

William's Book Blurb

Committed to a critical Marxism and popular participation in politics in a cynical world of rampant possessive individualism and massive inequalities, the search is for a Marxism that 'is a living tradition that enjoys renewal and reconstruction as the world it describes and seeks to transform undergoes change. This requires a variegated theory that keeps up with the times and accommodates places'. To recast Marx's aphorism 'the philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it', the need is for new ideas, theory and tools in order to understand the world and forge the weapons to change it.

In refreshing and stimulating essays the authors argue for an emancipatory programme that:

- Is based on the centrality of *critique* for political theory and practice
- Globalises Antonio Gramsci beyond Italian boundaries to understand power under global capitalism and the 'passive revolution' of neoliberalisation in post-1994 South Africa
- Takes democracy and its extension and deepening seriously
- Confronts the specificity of different women's oppression in specific historical contexts
- Recognizes the 'ecological limits of capitalism' and embraces the 'greening of Marxism'
- Draws on the lessons of Marxist-inspired attempts to build socialism in Africa for creating a more egalitarian society
- Engages with the problem of ethical leadership which dares to be 'self-reliant and economically imaginative' and 'genuinely democratic', and 'create a politics that is at once progressive in import and democratic in substance'
- Takes seriously respectful linkages with other progressive anti-capitalist forces and actions, acknowledging that Marxism is but one source of knowledge and theorized practice and must pursue animated conversation with other traditions committed to an egalitarian and sustainable future.

In the aftermath of the Marikana killings, this is a timely and important book that rejects both the glib disdain of Marxism and the theological Marxism that neither seriously analyses contemporary capitalism nor offers a transformative left democratic politics.

A most welcome book in the search for imaginative new ways of theorizing our contemporary reality, as part of efforts to genuinely transform it in non-statist ways.

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