

CAPITAL AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Conversations with Radical Thinkers in a Time of Tumult

Sasha Lilley

Capitalism is stumbling, empire is faltering, and the planet is thawing. Yet many people are still grasping to understand these multiple crises and to find a way forward to a just future. Into the breach come the essential insights of *Capital and Its Discontents*, which cut through the gristle to get to the heart of the matter about the nature of capitalism and imperialism, capitalism's vulnerabilities at this conjuncture—and what can we do to hasten its demise.

Through a series of incisive conversations with some of the most eminent thinkers and political economists on the Left—including David Harvey, Ellen Meiksins Wood, Mike Davis, Leo Panitch, Tariq Ali, and Noam Chomsky—*Capital and Its Discontents* illuminates the dynamic contradictions undergirding capitalism and the potential for its dethroning. The book challenges conventional wisdom on the Left about the nature of globalization, neoliberalism and imperialism, as well as the agrarian question in the Global South. It probes deeply into the roots of the global economic meltdown, the role of debt and privatization in dampening social revolt, and considers capitalism's dynamic ability to find ever new sources of accumulation—whether through imperial or ecological plunder or the commodification of previously unpaid female labor.

The Left luminaries in *Capital and Its Discontents* look at potential avenues out of the mess—as well as wrong turns and needless detours—drawing lessons from the history of post-colonial states in the Global South, struggles against imperialism past and present, the eternal pendulum swing of radicalism, the corrosive legacy of postmodernism, and the potentialities of the radical humanist tradition. At a moment when capitalism as a system is more reviled than ever, here is an indispensable toolbox of ideas for action by some of the most brilliant thinkers of our times.

Full list of Interviewees:

David McNally, Doug Henwood, Gillian Hart, John Bellamy Foster, Ursula Huws, David Harvey, Richard A. Walker, John Sanbonmatsu, Vivek Chibber, Jason W. Moore, Ellen Meiksins Wood, Mike Davis, Leo Panitch, Tariq Ali, and Noam Chomsky.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sasha Lilley is a writer and radio broadcaster. She is the co-founder and host of the critically acclaimed program of radical ideas, *Against the Grain*. As program director of KPFA Radio, the flagship station of the Pacifica Network, she headed up such award-winning national broadcasts as *Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan*. Sasha Lilley is the series editor of PM Press' political economy imprint, Spectre.

ACCOLADES

"In this fine set of interviews, an A-list of radical political economists demonstrate why their skills are indispensable to understanding today's multiple economic and ecological crises."

—Raj Patel, author of *Stuffed and Starved* and *The Value of Nothing*

"Reading this wonderful book feels like having a face to face discussion with each author. These brilliant radical thinkers from many parts of the world generously and lucidly share their knowledge and insights on capitalism, empire, and resistance."

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, historian and author of *Red Dirt* and *Outlaw Woman*

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