

In his small volume, *Consequences of Modernity* (published 1991) he presents us with important insights into contemporary society. This is an important book because Giddens presents us with a view of our contemporary society in all its complexity – from what we believe that we are seeing a decline in trust of the very structures that are at the foundations of our society, but also what the results of this are.

Chapter 1: Introduction

This book is about an institutional analysis of modernity with cultural and epistemological (theory of method or how we gain and learn knowledge) overtones. Modernity refers to modes of social life and organisation that emerged in Europe from about the 17th century onwards and subsequently have become worldwide (more or less) in their influence. Today, some argue that we stand in a new era that is taking us beyond modernity: post-modernity – but Giddens remains unconvinced.

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