BALKAN RESEARCH JOURNAL

Habermas Between Critical Theory and Liberalism

by Kire Sharlamanov Springer

Nature Switzerland AG 2024

© IBU

Balkan Research Journal Vol.1, Issue 1 (2024): 77-78

Balkan University Press

https://doi.org//10.69648/ULMC1253

© Balkan University Press

www.ibupress.com

Asst. Prof. Dr. Marija Stevkovska

English Language Teaching Department

Faculty of Education

International Balkan University

Skopje, North Macedonia

Book Review by:
Marija Stevkovska

The book *Habermas Between Critical Theory and Liberalism by Kire Sharlamanov is a detailed examination of the most renowned* and influential theorists of the post-World War II era. Jürgen Habermas has had a significant effect on critical theory and pragmatism, and Sharlamanov provides an in-depth analysis of the various facets of his contributions.

In an era dominated by postmodernist critiques, Habermas stands out as a proponent of enlightenment and modernization. His theories tackle pressing issues relevant to contemporary society, from the philosophy of language to the ethics of law and the challenges posed by globalization. Sharlamanov meticulously traces the evolution of Habermas's thought, highlighting its relevance and reformatory potential in a world increasingly characterized by fragmentation and ideological conflict.

BALKAN JOURNALS

The book focuses on the interdisciplinary nature of Habermas's work, illustrating how he transcends the boundaries of sociology, philosophy, linguistics, and political science. Sharlamanov captures this interdisciplinary approach, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of how Habermas engages with topics such as deliberative democracy, the public sphere, and moral dilemmas in genetics.

Furthermore, the author also accentuates the subtleties of Habermas's writing style, which, while dense and intricate, rewards careful reading with rich insights. The author notes that Habermas's desire for generalization—rather than specificity—positions him as a systematic thinker who strives for a comprehensive social theory applicable to contemporary society. This aspiration underlines Habermas's commitment to understanding the broader dynamics of modern life and the essential role of communication, language, and ethical considerations within it.

The book highlights two critical transformations in Habermas's theory development. Initially rooted in the Frankfurt School's critical theory, Habermas's work later evolved towards a focus on communication, reflecting a turn to neo-Hegelianism and a reconstruction of Kantian ethics. Sharlamanov explores how this shift resulted in a normative framework that emphasizes the importance of discourse and intersubjectivity, setting the stage for Habermas's later theories on law and politics.

Importantly, Sharlamanov does not shy away from addressing the criticisms leveled against Habermas's work. By exploring the tensions between critical theory and liberalism, the author provides a balanced view of Habermas's legacy. He notes that while some critics argue that Habermas's later theories represent a departure from critical theory toward a more liberal stance, others recognize the value in his attempts to face contemporary social challenges.

Habermas between Critical Theory and Liberalism is not just a scholarly examination of Habermas's thought; it is a timely reflection on the nature of modernity and the quest for understanding in a rapidly changing world. Through Kiril Sharlamanov's insightful analysis, readers will gain a deeper understanding of Habermas's enduring relevance and the implications of his work for contemporary social theory.

The book places emphasis on Habermas's significant impact on contemporary thought and the manner in which his theories align with current social issues. Through an exploration of topics such as deliberative democracy, the public sphere, and the ethics of communication, Sharlamanov articulates how Habermas's ideas remain relevant in addressing the challenges of modern society.