

Cultural Materialism

Cultural material school of anthropology emerged as a criticism to earlier scholars. Marvin Harris was the chief proponent of this school. According to this theory of Harris the purpose of culture is to fulfill the material needs of the members. According to Harris there is no point in trying to find the history of non material as in absence of writing that is almost impossible. Instead material aspects of culture shall be looked into to trace the evolution of mankind.

Significance

- ① By focusing on material aspects only this school has removed the possibility of conjecturalism.
- ② This school is more scientific due to following a set formula of testing material culture.

Criticism

- ① Cultural materialism has been criticised for focusing too much on the material aspects and neglecting the more important non material aspects of culture.
- ② This school has been criticised for adopting scientific practices to study culture. As to rationalists culture can not be studied by this approach accurately.

Conclusion

Despite shortcomings & criticism, ^{cultural} ~~post~~ modernism has contributed a lot and allowed a fresh perspective in study on culture.