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Zizek: A Guide For The Perplexed (Guides For The Perplexed)



Synopsis

One of the most widely-read thinkers writing today, Slavoj Žižek's work can be both thrilling and perplexing in equal measure. Žižek: A Guide for the Perplexed is the most up-to-date guide available for readers struggling to master the ideas of this hugely influential thinker. Unpacking the philosophical references that fill Žižek's writings, the book explores his influences, including Lacan, Kant, Hegel and Marx. From there, a chapter on 'Reading Žižek' guides the reader through the ways that he applies these core theoretical concepts in key texts like *Tarrying With the Negative*, *The Ticklish Subject* and *The Parrallax View* and in his books about popular culture like *Looking Awry* and *Enjoy Your Symptom!* Major secondary writings and films featuring Žižek are also covered.

Book Information

Series: Guides for the Perplexed

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic; 1 edition (March 22, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1441180877

ISBN-13: 978-1441180872

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.4 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,976,920 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #114 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements > Structuralism #3960 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > History & Surveys #4421 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > History & Surveys

Customer Reviews

I have an interest in Lacan, and continental philosophy. I also have a graduate degree in biological sciences, and as such I have had little opportunity to familiarize myself with philosophical books while in college. I enjoy Žižek's somewhat exhausting writing but I could use a map and this book provides it. I found particularly helpful the chapter about German idealism, a school of thought that is as stimulating as hermetic to me, and that Žižek's jokes do not seem to make plainer. I agree that the Lacan chapter is Žižek's Lacan mostly, but that's OK in the frame of this book. The chapter about Ž and communism is also very good, and the recommended reading makes you wish for a life

of pure intellectual pursuit. This book does what the title announces and it does it well. After dipping in Zizek's writing, this book helps to find some banks from where to observe the overflowing river of his words.

â "Zizek: A guideline for the Perplexed" by Sean Sheehan 2012 Continuum - is a goddamn good book, on Zizek, Lacan, German Idealism and Marx. Much better than previous "dictionaries" and "encyclopedias". In my view this is the best book for the rank beginner. For the more experienced Zizek/Lacan reader, it will show how much you actually misunderstood these thinkers! Great description of Jouissance and Lacanian versus Freudian "death drive". I love this book!

This does not serve its purpose well. What is needed is an explanation of the framework of Zizek's theory, what draws from Marx and Lacan, where they overlap, what Zizek adds and what is the result. Then demonstration, then film applications and politics. Often such books forget or just appreciate the whimsical or haphazard theorist and sometimes show off that they can mimic that style, instead of explaining. This one does that.

I'm perplexed by the positive reviews this book receives. I am quite familiar with the work of Lacan, Hegel and Marx (the three main writers that the author claims make up the main contributing theories for Zizek's works and whose ideas the author focuses on) and it's because of this familiarity that I regard the level of explanation given in this book as extremely poor, in fact the author's attempt to explain Lacan's concepts makes Lacan's theoretical corpus sound largely like unintelligible drivel-it isn't, and anyone whose interested in reading a good intelligible account of Lacan should get a copy of Bruce Fink's 'A Clinical Introduction To Lacanian Psychoanalysis' or Lionel Bailly's book 'Lacan'. These two authors really know their subject and are able to make Lacan's ideas perfectly intelligible and comprehensible. As for the chapter on German Idealism all I can say is that it is largely incomprehensible. I really don't know how anyone could honestly regard this book as being anything but poorly written. The author's writing style is long winded with one run on, verbose and incoherent sentence after another. The level of explanation is so disgustingly poor if I could give this book less than one star I could. I believe the most likely explanation for the low quality of the book is that of a pretentious academic writing a book on a subject he's incompetent to write about and somehow finding a publisher desperate enough to publish it. The only good thing I can say about this book is that it's mercifully short-only 149 torturous pages-although that's long enough.

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