

Preface and Acknowledgements

The essays which comprise this volume were written between 1979 and 1984. They are the outcome of an attempt to assess some of the outstanding contemporary contributions to the theory of ideology. I have tried to bring out the value of these contributions as well as their limitations, their innovations as well as their faults. I have also tried, in the course of these critical appraisals, to formulate the elements of a positive account of ideology. This account draws upon ideas initially sketched in my *Critical Hermeneutics* and defines an approach which will be developed in my forthcoming book, *The Interpretation of Ideology*.

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I also wish to thank the individuals, too numerous to cite here, who have provided me with comments and criticisms during the past five years. Some of these individuals are identified in the notes to the essays; but Anthony Giddens and David Held deserve to be mentioned in a more prominent place. They have read and re-read these essays, pointing out difficulties, offering suggestions and encouraging me to develop my ideas. Their sympathetic criticism and constant support have been an invaluable aid.

Some of the essays have been published in journals or anthologies; they are reprinted here with permission. Details of original publication are as follows:

'Ideology and the social imaginary: an appraisal of Castoriadis and Lefort', *Theory and Society*, 11 (1982), pp. 659–81. The essay printed here is a modified and expanded version of the original article.

'Theories of ideology and methods of discourse analysis: towards a framework for the analysis of ideology' was published in a reduced and altered form in the *Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory*. Part I of the essay was published under the title of 'Ideology and the critique of domination, I', in vol. 7, nos. 1-2 (1983), pp. 163-83; part III of the essay appeared under the title of 'Ideology and the critique of domination, II', in vol. 8, nos. 1-2 (1984), pp. 179-96; part II of the essay is published here for the first time.

'The theory of structuration: an assessment of the contribution of Anthony Giddens' will be published in a volume provisionally entitled *Critical Theory of the Industrial Societies*, ed. David Held and John B. Thompson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

'Ideology and the analysis of discourse: a critical introduction to the work of Michel Pêcheux', *Sociological Review*, 31 (1983), pp. 211-35.

'Universal pragmatics: Habermas's proposals for the analysis of language and truth' is a slightly modified version of my article in *Habermas: Critical Debates*, ed. John B. Thompson and David Held (London: Macmillan, 1982), pp. 116-33.

'Rationality and social rationalization: an assessment of Habermas's theory of communicative action', *Sociology*, 17 (1983), pp. 278-94.

J.B.T., Cambridge, April 1984