

TOWARDS A CRITIQUE OF CULTURAL REASON

R. Sundara Rajan

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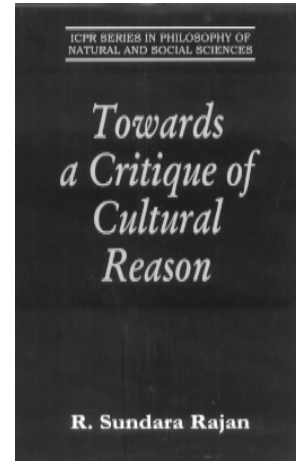
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Towards a Critique of Cultural Reason, a sequel to the author's *Innovative Competence and Social Change* and a prelude to his *The Primacy of the Political*, seeks to develop a Kantian perspective on the theory of culture, based on the notion of the regulative judgement and the idea of an exemplar in Kant's *Critique of Judgement*. After a brief critical discussion of the Marxist view of the relation between culture and politics, the author develops a theory of discourse which he believes would enable us to understand how meanings may transcend contextuality and function as exemplars having a symbolic rather than merely a signification context. These exemplary unities of meaning, which may be called symbols of transcendence, constitute the fabric of culture, which in terms of its context-transcending role, may serve as sources of validation for similar exemplary actions. The book then moves on to a study of the interrelationship between meaning and action. In the concluding portion the author seeks to develop some suggestions towards a hermeneutical understanding of culture and politics. As elements of the overall discussion, the book also deals with such themes as the Kantian notion of Critique, Dilthey's project of a Hermeneutics of Historical Reason, Ricoeur's perspective on speech and textual discourse and Husserl's reflections on the life-world.

R. Sundara Rajan is at present Professor of Philosophy at the University of Poona.