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Book Review: Science, Reason, Modernity: Readings for an Anthropology of the Contemporary

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This reader of seminal, groundbreaking essays assembles a constellation of thought that gives voice to an important stream in modern philosophy and social-scientific analysis, raises questions about the political, social, and cultural aspects of modern science, and contributes to an anthropological form of critical inquiry questioning matters of truth, power, and knowledge. Part 1 includes primary texts by Kant, Weber, Dewey, and Foucault. Foucault's work also appears in part 3 with translations of his essays "The Hermeneutics of the Subject" and "The Courage of the Truth." The editors have correctly recognized the importance of Foucault's oeuvre on the ethics and politics of truth effecting a transformation of the understanding of the evolution of modern science. Science, Reason, Modernity not only provides readers with a welcome collection of texts dealing with an anthropological understanding of modern science but also encourages conceptual interconnections among the problems posed by each text; this structure helps readers arrive at their own position with relationship to the problematizations of modern science. Recommended for students and teachers of philosophy (especially Continental philosophy, epistemology, critical theory, and philosophy of science), anthropology, and sociology. An engaging, insightful, and enjoyable book for those not afraid of pursuing an intellectual quest.

—D. B. Levy, Touro College, Lander College for Women

Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.