The Idea of Culture

Terry Eagleton

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*Terry Eagleton , ??? ???? ??? (?????)*

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**The Idea of Culture** Terry Eagleton , ??? ???? ??? (?????)
Terry Eagleton's book, in this vital new series from Blackwell, focuses on discriminating different meanings of culture, as a way of introducing to the general reader the contemporary debates around it.

## The Idea of Culture Details

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## Tasniem Sami says

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## H.d. says

Das definições mais amplas até as mais restritas, a obra recupera caminho histórico, numa forte abordagem
dos estudos culturais, com um diálogo constante com a obra de Raymond Williams.

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## Ozum Arzik says

Great ideas regarding culture! worth reading and pondering on his ideas

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## Malcolm says

Eagleton is not the first to note that 'culture' is one of the most complex words in the English language
(indeed for many of us of a certain age that observation stems from Raymond Williams – whose influence on
Eagleton is implicit and explicit throughout this book, including where Eagleton notes Williams's case that
perhaps only 'nature' is a more complex word than 'culture'). There is little doubt that 'culture' has become
more complex since Williams first made his case in 1976, in part because of the growing comparative
significance of identity politics, in part because of the commercialising and commodifying pressures that
have contributed to the reification of 'culture', and in part because of the decline in the significance of
materialist politics and a rejection of 'overarching' narratives associated with forms of postmodernising
theories.

This is the issue Eagleton confronts in this fabulously argumentative and polemical manifesto on 'culture',
challenging the reification and objectification of culture's explanatory, almost deterministic, power where
there is a sense that it explains all. Eagleton sees a need for a much more nuanced relationship between
nature and culture, between culture and its material forms (such as the equation of culture and nation-state),
reminds us of the powerful and profound differences between cultural politics and the politics of culture
while lamenting the failure of many to recognise or remember the distinction, teases out the distinctions

between culture as 'civility' and culture as 'civilisation', and argues, in the end, that "culture can be too close for comfort. This very intimacy is likely to grow morbid and obsessional unless it is set in an enlightened political context, one which can temper these immediacies with more abstract, but also in a way more generous, affiliations. We have seen how culture has assumed a new political importance. But has grown at the same time immodest and overweening. It is time, while acknowledging its significance, to put it back in its place." (p 131)

These, the book's final sentences, reveal much of Eagleton's approach – his critique of an excessive attachment to an ill-defined sense of 'culture' alongside his willingness to argue for a generalisable sense of identity as human, for a non-naturalistic sense of human nature, and in the spirit of Williams to advocate a common culture based not on the superficialities of telephone boxes, sporting events, and cups of tea but on a fundamental social change designed to transform the limits of cultural life and its whole way of being drawing on the playwright David Edgar to argue for four concepts of culture – as civility, as identity, as commercialism and as radical politics – and calling for us to step beyond the limits of identifying small acts of resistance in everyday engagements with the commercial to build a transformative politics of culture.

It is a fine analysis – not one that I agree with in every detail but one that makes a compelling and largely convincing case for removing 'culture' from its pedestal, while not falling into the trap of prescribing how that should be done. A fabulous, highly readable (even when dealing with big ideas of western thinking) and engaging book.

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## Anood Lashkary says

Terry in his book "The idea of culture" (2000), presents several meaning of cultural. He explains the culture as sense of identity , loyalty and ethics. He distinguish the different meaning and history of culture during several centuries. In addition, he tries by different ways to introduce to general reader the modernity argues around culture. In one chapter he talks about the complex relation between culture and nature; also explains the possibilities for creating common culture. In addition , it analysis cultural theories from social and political point of view. Terry highlights the variety of culture , culture position in crisis and the way to have a common culture.

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## metralindol says

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## Aunood_E_240525 says

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Book name: The Idea Of culture
Author: Terry

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## Hatim Bentahar says

one of the greatest books abt how culture can bring up closeness to people , yet bring conflict .

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## Joseph says

"Though culture, as we shall see, is still not politically sovereign, it is intensely relevant to a world in which the joint wealth of the three richest individuals is equal to the combined wealth of the 600 million poorest. It is just that the culture wars which matter concern such questions as ethnic cleansing, not the relative merits of Racine and soap operas."

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## Ayman Agour says

"????? ??? ?????"? "????? ???????" ... ??? ??? ??? ???? ???? ????? ???? "???? ???????"? ?????? ?????? ????? ??????? ??? ??? ????? ???? ??? ???? ????? ?????? ????????? ??? ???? ????? ???????? ?????? ?????? ???????? ??????? ???? ?????? ????????? ???????? ??????????? ?? ?????.

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## Maja Vejic says

Honestly, I'm confused. There's some brilliant stuff in there, but then chapter 4 happens, and it's all downhill from there. All of a sudden, the book gets shallow and prejudiced, and Mr Eagleton starts sounding like a frustrated old man, full of anger. First part of the book - great, second part - sad.
A bit of a disappointment.

Tako?er, hrvatski prijevod je kriminalno loš, gramati?kih grešaka tona, naro?ito onih na osnovnoškolskoj razini (?/?, ije/je), toplo preporu?am izdava?koj ku?i Jesenski i Turk da investiraju u lektore, jer je ovo strašno.

**Aalaa Mahmoud says**

I have to re read it for deeper understanding.

**Marumero says**

Um, stavila sam "rating" iako i dalje nemam u sebi tu mogu?nost percipiranja svi?a li mi se nešto ili ne ako je to nešto ujedno i ispitna literatura. (potpuno nepotrebno objašnjenje, ali eto, što sad.)

**Scott says**

Accessible, illuminating, good read.

**Carla D. says**

Nem sequer vou tentar acabar de ler isto que já estou com um pó, do tamanho deste universo e outro, à cadeira para a qual tenho de ler isto!