

## European Universalism The Rhetoric Of Power

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at a time when intervention in the name of democracy and human rights has returned to the center of world politics wallterstein s treatise is both essential and convincing book jacket

this book presents a challenging view of the adoption and co option of multiculturalism in latin america from six scholars with extensive experience of grassroots movements and intellectual debates it raises serious questions of theory method and interpretation for both social scientists and policymakers on the basis of cases in mexico brazil argentina bolivia and ecuador multicultural policies have enabled people to recover the land of their ancestors administer justice in accordance with their traditions provide recognition as full citizens of the nation and promote affirmative action to enable them to take the place in society which is theirs by right the message of this book is that while the multicultural response has done much to raise the symbolic recognition of indigenous and afro descendant peoples nationally and internationally its application calls for a profound reappraisal in spheres such as land gender institutional design and equal opportunities written by scholars with long term and in depth engagement in latin america the chapters show that multicultural theories and policies which assume racial and cultural boundaries to be clear cut overlook the pervasive reality of racial and cultural mixture and place excessive confidence in identity politics

rarely does a biographer capture the sense of being in a different time and mindset to the extent that readers feel they are reliving events through the eyes of the biographer s subject this is the skill of dan vogel after twenty five years of researching joseph smith s life and publishing on such related issues as seekerism the book of mormon views of smith s contemporaries about indian origins and the existing documents pertaining to smith family experiences vogel weaves together strands of evidence into a complete fabric including among other aspects of smith s environment the content of his daily dictation of scripture and revelation all contributing to a nearly complete view of what occurred on any given day in smith s life the result is as much intellectual history as traditional biography readers will feel engaged in the dramatic formative events in the prophet s life against a backdrop of theology local and national politics smith family dynamics organizational issues and interpersonal relations one can form a mental picture and many will find themselves carrying on an internal dialogue about the issues raised vogel addresses the following broad themes 1 the home that joseph smith was raised in was religiously divided his mother s family was orthodox and partly mystical his father s family tended toward rationalism and skepticism joseph s maternal grandfather published an account of seeing

a heavenly light and hearing Jesus voice Joseph's paternal grandfather promoted Thomas Paine's skeptical critique of the Bible the Age of Reason 2 when Andrew Jackson was elected U.S. president in 1828 it was a key transitional period in American history Jackson was a Mason and an advocate of secularism which alarmed evangelical Protestants 3 the Smith family experienced a series of financial setbacks and lost their farm in 1825 Joseph felt disinherited and saw no way of escape no chance for his family to regain its former standing in the community 4 Joseph found solace in religion in the early 1820s he had a powerful conversion experience and felt that Jesus had forgiven him of his sins this inspired him to share the Gospel message with others particularly with his own family about the same time Smith found a talent for preaching and delivered passable Methodist sermons at a nearby revival 5 over time Joseph became aware that people trusted him and that he could be an influence for good or ill that even through nefarious means God worked through him when his heart was right he realized this when he led groups in search of Spanish treasure in New York and Pennsylvania although no treasure was found the men sincerely believed that Smith had a spiritual gift and could see where casks of gold were hidden in the earth this training ground in spiritual leadership was invaluable because the prophet learned how to create an environment for belief one in which people could exercise faith and be converted to Christ through the sensible influence of the Spirit all prior to the overarching work of restoring primitive Christianity

Nicholas Hagger presents a new philosophy focusing on an up to date view of the universe and its bio friendly orderly rather than random structure at the origin of Western civilization philosophy reflected the one universe and man's position in it the last 350 years of increasing materialism and reductionism have fragmented the universe in the 20th century philosophy preferred to focus on logic and language and has become increasingly irrelevant now a new philosophy universalism takes philosophy back to its original aim focus on the universe the universe known to contemporary cosmologists astrophysicists physicists biologists and geologists who identify systems of order as well as randomness reflecting the most up to date scientific evidence for what the universe is universalism focuses on cosmological bio friendliness and the universal principle of order and reconnects philosophy to the metaphysical tradition rejected by the Vienna Circle a systematic philosophy of the expanding universe nature and man universalism identifies a law of order that counterbalances a law of randomness and offers a new philosophy that has global applications

the aim of this book is to provide the international readership a collection of articles authored by chinese scholars on the subject of globalization and localization in a world where no country is an island isolated from others globalization is bound to be contested debated and de and re constructed at different levels across the international community for this very reason it is important to present this concept as developed interpreted and discussed by the chinese community the scope of book is broad ranging from theoretical reflection to more concrete opinions given by the chinese academic community and finally to case studies on globalization and localization it includes eleven articles by leading chinese scholars in the past decades

per erik nilsson takes a religious studies approach to analyse the intersections of secularism nationhood and populism in contemporary france this book provides insight into the french and european radical nationalist ideology and activism and contributes to our understanding of the complex relationship between religion and the state in contemporary europe and beyond when marine le pen became the leader of the radical nationalist and populist party national front in 2011 she made clear that secularism was a core value of party this signalled a significant shift in the party s rhetorical strategies and previous reluctance to embrace secularism nilsson argues that this conspicuous appropriation first came about as a logical result of the obsession of the established mainstream political parties and news media with questions of secularism national identity and islam he shows that a key player in understanding the national front s change is the web based journal *riposte laïque* which has become a central actor in french radical nationalist and anti muslim web and street based activism for the first time this source is examined in order to understand french radical nationalists recent appropriation of secularism as well as debates on secularism national identity and islam in france more broadly

an accessible introduction to cultural theory and an original polemic about the purpose of criticism what is criticism for over the past few decades impassioned disagreements over that question in the academy have burst into the news media these conflicts have renewed the culture wars over the legacy of the 1960s becoming entangled in national politics and leading to a new set of questions about critics and the power they do or don t wield re examining theorists from matthew arnold to walter benjamin to fredric jameson stuart hall and hortense spillers criticism and politics explores the animating contradictions that have long propelled literary studies between pronouncing judgment and

engaging in philosophical critique between democracy and expertise between political commitment and aesthetic autonomy both a leftist critic and a critic of the left robbins unflinchingly defends criticism from those who might wish to de politicize it arguing that working for change is not optional for critics but rather a core part of their job description

stories about border crossers illegal aliens refugees that regularly appear in the press everywhere point to the crucial role national identity plays in human beings lives today the national habitus seeks to understand how and why national belonging became so central to a person s identity and sense of identity centered on the acquisition of the national habitus the process that transforms subjects into citizens when a state becomes a nation state the book examines this transformation at the individual level in the case of nineteenth century france literary texts serve as primary material in this study of national belonging because as germaine de staël pointed out long ago literature has the unique ability to provide access to inner feelings the term habitus in the title of this book signals a departure from traditional approaches to nationalism a break with the criteria of language race and ethnicity typically used to examine it it is grounded instead in a sociology that deals with the subjective dimension of life and is best exemplified by the works of norbert elias 1897 1990 and pierre bourdieu 1931 2002 two sociologists who approach belief systems like nationalism from a historical instead of an ethical vantage point by distinguishing between two groups of major french writers three who experienced the 1789 revolution firsthand as adults olympe de gouges françois rené de chateaubriand and germaine de staël and three who did not stendhal prosper mérimée and george sand the book captures evolving understandings of the nation as well as thoughts and emotions associated with national belonging over time le hir shows that although none of these writers is typically associated with nationalism all of them were actually affected by the process of nationalization of feelings thoughts and habits irrespective of aesthetic preferences social class or political views by the end of the nineteenth century they had learned to feel and view themselves as french nationals they all exhibited the characteristic features of the national habitus love of their own nation distrust and or hatred of other nations by underscoring the dual contradictory nature of the national habitus the book highlights the limitations nation based identities impose on the prospect for peace

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