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This updated Companion offers students crucial guidance on virtually every aspect of the work of this complex and controversial writer. It brings together the contrasting views of major critics and active practitioners, and this new edition introduces new voices and themes. The opening essays place Brecht's creative work in its historical and biographical context and are followed by chapters on single texts, from *The Threepenny Opera* to *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, on some early plays and on the *Lehrstücke*. Other essays analyse Brecht's directing, his poetry, his interest in music and his work with actors. This revised edition also contains new essays on his early experience of cabaret, his significance in the development of film theory and his unique approach to dramaturgy. A detailed calendar of Brecht's life and work and a selective bibliography of English criticism complete this provocative overview of a writer who constantly aimed to provoke