

## Book Reviews, Book Lover Resources, Advice for Writers and Publishers

Home / Reviewer's Bookwatch

## **Reviewer's Bookwatch**

Volume 17, Number 3 March 2017 <u>Home | RBW Index</u>

Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017 Leo Panitch & Greg Albo, editors Monthly Review Press 134 W. 29th Street, Suite 706, New York, NY 10001 www.monthlyreview.org 9781583676332, \$29.00, PB, 369pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: One hundred years ago, "October 1917" galvanized leftists and oppressed peoples around the globe, and became the lodestar for 20th century politics. Today, the left needs to reckon with this legacy and go on to transcend it. Social change, as it was understood in the 20th century, appears now to be as impossible as revolution, leaving the left to rethink the relationship between capitalist crises, as well as the conceptual tension between revolution and reform.

Comprised of contributions by an impressive array of passionate thinkers and thoughtful activists, "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" reappraises the historical effects of the Russian revolution, both positive and negative, on political, intellectual, and cultural life, and looks at consequent revolutions after 1917.

Change needs to be understood in relation to the distinct trajectories of radical politics in different regions. But the main purpose of this Socialist Register edition (one century after "Red October") is to look forward, to what might happen next.

Compiled and co-edited by Leo Panitch (Professor of Political Science, York University, Toronto, Canada) and Greg Albo (Professor, Department of Political Science at York University, Toronto, Canada) the eighteen articles anthologized in "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" interrogate and explore compelling issues, including: Greg Albo: New socialist strategies - or detours?; Jodi Dean: Are the multitudes communing? Revolutionary agency and political forms today; Adolph Reed: Are racial minorities revolutionary agents?; Zillah Eisenstein: Revolutionary feminisms today; Nina Power: Accelerated technology, decelerated revolution; David Schwartzman: Beyond global warming: Is solar communism possible?; and Andrea Malm: Revolution and counter-revolution in an era of climate change.

Critique: An erudite body of original and seminal scholarship, "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" is an exceptionally timely and unreservedly recommended addition to community, college, and academic library Political Science collections in general, and Contemporary Socialism supplemental studies reading lists in particular. For students and non-specialist general readers with an interest in the subject, it should be noted that "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" is also available in a Kindle format (\$14.54).

Jack Mason Reviewer