



Jürgen Habermas

German philosopher, born 1929

Lived through WWII. Active in philosophy and social theory since the 1960s.

Well-known for his theory of the public sphere and “communicative rationality.”

Asks: how to make a just, humane society?
Reason.

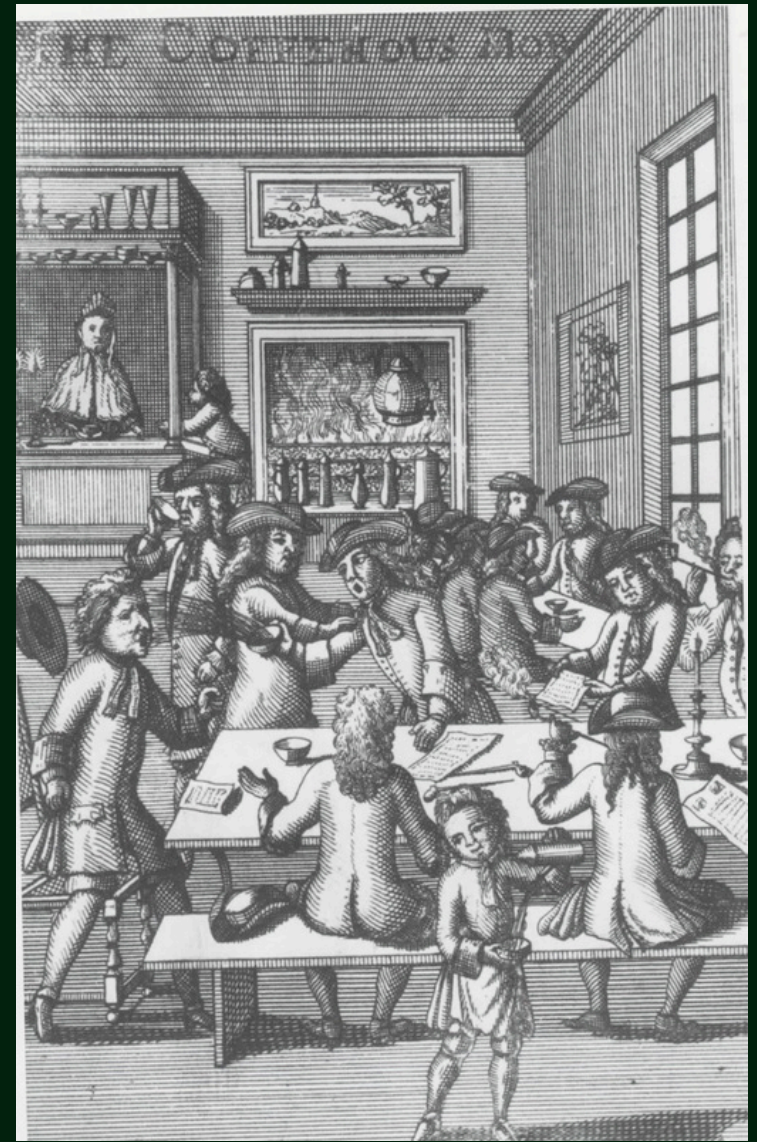
The Structural Transformation of the Bourgeois Public Sphere

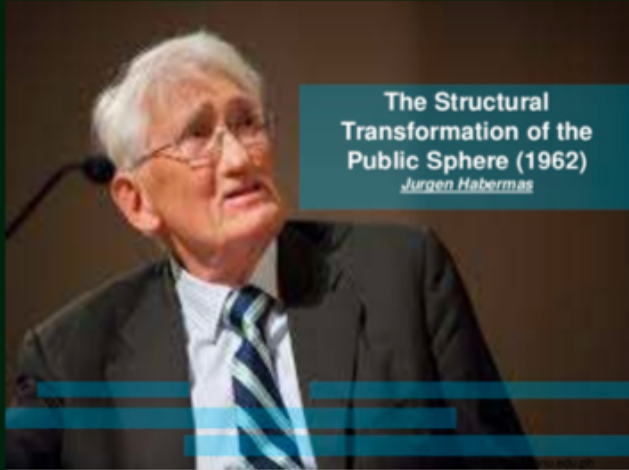
Published in 1962 – widely discussed in US
after 1989

A work of history and social theory, aiming to
explain the emergence of a “public sphere.”

The “public sphere” – a space between private life
and government where people could come
together and form public opinion

Emerged in 18th, based in institutions such as
newspapers, salons, coffee houses





Questions for Discussion

What happens to the public sphere? How does it change over time?

What's the connection between the "public sphere" and a democratic society?

Can we apply the concept of the public sphere to our own world?
How?