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About Verso

Verso Books is the largest independent radical publisher in the English-speaking world, with a list that encompasses trade and academic titles in politics, current affairs, history, philosophy, social sciences and literature.

Launched by *New Left Review* in 1970, Verso—the left-hand page—has offices in London and New York and publishes, on average, 90 books a year.


For a full list of Verso's titles, please visit our website, [www.versobooks.com](http://www.versobooks.com).
Can capitalism survive climate change? Can humanity?

The environmental crisis under way is unique in human history. It is a true existential crisis. Those alive today will decide the fate of humanity. Meanwhile, the leaders of the most powerful state in human history are dedicating themselves with passion to destroying the prospects for organised human life. At the same time, there is a solution at hand, which is the Green New Deal. Putting meat on the bones of the Green New Deal starts with a single simple idea: we have to absolutely stop burning fossil fuels to produce energy within the next thirty years at most; and we have to do this in a way that also supports rising living standards and expanding opportunities for working people and the poor throughout the world. This version of a Green New Deal programme is, in fact, entirely realistic in terms of its purely economic and technical features. The real question is whether it is politically feasible. Chomsky and Pollin examine how we can build the political force to make a global Green New Deal a reality.

Noam Chomsky is Institute Professor emeritus at MIT and Laureate Professor at the University of Arizona. He is a long-time political activist and author of many books and articles on linguistics, cognitive science, philosophy, intellectual history, social-political issues and international affairs.

Robert Pollin is Distinguished University Professor of Economics and Co-Director of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His books include The Living Wage, Contours of Descent, and Greening the Global Economy. He has worked as a consultant for the US Department of Energy, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and numerous non-governmental organisations in several countries and in US states and municipalities on various aspects of building high-employment green economies.
How to Blow Up a Pipeline
Learning to Fight in a World on Fire

Andreas Malm

Why resisting climate change means combatting the fossil fuel industry

The science on climate change has been clear for a very long time now. Yet despite decades of appeals, mass street protests, petition campaigns, and peaceful demonstrations, we are still facing a booming fossil fuel industry, rising seas, rising emission levels, and a rising temperature. With the stakes so high, why haven’t we moved beyond peaceful protest?

In this lyrical manifesto, noted climate scholar (and saboteur of SUV tires and coal mines) Andreas Malm makes an impassioned call for the climate movement to escalate its tactics in the face of ecological collapse. We need, he argues, to force fossil fuel extraction to stop – with our actions, with our bodies, and by defusing and destroying its tools. We need, in short, to start blowing up some oil pipelines.

Offering a counter-history of how mass popular change has occurred, from the democratic revolutions overthrowing dictators to the movement against apartheid and for women’s suffrage, Malm argues that the strategic acceptance of property destruction and violence has been the only route for revolutionary change. In a braided narrative that moves from the forests of Germany and the streets of London to the deserts of Iraq, Malm offers us an incisive discussion of the politics and ethics of pacifism and violence, democracy and social change, strategy and tactics, and a movement compelled by both the heart and the mind. Here is how we fight in a world on fire.

Andreas Malm teaches Human Ecology at Lund University, Sweden. He is the author of The Progress of This Storm and Fossil Capital, which won the Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Memorial Prize.

“The definitive deep history on how our economic system created the climate crisis. Superb, essential reading from one of the most original thinkers on the subject.” Naomi Klein, author of This Changes Everything and The Shock Doctrine

November 2020
224 pages          French: La Fabrique
Beyond Barbarism
A Manifesto for a Planet on Fire
Mathew Lawrence and Laurie Laybourn-Langton

A radical manifesto for how to deal with environmental breakdown

The environment is collapsing at a rapid rate, and in increasingly unpredictable ways. Everyone knows that this is happening, yet the only politics emerging to confront it are coming from an increasingly nativist far-right. How should the left respond?

In Beyond Barbarism, two rising stars of the British left lay down a set of proposals for a fundamental re-shaping of the global economy and offer a roadmap for tackling climate breakdown. Building on the debates surrounding the Green New Deal, debates that both authors have been central to, Lawrence and Laybourn-Langton argue that it is not enough merely to spend our way out of the crisis. Instead we need to rapidly change the shape and purpose of the economy, away from the emphasis on endless growth and towards creating a healthy and flourishing environment for everyone. This must be based on the principles of internationalism and the democratic ownership of the economy. Beyond Barbarism is a radical and achievable manifesto for a new politics and a new economics capable of tackling environmental breakdown.

Mathew Lawrence is founder and Director of Common Wealth, an institution dedicated to ownership for a democratic economy and deep systems change. Previously he was Senior Research Fellow at IPPR, where he was the primary researcher for IPPR’s Commission on Economic Justice. He has published widely, including co-authoring Labour’s influential Alternative Models of Ownership report.

Laurie Laybourn-Langton is Director of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, which represents over 600,000 health professionals in the UK on climate change, and a Senior Research Fellow at IPPR.
Capitalism and the Sea
Liam Campling and Alejandro Colás

What keeps capitalism afloat
The global ocean has through the centuries served as a trade route, strategic space, fish bank and supply chain for the modern capitalist economy. While sea beds are drilled for their fossil fuels and minerals, and coastlines developed for real estate and leisure, the oceans continue to absorb the toxic discharges of our carbon civilisation – warming, expanding, and acidifying the blue water part of the planet in ways that will bring unpredictable but irreversible consequences for the rest of the biosphere. In this bold and radical new book, Campling and Colás analyse these and other sea-related phenomena through a historical and geographical lens. In successive chapters dealing with the political economy, ecology and geopolitics of the sea, the authors argue that the earth’s geographical separation into land and sea has significant consequences for capitalist development. The distinctive features of this mode of production continuously seek to transcend the land-sea binary in an incessant quest for profit, engendering new alignments of sovereignty, exploitation and appropriation in the capture and coding of maritime spaces and resources.

Liam Campling is Professor of Political Economy at Queen Mary University of London, where he works collectively at the Centre on Labour and Global Production. He is co-author of Free Trade Agreements and Global Labour Governance and an editor of Journal of Agrarian Change.

Alejandro Colás is Professor of International Relations at Birkbeck, University of London. He is the author of International Civil Society and a co-author of Food, Politics, and Society.
The Case for the Green New Deal

Ann Pettifor

To protect the future of life on earth, we need to do more than just reimagine the economy – we have to change everything. One of the seminal thinkers of the programme that helped ignite the Green New Deal campaign, Ann Pettifor explains how we can afford what we can do. She offers a roadmap for financial reform both nationally and globally, taking the economy back from the 1 percent.

Ann Pettifor is the Director of PRIME (Policy Research in Macroeconomics) and a Fellow of the New Economics Foundation. She is the author of The Coming First World Debt Crisis, The Production of Money.

“Demanding drastic, even impossible change as ... Pettifor [does] may just be a way to ensure that something is done.” Financial Times

A Planet to Win

Why We Need a Green New Deal

Kate Aronoff, Alyssa Battistoni, Daniel Aldana Cohen, and Thea Riofrancos

Foreword by Naomi Klein

A Planet to Win explores the political potential and concrete first steps of a Green New Deal. It calls for dismantling the fossil fuel industry and building beautiful landscapes of renewable energy, guaranteeing climate-friendly work and no-carbon housing and free public transit showing how a Green New Deal in the United States can strengthen climate justice movements worldwide.

Kate Aronoff is Fellow at the Type Media Center and a contributing writer to the Intercept. Alyssa Battistoni is Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard University and an editor at Jacobin. Daniel Aldana Cohen is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Thea Riofrancos is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Providence College and the author of Resource Radicals.
Outsider in the White House

Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders’s political autobiography.

In this book, Senator Bernie Sanders explains where he comes from. He describes in detail how, after cutting his teeth in the Civil Rights movement, he helped build an extraordinary grassroots political movement in Vermont before becoming the first independent elected to the US House of Representatives in forty years and now the longest-serving independent in US political history. An extensive afterword by John Nichols continues the story with Sanders’s entrance into the Senate, the 2016 Democratic primaries, his ongoing resistance to Trump, and the thrilling launch of his 2020 bid for the White House. A new foreword by Nina Turner, co-chair of the Sanders for President campaign, provides a rare glimpse of Bernie as a person. Outsider in the White House tells the story of a passionate and principled political life.

Bernie Sanders was elected to the US Senate in 2006. Elected Mayor of Burlington in 1981, he served four terms. Before his 1990 election, Sanders was an organizer with the Young People’s Socialist League, as well the President of the University of Chicago’s chapter of CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality).

September 2019
416 pages

Chinese (simplified): China Friendship
Dutch: Lebowski
Japanese: Otsuki
Korean: Wonderbox
Spanish: Akal
Thai: Ni Sit Sam Yan
Inequality and the Labyrinths of Democracy

Göran Therborn

A global panorama of liberal democracies from a renowned social theorist

Classical liberalism regarded universal suffrage as a mortal threat to property. So what explains the advent of liberal democracy, and how stable today is the marriage between representative government and the continued rule of capital?

Across every continent, people think inequality is a very big problem. Even the World Economic Forum and the OECD say they are worried. And yet capitalist states don’t respond. How has democracy been transformed from a popular demand for social justice into a professional power game?

To dispel our worsening political malaise, Göran Therborn argues, requires a ‘disruptive democracy’ of radical social movements such as the climate strike. Inequality and the Labyrinths of Democracy opens with a major new essay mapping the social fractures of the present era. There is also a compact historical survey of worldwide patterns of democratisation and a landmark analysis of the OECD economies, ‘The Rule of Capital and the Rise of Democracy’, originally published in New Left Review and collected here in book form for the first time.

Göran Therborn is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. His works have been published in at least twenty-four languages and include The Killing Fields of Inequality, From Marxism to Post-Marxism?, Between Sex and Power, and What Does the Ruling Class Do When It Rules?

In praise of Western Marxism:

“An important contribution.” Guardian

“The standard and originality of these pieces are themselves proof of a lively, productive yet critical Marxist tradition.” Time Out

“A vital contribution, provocative and intelligent. A must.” Choice

“Great value as a stimulus for reflection on the Western Marxist tradition.” Radical Philosophy
How to Abolish Prisons
Lessons from the Movement Against Imprisonment

Rachel Herzing and Justin Piché

What is prison abolition?
In the 1960s and 1970s, groups like the U.S. Prison Research Education Action Project and the Norwegian Association for Penal Reform advocated for a world without prisons. Instead, incarceration boomed, growing in the United States from about 200,000 prisoners to an unprecedented 2 million and more. Now, a movement to abolish prisons has returned, with grassroots movements and critical research converging on an uncompromising critique of the regime of mass incarceration.

This book provides a trenchant guide to prison abolition, explaining why the solution to the criminal justice crisis is ending policing, imprisonment, and mass surveillance, and building a society that creates alternatives to punishment and carceral solutions to social contradictions. The book details and evaluates abolitionist projects throughout North America that provide alternative models, and reveals what it means to work for abolition today, explores ways to ‘de-carceralize’ society.

Rachel Herzing is Executive Director of Critical Resistance, a national grassroots organisation dedicated to abolishing the prison industrial complex. She is a co-director of the Center for Political Education and was a Soros Justice Fellow of the Open Society Foundations.

Justin Piché is Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa and co-editor of the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons. He is a recipient of the Aurora Prize from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, which “recognizes an outstanding new scholar who is building a reputation for exciting and original research in the social sciences and humanities.”
A Critical Theory of Police Power

The Fabrication of the Social Order

Mark Neocleous

Putting police power into the centre of the picture of capitalism

The ubiquitous nature and political attraction of the concept of order has to be understood in conjunction with the idea of police. Since its first publication, this book has been one of the most powerful and wide-ranging critiques of the police power.

Neocleous argues for an expanded concept of police, able to account for the range of institutions through which policing takes place. These institutions are concerned not just with the maintenance and reproduction of order, but with its very fabrication, especially the fabrication of a social order founded on wage labour. By situating the police power in relation to both capital and the state and at the heart of the politics of security, the book opens up into an understanding of the ways in which the state administers civil society and fabricates order through law and the ideology of crime. The discretionary violence of the police on the street is thereby connected to the wider administrative powers of the state, and the thud of the truncheon to the dull compulsion of economic relations.

Mark Neocleous is Professor of the Critique of Political Economy at Brunel University London.
A leader of Latin America’s powerful new women’s movement rethinks the meaning of feminist politics

Recent years have seen massive feminist mobilisations in virtually every continent, overturning social mores and repressive legislation. As women filled the streets of Argentina and Madrid, of Italy and Poland, they’ve transformed the meaning of radical politics and the grammar of various struggles.

In this brilliant and kaleidoscopic look at the emerging feminist international, Verónica Gago uses the women’s strike as both a concept and a collective experience. At once a gripping political analysis and a theoretically charged manifesto, Feminist International draws on the author’s rich experience with radical movements to enter into ongoing debates in feminist and Marxist theory: from social reproduction and domestic work to the intertwining of financial and gender violence, as well as controversies surrounding the neo-extractivist model of development, the possibilities and limits of left populism, and the ever-vexed nexus of gender-race-class.

Gago’s feminism is a powerful call to abandon the rhetoric of victimisation, and to instead mount a frontal challenge to both neo-liberal rule and the conservative counteroffensive. Feminist International asks what another theory of power might look like, one premised on our desire to change everything.

Verónica Gago is a leader in Argentina’s #NiUnaMenos movement (Not One More!), as both a theoretician and an activist. She is also a Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires, Professor at the Instituto de Altos Estudios, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, and Assistant Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET).
Glitch Feminism
A Manifesto

Legacy Russell

A new manifesto for cyberfeminism

Simone de Beauvoir said, “One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.” The glitch announces: One is not born, but rather becomes, a body.

The divide between the digital and the real world no longer exists: we are connected all the time. What must we do to work out who we are, and where we belong? How do we find the space to grow, unite and confront the systems of oppression? This conflict can be found in the fissures between the body, gender and identity. Too often, the glitch is considered a mistake, a faulty overlaying, a bug in the system; in contrast, Russell compels us to find liberation here. In a radical call to arms, Legacy Russell argues that we need to embrace the glitch in order to break down the binaries and limitations that define gender, race, sexuality.

*Glitch Feminism* is a vital new chapter in cyberfeminism, one that explores the relationship between gender, technology and identity. In an urgent manifesto, Russell reveals the many ways that the glitch performs and transforms: how it refuses, throws shade, ghosts, encrypt, mobilises and survives. Developing the argument through memoir, art and critical theory, Russell also looks at the work of contemporary artists who travel through the glitch in their work. Timely and provocative, *Glitch Feminism* shows how an error can be a revolution.

**Legacy Russell** is a writer and curator. She is the Associate Curator of Exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem. As the founding theorist of Glitch Feminism, her academic, curatorial, and creative work focuses on gender, performance, digital selfdom, internet idolatry, and new media ritual. Russell has written for the *New Inquiry*, the *White Review, Guardian* and others. Her work has been featured *Vogue*, the *New York Times* and *Glamour* magazine. She is the recipient of the Thoma Foundation 2019 Arts Writing Award in Digital Art and a 2020 Rauschenberg Residency Fellow.
The story of how enslaved women struggled for freedom in the West Indies

Aside from Mary Prince, enslaved West Indian women had few opportunities to record their stories for posterity. Yet from their dusty footprints and the umpteen small clues they left for us to unravel, there’s no question that they earned their place in history. Pick any Caribbean island and you’ll find race, skin colour and rank interacting with gender in a unique and often volatile way. Moreover, the evidence points to a distinctly female role in the development of a culture of slave resistance – a role that was not just central, but downright dynamic.

From the coffer-line to the Great House, enslaved women found ways of fighting back that beggar belief. Whether responding to the horrendous conditions of plantation life, the sadistic vagaries of their captors or the ‘peculiar burdens of their sex’, their collective sanity relied on a highly subversive adaptation of the values and cultures they smuggled with them naked from different parts of Africa. By sustaining or adapting remembered cultural practices, they ensured that the lives of chattel slaves retained both meaning and purpose. This sense of self gave rise to a sense of agency and over time, both their subtle acts of insubordination and their conscious acts of rebellion came to undermine the very fabric and survival of West Indian slavery.

Stella Dadzie is best known for her co-authorship of The Heart of the Race: Black Women’s Lives in Britain which won the 1985 Martin Luther King Award for Literature, and was recently re-published by Verso as a Feminist Classic. She is a founder member of OWAAD (Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent), a national umbrella group that emerged in the late 1970s as part of the British Civil Rights movement, and was recently described as one of the ‘grandmothers’ of Black Feminism in the UK.
The Verso Book of Feminism

Revolutionary Words from Four Millennia of Rebellion

Edited by Jessie Kindig

An unprecedented collection of feminist voices from across the globe

Throughout written history and across the world, women have protested the restrictions of gender and the violence and limitations placed on women’s bodies and women’s lives. People – of any and no gender – have protested and theorised, penned manifestos and written poetry and songs, testified and lobbied, gone on strike and fomented revolution, quietly demanded that there is an “I” and loudly proclaimed that there is a “we.” The Verso Book of Feminism chronicles this history of defiance and tracks it around the world as it develops into a multivocal and unabashed force.

Global in scope, The Verso Book of Feminism shows the breadth of feminist protest and of feminist thinking, moving through the female poets of China’s Tang Dynasty to accounts of indigenous women in the Caribbean resisting Columbus’s expedition, British suffragists militating for the vote to the revolutionary pétroleuses of the 1848 Paris Commune, the first-century Trung sisters who fought for the independence of Nam Viet to women in 1980s Botswana fighting for equal protection under the law, from the erotica of the sixth century and the nineteenth century to radical queer politics in the twentieth and twenty-first.

The Verso Book of Feminism is a weapon, a force, a lyrical cry, and an ongoing threat to misogyny everywhere.

Jessie Kindig is an editor at Verso Books, and her writing has appeared in Artforum, n+1, and the Boston Review.
Critical Encounters
Capitalism, Democracy, Ideas
Wolfgang Streeck

Essays by one of the foremost political economists

From the acclaimed author of How Will Capitalism End? comes an omnibus of critical engagements with leading economists and thinkers. Critical Encounters draws on Wolfgang Streeck's inimitable writing for the London Review of Books and New Left Review, among other outlets, and includes pieces originally published in the German press, translated into English for the first time. It opens with a survey of three of the world’s major economies – the US, France, Germany – and two contrasting historical eras, factory capitalism and financialisation. A middle section theorises about the Brexit vote and the future of Europe, and includes a review of Yanis Varoufakis's memoirs of the Eurozone crisis.

Streeck then delves into the world of ideas, discussing the interests underpinning European monetary union as they impinge on the work of Perry Anderson and Jürgen Habermas. Finally he zooms out to compare his home discipline of sociology with natural history, giving a remarkable and non-deterministic reading of Charles Darwin.

Wolfgang Streeck is Director Emeritus at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne. He is a member of the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

Praise for How Will Capitalism End?:


“Synthesises the various strands of left crisis theory into a convincing proposal, as strong psychologically as it is on economics.” Paul Mason, Guardian, Books of the Year 2016

Clocking Off
Why We Need a Shorter Working Week
Kyle Lewis and Will Stronge

Why we should all work less! A radical and pragmatic manifesto for tackling the interconnected crises of contemporary capitalism: work, care and the environment

With the rise of automation and precarious forms of work, jobs are becoming increasingly polarised. While some are overworked, there are many more people forced into precarious and underpaid work, work that falls heavily on those most vulnerable in society. All of this while countries in the Global North are experiencing a crisis of care, where the disproportionately gendered labour of care is undervalued, and often unpaid. In this short book, Kyle Lewis and Will Stronge argue that one powerful and practical response to the worrying trend of job polarisation is the call for a shorter working week.

The time we spend at work is neither natural nor inevitable. Instead the amount of time we spend working is a political, cultural and economic question. Clocking Off will explain what a shorter waged working week means, as well as its history and its political implications. The authors argue that any long-term plan for a sustainable, just economy must involve a reduction in the time we spend working. Drawing on a range of political and economic thinkers, Lewis and Stronge argue that only by doing so can we create a more just and equal society, one that allows people the space and opportunity to develop an ethic based on citizen engagement and self-autonomy outside of market interaction.

Kyle Lewis is Co-Director of the think tank Autonomy and a PhD researcher at the University of West London.

Will Stronge is Co-Director of the think tank Autonomy and a researcher in politics and philosophy at the University of Brighton.

Praise for The Shorter Working Week report:
“A vital contribution to the growing debate around free time and reducing the working week. With millions saying they would like to work shorter hours, and millions of others without a job or wanting more hours, it’s essential that we consider how we address the problems in the labour market as well as preparing for the future challenges of automation.” John McDonnell

January 2021
128 pages
The Benjamin Files

Fredric Jameson

Jameson’s first full-length engagement with Walter Benjamin’s work

The Benjamin Files offers a comprehensive new reading of all of Benjamin’s major works and a great number of his shorter book reviews, notes and letters. Its premise is that Benjamin was an anti-philosophical, anti-systematic thinker whose conceptual interests also felt the gravitational pull of his vocation as a writer. What resulted was a coexistence or variety of language fields and thematic codes which overlapped and often seemed to contradict each other: a view which will allow us to clarify the much-debated tension in his works between the mystical or theological side of Benjamin and his political or historical inclination. The three-way tug of war over his heritage between adherents of his friends Scholem, Adorno and Brecht can also be better grasped from this position, which gives the Brechtian standpoint more due than most influential academic studies. Benjamin’s corpus is an anticipation of contemporary theory in the priority it gives language and representation over philosophical or conceptual unity; and its political motivations are clarified by attention to the omnipresence of history throughout his writing, from the shortest articles to the most ambitious projects. His explicit programme – “to transfer the crisis into the heart of language” or, in other words, to detect class struggle at work in the most minute literary phenomena – requires the reader to translate the linguistic or representational literary issues that concerned him back into the omnipresent but often only implicitly political ones. But the latter are those of another era, to which we must gain access, to use one of Benjamin’s favorite expressions.

Fredric Jameson is Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature at Duke University. He was a recipient of the 2008 Holberg International Memorial Prize. He is the author of many books, including Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism; A Singular Modernity; The Modernist Papers; Archaeologies of the Future; Valences of the Dialectic and Representing Capital.
The Force of Nonviolence

The Ethical in the Political

Judith Butler

Towards a form of aggressive nonviolence.

Judith Butler’s new book shows how an ethic of nonviolence must be connected to a broader political struggle for social equality. Further, it argues that nonviolence is often misunderstood as a passive practice that emanates from a calm region of the soul, or as an individualist ethical relation to existing forms of power. But, in fact, nonviolence is an ethical position found in the midst of the political field. An aggressive form of nonviolence accepts that hostility is part of our psychic constitution, but values ambivalence as a way of checking the conversion of aggression into violence. One contemporary challenge to a politics of nonviolence points out that there is a difference of opinion on what counts as violence and nonviolence. The distinction between them can be mobilised in the service of ratifying the state’s monopoly on violence.

Considering nonviolence as an ethical problem within a political philosophy requires a critique of individualism as well as an understanding of the psychosocial dimensions of violence. Butler draws upon Foucault, Fanon, Freud, and Benjamin to consider how the interdiction against violence fails to include lives regarded as ungrievable. By considering how ‘racial phantasms’ inform justifications of state and administrative violence, Butler tracks how violence is often attributed to those who are most severely exposed to its lethal effects. The struggle for nonviolence is found in movements for social transformation that reframe the grievability of lives in light of social equality and whose ethical claims follow from an insight into the interdependency of life as the basis of social and political equality.

Judith Butler is Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature and Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of numerous books including Precarious Life (Verso, 2004), Frames of War (Verso, 2009), and Towards a Performative Theory of Assembly (Harvard University Press, 2015).
An urgent and passionate plea for a new and ecologically sustainable vision of the good life

The reality of runaway climate change is inextricably linked with the mass consumerist, capitalist society in which we live. And the cult of endless growth, and endless consumption of cheap disposable commodities, isn’t only destroying the world, it is damaging us and our way of being. How do we stop the impending catastrophe, and how can we create a movement capable of confronting it head-on?

In Alternative Prosperity, philosopher Kate Soper offers an urgent plea for a new vision of the good life, one that is capable of delinking prosperity from endless growth. Instead, Soper calls for renewed emphasis on the joys of being that are currently being denied, and shows the way to creating a future that allows not only for more free time, and less conventional and more creative ways of using it, but also for fairer and more fulfilling ways of working and existing. This is an urgent and necessary intervention into debates on climate change.

Kate Soper is Emerita Professor of Philosophy at London Metropolitan University. She has published widely on environmental philosophy and theory of needs and consumption.
Sensoria
Thinkers for the Twenty-first Century
McKenzie Wark

A survey of the key thinkers and ideas that are rebuilding the world in the shadow of the Anthropocene

As we face the compounded crises of late capitalism, environmental catastrophe and technological transformation, who are the thinkers and the ideas who will allow us to understand the world we live in? McKenzie Wark surveys three areas at the cutting edge of current critical thinking: media ecologies post-colonial ethnographies, and the design of technology, and introduces us to the thinking of seventeen major writers who, combined, contribute to the common task of knowing the world. Each chapter is a concise account of an individual thinker, providing useful context and connections to the work of the others.


Wark argues that we are too often told that expertise is obtained by specialisation. Sensoria connects the themes and arguments across intellectual silos. The book is a vital and timely introduction to the future both as a warning but also as a roadmap for how we might find our way out of the current crisis.

McKenzie Wark is the author of Capital Is Dead, General Intellects and Molecular Red, among other books. She teaches at the New School for Social Research and Eugene Lang College in New York City.

In praise of Molecular Red:

“A very imaginative, historically smart, politically generative thesis ... that I think we urgently need.” Donna Haraway, author of A Cyborg Manifesto

“A call to arms in which art and leisure, science and philosophy hack into each other in order to produce a way of thinking that works on both a pragmatic (proletarian) and a philosophical (bourgeois) level.”

Art Review

September 2020
304 pages
Medium Design
Knowing How to Work on the World

Keller Easterling

Everyone is a designer: making sense of the world

How do we formulate alternative approaches to the world’s unresponsive or intractable dilemmas – from climate cataclysm to inequality to concentrations of authoritarian power? Easterling argues that the search for solutions is a mistake. Instead, she offers the perspective of medium design, one that considers not only separate objects, ideas and events but also the space between them. This background matrix with all its latent potentials is profoundly underexploited in a culture that is good at naming things but not so good at seeing how they connect and interact.

In case studies dealing with everything from automation and migration to explosive urban growth and atmospheric changes, Medium Design looks not to new technologies for innovation but rather to sophisticated relationships between emergent and incumbent technologies. It does not try to eliminate problems but rather put them together in productive combinations. And it offers forms of activism for modulating power and temperament in organisations of all kinds.

Keller Easterling is an award-winning writer, architect and Professor at Yale. She is the author of Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space, Enduring Innocence, which was named Archinect’s Best Book of 2005, and Organization Space. She is also the author of two essay-length books: The Action Is the Form and Subtraction. Her writing and design work was included in the 2014 and 2018 Venice Biennales. Easterling is a 2019 United States Artist Fellow in Architecture and Design and the recipient of the 2019 Blueprint Award for Critical Thinking.

In praise of Extrastatecraft:

“Establishes Keller Easterling’s growing reputation as the savviest student of post-national spatial and infrastructural forms.” Arjun Appadurai, author of The Future as Cultural Fact

“An essential text for anyone with a stake in the built environment, architect and citizen alike.” Architectural Review

January 2021
160 pages
Designing Disorder
Experiments and Disruptions in the City
Pablo Sendra and Richard Sennett

A manifesto for the Open City: vibrant, disordered, adaptable.

In 1970, Richard Sennett published the groundbreaking *The Uses of Disorder*, arguing that the ideal of a planned and ordered city was flawed. Fifty years later, Sennett returns to these still fertile ideas and, alongside campaigner and architect Pablo Sendra, sets out an agenda for the design and ethics of the Open City.

The public spaces of our cities are under siege from planners, privatisation and increased surveillance. Our streets are becoming ever more lifeless and ordered. What is to be done? Can disorder be designed? In this provocative essay Sendra and Sennett propose a reorganisation of how we think and plan the social life of our cities. ‘Infrastructures of disorder’ combine architecture, politics, urban planning and activism in order to develop places that nurture rather than stifle, bring together rather than divide up, remain open to change rather than closed off.

**Pablo Sendra** is Lecturer in Planning and Urban Design at The Bartlett School of Planning, University College London. He is also co-founder and partner of the urban design practice Lugadero and co-founder of CivicWise. He has recently co-edited with Maria João Pita and the Civic Wise network the book *Civic Practices* (2017).

**Richard Sennett**’s first book was *The Uses of Disorder*, published in 1970. His previous books include *The Fall of Public Man, Flesh and Stone* and *Respect*, as well as the recent *Homo Faber* trilogy, *The Craftsman, Together, Building and Dwellings*. For decades he has advised urban programmes for the United Nations. He has been awarded the Hegel and Spinoza prizes, as well as an honorary doctorate by Cambridge University.
The People Are Not an Image

Vernacular Video after the Arab Spring

Peter Snowdon

A major intervention in media studies theorises the politics and aesthetics of internet video

The wave of uprisings and revolutions that swept the Middle East and North Africa between 2010 and 2012 were most vividly transmitted throughout the world not by television or even social media, but in short videos produced by the participants themselves and circulated anonymously on the internet.

In *The People Are Not an Image*, Snowdon explores this radical shift in revolutionary self-representation, showing that the political consequences of these videos cannot be located without reference to their aesthetic form. Looking at videos from Tunisia, Bahrain, Syria, Libya, and Egypt, Snowdon attends closely to the circumstances of both their production and circulation, drawing on a wide range of historical and theoretical material, to discover what they can tell us about the potential for revolution in our time and the possibilities of video as a genuinely decentralised and vernacular medium.

Peter Snowdon is a filmmaker and researcher. His feature-length film *The Uprising*, based entirely on YouTube videos from the Arab revolutions, was awarded the Opus Bonum Award for best world documentary. His writing has appeared in *Open Democracy* and *Le Monde diplomatique*. Peter teaches filmmaking in the visual anthropology programme at Leiden University.
The Walker
On Finding and Losing Yourself in the Modern City
Matthew Beaumont

A literary history of walking from Dickens to Žižek

There is no such thing as a false step. Every time we walk we are going somewhere. Especially if we are going nowhere. Moving around the modern city is not a way of getting from A to B, but of understanding who and where we are. In a series of riveting intellectual rambles, Matthew Beaumont retraces episodes in the history of the walker since the mid-nineteenth century.

From Dickens’s insomniac night rambles to restless excursions through the faceless monuments of today’s neoliberal city, the act of walking is one of self-discovery and self-escape, of disappearances and secret subversions. Pacing stride for stride alongside literary amblers and thinkers such as Edgar Allan Poe, André Breton, H. G. Wells, Virginia Woolf, Jean Rhys and Ray Bradbury, Beaumont explores the relationship between the metropolis and its pedestrian life.

Through these writings, Beaumont asks: Can you get lost in a crowd? What are the consequences of using your smartphone in the street? What differentiates the nocturnal metropolis from the city of daylight? What connects walking, philosophy and the big toe? And can we save the city – or ourselves – by taking to the pavement?

Matthew Beaumont is a Professor in the Department of English at University College London. He is the co-author, with Terry Eagleton, of The Task of the Critic: Terry Eagleton in Dialogue (2009), and co-editor of Restless Cities, as well as the author of the highly acclaimed Nightwalking.

In praise of Nightwalking:

“Part literary criticism, part social history, part polemic, this is a haunting addition to the canon of psychogeography.” Financial Times

“An enthralling study of London after dark ... This is an impressive, magisterial book whose steady, earnest gaze also encompasses the lives of pickpockets and poets.” Robert McCrum, Guardian
The Black Romantic Revolution
Abolitionist Poets at the End of Slavery
Matt Sandler

The prophetic poetry of slavery and its abolition

During the pitched battle over slavery in the United States, Black writers – enslaved and free – allied themselves with the cause of abolition and used their art to advocate for emancipation and to envision the end of slavery as a world-historical moment of possibility.

These Black writers borrowed from the European tradition of Romanticism – lyric poetry, prophetic visions – to write, speak, and sing their hopes for what freedom might mean. At the same time, they voiced anxieties about the expansion of global capital and U.S. imperial power in the aftermath of slavery. They also focused on the ramifications of slavery’s sexual violence. Authors like Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, George Moses Horton, Albery Allson Whitman, and Joshua McCarter Simpson conceived the Civil War as a revolutionary upheaval on par with Europe’s stormy Age of Revolutions. The Black Romantic Revolution proposes that the Black Romantics’ cultural innovations have shaped Black radical culture to this day, from the blues and hip hop to Black nationalism and Black feminism. Their expressions of love and rage, grief and determination, dreams and nightmares, still echo into our present.

Matt Sandler is Program Director of the M.A. in American Studies at Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. He specialises in American and African American poetry. His work has appeared in Callaloo, African American Review, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and many others.
In Praise of Disobedience

The Soul of Man under Socialism and Other Writings

Oscar Wilde

Introduction by Neil Bartlett

Wilde remains a provocative and radical figure to this day. Included here are the entirety of Wilde's foray into political philosophy, *The Soul of Man under Socialism*; the complete essay collection *Intentions*; selections from *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as well as its paradoxical and scandalous preface; and some of Wilde's greatest fictions for children. A delight for fans of Oscar Wilde, *In Praise of Disobedience* will restore and revitalise an often misunderstood legacy.

Oscar Wilde published articles, short stories, and one novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, before achieving success as a playwright. He was imprisoned for homosexuality.

Neil Bartlett is a British playwright and novelist. His most recent novel, *The Disappearance Boy*, was nominated for the Stonewall Writer of the Year Award.

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How I Became A Socialist

William Morris

Introduced by Owen Hatherley

William Morris is famous as a designer, poet and artist, but his work as a political thinker and activist is less well known. This collection, the first of his political writings published for nearly 50 years, shows Morris as one of the most original and inspiring socialist intellectuals of his generation.

Covering essays and lectures ranging through the relation between art and politics, to his visions for a socialist society and his strident anti-imperialism, this is an essential volume which shows Morris as the engage and committed socialist that he was.

William Morris was a British textile designer, poet, novelist, translator, and socialist activist. Associated with the British Arts and Crafts Movement, he was a major contributor to the revival of traditional British textile arts and methods of production.
The analysis of May ‘68 in Paris, Berkeley, and the Western world has been widely reconsidered. But 1968 is not only a year that conjures up images of Paris, Frankfurt, or Milan. It is also the pivotal year for a new anti-colonial and anti-capitalist politics to erupt across the Third World – Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. Japan’s position – neither in the ‘West’ nor in the ‘Third World’ – provoked a complex and intense round of mass mobilisations through the 1960s and early ‘70s.

The Japanese situation remains remarkably under-examined globally. Beginning in the late 1950s, a New Left, independent of the prewar Japanese communist moment (itself of major historical importance in the 1920s and ‘30s), came to produce one of the most vibrant decades of political organisation, political thought, and political aesthetics in the global twentieth century. In the present volume, major thinkers of the left in Japan alongside scholars of the 1968 movements reexamine the theoretical sources, historical background, cultural productions, and major organisational problems of the 1968 revolutions in Japan.

Gavin Walker is Associate Professor at McGill University. He is a member of the editorial collective of positions: asia critique and author of The Sublime Perversion of Capital.
**Born Jewish**

*A Childhood in Occupied Europe*

**Marcel Liebman**

*Introduction by Jacqueline Rose*

This fierce memoir is both an elegy and an indictment. Marcel Liebman’s account of his childhood in Brussels under the Nazi occupation explores the emergence of his class consciousness against a background of resistance and collaboration. He documents the internal class war that has long been hidden from history: how the Nazi persecution exploited class distinctions within the Jewish community, and how certain Jewish notables collaborated in a systematic programme of denunciation and deportation against immigrant Jews who lacked the privileges of wealth and citizenship.

**Marcel Liebman** (1929–1986) was a Belgian Marxist historian of political sociology and theory, active at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

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**An Army Like No Other**

*How the Israel Defense Force Made a Nation*

**Haim Bresheeth**

The Israeli army (IDF), was established in 1948 by David Ben-Gurion, Israel’s first prime minister, who believed that ‘the whole nation is the army’. It was the instrument that might transform a diverse population into a new people.

In this fascinating history, Bresheeth charts the evolution of the IDF from the Nakba to wars in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and the continued assaults upon Gaza. He argues that the army is embedded in all aspects of daily life and identity. And that we should not merely see it as a fighting force but as the central ideological, political and financial institution of Israeli society.

**Professor Haim Bresheeth** is a Filmmaker, Photographer and a Film Studies Scholar, and 2nd Researcher at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). He is the editor of *The Gulf War and the New World Order*, (with Nira Yuval-Davis), and the author of *The Holocaust for Beginners* (with Stuart Hood).
Rentier Capitalism
Who Owns the Economy, and Who Pays for it?
Brett Christophers

How did Britain’s economy become a landmark of monopolies and inequality?

In this landmark book, the author of the acclaimed *The New Enclosure* provides a forensic examination of capitalism as it increasingly exists today in the “advanced” economies of the Global North. Dominated by institutions and individuals profiting from the control of scarce, revenue-generating assets, Brett Christophers styles this contemporary socioeconomic system “rentier capitalism”, and he critically dissects its emergence, forms and implications.

The empirical focus of *Rentier Capitalism*’s critique is the United Kingdom, a country and political economy that today bear all the hallmarks of rentier ascendancy: immense concentration of resources, constrained competition, vast inequalities of income and wealth, and growing economic stagnation. From finance to land, intellectual property to infrastructure and natural resources to digital platforms, Christophers identifies the key types of assets that scaffold UK rentier capitalism, the key actors that control and profit from them and the key consequences for everyone else.

With profound lessons for other countries subject to rentier dominance or its growing spectre, Christophers’s examination of the UK case is indispensable to those wanting not just to understand rentierism but to supplant it.

Frequently invoked but never previously analysed and illuminated in all its depth and variety, rentier capitalism is here laid bare for the first time.

Brett Christophers is Professor in the Department of Social and Economic Geography at Uppsala University.

In praise of *The New Enclosure*:

“With his carefully crafted and meticulously researched study, he has made an essential contribution to our understanding of politics and government in modern Britain.” Adam Tooze, *Financial Times*

“This is a book you must read.” Will Self, *Guardian*
We’re Here Because You Were There

Immigration and the End of Empire

Ian Sanjay Patel

Britain’s failure to create a nation after the Empire, and the impact on post-war immigrants

What are the origins of today’s hostile environment for immigrants in Britain? Using declassified documents from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this book tells a secret history of Britain’s role at the end of the age of empires in the 1960s.

During the post-war period, as Britain made a huge transfer of sovereign power to its former colonies, international demands for racial equality came to dominate world politics. Despite this new international recognition of racial equality, Britain’s colonial and Commonwealth citizens from the Caribbean to South Asia were subject to a new regime of immigration control based on race. From the Windrush generation who came to the UK from the Caribbean, and the Southeast Asians who were expelled from East Africa, Britain was caught between attempting both to restrict the rights of its non-white citizens and redefine its imperial role in the world.

Under sustained international pressure, Britain appeared to be poised to make a final transition from a colonial to a postcolonial power, symbolised by its desire to join Europe, which eventually happened in 1973. But Britain’s post-imperial moment never arrived, subject to endless deferral and reinvention. Instead, officials drew upon an imperial vision of the world to contain what it saw as a vast migration “crisis.” Citizenship itself was redefined along racial lines, fatally compromising the British Commonwealth and exposing the limits of Britain’s influence in world politics.

This book reveals an important untold global history of post-war immigration, uncovering the origins of the present crisis.

Ian Sanjay Patel is currently LSE Fellow in Human Rights at the London School of Economics. His non-fiction writing has appeared in the New Statesman, the London Review of Books, and elsewhere. He completed his PhD at Queens’ College, University of Cambridge.

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The Care Crisis
What Caused It and How Can We End It?

Emma Dowling

What is care and who is paying for it?

Valuing care and care work does not simply mean attributing care work more monetary value. To really achieve change, we must go so much further.

As the world becomes seemingly more uncaring, the calls for people to be more compassionate and empathetic towards one another – in short, to care more – become ever-more vocal. The Care Crisis challenges the idea that people ever stopped caring, but also that the deep and multi-faceted crises of our time will be solved by simply (re)instilling the virtues of empathy. There is no easy fix.

In this groundbreaking book, Emma Dowling charts the multi-faceted nature of care in the modern world, from the mantras of self-care and what they tell us about our anxieties, to the state of the social care system. She examines the relations of power that play profitability and care off against one another in a myriad of ways, exposing the devastating impact of financialisation and austerity.

The Care Crisis enquires into the ways in which the continued off-loading of the cost of care onto the shoulders of underpaid and unpaid realms of society, untangling how this off-loading combines with commodification, marketisation and financialisation to produce the mess we are living in. The Care Crisis charts the current experiments in short-term fixes to the care crisis that are taking place within Britain, with austerity as the backdrop. It maps the economy of abandonment, raising the question: to whom care is afforded? What would it mean to seriously value care?

Emma Dowling teaches at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. She writes for the Financial Times, New Humanist, Red Pepper, LuXemburg and OpenDemocracy.
A history of the UK’s regional inequalities, and why they matter

Britain has scarcely begun to come to terms with its recent upheavals, from the crisis over Brexit to the collapse of Labour’s ‘red wall’. What can explain such momentous shifts?

In this essential work, Tom Hazeldine excavates the history of a divided country: North and South, industry versus finance, Whitehall and the left-behind. Only by fully registering these deep-seated tensions, he argues, can we make sense of the present moment.

Hazeldine tracks the North–South divide over the longue durée, from the formation of an English state rooted in London and the south-east; the Industrial Revolution and the rise of provincial trade unions and the Labour Party; the dashed hopes for regional economic renewal in the post-war years; the sharply contrasting fates of northern manufacturing and the City of London under Thatcher and New Labour; to the continuing repercussions of financial crisis and austerity.

The Northern Question is set to transform our understanding of the politics of Westminster – its purpose, according to Hazeldine, to stand English history on its head.

Tom Hazeldine is an editor at New Left Review.
2021 Verso Radical Diary

The ultimate radical diary: plan your year alongside revolutionary history

The 2021 Verso Radical Diary is a beautifully designed week-to-view planner for keeping track of the year ahead. Alongside illustrations and book excerpts, it features significant radical dates from throughout history – including the English Civil War and Black Panther movement, through to the protests of 1968 and feminist emancipation, touching on the lives of revolutionaries such as Angela Davis, Rosa Luxemburg and Martin Luther King Jr.

• January–December
• Week to view
• Dates from throughout history of revolutionary and radical events
• Illustrations throughout

• A beautifully designed week-to-view planner, packed full of important events in radical history.
• The perfect gift for politically conscious friends and family.
• Includes illustrations, book excerpts, and reading lists.

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