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Capital and Its Discontents: Conversations with Radical Thinkers in a Time of Tumult (Spectre)

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CAPITAL AND ITS DISCONTENTS


CONVERSATIONS WITH RADICAL THINKERS
IN A TIME OF TUMULT

INCLUDING

*David Harvey, Ellen Meiksins Wood, Noam Chomsky,
Tariq Ali, Ursula Hues, Mike Davis, Leo Panitch, and more.*



SASHA LILLEY

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From PM Press : Capital and Its Discontents: Conversations with Radical Thinkers in a Time of Tumult (Spectre) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capital and Its Discontents: Conversations with Radical Thinkers in a Time of Tumult (Spectre):

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Knowing your enemy...By Gary Poyssick This collection of socialist, redistributive thought perfectly outlines the thoughts and intentions of those I feel are a danger to civilization. The elitists who feel that only a benign and educated centralized government can ensure equal results to their populace. I fight for equal opportunity, not equal results. I am the Tea Party. I am America. I read this outstanding collection of socialist justification and glorification to know what my enemies -- and the true Enemy of the State -- are thinking. And how they justify their ridiculous, and self-serving philosophy. God Bless America, and God Bless the Constitution of the United States. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Radical Perspectives By Michael Acuntilde;a The United States, and much of the rest of the world, is in the midst of the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression of 1929. With the exception of China, governments across the world have been fairly unanimous in their decision to respond to the crisis by socializing the massive losses endured in the private sector (particularly in finance), while simultaneously implementing programs of austerity on the rest of the population. Numerous books have been published since the start of the crash in 2008 attempting to offer explanations of precisely what happened and how to respond. For a brief period of time, some social commentators believed that Keynesianism might undergo somewhat of a revival in academia and in the public policy responses to the crisis, but neoliberalism remains the hegemonic ideology among the academic and political elite - figures such as Paul Krugman and Joseph Stiglitz notwithstanding. Now is as good a time as any for the far left to analyze the innermost workings of the capitalist mode of production and uncover how we got to where we are today, in addition to how a progressive response to the crisis might be constructed. Capital and Its Discontents is a superb compilation of interviews with radical theorists from various academic backgrounds. 'Against the Grain's' Sasha Lilley does an excellent job conducting the interviews, and the book offers readers a glimpse into the thought-provoking analysis currently offered by the Left. The book is divided into three parts: (Part I) Empire, Neoliberalism, Crisis; (Part II) Commodification, Enclosure, and the Contradictions of Capitalism; and (Part III) Alternatives? Ellen Meiksin Woods, David Harvey, Leo Panitch, Doug Henwood, David McNally, Sam Gindin, Greg Albo, John Bellamy Foster, Jason W. Moore, Gillian Hart, Ursula Huws, Vivek Chibber, Mike Davis, Tariq Ali, John Sanbonmatsu, Noam Chomsky, and Andrej Grubacic - all of whom are easily identifiable as being among the leading progressive intellectuals today - are featured in the book. Understandably, most of the interviews focus on the topic of capitalist economic crises and neoliberalism's role therein, and the aforementioned interviewees offer a plurality of interesting perspectives on the issue. However, the interviews I found most illuminating were those of Vivek Chibber, who discussed National Capitalist developmentalism in the Third World; John Sanbonmatsu, who describes the damage postmodernism has had on the Left; and David McNally, who offered a concise, yet highly informative, analysis of the global economic crisis. Despite my disagreements with a few of the views expressed in the book - e.g., Ellen Meiksin Woods's persistent conflation of the market with capitalism - I nevertheless highly recommend Capital and Its Discontents to anyone interested in learning about imperialism, capitalism, and ecology from a contemporary Marxian and anarchist perspective.

Unraveling the complicated details surrounding the world's present economic and political climate, this collection of interviews addresses the faulty underpinnings of capitalism and discusses why the future must be economically founded otherwise. Probing into the roots of the global economic crisis, the role that debt and privatization play in dampening social revolt, and the ramifications of post-colonial mentality in the Global South, this collection provides the tools for reconsidering capitalism and solutions for surviving current crisis by learning from past mistakes. This collection includes conversations with some of the most noted thinkers and political economists on the Left, including Noam Chomsky, Tariq Ali, Mike Davis, David Harvey, Ellen Meiksins Wood, and Doug Henwood.

"These conversations illuminate the current world situation in ways that are very useful for those hoping to orient themselves and find a way forward to effective individual and collective action. Highly recommended." —Kim Stanley Robinson, author, *The Years of Rice and Salt*