

# LITERARY CRITICISM

from Plato to the Present

## AN INTRODUCTION

M. A. R. Habib



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"Rafey Habib's book carves out a distinctive niche in this lately much-discussed but still strikingly eventful and rewarding history of thought."

*Christopher Norris, Cardiff University*

*Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present* presents an authoritative overview of the development of Western literary criticism and theory. In clear, concise, and elegant prose, the acclaimed literary scholar M. A. R. Habib introduces major critical movements, figures, and texts, while paying close attention to textual detail, broader historical context, and the interconnections between various theories. Beginning with Classical literary criticism, the author goes on to explore literary criticism from the Middle Ages through the Early Modern and Modern periods into the twentieth century, including in his treatment major historical phenomena such as the French Revolution and major philosophies and political theories such as those of Locke and Marx. *Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present* is an invaluable and intellectually stimulating introduction to the history of literary criticism and theory. It will be an indispensable companion to the study of literature and criticism at all levels.

**M. A. R. Habib** received his doctorate from the University of Oxford. He is the author of seven books, including the highly acclaimed *A History of Literary Criticism: From Plato to the Present* (2005) and *Modern Literary Criticism and Theory* (2008). A book of his poetry, *Shades of Islam: Poems for a New Century*, was published in September 2010.

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