday" are both heightened and obscured. She identifies thematic connections between his text and her own work, casting into relief the enduring relevance of Lefebvre's consideration of time, space and place. An immensely prolific author, Henri Lefebvre (1901-91) is best known for his books Critique of Everyday Life (1947-81), The***

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***Production of Space (1974) and The Urban Revolution (1970).***

***An award-winning scientist offers his unorthodox approach to childrearing: "Parentology is brilliant, jaw-droppingly funny, and full of wisdom...bound to change your thinking about parenting and its conventions" (Amy Chua, author of Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother). If you're like many parents, you might ask family and friends for advice when faced with important choices about how to raise your kids. You might turn to parenting books or***



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***simply rely on timeworn religious or cultural traditions. But when Dalton Conley, a dual-doctorate scientist and full-blown nerd, needed childrearing advice, he turned to scientific research to make the big decisions. In Parentology, Conley hilariously reports the results of those experiments, from bribing his kids to do math (since studies show conditional cash transfers improved educational and health outcomes for kids) to teaching them impulse control by giving them weird names (because evidence shows kids with unique names***

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***learn not to react when their peers tease them) to getting a vasectomy (because fewer kids in a family mean smarter kids). Conley encourages parents to draw on the latest data to rear children, if only because that level of engagement with kids will produce solid and happy ones. Ultimately these experiments are very loving, and the outcomes are redemptive—even when Conley's sassy kids show him the limits of his profession. Parentology teaches you everything you need to know about the latest literature on parenting—with lessons***

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***that go down easy. You'll be laughing and learning at the same time.***

***Henri Lefebvre is recognised as one of the influential social theorists of the Twentieth Century. This book presents a range of Lefebvre's thought. It reinforces the centrality of Lefebvre to debates in social and spatial theory, but also sets Lefebvre's work in the context of his philosophical and political concerns.***

***Critique of Everyday Life***  
***The Three-Volume Text***  
***Verso Books***

***A Critical Introduction***

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***The One-Volume Edition  
Understanding Henri Lefebvre  
Species of Spaces and Other Pieces  
Urban Revolution Now  
Everything You Wanted to Know about the  
Science of Raising Children but Were Too  
Exhausted to Ask***

*The book contains groundbreaking and immersive essays on crucial 20th Century scholars on social theory, discussed and analyzed from a radical, critical theory perspective. Aronowitz provides his unique and lauded critical eye toward the leading thinkers of our age, crafting an immersive set of essays on radical thought.*

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*Sullivan makes the case for geography as a powerful conceptual framework for seeing the everyday anew and for pushing back against its "givenness" its capacity to so fade into the background that it controls us in dangerously unexamined ways. He ranges across time, space, history, Marxian reproduction, the body, and the geographical mind.*

*"Attention Equals Life examines why a quest to pay attention to daily life has increasingly become a central feature of both contemporary American poetry and the wider culture of which it is a part" --*

*This book contributes to the foundations of a critical theory of communication as shaped by the forces of*

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*digital capitalism. One of the world's leading theorists of digital media Professor Christian Fuchs explores how the thought of some of the Frankfurt School's key thinkers can be deployed for critically understanding media in the age of the Internet. Five essays that form the heart of this book review aspects of the works of Georg LukAcs, Theodor W. Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, Axel Honneth and Ju rgen Habermas and apply them as elements of a critical theory of communication's foundations. The approach taken starts from Georg LukAcs Ontology of Social Being, draws on the work of the Frankfurt School thinkers, and sets them into dialogue with the Cultural Materialism of Raymond Williams. Critical Theory of*

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*Communication offers a vital set of new insights on how communication operates in the age of information, digital media and social media, arguing that we need to transcend the communication theory of Habermas by establishing a dialectical and cultural-materialist critical theory of communication. "*

*Henri Lefebvre and Education*

*Against Orthodoxy*

*An Introduction*

*The Pursuit of the Everyday in Contemporary Poetry and Culture*

*Henri Lefebvre: Key Writings*

*New Readings of Lukács, Adorno, Marcuse, Honneth*

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*and Habermas in the Age of the Internet*

Leading French thinker with his key work on philosophical thought In *Metaphilosophy*, Henri Lefebvre works through the implications of Marx's revolutionary thought to consider philosophy's engagement with the world. Lefebvre takes Marx's notion of the "world becoming philosophical and philosophy becoming worldly" as a leitmotif, examining the relation between Hegelian–Marxist supersession and Nietzschean overcoming. *Metaphilosophy* is conceived of as a transformation of philosophy, developing it into a programme of



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radical worldwide change. The book demonstrates Lefebvre's threefold debt to Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche, but it also brings a number of other figures into the conversation, including Sartre, Heidegger and Axelos. A key text in Lefebvre's oeuvre, *Metaphilosophy* is also a milestone in contemporary thinking about philosophy's relation to the world.

*Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment* is the first publication in any language of the only book devoted to architecture by Henri Lefebvre. Written in 1973 but only recently discovered in a private archive, this

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work extends Lefebvre's influential theory of urban space to the question of architecture. Taking the practices and perspective of habitation as his starting place, Lefebvre redefines architecture as a mode of imagination rather than a specialized process or a collection of monuments. He calls for an architecture of *jouissance*—of pleasure or enjoyment—centered on the body and its rhythms and based on the possibilities of the senses. Examining architectural examples from the Renaissance to the postwar period, Lefebvre investigates the bodily pleasures of moving in and

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around buildings and monuments, urban spaces, and gardens and landscapes. He argues that areas dedicated to enjoyment, sensuality, and desire are important sites for a society passing beyond industrial modernization. Lefebvre's theories on space and urbanization fundamentally reshaped the way we understand cities. *Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment* promises a similar impact on how we think about, and live within, architecture.

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.

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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 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

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change. This is an enduringly radical text, untilmely today only in its intransigence and optimism. Volume One is a groundbreaking analysis of the alienating phenomena of daily life under capitalism.

When Henri Lefebvre published *The Urban Revolution* in 1970, he sketched a research itinerary on the emerging tendency towards planetary urbanization. Today, when this tendency has become reality, Lefebvre's ideas on everyday life, production of space, rhythmanalysis and the right to the city are indispensable for the understanding of urbanization processes at every scale of social

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practice. This volume is the first to develop Lefebvre's concepts in social research and architecture by focusing on urban conjunctures in Barcelona, Belgrade, Berlin, Budapest, Copenhagen, Dhaka, Hong Kong, London, New Orleans, Nowa Huta, Paris, Toronto, S ã o Paulo, Sarajevo, as well as in Mexico and Switzerland. With contributions by historians and theorists of architecture and urbanism, geographers, sociologists, political and cultural scientists, *Urban Revolution Now* reveals the multiplicity of processes of urbanization and the variety of their patterns and

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actors around the globe.

On the Rural

Introduction

Critical Concepts in Media and Cultural Studies

Rhythmanalysis

The Routledge Handbook of Henri Lefebvre, The City and Urban Society

Space, Time and Everyday Life

Originally published in 1970, *The Urban Revolution* marked Henri Lefebvre's first sustained critique of urban society, a work in which he pioneered the use of semiotic, structuralist, and poststructuralist methodologies in analyzing the

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development of the urban environment. Although it is widely considered a foundational book in contemporary thinking about the city, *The Urban Revolution* has never been translated into English—until now. This first English edition, deftly translated by Robert Bononno, makes available to a broad audience Lefebvre's sophisticated insights into the urban dimensions of modern life. Lefebvre begins with the premise that the total urbanization of society is an inevitable process that demands of its critics new interpretive and perceptual approaches that recognize the urban as a complex field of inquiry. Dismissive of cold, modernist visions of the city, particularly those embodied by rationalist architects and urban planners like Le Corbusier, Lefebvre instead articulates the lived experiences of



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individual inhabitants of the city. In contrast to the ideology of urbanism and its reliance on commodification and bureaucratization—the capitalist logic of market and state—Lefebvre conceives of an urban utopia characterized by self-determination, individual creativity, and authentic social relationships. A brilliantly conceived and theoretically rigorous investigation into the realities and possibilities of urban space, *The Urban Revolution* remains an essential analysis of and guide to the nature of the city. Henri Lefebvre (d. 1991) was one of the most significant European thinkers of the twentieth century. His many books include *The Production of Space* (1991), *Everyday Life in the Modern World* (1994), *Introduction to Modernity* (1995), and *Writings on Cities*

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(1995). Robert Bononno is a full-time translator who lives in New York. His recent translations include *The Singular Objects of Architecture* by Jean Baudrillard and Jean Nouvel (Minnesota, 2002) and *Cyberculture* by Pierre Lévy (Minnesota, 2001).

While certain aspects of Henri Lefebvre's writings have been examined extensively within the disciplines of geography, social theory, urban planning and cultural studies, there has been no comprehensive consideration of his work within legal studies. *Henri Lefebvre: Spatial Politics, Everyday Life and the Right to the City* provides the first serious analysis of the relevance and importance of this significant thinker for the study of law and state power. Introducing Lefebvre to a legal

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audience, this book identifies the central themes that run through his work, including his unorthodox, humanist approach to Marxist theory, his sociological and methodological contributions to the study of everyday life and his theory of the production of space. These elements of Lefebvre's thought are explored through detailed investigations of the relationships between law, legal form and processes of abstraction; the spatial dimensions of neoliberal configurations of state power; the political and aesthetic aspects of the administrative ordering of everyday life; and the 'right to the city' as the basis for asserting new forms of spatial citizenship. Chris Butler argues that Lefebvre's theoretical categories suggest a way for critical legal scholars to conceptualise law and state power as

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continually shaped by political struggles over the inhabitation of space. This book is a vital resource for students and researchers in law, sociology, geography and politics, and all readers interested in the application of Lefebvre's social theory to specific legal and political contexts.

Lefebvre, Love and Struggle provides the only comprehensive guide to Lefebvre's work. It is an accessible introduction to one of the most significant European thinkers of the twentieth century. Rob Shields draws on the full range of Lefebvre's writings, including many previously untranslated and unpublished works and correspondence. Topics covered include Lefebvre's early relationship with Marxism, his critique of the rise of fascism, as well as his Critique of Everyday Life

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and the significant work on urban space for which he is best known today.

The work of Henri Lefebvre - the only major French intellectual of the post-war period to give extensive consideration to the city and urban life - received considerable attention among both academics and practitioners of the built environment following the publication in English of *The Production of Space*. This new collection brings together, for the first time in English, Lefebvre's reflections on the city and urban life written over a span of some twenty years. The selection of writings is contextualized by an introduction - itself a significant contribution to the interpretation of Henri Lefebvre's work - which places the material within the context

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of Lefebvre's intellectual and political life and times and raises pertinent issues as to their relevance for contemporary debates over such questions as the nature of urban reality, the production of space and modernity. Writings on Cities is of particular relevance to architects, planners, geographers, and those interested in the philosophical and political understanding of contemporary life.

The Critique of Everyday Life

Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment

Critique of Everyday Life

Parentology

Henri Lefebvre

Space, Difference, Everyday Life

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

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today only in its intransigence and optimism.

The Routledge Handbook of Henri Lefebvre, *The City and Urban Society* is the first edited book to focus on Lefebvre's urban theory and ideas from a global perspective, making use of recent theoretical and empirical developments, with contributions from eminent as well as emergent global scholars. The book provides an international comparison of Lefebvrian research and theoretical conjecture and aims; to engage with and critique Lefebvre's ideas in the context of contemporary urban, social and environmental upheavals; to use Lefebvre's spatial triad as a research tool as well as a point of departure for the adoption of ideas such as difference in space; to reassess Lefebvre's ideas in relation to nature and global environmental sustainability; and to highlight how a Lefebvrian approach might assist in mobilising resistance to the excesses of



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globalised neoliberal urbanism. The volume draws inspiration from Lefebvre's key texts (The Production of Space; Critique of Everyday Life; and The Urban Revolution) and includes a comprehensive introduction and concluding chapter by the editors. The conclusions highlight implications in relation to increasing spatial inequalities; increasing diversity of needs including those of migrants; more authoritarian approaches; and asymmetries of access to urban space. Above all, the book illustrates the continuing relevance of Lefebvre's ideas for contemporary urban issues and shows – via global case studies – how resistance to spatial domination by powerful interests might be achieved. The Handbook helps the reader navigate the complex terrain of spatial research inspired by Lefebvre. In particular the Handbook focuses on: the series of struggles globally for the 'right to the city' and the collision of

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debates around the urban age, 'cityism' and planetary urbanisation. It will be a guide for graduate and advanced undergraduate teaching, and a key reference for academics in the fields of Human Geography, Sociology, Political Science, Applied Philosophy, Planning, Urban Theory and Urban Studies. Practitioners and activists in the field will also find the book of relevance.

During his lifetime Henri Lefebvre (1901-1991) was renowned in France as a philosopher, sociologist and activist. Although he published more than 70 books, few were available in English until *The Production of Space* was translated in 1991. While this work, often associated with geography - has influenced educational theory's 'spatial turn,' educationalists have yet to consider Lefebvre's work more broadly. This book engages in an educational reading of the selection of Lefebvre's work that is

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available in English translation. After introducing Lefebvre's life and works, the book experiments with his concepts and methods in a series of five 'spatial histories' of educational theories. In addition to *The Production of Space*, these studies develop themes from Lefebvre's other translated works: *Rhythmanalysis*, *The Explosion of Urban Form*, the three volumes of *Critique of Everyday Life* and a range of his other writings on cities, Marxism, technology and the bureaucratic state. In the course of these inquiries, Lefebvre's own passionate interest in education is uncovered: his critiques of bureaucratised schools and universities, the analytic concepts he devised to study educational phenomena, and his educational methods. Throughout the book Middleton demonstrates how Lefebvre's conceptual and methodological tools can enhance the understanding of the spatiotemporal location of educational philosophy and theory.

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Bridging disciplinary divides, it will be key reading for researchers and academics studying the philosophy, sociology and history of education, as well as those working in fields beyond education including geography, history, cultural studies and sociology. Rhythmanalysis displays all the characteristics which made Lefebvre one of the most important Marxist thinkers of the twentieth century. In the analysis of rhythms -- both biological and social -- Lefebvre shows the interrelation of space and time in the understanding of everyday life. With dazzling skills, Lefebvre moves between discussions of music, the commodity, measurement, the media and the city. In doing so he shows how a non-linear conception of time and history balanced his famous rethinking of the question of space. This volume also includes his earlier essay on "The Rhythmanalysis Project" and "Attempt at the

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Rhythmanalysis of Mediterranean Towns."  
Everyday Life in the Modern World

Lefebvre, Love and Struggle

The Urban Revolution

State, Space, World

The Geography of the Everyday

When Lefebvre's book first appeared in the 1960s it was considered a manifesto for a social movement that focused on the quality of life experienced by the individual--by the common man and woman. His emphasis on the quality of life will have even more appeal to those currently living with the problems of

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inflation, unemployment, and dwindling natural resources. Basing his discussions on everyday life in France, Lefebvre shows the degree to which our lived-in world and our sense of it are shaped by decisions about which we know little and in which we do not participate. He evaluates the achievements and shortcomings of applying various philosophical perspectives such as Marxism and Structuralism to daily life, studies the impact of consumerism on society, and looks at effects on society of linguistic phenomena and various kinds of terrorism communicated through mass media. In his new

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introduction to this edition, Philip Wander evaluates Lefebvre's ideas by relating many of them to current contexts. He discusses the political and economic aspects of daily life in the 1980s, the work environment, communications, and the world of science and technology.

This selection of non-fictional work from the author of *Life, a User's Manual*, demonstrates Georges Perec's characteristic lightness of touch, wry humour and accessibility.

In the past fifteen years, Henri Lefebvre's reputation has catapulted into the stratosphere, and he is now

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considered an equal to some of the greats of European social theory (Bourdieu, Deleuze, Harvey). In particular, his work has revitalized urban studies, geography and planning via concepts like; the social production of space, the right to the city, everyday life, and global urbanization. Lefebvre's massive body of work has generated two main schools of thought: one that is political economic, and another that is more culturally oriented and poststructuralist in tone. *Space, Difference, and Everyday Life* merges these two schools of thought into a unified Lefebvrian approach to contemporary urban issues



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and the nature of our spatialized social structures. Originally published in 1962, when Lefebvre was beginning his career as a lecturer in sociology at the University of Strasbourg, it established his position in the vanguard of a movement which was to culminate in the events of May 1968. A classic analysis of the modern world using Marxist dialectic, it is a book which supersedes the conventional divisions between academic disciplines. With dazzling skill, Lefebvre moves from philosophy to sociology, from literature to history, to present a profound analysis of the social, political and cultural forces at work in

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France and the world in the aftermath of Stalin's death—an analysis in which the contours of our own —postmodernity— appear with startling clarity.

Critique of Everyday Life: Foundations for a sociology of the everyday

Toward an Understanding of the Given

The Production of Space

Everyday Life

Spatial Politics, Everyday Life and the Right to the City

Writings on Cities

***A collection of previously untranslated writings***

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***by Henri Lefebvre on rural sociology, situating his research in relation to wider Marxist work On the Rural is the first English collection to translate Lefebvre's crucial but lesser-known writings on rural sociology and political economy, presenting a wide-ranging approach to understanding the historical and rural sociology of precapitalist social forms, their endurance today, and conditions of dispossession and uneven development. In On the Rural, Stuart Elden and Adam David Morton present Lefebvre's key works on rural questions, including the first half of his book Du rural à l'urbain and supplementary texts, two of which***

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***are largely unknown conference presentations published outside France. On the Rural offers methodological orientations for addressing questions of economy, sociology, and geography by deploying insights from spatial political economy to decipher the rural as a terrain and stake of capitalist transformation. By doing so, it reveals the production of the rural as a key site of capitalist development and as a space of struggle. This volume delivers a careful translation—supplemented with extensive notes and a substantive introduction—to cement Lefebvre's central contribution to the political economy of rural sociology and geography.***

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***Henri Lefebvre has considerable claims to be the greatest living philosopher. His work spans some sixty years and includes original work on a diverse range of subjects, from dialectical materialism to architecture, urbanism and the experience of everyday life. The Production of Space is his major philosophical work and its translation has been long awaited by scholars in many different fields. The book is a search for a reconciliation between mental space (the space of the philosophers) and real space (the physical and social spheres in which we all live). In the course of his exploration, Henri Lefebvre moves from metaphysical and ideological***

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***considerations of the meaning of space to its experience in the everyday life of home and city. He seeks, in other words, to bridge the gap between the realms of theory and practice, between the mental and the social, and between philosophy and reality. In doing so, he ranges through art, literature, architecture and economics, and further provides a powerful antidote to the sterile and obfuscatory methods and theories characteristic of much recent continental philosophy. This is a work of great vision and incisiveness. It is also characterized by its author's wit and by anecdote, as well as by a deftness of style which Donald Nicholson-***

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***Smith's sensitive translation precisely captures. Lefebvre's classic analysis of daily life under capitalism in one complete volume. The three-volume text by Henri Lefebvre is perhaps the richest, most prescient work about modern capitalism to emerge from one of the twentieth century's greatest philosophers and is now available for the first time in one complete volume. Written at the birth of post-war consumerism, Critique was an inspiration for the 1968 student revolution in France. It is a founding text of cultural studies and a major influence on the fields of contemporary philosophy, geography, sociology, architecture,***

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***political theory and urbanism. Lefebvre takes as his starting point and guide the 'trivial' details of quotidian experience: an experience colonized by the commodity, shadowed by inauthenticity, yet remaining the only source of resistance and change. This is an enduringly radical text, untimely today only in its intransigence and optimism.***

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