



“ALTER-GLOBALIZATION Becoming Actors in the Global Age”

Geoffrey Pleyers, Polity Press, 2011
Foreword by Alain Touraine

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"The question of how we can change the world cannot easily be answered, but Geoffrey Pleyers has shown masterfully in this beautifully written and finely researched book that the way we now imagine those answers in changing, in part because of the way the alter-globalization movement has altered our understanding of ourselves as global citizens."

Henrietta L. Moore, University of Cambridge, European Journal of Sociology

"The distinction between the way of subjectivity and the way reason that Geoffrey Pleyers proposes in his book clarifies the dynamics and tensions that we experience in groups and assemblies of the “*Indignados*” in Barcelona. It is a conceptual tool that has been of great help me in group facilitation and positive management of conflicts, both online and in assemblies as it allows overpassing tensions among positions that seem irreconcilable and developing an empathy based on mutual understanding."

David Leal Garcia, Indignado (15M) in Barcelona

"Pleyers' study provides an indispensable tool to understand what is happening at Occupy Wall Street and possible futures of this movement".

John Krinsky, City University New York, Editor of "Social movement studies"

"This book will be the main reference for those who want to understand how the global justice movement shapes today's world, how it modifies our perception of action, but also of democracy, and how this new actor articulates local and personal meanings with general concerns for the future of humanity."

Michel Wieviorka, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, ISA President 2006-2010.

"Pleyers has traveled the world to offer readers the most sweeping look yet at this crucial global movement, including how it has changed in the face of the recent crisis of the very capitalism it criticizes. By showing us a movement grappling continuously with the Pyramid Dilemma over top-down versus bottom-up approaches, this book helps us think about the most basic issues of democracy and social change." **James M. Jasper, CUNY Graduate centre**

"This important book is the first scholarly account of the alter-globalization movement. This highly original analysis of the way the movement is constructed around the tension between its two logics - subjective experience and expertise based on reason - helps us to understand not only the movement itself but also the role that the movement plays in inventing global citizenship."

Mary Kaldor, Director, LSE Global Governance.

"An outstanding example of contemporary sociological research that rises to the immense demands of a truly global ethnography. Pleyers' book is bound to become the definitive account by a contemporary of the alter-globalization movement."

Martin Albrow, London School of Economics.

"Well-documented and relying on the most in-depth analyses. This book presents a movement both truly global and adapted to the economic context of each country and region."

Alain Touraine, EHESS Paris.

"What is missing from much of today's media coverage of the Occupy Wall Street movement and related international struggles against corporate globalization and Western imperialism is the question of where these movements have come from and why they've all emerged at this particular time. Geoffrey Pleyer's book makes an important contribution to addressing the prehistory of the Occupy protests, and it can inform those participating in these struggles as well as students and scholars of social movements."

Jackie Smith, Mobilization

"Provides an excellent overview of the main debates within the movement through a meticulously constructed research programme ... [Pleyers'] thorough and balanced account of the development of alter-globalisation offers an immensely valuable resource for both researchers and activists."

Capital & Class

"The kind of book that students of the alter-globalisation movement have been waiting for years for ... An indispensable read for anyone - students, academics, activists or politicians - who is looking for an elaborate and sophisticated discussion of some of the most crucial political issues of our time."

Journal of Democratic Socialism

"Utterly convincing and theoretically robust ... This kind of scholarship is what the alter-globalisation movement and indeed the world deserve."

Giuseppe Caruso's Weblog

"Pleyers' reflections push us towards many decisive questions about the process of globalisation and its impact on our political and social worlds."

Silke Trommer, Helsinki Review of Global Governance

Summary:

Reformulating the possibilities for action in this global world constitutes a major issue in contemporaneous social sciences and a central challenge of the alter-globalization/global justice movement. This book proposes to discuss it starting from concrete experimentations by social actors who have contested globalization in its neoliberal form, implemented participatory organization models and promoted a nascent global public space. It is based on extensive field research conducted since 1999 in Europe, Latin America and at eight world social forums.