

Against Romanticism: From Enlightenment to Enfrightenment and the Culture of Slavery: Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin

By [Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin](#)

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This book looks at the philosophy, politics and history of many different art forms arguing that Romanticism is dominating modern culture to the detriment of Enlightenment ideals. In recent times Enlightenment ideas have been characterised as cold, hard science, while Romanticism has been perceived as the ‘caring’ philosophy.

However, Romanticist emotions lead to self-absorption, escapism and diversion, yet during the Enlightenment, emotion was not only a very important part of Enlightenment philosophy but was the basis of the philosophes’ ideas for combating injustice in society. Throughout the last two centuries, any Enlightenment movements that tried to highlight the plight of the poor or unite the working class (Sentimentalism, Realism, Social Realism, Socialism) have been excluded, swamped or submerged by Romanticist movements that ultimately pose no threat to the status quo.

In other words, just as the Right tries to remake the Left in its own image (to disarm it), the Romanticists try to remake the Enlightenment in theirs (catharsis without progressive social change), thus, maintaining a ‘culture of slavery’.

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Through developing an awareness of the socio-political fault lines in today's culture, cultural practitioners can create a new democratic spirit with an emphasis on the value of ordinary people, while at the same time making an important contribution to the fight against poverty, oppression, and injustice.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Introduction

What's the matter with Romanticism?

Chapter 1 - Philosophy

Re-Examining Emotion and Justice in Enlightenment Ideals

Chapter 2 - Politics

Romanticism as a Tool for Elite Agendas

Chapter 3 - Art

Art Movements and the People's Movement

Chapter 4 - Music

The Conversion of Music into a Mass Narcotic

Chapter 5 - Opera

Opera in Crisis: Can It be Made Relevant Again?

Chapter 6 - Dance

Diversity in Dance Today

Chapter 7 - Poetry

The Dialectics of Rhyme

Chapter 8 - Literature

Literature Serving Human Liberty

Chapter 9 - Theatre

Popular Theatre as Cultural Resistance

Chapter 10 - Architecture

Neoliberalism, Climate Change and Architecture

Chapter 11 - Cinema

Individual and Collective Struggles in Cinema

Chapter 12 - Television

Game of Thrones: Olde-Style Catharsis or Bloody Good Counsel?

Chapter 13 - Culture

The Culture of Slavery v the Culture of Resistance

Conclusion

The Power of Romanticism today: 21st Century Irrationalism

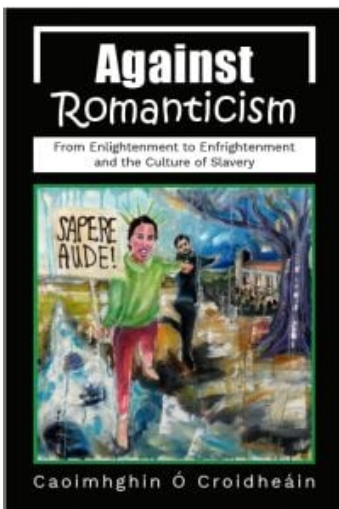
Bibliography

Index

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