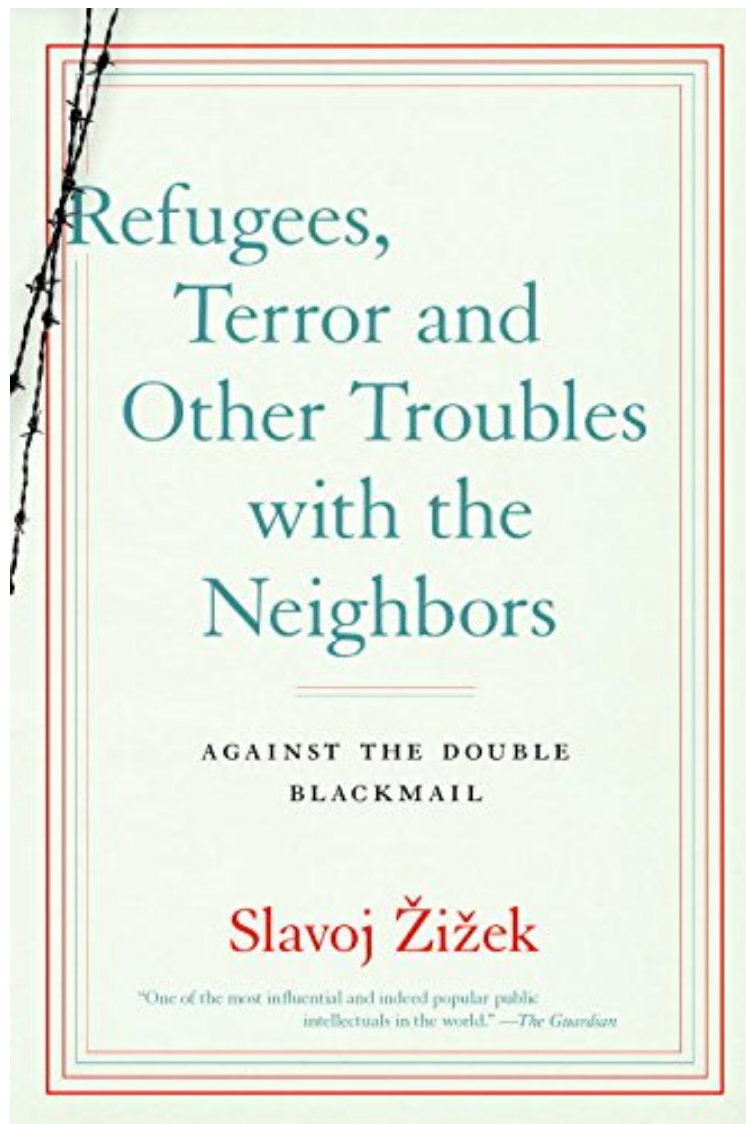


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Refugees, Terror and Other Troubles with the Neighbors: Against the Double Blackmail

Slavoj Žižek

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Slavoj Žižek : Refugees, Terror and Other Troubles with the Neighbors: Against the Double Blackmail before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Refugees, Terror and Other Troubles with the Neighbors: Against the Double Blackmail:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This isnt my favorite Zizek bookBy DavidThis isnt my favorite

Zizek book. Its a quick read but the conclusion feels like he just threw his hands up in the air with a shrug. I think there is a lot to say and its clear he doesn't have much to offer aside from observations. Its a good outline of the problem and probably would have been better served if he offered more in depth look at the multi-car collision of ideologies that is the refugee crisis which is probably where he excels the best and would offer the best insight as to how to sort through it all. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Incisive Analysis of a Contemporary Quagmire By The Peripatetic Reader Reading Slavoj Zizek can be sometimes a frustrating experience. At his worst, he seems to ramble on and on without making a point or failing to return back on point. However, on other times, as here, thankfully, he is focused, incisive and on point. Refugees, Terror, and Other Troubles with Neighbors is a thoughtful analysis of a problem bedeviling the contemporary world. Zizek is a cultural analyst and frequently throws in cultural examples in his analysis. He does so here, of course. However, where in other contexts these cultural references are a distraction to what he has to say, here his references to film and art are skillfully used and, again, on point. Zizek is at his most readable here. The Refugee Crisis has exposed the weakest points in an already strained European social network. Zizek has correctly identified those stresses and gives a critical assessment of where the blame should lay. There's plenty of blame to pass around. Zizek is, of course, critical of conservative groups which cannot show enough understanding and/or compassion to refugees fleeing a hell on earth but instead want them out. That part is easy. Zizek, however is also highly critical of the European leftist elite, which, on the surface shows understanding or compassion, but does so in an imperfect manner, actually making the situation worse. For example, Germany pledges to accept fleeing refugees. Fine. But at the same time requires the least capable countries in the EE, such as Greece, to accept these refugees. But most of all Zizek points to the global effects of neoliberal capitalism, western military interventionism and other factors in creating the crisis. This creates what Zizek calls a double blackmail, where as long as the root causes of the Refugee Crisis remains unresolved, the refugees will continue to pour into EE borders. The Refugee Crisis is not just a European problem, and the issue affects North America. Zizek seems to concentrate his discussions to Europe. The crisis is world-wide, and could just as easily be applied to other parts of the world other than Europe. As he discusses in this enlightening book, the Refugee Crisis is a problem with no easily defined resolution. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Zizek is of course not letting the West off easy, he is aware and lays out the responsibility ... By A. Gonzalez I bought a hardcover copy from the UK. This is quite a short book from Zizek but thankfully it is the kind of Zizek book that anyone can understand [no jargon, etc.]. Zizek gets right to the point in calling out the fallacies of the Left in not only the reaction to the refugee crisis but also regarding Leftist views of Islam. For Zizek, the Leftist call to throw open the borders and blame the crisis on the West is considered "The White Man's Burden" in reverse. With Europe adopting a kind of masochistic attitude to this issue, Leftists are still romanticizing the Other and depriving themselves of their own autonomy by putting their problems on Europe. Now, Zizek is of course not letting the West off easy, he is aware and lays out the responsibility of Western governments [namely US, UK, France, etc] for their meddling in the Mideast. In addition to this, Zizek's call for breaking leftist taboos regarding Muslims [no more treating them as children and protecting them from criticism of Islam, which in itself is condescending and as racist as the right] and acknowledging that there is a European/Western culture/values worth preserving, and not being afraid to be Eurocentric [he notes, after all, that Marxism itself is Eurocentric]. All in all, a good read. Though given Zizek's willingness to break Leftist taboos as of late, it is no wonder many on the Left are turning on him

Called "the Elvis of cultural theory" by The New York Times, popular philosopher and leftist rabble-rouser Slavoj Zizek, looks at one of the most desperate situations of our time: the current refugee crisis overwhelming Europe. In this short yet stirring book, Zizek argues that accepting all comers or blocking all entry are both untenable solutions... but there is a third option. Today, hundreds of thousands of people, desperate to escape war, violence and poverty, are crossing the Mediterranean to seek refuge in Europe. Our response, from our protected Western European standpoint, argues Slavoj Zizek, offers two versions of ideological blackmail: either we open our doors as widely as possible; or we try to pull up the drawbridge. Both solutions are bad, states Zizek. They merely prolong the problem, rather than tackling it. The refugee crisis also presents an opportunity, a unique chance for Europe to redefine itself: but, if we are to do so, we have to start raising unpleasant and difficult questions. We must also acknowledge that large migrations are our future: only then can we commit to a carefully prepared process of change, one founded not on a community that see the excluded as a threat, but one that takes as its basis the shared substance of our social being. The only way, in other words, to get to the heart of one of the greatest issues confronting Europe today is to insist on the global solidarity of the exploited and oppressed. Maybe such solidarity is a utopia. But, warns Zizek, if we don't engage in it, then we are really lost. And we will deserve to be lost.

"[A]n urgent and entertaining diagnosis of the ongoing refugee crisis and global terror threat, highlighting the glaring contradictions in our attitudes and actions." Mother Jones "Offers... deep insights into addressing the refugee crisis, one of the worlds most current, serious dilemmas... A thought-provoking, stirring read by a rabble-rouser who deserves serious attention." The Washington Missourian "Slavoj ieks compellingly persuasive insights into the current refugee

explosion...could not arrive at a more urgent time."CounterPunchPraise forSlavoj iek"One of the most influential and indeed popular public intellectuals in the world." The Guardian "The Elvis of cultural theory."The New York Times"The most dangerous philosopher in the West." The New Republic"The master of the counterintuitive observation." The New Yorker"Few thinkers illustrate the contradictions of contemporary capitalism better than Slavoj Zizek ... One of the world's best known public intellectuals." The New York of BooksAbout the AuthorSlavoj iek is a Hegelian philosopher, Lacanian psychoanalyst, and political activist. He is international director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, and Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University. He is the author of numerous books on dialectical materialism, critique of ideology and art, including Event, and Trouble In Paradise, both published by Melville House.