

CULTURAL MATERIALISM

Cultural materialism in literary theory and cultural studies traces its origin to the work of the left-wing literary critic Raymond Williams. Cultural materialism makes .

Harris developed Cultural Materialism by borrowing from existing anthropological doctrines, especially Marxist Materialism. History and Overview The theoretical perspective and research methods of cultural materialism emerged in the late s and were developed more fully during the s. Disagreement with Marxism[edit] In spite of the debt owed to the economic theories of Marx and Engels, cultural materialism rejects the Marxist dialectic which in turn was based on the theories of the philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. London and New York: Routledge. The research strategy prioritizes etic behavior phenomena. Political Shakespeare: Essays in Cultural Materialism. Materialists do not necessarily assume that material reality is more important than mental reality. Contemporary Cultural Theory. While this appears to be environmental determinism, cultural materialists do not disclaim that change in the structure and superstructure cannot occur without first change in the infrastructure. Harrison, Anthony Kwame. They argued that societies go through the several stages, from tribalism to feudalism to capitalism to communism. Basingstoke, Hampshire and London: Macmillan. We must consider intellectual and spiritual influences upon society as well. Their work drew little attention from anthropology in the early twentieth-century. Cultural Materialism Cultural Materialism - Marvin Harris Cultural Materialism is an anthropological paradigm founded upon, but not constrained by, Marxist Materialistic thought. Darity, Jr. James Birx, Cultural materialists have found the area of Renaissance studies particularly receptive to this type of analysis. New Historicism and Cultural Materialism: a Reader. While this appears to be environmental determinism, cultural materialists do not disclaim that change in the structure and superstructure cannot occur without first change in the infrastructure. References Brown, Curtis. Overview[edit] Cultural materialism emerged as a theoretical movement in the early s along with new historicism , an American approach to early modern literature, with which it shares much common ground. However, since the late s, anthropologists have increasingly come to depend on materialist explanations for analyzing societal development and some inherent problems of capitalist societies. The theory of cultural materialism that he developed holds that culture as a productive process is part of the larger process of how a class system is made and remade, and it is connected to the class-based inequalities that pervade society. According to cultural materialism, culture and cultural products play these roles through the promotion and justification of certain values, assumptions, and worldviews within the mainstream and the marginalization of others that do not fit the mainstream mold consider the way rap music has been routinely vilified as violent by mainstream critics, or how twerking is often framed as a sign that someone is sexually loose or morally deficient, while ballroom dance is held up as "classy" and refined. Idealists criticize Cultural Materialism for ignoring variables such as genetics, and believe "Emic" is more significant than Cultural Materialists allow. Research[edit] During the s, Marvin Harris had a productive interchange with behavioral psychologists, most notably Sigrid Glenn, regarding interdisciplinary work. James Birx, Finally, it seems that Materialism is too simplistic. Cultural Anthropology, 7th edition.