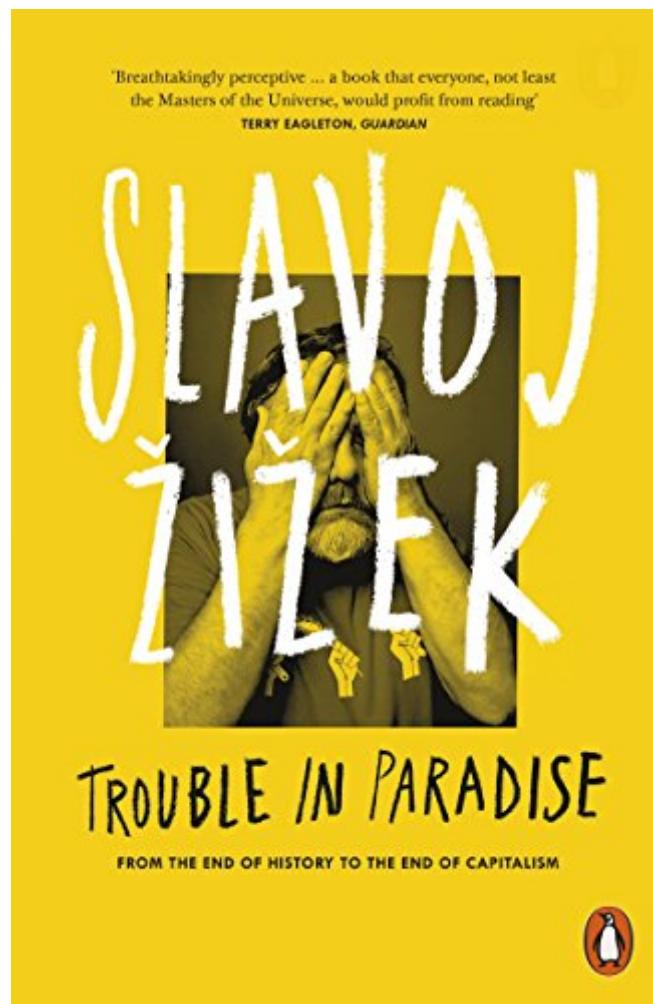


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Trouble In Paradise: From The End Of History To The End Of Capitalism



Synopsis

In Trouble in Paradise, Slavoj Å iÅ ek, one of our most famous, most combative philosophers, explains how by drawing on the ideas of communism, we can find a way out of the crisis of capitalism. There is obviously trouble in the global capitalist paradise. But why do we find it so difficult to imagine a way out of the crisis we're in? It is as if the trouble feeds on itself: the march of capitalism has become inexorable, the only game in town. Setting out to diagnose the condition of global capitalism, the ideological constraints we are faced with in our daily lives, and the bleak future promised by this system, Slavoj Å iÅ ek explores the possibilities - and the traps - of new emancipatory struggles. Drawing insights from phenomena as diverse as Gangnam Style to Marx, The Dark Knight to Thatcher, Trouble in Paradise is an incisive dissection of the world we inhabit, and the new order to come. 'The most dangerous philosopher in the West' - Adam Kirsch, *New Republic* 'The most formidably brilliant exponent of psychoanalysis, indeed of cultural theory in general, to have emerged in many decades' - Terry Eagleton 'Å iÅ ek leaves no social or cultural phenomenon untheorized, and is master of the counterintuitive observation' - *New Yorker* Slavoj Å iÅ ek is a Hegelian philosopher, Lacanian psychoanalyst, and political activist. He is international director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities and the author of numerous books on dialectical materialism, critique of ideology and art, including *Less Than Nothing*, *Living in the End Times*, *First as Tragedy, Then as Farce* and, most recently, *The Year of Dreaming Dangerously*.

Book Information

File Size: 1054 KB

Print Length: 213 pages

Publisher: Penguin (November 27, 2014)

Publication Date: November 27, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00K6Y0HHG

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #697,045 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #94
inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Utopian #235 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Business & Money > Economics > Free Enterprise #403 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Communism & Socialism

Customer Reviews

In addition to being an eminent philosopher, Slavoj Zizek is also a well-known Marxist theoretician and cultural commentator. Thus, a book about the crisis in global capitalism from a Marxist perspective, from a legitimate Marxist philosopher no less, raises the expectation of new insights into the crisis from a noted social philosopher. Sadly, this is not the case. Nowadays, writings on the crisis in capitalism are nothing new. This book is unique in that this is the most direct statement from Slavoj Zizek on capitalism. The "Paradise" is the promise Fukuyama outlined of the End of History following the downfall of the Soviet Union, discredited by the turn of historical events at the hands of the Neocons for whom the doctrine was addressed. The "Trouble" refers to a movie by Ernst Lubitsch. On the contrary, the "trouble" is the manner in which Zizek presents his thesis. In his own inimitable style, Slavoj Zizek examines the present state of global capitalism. Based on lectures given in South Korea, Zizek discusses the crisis in capitalism in medical and faux medical terms of diagnosis, cardiognosis, prognosis and epignosis. The diagnosis, the present state, cardiognosis (his term), and prognosis, "what is to be done." He also offers his epignosis, a term borrowed from theology, what the new capitalism looks like. Zizek says that the cure of the crisis in capitalism comes not from capitalism but from communism. A daring hypothesis but one never fully or systematically discussed in the book. He is very vague on this cure. As in previous endeavors, Zizek frequently diverts into cultural observations and such musings are distracting.

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