

*Librería*  
***Bonilla y Asociados***  
*desde 1950*



**Título:** Cambridge Companion To Walter Benjamin

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**Precio:** \$420.50

**Editorial:**

**Año:** 2004

**Tema:**

**Edición:** 1ª

**Sinopsis**

**ISBN:** 9780521797245

This Companion offers a comprehensive introduction to the work and thought of the highly influential twentieth-century critic and theorist Walter Benjamin. The volume provides examinations of the different aspects of Benjamin's work that have had a significant effect on contemporary critical and historical thought. Topics discussed by experts in the field include Benjamin's relation to the avant-garde movements of his time, the form of the work of art, his theories on language and mimesis, modernity, his relation to Brecht and the Frankfurt School, his significance and relevance to modern cultural studies, his formative interpretation of Romanticism, and his autobiographical writings. The volume is aimed at readers who may be coming to Benjamin for the first time or who have some knowledge of Benjamin but would like to know more about the issues and concepts central to his work. Additional material includes a guide to further reading and a chronology.