

## Towards A Sociology Of The Novel

The Story of the Mind  
The Chautauquan  
The Novels and Tales of Robert Louis Stevenson  
New Book List  
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY REALISTIC NOVEL IN FRANCE.  
That dowdy of a girl; or,  
The story of Gertrude Wynn's fortunes, by mrs. Georgie Sheldon  
Frederika Bremer as the Originator of the Swedish Novel  
The Story of the Church of Egypt  
An appreciative life of ... the earl of Beaconsfield, ed. by C. Brown  
English Theories of the Novel: Eighteenth century  
Blix  
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James Mark Baldwin  
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General Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.)  
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using the methods of frankfurt school theorists  
walter benjamin and theodor adorno  
david suchoff offers new readings of dickens melville and kafka that underscore the political and social critiques inherent in their novels

suchoff's aim is to redeem the critical power of mass culture in the modern novel and he argues that ideological battles fought in American literary criticism during the Cold War decades have limited our current interpretations of mass culture's critical force in political fiction. Suchoff demonstrates how the works of these nineteenth and early twentieth-century novelists were taken up into the Cold War literary canon and made to fit the arguments of American liberal critics for subversive fiction and of new historicist critics for a contained modern novel. Applying Benjamin's redemptive criticism and Adorno's dialectical method, Suchoff's readings of Dickens, Melville, and Kafka show how the political problems posed by mass culture and audience for each writer became part of the dialectically critical grain of their most important social novels. He examines Dickens's struggle with Victorian taste and the relation of his work to advertising and other nonliterary forms; Melville's confrontations with popular ideologies of American expansion and race; and Kafka's concern with the popular Yiddish theater and Jewish political movements throughout. Suchoff reveals the continuing importance of commodity culture in the novel tradition and the concurrent development of cultural criticism. Critical theory and the novel provides a useful introduction to Benjamin and Adorno and their uses in practical criticism. It is also an illuminating study of the historical origins of literary theory and cultural criticism and a contribution to the expanding field of cultural studies.

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