



BRILL

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Note: Books

This section provides very short summaries of some of the books sent to us by publishers that we believe may be of interest to our *CS* readers. A *NOTE: BOOK* does not preclude the possibility of a more substantial review of the following books appearing in a future issue of *CS*. Anyone wishing to review any of the titles below, or any other books we currently have in stock, are encouraged to contact the Toronto *CS* Book Review Collective. The *NOTE: BOOKS* are written by members of the Toronto *CS* collective.

Alternative and Activist Media. By Mitzi Waltz. New York, NY, Columbia University Press 2006. Pp. 149. \$75.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0748619577. \$22.00 (paper). ISBN: 0748619585.

Waltz's book 'Alternative and Activist Media' is valuable on several fronts including: its theoretical consideration, historical approach, and international perspective. This book situates – both contemporary and historical – alternative media in the context of mass media. Paying special attention to the social roots of alternative media and its connection with marginalized groups and communities, Waltz draws out significant implications for counter-hegemonic strategies. This book is invaluable for those involved with media studies, cultural studies, journalism, or critical sociological evaluation of media. Of even greater significance is this book's accessibility to those outside academia; especially relevant given their involvement in the creation and propagation of the very subject matter.

[PA]

Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence. By Jeremy M. Weinstein. New York, NY, Cambridge University Press 2006. Pp. 432. \$26.99 (paper). ISBN: 0521677971. \$70.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0521860776.

In his book 'Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence', Jeremy Weinstein explains differences in the qualitative character of armed rebellions. Drawing on evidence from recent conflict, Weinstein argues that the internal character

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of the actual rebel organization has a direct impact on the behavior of its members. The nature of rebels' financing, member recruitment, and organizational discipline are all identified as factors that shape the character of rebellion. The result is a theory that incorporates environmental conditions as well as structural characteristics of the rebel groups themselves in assessing the degree of violence enacted against noncombatant populations.

[PA]

Neo-Bohemia: Art and Commerce in the Postindustrial City. By Richard Lloyd. New York, NY, Routledge 2006. Pp. 312. \$19.95 (paper). ISBN 0415951828. \$90.00 (cloth). ISBN: 041595181X.

Richard Lloyd asks: how did bohemia become such an ordinary thing? Where bohemia once represented the avant-garde, society's eccentrics and starving artists, we can now find an established bohemia in most every medium-sized postindustrial city. Lloyd's ethnographic study of Chicago's Wicker Park district – one of America's most successful new bohemias – highlights the social and economic transformations that cities are currently undergoing. Rather than being pushed to the margins, alternative and hipster culture are now making bohemian neighborhoods more attractive. And more expensive; the presence of creative industry such as media, tourism, advertising and design contributes to a hike in the price of real estate. As a contribution to urban studies, this work assesses the relationship between processes of globalization, the information age economy and alternative cultures.

[NB]

Multicultural Politics: Racism, Ethnicity, and Muslims in Britain. By Tariq Modood. Minneapolis, MN, University of Minnesota Press 2005. Pp. 240. \$23.50 (paper). ISBN 0816644888. \$70.50 (cloth). ISBN: 081664487X.

Addressing some of the most pertinent ethnic studies issues of contemporary society, Tariq Modood's latest work focuses on religious identity, integration and citizenship in Britain. In a post 9/11 socio-political climate, Modood looks at how Muslims are replacing blacks as the quintessential "other" and the most threatening element to Western societies. This trend is linked to cultural racism, Islamophobia and the limited tolerance of secular modernity. Modood's discussion extends to debates over multiculturalism, liberalism and feminism. While this study is situated in Britain and focuses on the Islam-West divide, the author draws parallels with the black-white color line of the U.S. and related issues of racial equality and multicultural policy. His objective is politically informed and

aims to map out a (British) society that can overcome racial stratification. Ultimately, Modood assesses the possibility for society to afford non-white immigrants a sense of belonging that does not hinge on their disavowal of ethnic and religious identities.

[NB]

Modern Social Imaginaries. By Charles Taylor. Durham: Duke University Press 2004. Pp. 184. \$19.95 (paper). ISBN 0822332930. \$69.95 (cloth). ISBN: 0822332558.

The nature and trajectory of modernity has been the subject of much recent intellectual debates. Is Western modernity a universal process that is destined to be replicated globally or is it subject to particular inflections in different contexts? By examining the constituent components of Western modernity, Charles Taylor argues in favor of the latter by deploying the concept of “multiple modernities”. Central to his argument is the contention that Western modernity represents a new conception of the moral order of society or a “social imaginary” characterized by three key cultural forms – the market economy, the public sphere, and self-governance. In this brief and eminently readable book, Taylor draws on the work of Benedict Anderson and Habermas among others to chart the course of the rise of Western modernity. In so doing, he hopes to throw into relief some common elements that persist despite the different trajectories of contemporary modernization. In mapping out the complexities of modernity, Taylor also challenges the assumptions of the neoliberal champions of the so-called new world order.

[ZB]

Regimes and Repertoires. By Charles Tilly. Chicago, IL, University of Chicago Press 2006. Pp. 240. \$36.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0226803503.

Tilly examines the interesting question of the forms of protest and repertoires of resistance in a sweeping global analysis – why in certain countries or regions, France or Germany for example, we might find popular social movements, in others, such as Sudan (or Spain) conflicts are articulated primarily in terms of regions, in others again, such as China, we find no movements at all, but smaller scale citizens protests against injustices on the part of the state. In this stimulating analysis, Tilly shows how these repertoires (or perhaps cultures) of protest are intimately interconnected with the respective regimes. The general employment of the baton in Britain as general arms of the police in contrast to the French police’s use of lethal arms is rooted deeply in different historical

trajectories and has different consequences: “plenty of bruises” in Britain, “but few deaths as compared with their French counterparts.”

[YMB]

The New Transnational Activism. By Sidney Tarrow. New York, NY, Cambridge University Press 2005. Pp. 276. \$19.99 (paper). ISBN: 0521616778. \$55.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0521851300.

Transnationalism, Tarrow points out, has been with us as early as the time of the Reformation (and earlier than that). The book addresses the question of how the larger caliber of transnational activism today influences contentious politics and its actors. He addresses the ways in which transnational activism affects our understanding of the “autonomy of national politics from international politics.” He concludes that often today, domestic issues are merely framed globally, that international issues may be projected into national arenas, and that creating global movements is still a difficult undertaking. Tarrow speaks of a “rooted cosmopolitanism” in transnational movements and certainly dispels any illusions about denationalized global/international political movements.

[YMB]

Racial Politics in Post-Revolutionary Cuba. By Mark Q. Sawyer. New York, NY, Cambridge University Press 2005. Pp. 222. \$21.99 (paper). ISBN: 0521612675. \$60.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0521848075.

The book combines ethnographic interviewing techniques, quantitative tools and textual interpretation to point to another type of “race relations cycle:” recurrent waves of boosting the status and condition of Afro-Cubans, beginning with the Cuban revolution. Nevertheless, the darker a person’s colour in Cuba today, the more likely is he or she going to be at the bottom of the social ladder. Sawyer also looks at the relationship of Black radicals in the US to Cuba as it was shaped by their visits there, as well as the Cuban expatriates in Miami who partly are, and partly are deemed to be racists.

[YMB]

Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions. By John Foran. New York, NY, Cambridge University Press 2005. Pp. 410. \$29.99 (paper). ISBN: 0521629845. \$75.00 (cloth). ISBN: 0521620090.

Foran compares some three dozen revolutions in the Third World and classes them into three or four categories: the “great social revolutions” (Mexico 1910,

China 1949, Cuba 1959, Iran 1979, Nicaragua 1979); the anti-colonial revolutions (Algeria, Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe); the “reversed revolutions” (Iran 1951–53, Guatemala 1944–54, Bolivia 1952–64, Chile 1970–73, Grenada (1979–83), and Nicaragua (1979–90); as well as failed revolutionary and “political” movements such as in the Philippines and South Africa. The “reversed” revolutions were the “greatest tragedies” which might well have succeeded but by and large were thwarted by outside interventions. The book champions democratic revolutions which include the ballot box in contrast to previous revolutions, revolutions that are inclusive, uniting diverse forces such as race, gender and class, and in a language that unites diverse forces and that allows full expression to sometimes “mutually incompatible desires”.

[YMB]