Modernism: A Guide To European Literature 1890-1930 (Penguin Literary Criticism)
Synopsis
An exploration of the ideas, groupings and the social tensions that shaped the transformation of life caused by the changes of modernity in art, science, politics and philosophy

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Customer Reviews
This collection of critical essays does much to clarify the readers understanding and enhance one’s appreciation of the period that produced such great works as Ulysses and The Waste Land. By laying a ground work that focuses on historical and geographical scholarship and the individual movements that make up Modernism the editors have succeeded in portraying Modernism in all of its diversity. This book is essential to those who want a good, non-reductive introduction a great literary movement.

A high quality collection of essays about the modernist movement in the arts around the turn of the 20th Century. It’s one those books you never want to finish. Dadaism, Expressionism, Symbolism, Vorticism, Cubism, it’s all there. The only word I can come up with to describe this reading experience is “fun.”

If one sums up Calinescu’s book on modernity and this very complete anthology, one has probably the best combination to understand this movement. Bradbury and McFarlane select some of the best
examples I have seen for the topic and give a very clear perspective on the topic. Readers of some of the most important authors of the history of literature, like Joyce or Baudelaire, will find a clear contextualization based not on contemporary interpretations but by the critics of the time.