

The Institute for Social Research,
Frankfurt University (1923)
(THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL)

Main Players:
Max Horkheimer (1895-1973): Institute Director, philosopher
Theodor Adorno (1903-1969): philosopher, music critic
Herbert Marcuse (1898-1979): philosopher, political activist
Erich Fromm (1900-1980): psychoanalyst
Walter Benjamin (1892-1940): aesthetic theorist
Jürgen Habermas (1929-): philosopher

Four Periods:
1920's: Grunberg Director
1930's & 40's: Horkheimer Director
(1933: exile in the United States)
1950's: return to Germany
1970-present: Habermas

Why no revolution?
Why Fascism?
[disappointment]

The Crisis in Marxism
Adjusting Marxism...

the effects of
capitalism on
culture and
consciousness

Critical Theory
= interdisciplinary
social science +
philosophy

Critiques of Culture and
Consciousness

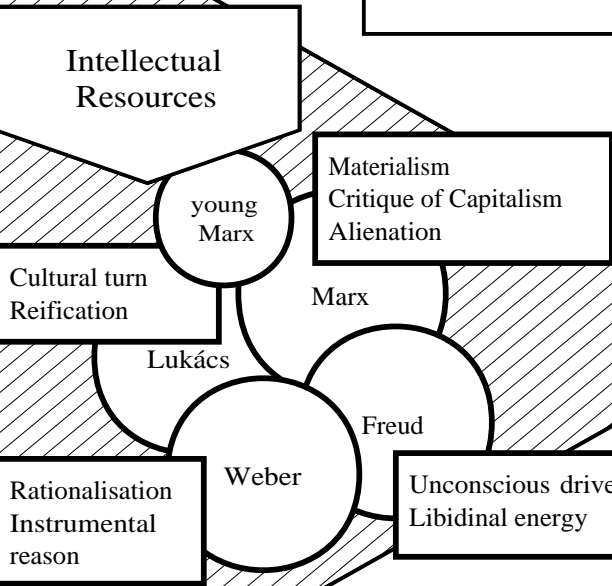
The Critique of Reason

Early Critique
contrasts Critical
Theory with
"Traditional
Theory."

The later "The
Dialectic of
Enlightenment"
more disparate
and totalized
critique

The critical method :

- Imminent critique...
- Dialectical critique...
- focus on historical situation of theory and practice...



Themes of the Institute:

- theory/practice relation
- critique of instrumental reason
- dialectical method
- relative autonomy of superstructure

LECTURE TWO:
**THE CRITICAL THEORY OF THE
FRANKFURT SCHOOL**
R. Blaug, [critpo2hand.sdr]

