



*The
Underside
of
Modernity:
Apel, Ricoeur,
Rorty, Taylor,
and
the Philosophy
of Liberation*

Enrique Dussel

*Translated and Edited by
Eduardo Mendieta*

The Underside of Modernity

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Until now, North American and European philosophies have been engaged in debates about the possibility of a postmetaphysical philosophy and the consequences of the linguistic turn for the assessment of modernity; they have done so, however, without departing from the narrow horizons of their respective nationalistic perspectives. In this incisive critique, Dussel demonstrates how most of these philosophies have either failed to give historically faithful analyses of the genesis of the "myth" of modernity, or have never engaged in a serious questioning of their own Eurocentric presuppositions. He shows how North American and European philosophers have presupposed a no-longer-acceptable philosophy of history that has led them to fall into a "developmental fallacy," the belief that there is a linear sequence that moves from the premodern, underdeveloped, or on the way to industrialization, to the modern, developed, and industrialized.

"Dussel's work is an exciting breakthrough in the rethinking of Western Eurocentrism, and in particular the Eurocentrism of Western philosophy. Dussel, working in new postimperialist traditions of world history, affords a perspective from which new action, a new politics, can perhaps be thought."

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& Wm. A. Lane, Jr., Professor of Comparative Literature, Duke University*

"Enrique Dussel, [the philosophy of liberation's] most distinguished representative, draws freely upon liberation theology, dependency theory, and world-systems theory in analyzing the general conditions of human oppression and emancipation. . . . Dussel's insistence on the ethical-political centrality of widespread human misery, and on its economic basis and global scale, is a much needed antidote to the recent tendency to forget or ignore it. Anyone interested in critical theory should find this a challenging and rewarding book."

*Thomas McCarthy, Professor of Philosophy,
Northwestern University*

Enrique Dussel is Professor of Ethics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico and Professor of Philosophy at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa. He has been Professor and Visiting Lecturer at the Universities of Louvain in Belgium, Loyola at St. Louis, and Freiburg in Switzerland; Visiting John A. O'Brien Professor at Notre Dame, Indiana; and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the State University of California, Los Angeles. Eduardo Mendieta is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco.

Humanities Press

New Jersey

ISBN 0-391-03932-6



9 780391 039322

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HUMANITIES PRESS
NEW JERSEY

First published 1996 by Humanities Press International, Inc.
165 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey 07716

This English translation © 1996 by Humanities Press International, Inc.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Dussel, Enrique D.

[Essays. English. Selections]

The underside of modernity : Apel, Ricoeur, Rorty, Taylor, and the philosophy
of liberation / Enrique Dussel ; translated and edited by Eduardo Mendieta.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and indes.

ISBN 0-391-03932-6 (cloth)

1. Philosophy. 2. Ethics. 3. Liberty. 4. Dussel, Enrique D. Modern—20th century.
8. Liberation theology. I. Mendieta, Eduardo. II. Title.

B1034.D872E5 1996

190'.9'04—dc20

95-32838

CIP

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Printed in the United States of America