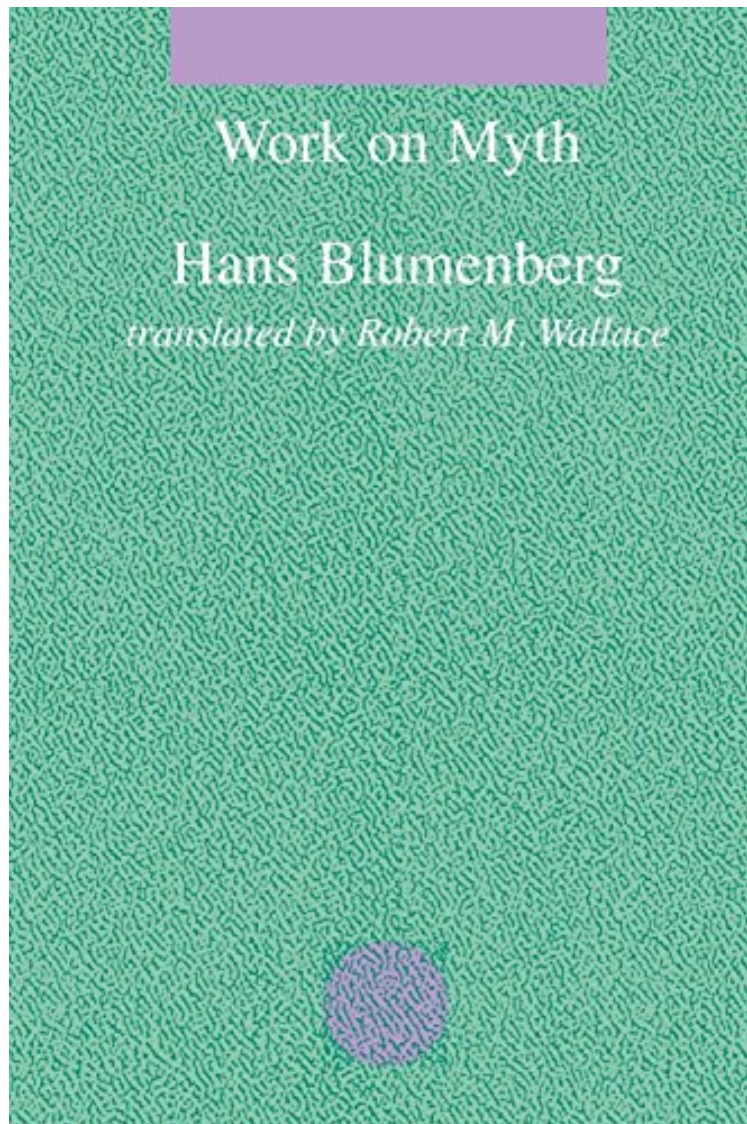


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Work on Myth (Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought)

Hans Blumenberg
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Hans Blumenberg : Work on Myth (Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Work on Myth (Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought):

In this rich examination of how we inherit and transform myths, Hans Blumenberg continues his study of the

philosophical roots of the modern world. *Work on Myth* is in five parts. The first two analyze the characteristics of myth and the stages in the West's work on myth, including long discussions of such authors as Freud, Joyce, Cassirer, and Valry. The latter three parts present a comprehensive account of the history of the Prometheus myth, from Hesiod and Aeschylus to Gide and Kafka. This section includes a detailed analysis of Goethe's lifelong confrontation with the Prometheus myth, which is a unique synthesis of "psychobiography" and history of ideas. Hans Blumenberg is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Mnster. *Work on Myth* is included in the series *Studies in Contemporary German Social Thought*, edited by Thomas McCarthy.

From *Library Journal* The first two parts of this five-part study elaborate a "philosophical anthropology." Blumenberg sees man as having evolved to a position less tenable than the rest of nature, with a "deficit of instinct" and "lacking a biological niche." Myth, in this schema and contrary to the conventional wisdom is not opposed to reason, but is complementary to it: most important, it enables man better to cope with the "absolutism of reality." The last three parts present a history of the Prometheus myth; the discussion ranges over Greek and Roman mythology to Goethe, Freud, Mann, Cassirer, Joyce, Valery, and Nietzsche, among many others. Though somewhat less unitary and focused than the author's *The Legitimacy of the Modern Age* (LJ 5/1/83), this work is no less provocative and stimulating. Leon H. Brody, U.S. Office of Personnel Management Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. Once again Hans Blumenberg offers us a brilliant historical study. *Work On Myth* extends to a new domain his critical concern with our need to find certainty and direction in a world fraught with contingency. Here, too, Blumenberg proves to be one of the great humanists of our time, discerning alternatives where before we saw necessities, showing myth to be a form of thought which is with us still. (Charles Larmore, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Colombia University) This is a stunning philological work. It patiently connects and disconnects logical, rhetorical, and historical links between dogma, myth, and ideology, their establishments in religion, law, and science, and the critiques that singe and sear them... Robert M. Wallace's work is a model of scholarly translation, ambitious and carefully executed. (Willis G. Regier, *Modern Language Notes*) Language Notes Text: English, German (translation)