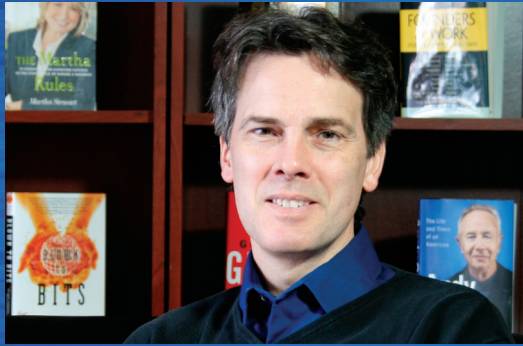


# About the Author



Stephen Hicks is Professor of Philosophy at Rockford College, Illinois. A native of Toronto, Canada, he received his Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington. He is the author of *Nietzsche and the Nazis* (2010) and co-editor of *Readings for Logical Analysis* (2nd edition, 1998) and has published widely in academic journals and other publications such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Baltimore Sun*. More information about Dr. Hicks is available at [www.StephenHicks.org](http://www.StephenHicks.org).

# Availability

*Explaining Postmodernism: Skepticism and Socialism from Rousseau to Foucault* — Expanded Edition is available on Amazon.com in hardcover and Kindle versions.

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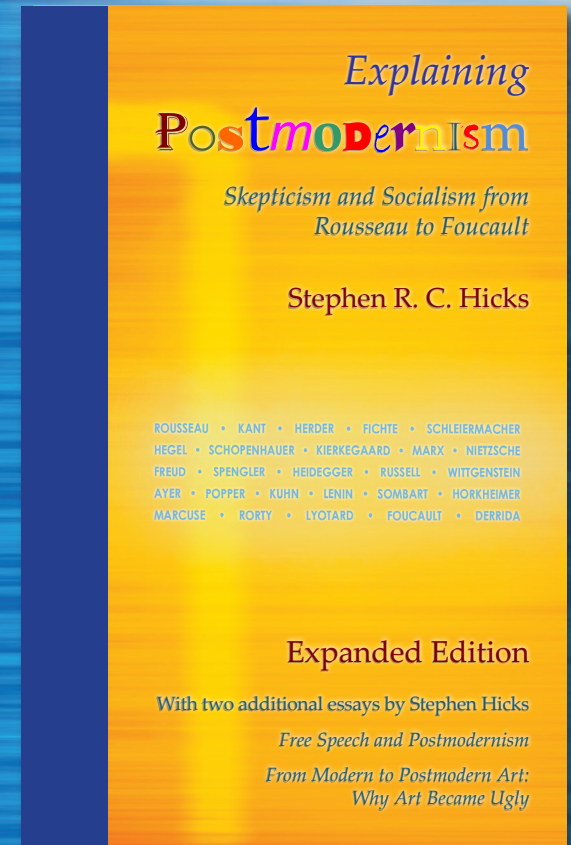
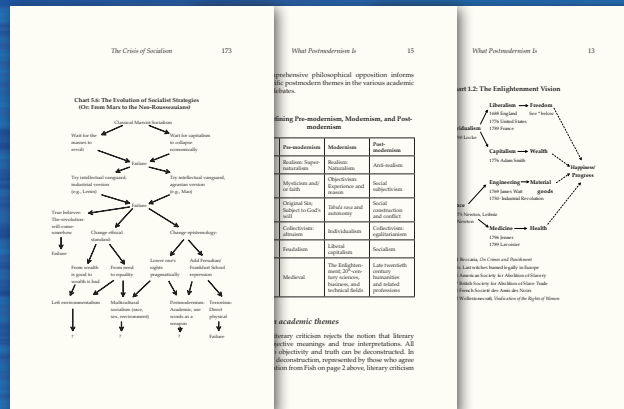
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# Explaining Postmodernism

*Skepticism and Socialism from Rousseau to Foucault*

Stephen R.C. Hicks

NEW EXPANDED EDITION



## About the Book

### Explaining Postmodernism

Tracing postmodernism from its roots in Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Immanuel Kant to their development in thinkers such as Michel Foucault and Richard Rorty, philosopher Stephen Hicks provides a provocative account of why postmodernism has been the most vigorous intellectual movement of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Why do skeptical and relativistic arguments have such power in the contemporary intellectual world? Why do they have that power in the humanities but not in the sciences? Why has a significant portion of the political Left—the same Left that traditionally promoted reason, science, equality for all, and optimism—now switched to themes of anti-reason, anti-science, double standards, and cynicism?

*Explaining Postmodernism* is intellectual history with a polemical twist, providing fresh insights into the debates underlying the furor over political correctness, multiculturalism, and the future of liberal democracy.

This Expanded Edition includes two additional essays, *Free Speech and Postmodernism* and *From Modern to Postmodern Art: Why Art Became Ugly*.

## Praise for *Explaining Postmodernism*

By the end of *Explaining Postmodernism*, the reader may remain ill at ease with postmodernist malaise, but Hicks's lucid account will demystify the subject.

—Curtis Hancock, Ph.D., *Review of Metaphysics*

Stephen Hicks has written an insightful and biting commentary on the nature of postmodernism and its revolt against the Enlightenment. Even when one disagrees with Hicks's interpretations, his work will challenge and provoke. This is must-reading for anyone interested in philosophy-by-essentials.

—Chris Matthew Sciabarra, Ph.D., *Department of Politics, New York University*

*Explaining Postmodernism* is extremely valuable for understanding postmodernism from a standpoint outside of and critical of it. In addition to wonderfully clear expositions of Hegel, Heidegger, and other thinkers, the book has what I think is a brilliant analysis of the pathways by which skeptical questions that Enlightenment thinkers asked led to the nihilism of Derrida and Foucault.

—David Kelley, Ph.D., *Executive Director, The Atlas Society, Washington, D.C.*

With clarity, concision, and an engaging style, Hicks exposes the historical roots and philosophical assumptions of the postmodernist phenomenon. More than that, he raises key questions about the legacy of postmodernism and its implications for our intellectual attitudes and cultural life.

—Steven M. Sanders, Ph.D., *Reason Papers*

*Explaining Postmodernism* offers a concise and convincing argument that post-modernism is not primarily about epistemology. If postmodernism

were about science as a “hegemonic discourse,” then postmodernists would endorse any political viewpoint that tickled their subjectivities. Yet every postmodernist is on the Left politically. *Explaining Postmodernism* will be of value to anyone who seeks to understand where postmodernism originated, what impulses motivate it, and how it can be challenged.

—Robert Campbell, Ph.D., *Department of Psychology, Clemson University*

*Explaining Postmodernism* is a jewel.

—Tibor Machan, Ph.D., *Hoiles Chair of Business Ethics, Chapman University*

Refreshingly, Hicks does not take it as given that the poststructuralist viewpoints have been demonstrated to be in error. Rather, he seeks to trace them to a powerful resentment directed against the partisan of the Enlightenment and of capitalist achievement, and to provide the Enlightenment thinker with openings for serious intellectual engagement.

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Stephen Hicks has written a trenchant and provocative book on a vital topic.

—David Gordon, Ph.D., *The Mises Review*

Hicks has written a lucid book explaining an influential, albeit puzzling, intellectual phenomenon. He has a balanced internalist and externalist approach, discussing the narrow evolution of ideas within philosophy and the wider influence of political and economic trends on the evolution of those ideas. His book deserves a wide audience.

—Gary Jason, Ph.D., *Liberty*