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Globalization And The Decolonial Option



Synopsis

This is the first book in English profiling the work of a research collective that evolved around the notion of "coloniality", understood as the hidden agenda and the darker side of modernity and whose members are based in South America and the United States. The project called for an understanding of modernity not from modernity itself but from its darker side, coloniality, and proposes the de-colonization of knowledge as an epistemological restitution with political and ethical implications. Epistemic decolonization, or de-coloniality, becomes the horizon to imagine and act toward global futures in which the notion of a political enemy is replaced by intercultural communication and towards an-other rationality that puts life first and that places institutions at its service, rather than the other way around. The volume is profoundly inter- and trans-disciplinary, with authors writing from many intellectual, transdisciplinary, and institutional spaces. This book was published as a special issue of Cultural Studies.

Book Information

Paperback: 424 pages

Publisher: Routledge; Reprint edition (April 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415848733

ISBN-13: 978-0415848732

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I hate to give a book that I was so much looking forward to a mediocre review. At its best (notably, the chapters by Maldonado-Torres, Janer, Lugones, and Castro-Gomez), the book provides a number of helpful forays into the relatively new and complex area of decolonial studies. These chapters are well argued and worth the purchase. But at its worst, a number of chapters attack straw men, fail to treat their opponents with sufficient rigor, or do not define key concepts. On top of this, the grammatical/typographical errors, in some sections such as the Introduction, are nearly

overwhelming. These negative aspects are bound to be a part of a collected volume--but another editorial combing would have improved the text immensely. Overall, the book is worth reading for its stronger chapters.

This volume, next to the one coedited by Dussel, Morana and Jauregui, are supert introduction to decolonial thinking, a controversial though radical school of thought that continues to make inroads. The volume edited by Dussel et al is wider in scope and focus on Latin American thoughts. This one focusses on the school of thought known as modernity/coloniality or modernity/(de)coloniality. Recommended to readers interested to engage in decolonial thinking.

This book explores the idea of coloniality (the extension of colonialism past the colonial period itself and into every part of modern global systems). While the notion itself is worth exploring, the authors in this text write for the purpose of hearing themselves speak and are clearly so isolated in academia that they are unable to apply their ideas to anything in the world. With suggestions that ethnic identity did no exist before colonialism and that it is necessary to destroy the colonial power matrix, the authors show that they are unwilling to deal in terms of real societal change, but would rather throw around jargon and ideas that only academics and students will ever be comfortable with.

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