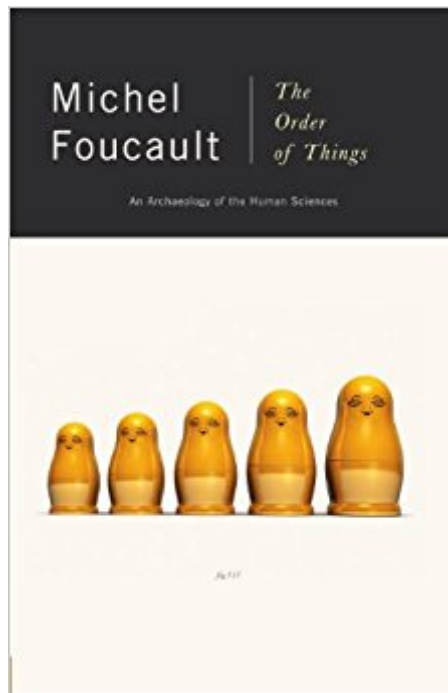




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The Order Of Things: An Archaeology Of Human Sciences



Synopsis

In the work that established him as the most important French thinker since Sartre, Michel Foucault offers startling evidence that "man" is at best a recent invention, the result of a fundamental mutation in our culture. With vast erudition, Foucault cuts across disciplines and reaches back into seventeenth century to show how classical systems of knowledge, which linked all of nature within a great chain of being and analogies between the stars in the heavens and the features in a human face, gave way to the modern sciences of biology, philology, and political economy. The result is nothing less than an archaeology of the sciences that unearths old patterns of meaning and reveals the shocking arbitrariness of our received truths.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Order of Things is critical reading for anyone interested in the confusing Post-modernity debates. The Order of Things is a necessary counterweight to the post-modern take of Foucault's middle works (Discipline & punish, History of Sexuality), and can catapult the reader through an anemic post-modernism back towards the joys of a supercharged linguistic structuralism. It is the most exciting egg-head reading since Beyond Good & Evil

Start here for an intro to Foucault's archeological method and then turn to his genealogies: begin with Discipline and Punish, cut to History of Sexuality and then see his lectures.

The underlying premise of the book is certainly well argued; not just from the author's perspective but also through a large number of footnoted supporting documents ranging from the texts of Foucault's contemporaries back to Aristotle. The author's tendency to provide what many would argue are too many examples bloated the structure, but certainly enforced the direction the author was going in. My biggest problem with the book was the poor, almost mechanical translation. I can't help but believe that in its native French the book would have read better, flowed better, and been more enjoyable. The rigid English translation makes the ideas seem overly intellectual, choosing "big words" or domain-specific terminology when simpler language may have been more effective. Combined with the long sentence structure, often containing multiple ideas, rendered the book difficult to get through.

I am not at all qualified to comment on this book. Many highly intelligent and educated people have written books on this book. So, I'll just say that as a humble consumer and reader that I'm very happy I spent my money on it, even though I only understand a small part of what is written. The edition is well made and the kindle version is highly readable without major flaws. The dictionary lookup function is extremely useful because the author uses many, many words I had never heard before.

I wish I'd discovered him earlier. His viewpoint makes so much sense. An interesting and complex man who left us with a legacy of tools for contemplation.

Great!

I'm not specialist in philosophy either Psychology, but is fascinating to read Foucault because yours thoughts it's the more important like in the opposite side , Freud, Lacan and others to understand the human being.Thanks ,Anouska

Foucaults early work is good, but it chases itself a bit too much for my liking. Still not really sure what the end of man is hxdhdhdhdhdhd Hdhdh Hdhdh Hdhdh

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