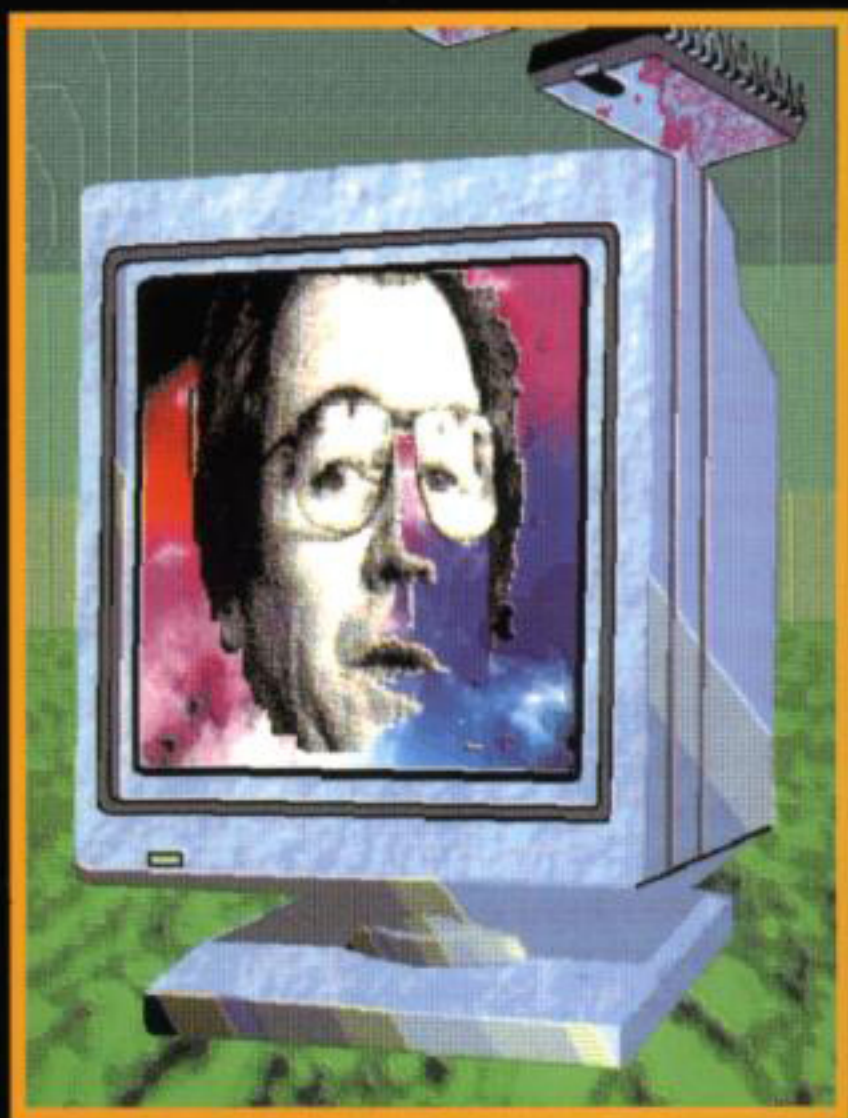


BAUDRILLARD: *A Critical Reader*



Edited by

Douglas Kellner



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Self-described “intellectual terrorist,” Jean Baudrillard is one of the most important and provocative writers of the contemporary era. Widely acclaimed as the prophet of postmodernity, he has famously announced the disappearance of the subject, political economy, meaning, truth, the social, and the real in contemporary social formations.

Replacing the most persistent modern orthodoxies with his own often-novel formulations and arguments, Baudrillard’s writings have generated enormous controversy, forcing readers to decide if his thought is a progression beyond or regression behind established positions.

Where most commentators on Baudrillard seek to either celebrate or attack, this Critical Reader aims to provide the first truly balanced assessment of Baudrillard’s contributions to contemporary thought. Taking his work seriously but never unthinkingly, the writers commissioned for this volume interrogate Baudrillard’s positions in terms of specific topics, fields, and debates – from his early work on the “system of objects” to his most recent metaphysical speculations on the fatality of the subject.

Distinguishing the useful from the worthless, the valuable from the foolish, the serious from the comic, and the important from the unimportant, this collection of new writings on Baudrillard is essential reading for all students of contemporary cultural theory.

Douglas Kellner has published widely in aspects of postmodern theory and mass communications. His many books include *Jean Baudrillard* (1989). He is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Texas, Austin.

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