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Living Theory: The Application of Classical Social Theory to Contemporary Life:2nd (Second) edition

Charles E. Hurst

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Charles E. Hurst : Living Theory: The Application of Classical Social Theory to Contemporary Life:2nd (Second) edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Theory: The Application of Classical Social Theory to Contemporary Life:2nd (Second) edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Intellectually ambitious but too brief to do the jobBy not a naturalHurst's aim is a laudable one: synthesis of the ideas of a small set of classical theorists into one coherent theoretical framework. In Hurst's case the theorist's are Marx, Durkheim, Simmel, and Weber. This is an eminently defensible selection, especially given the dramatically increased interest in The Philosophy of Money and Simmel's other work among contemporary sociologists, philosophers, and social theorists.Consistent with his synthesizing intent, Hurst organizes his book around the theme of social distance and separation. In view of Marx's emphasis on the capital-labor antagonism, Durkheim's concern with maintaining social solidarity, and Weber and Simmel's focus on the inevitability of discord and conflicting interests among the participants in any social system, this theme seems like a good choice. When it comes to execution, however, I think Hurst's book comes up short.Perhaps the difficulty stems from his failure to explain in a compact way the basic concepts peculiar to each theorist. I agree that it is good to avoid presenting concepts in list-like fashion until they are needed, but at some point the reader has to be able to say, "This is how Marx thinks.", "This is how Durkheim thinks.", and so on for the for Weber and Simmel. Thinking with, synthesizing, and applying theoretical material presupposes a minimum of that sort of summary statement rooted in

each author's basic ideas. While Hurst does not ignore this need entirely, he presents it in a way that requires a lot of work on the part of the reader. No list-like textbook treatment here, which is usually all to the good. But Hurst, perhaps, has moved too far from the instructional objectives of conventional textbook accounts, leaving the reader struggling to come to terms with the central tenets of the theories used for synthetic purposes. Hurst's applications and examples, moreover, tend to be short and under-developed. Given the brevity of the text, this may be unavoidable, but Hurst's applications make only a minimal contribution to acquiring the ability to think like a classical social theorist about important contemporary issues and significant historical developments. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Sociology Theory Students By A Customer This book is great for anyone who is taking an introduction to sociological theory course. Although I never ended up using the book for my paper, my group members did and said it was extremely helpful. Most professors ask students to apply classical theory to today, and this book is meant to facilitate just that! It's short and has a great index to find what you are looking for!

Clean and unmarked pages!! No writings or markings! Only slight shelf wear