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RIGHTS GUIDE

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ESSAY

ENTERTAIN TO DOMINATE 2

MASS CULTURE STILL VS. THE PEOPLE

EDITED BY CÉDRIC BIAGINI AND PATRICK MARCOLINI



2019 | Paperback
296 pages | 12 x 18,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

Ten years after the success of *Entertain to Dominate 1*, this book pursues the critical analysis of mass culture and its continuous renewal.

Binge-watching TV shows, addiction to video games, gamification of social activities, consumption turned into a form of entertainment, trivialization of pornography, invasion of museums by brands, etc. The cultural productions of hypermodern capitalism are everywhere. The cult of fun and transgression, the immature refusal of constraints, the quest for thrills and the exaltation of narcissism have created a new type of individual.

Most journalists, scholars and intellectuals, including the most subversive ones, have refused to face this problem. So much so that some of them now see mass culture as the art of our time, democratic and... rebel. Others confine themselves to identifying stereotypes and power relations, and fantasizing about a possible reappropriation of contents.

This book takes the opposite view to these abdications. It reintroduces the critical concepts of alienation, spectacle and capitalist lifestyles, by demonstrating how the latest forms of mass culture destroy our societies and subjugate our minds.

AI: THE ISSUE OF THE CENTURY

ANATOMY OF A RADICAL ANTIHUMANISM

ERIC SADIN



2018 | Paperback
304 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

Writer and philosopher, ERIC SADIN has been studying the hidden effects of technology for many years. He writes articles and columns in french newspapers (*Le Monde*, *Libération*...) and gives conferences in prestigious academic institutions. His books have been translated in many countries.

This book dissects AI, its history, its main features, its scope, what's at stake. It urges readers to live a life based on fundamentally different aspirations.

It's our time's obsession. Businesses, politicians and researchers all swear by it, because it allows us to hope for endless economic prospects as well as for a rapidly emerging world that is perfectly secure, optimized and more fluid. What's so intoxicating? AI – artificial intelligence.

We hear so much about it that it prevents us from realizing its main purpose: dictating the truth. It presents itself as a powerful tool, allowed to evaluate our reality in a more reliable way than we do ourselves. AI seems to be destined to dictate its rule and how the world should run. Nowadays, technologies are becoming “demanding forces,” which leads to the disappearance of the legal and political powers that make us humans, i.e. freedom of judgment and action.

Each “truth” is meant to encourage us to act in a certain way in our everyday life, thus creating a “robotic invisible hand” that analyzes everything that happens and tries to monetize it or to use it in a utilitarian way. We must fight against this antihumanist campaign and make our case for rational ways based on the plurality of human beings and life's intrinsic uncertainty, contrarily to a supposedly perfect – albeit normative – rationality. This is our time's major political challenge.

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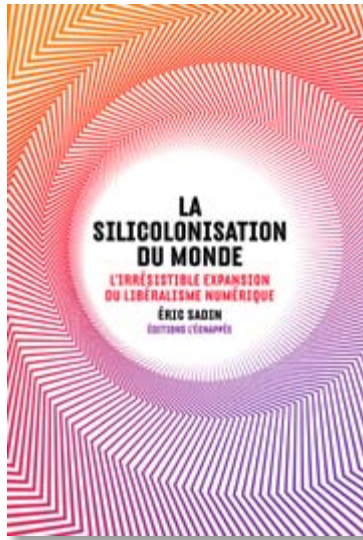
— Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (Italy)
— Caja Negra Editora (Argentina)

ESSAY

THE SILICOLONIZATION OF THE WORLD

THE IRRESISTIBLE EXPANSION OF DIGITAL CAPITALISM

ERIC SADIN



2016 | Paperback
256 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

Writer and philosopher, ERIC SADIN has been studying the hidden effects of technology for many years. He frequently writes articles and columns in french newspapers (*Le Monde*, *Libération*...) and gives conferences in prestigious academic institutions. He is also the author of two other books published by L'échappée, *La Vie algorithmique* (2015) and *L'Humanité augmentée* (2013).

PRESS

"Eric Sadin criticizes, rightfully so, the frenzied vision of the world supported by technoliberalism. (...) His latest book is a violent and well-documented charge against all the Google, Apple, Facebook that are surreptitiously trying to take control of our lives." ⇨ *Libération*

"Eric Sadin is a major thinker who doesn't only give us an insight on our frightening future, he's also calling for open resistance. (...) His forceful arguments should convince us that it is urgent to start discussing the hidden dangers and adverse consequences of technology." ⇨ *Le Monde*

Eric Sadin's major book showing how Silicon Valley is about to conquer the world. A must-read to fully understand the impact of this phenomenon on our lives.

Home to the world's most innovative companies (Google, Apple, Facebook, Uber, Netflix...), Silicon Valley embodies the arrogant triumph of entrepreneurship and disruptive technology. Within a few decades, that region turned out to be the ideal place for all investors, startups and fab labs willing to develop seemingly revolutionary products – in order to reshape our lives and “make the world a better place”.

But it would be a mistake to think that Silicon Valley only refers to a geographic area. It also encapsulates a conquering spirit that conveys its own myths, beliefs and illusions, propagated by influential tech geniuses, think tanks and now governments. After retracing Silicon Valley's genesis, this book shows how a new type of colonization is taking shape, through the replication of “Valleys” around the world, the founding of incubators and startup-friendly environments, or the mass arrival of smart devices and other computerized systems on the market.

The spirit of Silicon Valley thus aims to monetize all human activities – both online and offline – under the guise of making our lives easier. It entails a great number of cultural and social mutations characterized, among other things, by our ever growing dependency on algorithms and the loss of our decision-making abilities. For this very reason, says Eric Sadin, the time has come not only to denounce this ongoing movement of silicolonization, but also to defend a model of civilization which is more respectful of human dignity.

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ESSAY

NARCISSISTIC CONTEMPORARY ART

ALAIN TROYAS AND VALÉRIE ARRAULT



2017 | Paperback
368 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ALAIN TROYAT is a professor at Paul-Valéry Montpellier III University. He holds a PhD in Philosophy and a MA in Fine Arts.

VALÉRIE ARRAULT is a professor at Paul-Valéry Montpellier III University. She holds a PhD in Fine Arts and wrote *L'Empire du kitsch* (Klincksieck, 2010).

PRESS

"Narcissistic Contemporary Art is a critical milestone about contemporary art. In a Freudo-Marxist perspective, the two authors explain how postmodernist capitalism elevated emptiness, the mundane, the absurd, garbage, scatology, pornography and the morbid as artistic values in our society. A major critical work that reflects the project of a dominating class where cynicism, opportunism and selfishness prevail."

⇒ *La Décroissance*

A critique of contemporary art seen as the avatar of liberalism, a critique of a world where cynicism, opportunism and narcissism prevail.

Today, in art, everything is possible. What so-called contemporary art does by labeling everything as artistic – a task, a can, a bloody body, feces – radically denies codes and rules, and radically denies tradition and judgment criteria that are still widespread among most people and that give structure to their thoughts. Free from humanist ideals and their progressive side, this art adopts the project of libertarian capitalism, the project of an empty world where cynicism, opportunism and selfishness prevail. Artistic experiences that are now valued tend to turn behaviors and minds upside down, opting for the pleasure brought by a narcissistic regression that transgresses necessary taboos to build one's own identity and to live in society. All civilizational precepts have become phobic objects and unbearable constraints to create with subjectivity, relativism, spontaneity and pleasure. By analyzing, thanks to this method, works of art considered as major works of art, the authors shed light on how postmodernist capitalism turned values upside down, by celebrating emptiness, the mundane, the absurd, garbage, scatology, pornography and the morbid.

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ESSAY

ALGORITHMIC LIFE

CRITIQUE OF DIGITAL REASONING

ERIC SADIN



2015 | Paperback
288 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

Writer and philosopher, ERIC SADIN has been studying the hidden effects of technology for many years. He frequently writes articles and columns in french newspapers (*Le Monde*, *Libération*...) and gives conferences in prestigious academic institutions. He is also the author of two other books published by L'échappée, *La Sili-colonisation du monde* (2016) and *La Vie algorithmique* (2015).

PRESS

"A well-informed and intelligent essay, profuse in interesting facts and ideas." ⇨ *Le Monde*

"Eric Sadin inspects with great precision the disturbing digitalization of humanity." ⇨ *L'Humanité*

This book examines in great details the movement of rationalization and quantification of each and every aspect of life.

Digitalization at work over the past thirty years has now conquered a vast segment of reality via the expansion of captors and smart devices. Data flows influence individual and collective decisions through algorithms, which aim to optimize, improve and secure our existence and societies. Information technologies impose a new mode of rationality, based on an apprehension and evaluation of facts in real time, to organize the exercise of trading, teaching, medicine, our relationships with others, self, the city, and where we live...

Using a plethora of examples, this book examines the integral quantification and merchandizing of life, and demonstrates how the industry of data processing now has the capacity to undermine many fundamental democratic pillars.

With rare lucidity and precise writing, Eric Sadin unveils the unfathomable and lends us a detailed cartography of the forces operating... Observations and reflections sketching out a new human condition, calling for the politicization of issues resulting from the steadily-increasing totalizing power of computational systems.

ESSAY

ENTERTAIN TO DOMINATE

MASS CULTURE VS. THE PEOPLE

OFFENSIVE



2010 | Paperback
280 pages | 12 x 18,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

The libertarian leaning magazine *OFFENSIVE* takes a critical look at an important topic each trimester.

More than a system of economic exploitation, capitalism is a culture and a way of life that leads to the domestication of the people.

The development of mass culture has brought an erosion of autonomous forms of popular culture and a dissolution of social ties, in favor of an artificial world made of isolated individuals, i.e. the foundation of a consumer society. Thus capitalism cannot be simply reduced to a system of economic exploitation. It represents a “complex social fact”, relying on the interiorization of an imaginary world linked to the development of a permanent culture of entertainment. This standardization of behavior and desires presents itself as an emancipation from any sort of constraint (social, spatial, temporal, etc.). Overestimated and triumphant, mass culture (American series, new technologies, soccer, video games, etc.) even finds advocates among so-called anti-establishment intellectuals. It is therefore urgent and necessary to bring to light a critical analysis of capitalistic lifestyle, demonstrating how our civilization of leisure participates in the domestication of individuals.

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ESSAY

AUGMENTED HUMANITY

THE WORLD'S DIGITAL ADMINISTRATION

ERIC SADIN



2013 | Paperback
160 pages | 12 x 18,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ERIC SADIN alternates between literary and theoretical works, he is notably the author of *Tokyo* (POL, 2005), *Surveillance Globale* (Climats/Flammarion, 2009) and *La Société de l'anticipation* (Inculte, 2011). His clairvoyant analyses of a technological environment becoming endlessly more sophisticated has earned ever-increasing coverage.

This sharp and intense essay depicts how human beings are overwhelmed by their own technologies, which are now able to make decisions for them.

The digital revolution is about to reach its goal, linking virtually all beings, places and things. This new era is characterized by the steady sophistication of computational intelligence, offering itself up as a *cognitively augmented organism* available to all. It has the power to dig through networks, collect and analyze pertinent data, map out an infinite amount of global and local situations, and to offer or project in real time *reassuring* or *optimal* solutions.

Following the example of the algorithms fueling automatic trading, clairvoyant robots are authorized to make decisions for us, contributing to an underhanded and expansive shift of power to machines, marginalizing humanity whose intellectual attributes find themselves partially eclipsed by their own creations.

In this remarkable and incisive essay, Eric Sadin explores numerous phenomena already at work and expected to considerably expand throughout the coming years. He signals the troubling emergence of a sort of parallel humanity, built of intelligent electronic flow dedicated to administering “for the best and with the least risk” our 21st century world.

Rights sold to:

— Caja Negra Editora (Argentina)

PRESS

“In a brilliant essay, Eric Sadin analyses the anthropological effects of the new hybridization between the human body and digital codes. For Eric Sadin, author of this subtle, thoughtful essay, we’re living out the end of the digital revolution to emerge in an “era of technical intelligence”, i.e. the ability of automated systems to manage our lives.” ⇨ *Les Inrockuptibles*

ESSAY

WORN WORLD

CRITIQUE OF UNGOVERNED TOURISM

RODOLPHE CHRISTIN



2014 | Paperback
112 pages | 12 x 18,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

RODOLPHE CHRISTIN, PhD in Sociology is a writer and essayist. He lives at the foot of the Alps. He is notably the author of *Manuel de l'antitourisme* and *Après le monde*.

PRESS

"An essay to be found and treasured." ⇨ *La Décroissance*

"*Wear and Tear of the World* proves to be a short, incisive reference to Nicolas Bouvier's renowned narrative, *L'Usage du monde* [The Way of the World]."

⇨ *France Culture*

A critical reflection on mass tourism and its ruinous consequences.

The tourist industry's power of enchantment lies in the ability to divert attention away from its resolutely industrial nature, subjected to productivism and boundless consumerism. Market expansion entails a massification of the desire for tourism, spawning the diffusion of a powerful imaginary world where mobility has become the dominant behavioral model.

The notion of "escape" has been sold everywhere, creating dedicated infrastructures, while the fact that this process of commercialization has destroyed travel's symbolic dimension remains largely ignored. In the name of world consumption, tourism presupposes not just a particular sensitivity, but also incorporates a reality based around places designed to uphold management principles. Having lost passion for her/his homeland, the tourist hopes to find elsewhere what's lacking at home: the taste for experiencing a cheery existence on a land still replete with meaning and life. But her/his very presence destroys what s/he came seeking.

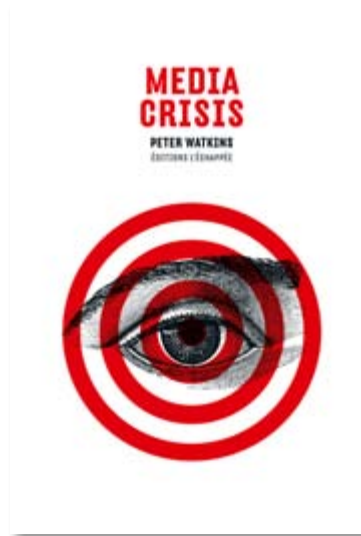
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ESSAY

MEDIA CRISIS

PETER WATKINS



2015 | Paperback
250 pages | 12 x 18,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

PETER WATKINS, English filmmaker and media critic is the author of *The War Game* (1966), *Punishment Park* (1971) *Edvard Munch* (1973) and *La Commune* (1999). Despite most of his work being censured, and being forced to live in exile, this unparalleled artist has managed to produce a dozen films, most of which have become cult features.

A comprehensive analysis from a talented movie-maker of the film industry and mass medias.

By the expression “Media crisis” I intend the audiovisual mass media’s (MMAV) irresponsibility and disastrous impact on Humankind, society and the environment. Therein I address manipulative and authoritarian processes set in place by audiovisual medias among which, “*Monoforme*”, the dominant language used to structure films, newscasts, documentaries... and the “universal clock”, a temporal straitjacket formatting the whole of televisual programs.

I also speak out on the deafening silence on the part of media professionals and the educative system as to “*Monoforme’s*” impact on society in general and its consequences on the environmental crisis affecting the planet.

Finally, I divulge the MMAV’s systematic refusal to include the public in any form of critical debate on the process of the fabrication and diffusion of their audiovisual productions in contemporary society.

ESSAY

MANAGERIAL NIGHTMARE

MANAGING, EXPLOITING AND DESTROYING

ETIENNE RODIN



2011 | Paperback
128 pages | 12 x 18,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ETIENNE RODIN, sociologist, is a consultant for businesses and institutions in various sectors of activity.

A ruthless critique of management and of the obsession of productivity that develop in every sector of activity.

Established as a scientific discipline by “gurus” of productivity, coaches, consultants and other experts in the sociology of organization, management is considered the most efficient way to handle individuals and projects in order to attain objectives. Hear rather: how to always obtain more with fewer and fewer means.

Avatar of economism, management dictates that wo/man be a positively bankable resource in every domain. It is a matter of studying, formalizing, programming and verifying everything in the name of permanent expectations, controlling and evaluating for quality and performance.

Management is a discipline – in the disciplinary sense of the term – both subtle and mediocre. Mediocre, for it attempts to achieve an anthropological reduction which would turn us, body and soul, into instruments of profit. Subtle, for it is also quite capable of whispering sweet words in our ears or squeezing us like lemons, on the pretext of promoting personal achievement and even “happiness”.

PRESS

“In his book *Managerial Nightmare* [...] sociologist Etienne Rodin lifts the veil on a practice whose aim is to “make us, body and soul, the instruments of profit, while allegedly constructing existential principles” ⇨ *L'Humanité*

WILD SOCIALISM

AN ESSAY ON SELF-GOVERNMENT AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY FROM 1789 TO THE PRESENT

CHARLES REEVE



2017 | Paperback
320 pages | 13 x 20 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

Born in Lisbon in 1945, CHARLES REEVE currently lives in Paris since he deserted the Portuguese colonial army in 1967. He is the author of many essays, among which: *Le Tigre de papier, sur le développement du capitalisme en Chine, 1949-1971* (Spartacus, 1972); *La Mémoire et le feu. Portugal, l'envers du décor de l'Euroland* (L'Insomniaque, 2006) and *China blues, voyage au pays de l'harmonie précaire* (with Hsi Hsuan-wou, Verticales/Gallimard, 2008). He writes currently for the New York magazine *The Brooklyn Rail*.

A stimulating analysis of the emergence of spontaneous and autonomous protest movements throughout contemporary history.

The global crisis of political representation invites us to reactivate the principle of direct democracy. Shaped during the French Revolution in 1789, this idea has gained consistency and thrived through many periods of social turmoil. Its legacy can be found in a vast array of protest movements throughout contemporary history.

From the formation of the Soviets during the 1905 Russian Revolution to the *German worker's councils* in the 1920's, from the May 68 events in France to the *15 de Mayo movement* in Spain, from *Occupy* to the *Arab Spring*, most of these "wild" and autonomous forms of uprising share a common trend: their defense of self-government has always been rejected by the leaders of institutional socialism, colliding with the authoritarian principles of parliamentary system.

This well-argued book aims to revisit the key moments in the history of the Left, describing and discussing them in the light of these spontaneous and divergent movements. It never loses sight of a self-emancipation perspective.

Rights sold to:

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- Edition Nautilus (Germany)

YOUNG LORDS

THE HISTORY OF THE LATINO BLACK PANTHERS (1969-1976)

CLAIRE RICHARD



2017 | Paperback
256 pages | 13 x 20 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

CLAIRE RICHARD is a writer, a journalist and a translator. She lived in New York, where she discovered the Young Lords. She now lives in Paris.

The fascinating story of the Young Lords, the Latino Black Panthers, an unknown movement who fought for racial emancipation in the USA in the 1960s.

August 1960, *El Barrio*, Puerto Rican area of New York City. Young people are in the streets, wearing fatigues and berets à la Che Guevara. In their hands, brooms, not guns. They clean the streets neglected by public authorities. A riot erupts. *El Barrio* had just discovered its Black Panthers, the members of the Young Lords party. They are between 16 and 25 years old and come from Puerto Rican families who immigrated to the US.

Inspired by the Black Panthers, they want to replace the racist and capitalistic state with community and political alternatives. Thus, they march for Puerto Rico's independence and they are also very active in the neighborhoods, where they set up health programs in particular. To them, revolution is also a personal change.

In 1971, they are a few thousands on the East coast. Their newspapers are read, their actions are effective. However, the movement split up in 1976, torn by inner conflicts, weakened by strategic mistakes, undermined by COINTELPRO.

The fascinating story of the Young Lords was a decisive moment for Latinos' political vision in the USA, and an unknown part of the fights for emancipation that happened in the 1960s.

Rights sold to:

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HISTORY

THE DIGGERS

REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-CULTURE IN SAN FRANCISCO (1966-1968)

ALICE GAILLARD



2014 | Paperback
160 pages | 13 x 20 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ALICE GAILLARD is co-author of the film *The Diggers of San Francisco* for which she met most of the group's members.

PRESS

"A passionate story of those practicing anarchists."
⇨ *Le Monde diplomatique*

The thrilling story of the Diggers, a small group of rebellious young people who tried to politicize the flower children in the streets of San Francisco.

Autumn 1966. Chanting the slogan "Everything is free, do your own thing", a small group of young rebels wanted to radicalize flower children who were beginning to converge upon San Francisco. Named after English peasants of the 17th century led by Gerrard Winstanley, who had seized seigniorial land to cultivate with others, the Diggers of San Francisco overtook the Haight Ashbury district and cultivated the seeds of utopia.

Partisans of the "guerilla theater", they staged their dreams of a free and carefree life, handing out free meals, opening free shops, organizing gigantic parties..., making the street their own theater of critical, political, subversive and festive action.

Now part of counter-culture's big picture with Emmett Grogan's autobiographical novel *Ringolevio*, the Diggers soared through the 60's like one of those "orgasms of history", vibrating here and there, as intense as it was short, and for which it's as much a question of revolution as pleasure...

Rights sold to:

- Pepitas de calabaza (Spain)
- Nautilus (Italy)

HISTORY

RAF

URBAN GUERRILLA IN WESTERN EUROPE

ANNE STEINER AND LOIC DEBRAY



2006 | Paperback
256 pages | 13 x 20 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ANNE STEINER, assistant professor in the sociology department of the University of Nanterre, presented her thesis on revolutionary violence in Western Germany in 1985. Her latest research deals with the individualist anarchist movement.

LOIC DEBRAY, professor of mathematics, writes for the magazine *Temps critiques* where he develops a political analysis of the individual.

Thanks to new sources, the story of the most famous guerrilla group in Europe in the 70's: the Red Army Faction.

In 1972, while western youth protested against the Vietnam War, bombs were exploding in American headquarters in Frankfurt and Heidelberg. Soldiers were killed and computers controlling the American army's logistics in Vietnam were destroyed. For the first time, the revolutionary group named Red Army Faction attacked imperialism at the very heart of the metropolis, in Western Germany.

For the militants of the RAF, the student movement's motto "We must fight here and now" became an ethical doctrine. Other attacks were perpetrated against judges and policemen. In 1977 the group held hostage the leader of the German Federation of Industry, a former high-standing SS under the third Reich. This event proved decisive for the RAF's writings and underlying ideology, for it was primarily the group's theoretical production which best defined its coherence and singularity.

Interviews conducted with former militants, sympathizers and lawyers give insight into itineraries, showing the importance of encounters and the context in which this group with such radical practices emerged.

Rights sold to:

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HISTORY

THE OUTSIDERS

INDIVIDUALIST AND ILLEGALIST ANARCHISTS AT THE TIME OF THE “BELLE ÉPOQUE”

ANNE STEINER



2008 | Paperback
256 pages | 13 x 20 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ANNE STEINER, assistant professor in the sociology department of the University of Nanterre, explores the individualist anarchist movement. She is the author alongside Loïc Debray of *RAF Urban guerilla in Western Europe* published by L'échappée.

The wild story of the anarchists who will become the famous « Bonnot Gang ».

They were in their twenties in 1910 and defined themselves as “outsiders”. Outside the flock, they refused to submit to dominant social order, but also rejected any form of indoctrination in syndicates or political organizations.

For them, individual emancipation came before collective emancipation. Their refusal of bourgeois norms, and the popular classes’ prejudices, incited them to invent new relationships between men and women, adults and children, to prone free love and voluntary birth control. Their rejection of wage-earning led them to experiment with life in a free environment, to reflect upon other modes of consumption and exchange, but also to venture onto the path of illegalism – leading to the famous “Bonnot Gang’s” escapade.

Rebelling against her family, Rirette Maitrejean landed in Paris at the age of sixteen to become one of the key figures of this milieu. Her endeavors serve as a guideline to this narrative, unveiling many actors involved in this anarcho-individualist era having made a principle of *Libertad*: “It shouldn’t take a hundred years to live as an anarchist.” A demand for which more than one will have paid with her/his freedom and even lives.

PRESS

“Anne Steiner has the empathy to dive deeper, providing untold meaning on her subject and relating more than just the story of the Bonnot gang’s first holdups”.

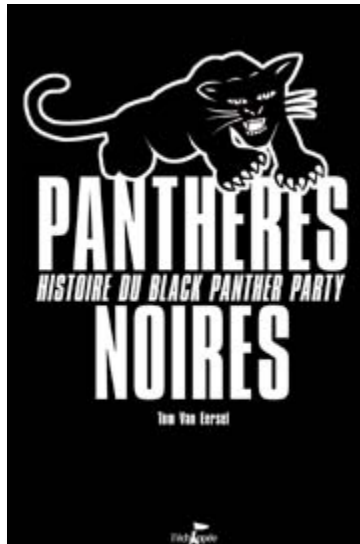
↷ *Histoire*

HISTORY

BLACK PANTHERS

HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

TOM VAN EERSEL



2006 | Paperback
160 pages | 13 x 20 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

TOM VAN EERSEL, journalist and historian, studied the Black Panther Party for several years. From Paris to New York, he met with former Black Panthers who spoke to him about their dedication and memories.

A history of the Black Panther Party, condensed and very spirited.

“If you shoot at me, I’m shooting back”, the Black Panther Party announced to Oakland’s police in 1966. Inscribed in the history of black emancipation movements in America and stakeholder in the struggle for oppressed people, it moved from theory to action.

The Black Panthers embody the rise of the black men and women confronted with physical and social violence they’d been victims of for centuries. Neither integrationists, nor separatists, their objective was Revolution. They set in place concrete actions to combat poverty and alienation of the ghettos’ black population. Faced with this call to rebellion, the government decided to abolish the Black Panther Party. To do that it would use every means necessary.

While brief, this revolutionary experience remains a model for the oppressed around the world.

PRESS

“This short essay brilliantly retraces the life of the party, from its ideological foundations to its downfall, attempting, with success, to re-transcribe the commitment and true story behind the Black Panthers.” ⇨ *Evene*

THE ORIGINS OF DEGROWTH

50 THINKERS

DIRECTED BY CEDRIC BIAGINI, PIERRE THIESSET AND DAVID MURRAY



2017 | Paperback
300 pages | 16,5 x 22,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

PRESS

“This book has everything to become a mandatory reference, for those who would like to find out about two centuries of critical thoughts about technical modernity as well as for those who already know about it but want to deepen their knowledge about this school of thought.” ⇨ *La Vie*

A clear and informational presentation of the movement of degrowth and political ecology, with 50 illustrated portraits.

Industrial civilization didn't establish itself without any fights. Great critical minds have always fought against the demise of workers and farmers, against the destruction of the environment and the disruption of lifestyles, against the power of the market and the power of machines over people.

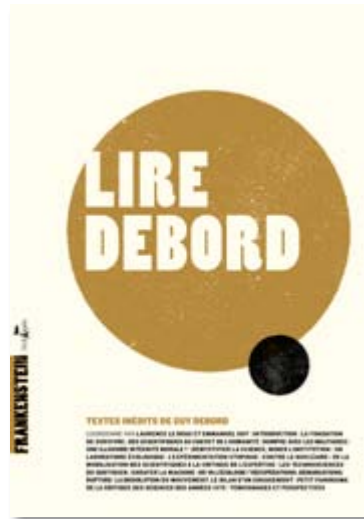
Among these famous predecessors, these 50 thinkers give us food for thought, for those of us who aspire to a society where human beings are at the center, and not a society controlled by the megamachine. Their deep, timeless and clear-headed thoughts are told in a clear and instructional way. They radically question the cult of growth, the calculating spirit, our faith in technology, our alienation to products...

THE 50 THINKERS

Edward Abbey | Günther Anders | Hannah Arendt | Georges Bernanos | Murray Bookchin | Albert Camus | Edward Carpenter | Cornelius Castoriadis | Bernard Charbonneau | Jean Chesneaux | Gilbert Keith Chesterton | Barry Commoner | Ananda K. Coomaraswamy | Guy Debord | Lanza del Vasto | Jacques Ellul | Pierre Fournier | Michel Freitag | Gandhi | Patrick Geddes | Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen | Jean Giono | Paul Goodman | André Gorz | Alexandre Grothendieck | Michel Henry | Aldous Huxley | Ivan Illich | Robert Jaulin | Stanley Jevons | Leopold Kohr | Gustav Landauer | Christopher Lasch | Ned Ludd | Dwight MacDonald | Herbert Marcuse | William Morris | Lewis Mumford | George Orwell | François Partant | Pier Paolo Pasolini | John Cowper Powys | Majid Rahnema | John Ruskin | Ernst F. Schumacher | Jaime Semprun | Rabindranath Tagore | Henry David Thoreau | Léon Tolstoï | Simone Weil

HOW TO READ DEBORD

COORDINATED BY LAURENCE LE BRAS AND EMMANUEL GUY



2016 | Paperback
440 pages | 17 x 24 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

LAURENCE LE BRAS is curator of the manuscript department of the BnF, notably in charge of the Guy Debord collection.

EMMANUEL GUY is a historian of arts and letters at Parsons Paris, The New School.

Comments and clarifications to Debord's previously unpublished texts for a better understanding of his works.

Guy Debord worked without respite on the Society of the Spectacle. One after the other, his works disclosed the framework upon which the many avatars of the market logic were displayed like a bad weed: alienation at work, dependence on consumerism and life's falsification. In the same way, Debord never gives his readers a moment's rest. We all realize this thanks to books published during his lifetime, showing his tenacity to pursue a quest begun in the early 1950's.

However, unexplored notes of aborted projects written throughout his life also incite us to explore his reflection on contemporary society's evolution, and to see them as a means to curb its funereal course. These various documents can now be decrypted for the first time: preparatory notes in pursuit of his autobiographical, critical work, defining the political basis of the International situationist, or a dictionary he was preparing in the 1980's in view of a critique of language's corruption by the spectacle.

Commentaries and caveats accompanying the publication of this previously unpublished material give access to a better understanding of Debord's work. Written by authors from different countries, these texts tackle precise moments along his path, treating a varied and original set of themes. Their richness, clarity and erudition invite us to read and reread Debord. An approach more pertinent now than ever.

LIMITS

AGAINST CAPITALISM AND ABSTRACTION

RENAUD GARCIA



2018 | Paperback
320 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

RENAUD GARCIA is a French philosophy teacher. His research primarily involves critical social theory, degrowth and anarchism. His recent publications include: *Pierre Kropotkin ou l'économie par l'entraide* (Le Passager clandestin, 2014) and *La Nature de l'entraide* (ENS editions, 2015).

Against the frantic development of capitalism, against the ongoing commodification of many aspects both outside and inside ourselves, some voices are rising to take *limits* into account.

Limits are part of our relationship to the world: they give it density and richness. At every moment of our lives, we are set in a definite place within the vast world, which influences who we are and how we bond with others. However, frictionless capitalism is relentlessly trying to take over this essential cultural dimension, to cut the roots connecting us to our immediate environment.

Industry has made our food tasteless. Technology is giving us the illusion of being everywhere while being nowhere at all. Work has turned into an absurd and disembodied activity. The wellness ideology is forcing us to manage our body and soul like an efficient business. These new forms of estrangement feed on the same process of abstraction and impoverishment of existence.

Drawing various examples from philosophy, sociology and literature, this brilliant book explains to us how to resist the destructive logic of capitalism, restoring our lost sensitivity a powerful political meaning.

Rights sold to:

— La Cebra (Argentina)

IN FAVOR OF AUTONOMY

CASTORIADIS'S POLITICAL THOUGHTS

ARNAUD TOMÈS AND PHILIPPE CAUMIÈRES



2017 | Paperback
240 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ARNAUD TOMÈS teaches philosophy in Strasbourg. He published *Castoriadis. L'imaginaire, le rationnel et le réel* (Demopolis, 2015).

PHILIPPE CAUMIÈRES teaches philosophy in Agen. He wrote *Castoriadis. Critique sociale et émancipation* (Textuel, 2011) and *Castoriadis. Le projet d'autonomie* (Michalon, 2007).

For the first time, a book that gives us a clear, meaningful and striking overview of Cornelius Castoriadis's political thoughts.

Originally drawn to Marxism, but quickly aware of its shortcomings, Cornelius Castoriadis wanted to reinvent the revolution. According to him, modernity confronts two projects for our society: one that favors rational control of what's real and one that favors autonomy for everyone.

Castoriadis highlighted the origins of the project for autonomy, which date back to Ancient Greece. He analyzed its modern iterations, from the Russian Revolution in 1917 to the upheavals in the 1960s. More importantly, he studied the circumstances that allowed emancipating politics to develop in our time: fights are organized by the people themselves; there are equality and a sense of limitations. This project for autonomy represents a future for a society aware that power is everyone's concern.

This book explains and questions this complex and multi-dimensional thought. This book is also the first clear, meaningful and striking overview of Castoriadis's doctrine.

A CRITICAL DESERT

DECONSTRUCTION AND POLITICS

RENAUD GARCIA



2015 | Paperback
224 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

RENAUD GARCIA teaches high-school philosophy and aims to apply the principle of a refusal to achieve. His research primarily treats anarchism, social critical theory and decline. He recently published *Pierre Kropotkin ou l'économie par l'entraide* (Le Passager clandestine, 2014) and *La Nature de l'entraide* (ENS éditions, 2015).

PRESS

"Renaud Garcia gives his readers several essential keys to understanding the pitiless post-modern world as it evolves – and especially how it doesn't." ⇨ *Le Figaro*

"Through his deft writing style, Renaud Garcia questions, in this indispensable, soon-to-be classic, *Desert of critical inquiry*, the paradox stipulating that theories of deconstruction not only prove to be ineffective for understanding the world such as it crumbles, but also participate in a march towards the chaos capitalism embodies." ⇨ *A contretemps*

An analysis of the influence of the deconstruction theories on the contemporary radical lefts, and of the way they neutralize all social criticism.

Human nature? A dangerous fiction. Analytical thinking? An instrument of cultural standardization. Truth? A relative object masking devices of power. Language? Jailer of creativity. Universalism? A Western alibi for world domination. The body? Plaything of technological innovation. Such are the common places of "deconstruction". This rather esoteric concept has been transformed into a systematic program, consistently suspecting a relation of domination behind every idea or behavior. While theories of deconstruction subtly intensify around a question of mores, they are blind to the generalized merchandizing of life, the influence of cultural industries and urbanization. Whomever evokes the need for deceleration, speaks of alienation or brings body experience in a limited environment back into the heart of the analysis, henceforth commits the ultimate crime: reintegrating a conservative approach to critical thinking. Too busy at deconstructing self over and over again, "radical" leftists have neglected the social field, which far right has opportunely invested in by exploiting the distress of history's losers.

This work examines the reasons behind this intellectual and political write off, by analyzing deconstruction's influence on contemporary social criticism. Likewise, it calls for a renewal in the struggle against capitalism based on completely novel theoretical foundations.

Rights sold to:

- Elèuthera (Italy)
- La Cebra (Argentina)

THE SITUATIONIST MOVEMENT

AN INTELLECTUAL STORY

PATRICK MARCOLINI



2013 | Paperback
340 pages | 16,5 x 22 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

For over ten years PATRICK MARCOLINI, philosopher and historian of ideas, has accumulated and analyzed documents of the Situationist movement, met with its actors and brushed shoulders with those pursuing the adventure.

PRESS

“Patrick Marcolini narrates the extravagant takeover of Situationism, be it empathetic or warped, associated with the names Asger Jorn, Raoul Vaneigem or Guy-Ernest Debord. His book overshadows seven eighths of the movement’s weighty bibliography, answering nearly all the questions. It is enlightening and beautiful to read.” ⇨ *Le Monde*

“With *The Situationist Movement*, Patrick Marcolini evokes the legacy and sources of a group founded by Guy Debord, destroyer of the society of the spectacle. An admirable study without being idolatrous” ⇨ *Marianne*

“It’s not primarily the pertinence of this movement’s elaborate concepts which interests Patrick Marcolini, but rather the fact that it contributed in molding our current lifestyles, favoring a shift from ‘the passage of the spirit of esthetic, authoritarian and repressive capitalism to a new spirit of hedonist, permissive capitalism.’” ⇨ *Sciences Humaines*

This book tells the story of the situationist group, from its cultural roots to the very diverse movements it still influences today.

In the 1960’s and 70’s, everywhere around the world, rebellion broke out against the growing hold merchandise and governments had on most aspects of life. Lead by Guy Debord, the Situationists supplied many critical tools to a generalized uprising alongside intellectuals and groups influenced by Marxism and Anarchism. But instead of coming from the worker movement, they stemmed from the 20th century’s artistic avant-garde: Dada, Surrealism and Lettrism.

Artists on the loose, at odds with society, part-rebel, part hoodlum, the Situationists were reunited around a radical program: the refusal of life conditions modern man was bound to, both in advanced capitalist societies and communist regimes, and the will to experiment with new forms of existence and communities breaking away from established order.

This book analyses the cultural roots of Situationist theories and practices. It explores their diverse, often contradictory posterity: ranging from revival to radicalization, “recuperation” and exploitation, on the part of postmodern intellectuals or within contemporary art, for strategists of neo-capitalistic power and including ranks of today’s rebellious.

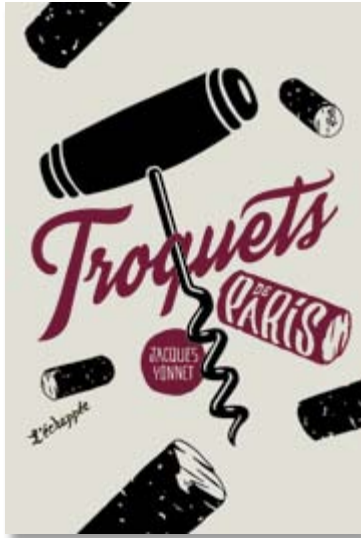
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— Nanjing University Press (China)

CHRONICLES

BISTRO OF PARIS

JACQUES YONNET



2016 | Paperback
368 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
paperback with illustrations
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

Member of the resistance during WW2, celestial vagabond, talented sculptor and draughtsman, JACQUES YONNET was especially known for the mythical book *Paris Noir: The Secret History of a City*, his masterpiece published in 1954.

The best columns about Parisian pubs and bars, by Jacques Yonnet, who wrote the legendary *Paris Noir*.

Member of the resistance during WW2, celestial vagabond, talented sculptor and draughtsman, Jacques Yonnet was especially known for the mythical book *Paris Noir: The Secret History of a City*, his masterpiece published in 1954. Several years later, the newspaper *L'Auvergnat de Paris* offered him a column about Paris' most genuine pubs and bars. He then spent his time exploring hundreds of these magical places, which serve as a guiding principle for a literary and historical ramble. We are told regular customers' secrets, contemplate portraits of colorful characters, discover legends about the old streets and neighborhoods of Paris: Le Marais, Saint-Michel, Mouffetard, Maubert... We find in these sixty chronicles a zest of Jacques Prévert's poetry, the honest friendship of "Bob" Giraud, the new-fangled style of Raymond Queneau and Robert Doisneau's humanist eye.

Yesterday, like today, only patient passers-by have the chance to glimpse the city's devilish spells. Witness of an era, Yonnet had already guessed this world would disappear little by little. Despite the infernal rhythm of our destructive society, small pockets of freedom still exist. They help us take sidesteps and dream of better tomorrows, a promise of fraternity and conviviality.

Rights sold to:

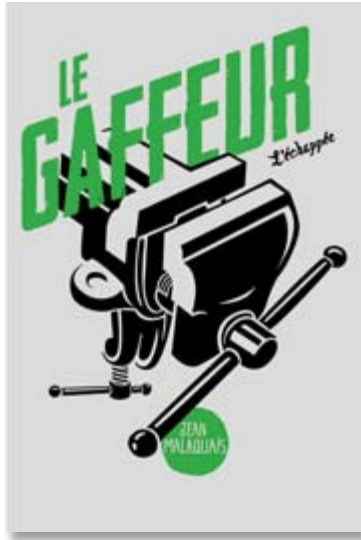
— Matthes & Seitz (Germany)



NOVEL

THE BLUNDERER

JEAN MALAQUAIS



2016 | Paperback
304 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

Polish author of Jewish descent born in 1908, JEAN MALAQUAIS arrived in France in 1926. Self-taught, friend of Gide, he obtained the Renaudot prize in 1939 for his first novel : *Les Javanais*. Exiled in Mexico and Venezuela, he wrote *World without visa*, a fresco of Marseille during the Occupation.

PRESS

“What I retain is the memory of a man [Malaquais] who never stopped fighting alone, with steadfast resolution, against an inhumane world. I’m led to believe the profound humanity emanating from him, however brief our encounter, represents an indestructible arm against barbarism, whose hordes assail us from all sides.”

⇒ *Raoul Vaneigem*

“We feel an urge to invite sociologists and political analysts to let go: in other words to join the ranks of poets. Malaquais reminds us here that the latter have always had a head start over the spineless, conceited thing we call Science.” ⇒ *Jean-Pierre Sicre (founder of Phoebus editions)*

Kafka meets 1984 meets Brazil. *The Blunderer* is one of these great works that describes an imaginary world in order to help us not accept ours.

Returning home, an ordinary employee finds his apartment under siege, his wife vanished and his existence completely denied by an all-powerful administration. Afterwards, this unsettling and harrowing story describes the descent into hell of this man around whom the noose of a gigantic bureaucracy is tightening.

Grim and revolting, this novel of an astonishingly prophetic nature could only have been written by a maverick of literature, coupled with an authentic revolutionary. It constitutes an implacable denunciation of conformism, the identity’s dissolution, communication networks and the mutilation of consciousness...

Ranging between Kafka’s *Trial*, 1984 by Orwell and Terry Gilliam’s *Brazil* we find one of the all-time great works to describe an imaginary world, helping us protest against our own.

Rights sold to:

— Cliquot (Italy)

BIOGRAPHY

THE DESERT OF AMBITIONS

WITH ALBERT COSSERY

RODOLPHE CHRISTIN



2017 | Paperback
144 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

RODOLPHE CHRISTIN is, above everything, a writer. At L'Échappée, he wrote *Worn World* and *A Critique of Touristic Madness* (2014).

A reflection about Albert Cossery's works and about refusing success, about simplicity and detachment from material things.

Originally from Egypt, Albert Cossery settles in Paris after WW2 and lives the bohemian lifestyle in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. He lives a life close to the one he glorifies in his enjoyable stories, where we discover the adventures of Middle Eastern people who make do with very little: bums, prostitutes, erudite misfits, ascetics and acrobats... His characters are full of humor and full of life, and their joyous frugality subverts the absurdity of our contemporary western way of life. Incidentally, Cossery said he wrote "so that someone who just read my work wouldn't go to work the day after".

As he reveals the duplicity of the kings and as he praises idleness, this "Voltaire of the Nile" glorifies the aristocracy of the nobodies who haunt the streets laughing, unburdened by any belongings. Beyond a reflection about Albert Cossery's works, this book invites us to free ourselves from a materialistic society, to refuse to succeed in order to find other ways to live, with simplicity and detachment.

PRESS

"Sensitive and sharp, Christin's tribute tackles every dimension in order to better know Cossery – the man and the creator. There's no doubt that after reading such a book, the readers will choose to take a nap in the sun, feet up." ➤ *Le Canard enchaîné*

BIOGRAPHY

PANAÏT ISTRATI

A THISTLE UPROOTED

MONIQUE JUTRIN



2014 | Paperback
304 pages | 14 x 20,5 cm
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

MONIQUE JUTRIN set out to discover Panaït Istrati in the 1960's and has largely contributed to his resurrection. His exhaustive biography teaches us we cannot bury the memory of the downtrodden.

The only biography of Panaït Istrati, the Romanian storyteller who turned into a French writer, a champion of the oppressed, a great traveler and ultimately – the author of a universal work.

While we're rediscovering Panaït Istrati's work today, the life of this Rumanian storyteller who became a French writer is still largely unknown. However, his personality deeply affected those who crossed his path. Among those who fondly cite this "exquisite man", this "fiery soul", appear Romain Rolland, Victor Serge, Nikos Kazantzaki, Joseph Kessel, Frans Masereel, Henry Poulaille, Jean-Richard Bloch...

Defender of the oppressed, Istrati sympathized with the Russian revolution in its beginnings, but later strongly criticized the regime Stalin had set in place in 1929. He was then slandered and abandoned by the very people who had praised his literary force several years before. With very few friends left, he died in Bucharest in 1935, forgotten by all.

Rumanian in origin, French in form, universal in its fundamentally human nature, Istrati's work, like his hajduks, Balkan bandits, never ceased to clash with established frameworks. Like Blaise Cendrars, Joseph Kessel and Romain Gary, he was a man before being a literary man, and a storyteller before being a writer.

PRESS

"Thus is the man, one of the world's greatest storytellers, whose glory reaches beyond his homeland and adopted country's borders since perhaps for the first time in the history of literature his works are now translated into sixteen languages! Such glory requires being more than a writer; it calls for a man. And the man here can be felt in each of the work's lines."

⇨ *Les Nouvelles littéraires*

"The French proletariat knows and loves P. Istrati. Firstly it loves him for himself. The people also love him for his work. He is solid and he does the grand."

⇨ *L'Humanité*

THE TIME OF REVOLTS

A HISTORY IN POSTCARDS DEPICTING SOCIAL STRUGGLE DURING “THE GOOD OLD DAYS”

ANNE STEINER



2016 | Paperback
176 pages | 17 x 23 cm
paperback with illustrations
Materials: **Book available**

AUTHOR

ANNE STEINER, assistant professor in the sociology department of the University of Nanterre, explores the individualist anarchist movement. She is the author alongside Loic Debray of *RAF: Guérilla urbaine en Europe occidentale* published by L'échappée editions.

Combining stories and postcards, this book dives into workers' and farmers' revolts during the Belle Époque.

In the years preceding WW1, social conflict multiplied across France in nearly all sectors of activity. Behind demands concerning the workday, salaries, new rules, union parties, a constant struggle for the acknowledgment of work and know-how was brought into question. In answer to the harshness of these struggles, often compared to old-time jacqueries, the answer was repressive brutality. Troupes charged forth, mutilating and killing, and prison terms rained down on demonstrators and union members.

These years of social combat correspond to the golden age of the postcard, whose production exploded between 1900 and 1914. At a time when press photographs were rare and of mediocre quality, it was through this original media that the highlights of these urban or rural revolts were set down on paper: processions, barricades, dragoon onslaughts, sabotaged machines, the burning of bosses' houses, but also communist soup kitchens, celebrations and meetings.

Focusing on narratives and images, this book propels us into the heart of these eventful times, allowing us to discover the life and jobs of the women and men who were its valorous protagonists.

PRESS

"In a beautiful work, historian Anne Steiner provides a glimpse of social conflict in the beginning of the last century... in postcards! Original and fascinating."

⇒ *L'Humanité*

"This narrative is illustrated with numerous postcards, key media of the times: an influential moment of the militant workers' movement." ⇒ *Alternatives économiques*

