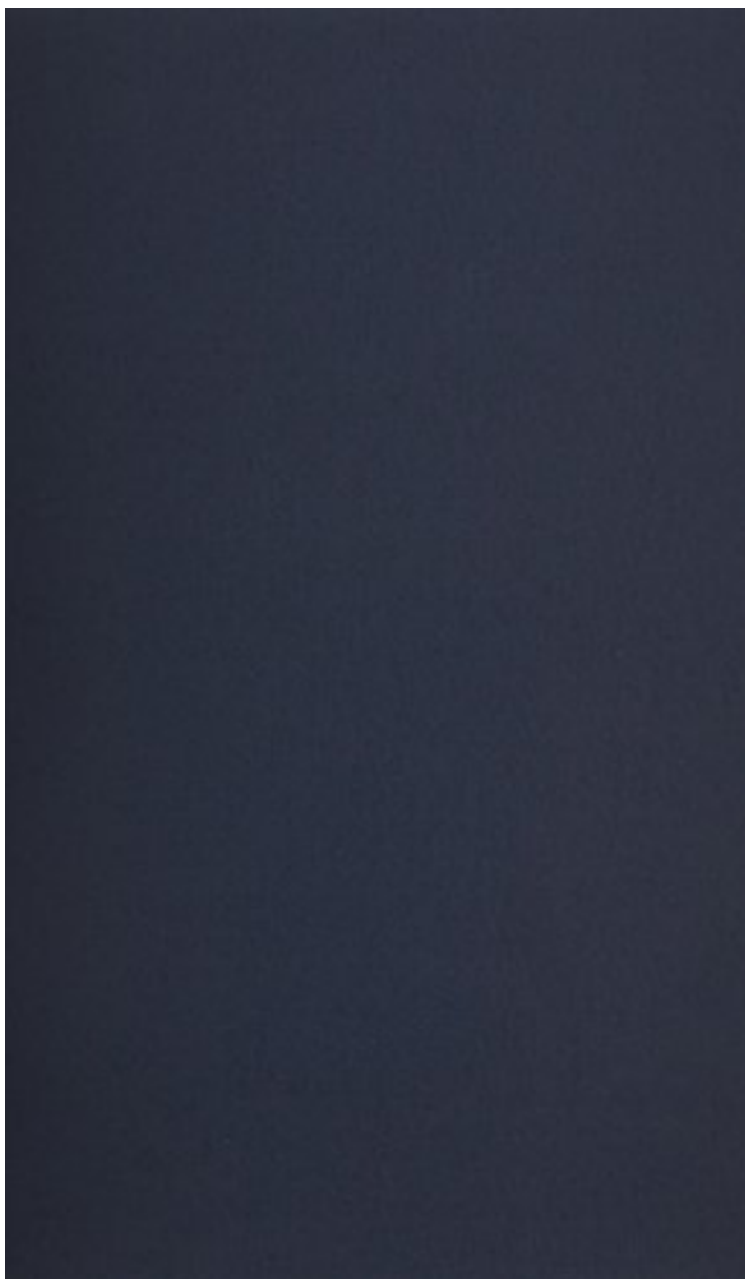


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Terror of Neoliberalism: Authoritarianism and the Eclipse of Democracy (Cultural Politics and the Promise of Democracy)

Henry A. Giroux

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Henry A. Giroux : Terror of Neoliberalism: Authoritarianism and the Eclipse of Democracy (Cultural Politics and the Promise of Democracy) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Terror of Neoliberalism: Authoritarianism and the Eclipse of Democracy (Cultural Politics and the Promise of Democracy)*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For a class By Young Investor I read this and others for a class in college. You'll definitely need some coffee for this read and diligence. I was raised republican and it was hard to see all the republican hate mongering. However it eventually showed you the other half of the story. I feel more well rounded socio-politically now. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By SEIJI FUKUTA (Prof.) none 17 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Time to save human race running out By N. P. Stathoulopoulos This book is essential, but be warned, it is almost relentlessly grim. As it should be, for it paints the United States as a country spinning away from any semblance of an actual, functioning democracy and into a web where capitalism is the new democracy and public participation in the phenomenon that shape our lives is largely removed or rendered a cynical joke. Giroux examines neoliberalism as the main 'philosophy' or force that has driven the USA toward a more private society where the social contract is chipped away, job, life, and health security are weakened to strengthen authority, inequality has gone through the roof, and of course, money rules. That it's now easier to imagine the end of the world before the end of the current strain of capitalism (which has pretty much replaced democracy) just about says it all. Giroux covers the erosion of public debate, where the complete corruption of terms neutralizes discussion and discourages thinking ('conservative', 'liberal', 'terrorism', etc, etc), the slow death of public space, public service, and the obsessive privatization of life, and other major phenomenon you never hear about in the news because you'd probably want to kill yourself, or do something about it. He's certainly not off point, if anything, he's rightfully disgusted about the state of affairs. Where is the outrage, he asks. As for the Bush administration, it's not new, it's just more extreme in its vision of an 'ownership society' and in the empty rhetoric of 'rugged individualism' and 'freedom from the government' that is, of course, a weapon against the common schlep who can only increase their human value by positioning themselves as profit-generators. The poor subsidize the rich, absorbing risk while the dough pours into the same few pockets. Everybody else can rent themselves out to whoever decides to keep jobs in the USA, where we endlessly consume while producing less and less. And the government, well, it's this terrible, meddlesome, flabby entity that should be cut down to size because it's restricting all of us. Unless, of course, that same government works overtime to protect the rich from the market forces that would destroy them as it bails out failing companies, enacts tariffs, and gives huge breaks to those who need it least so that we can all survive but hiring ourselves out to the same folks. If you're lucky, maybe you can work at a nice suburban office park that your favorite credit card or cell phone company has decided to establish in your area. Judging by this sober assessment, the US of A is heading down the tubes, and fast. What does one do? The time to act is now, it seems, though our choices are fewer and fewer. When we're all sitting in front of a computer for 8-10 hours a day doing intellectually bankrupt work for pathological institutions that threaten to toss us out because we don't fit into their Excel columns, cost too much to take care of because of a massively inefficient health care system, and are subject to huge phenomenon that nobody really bothers to address in the pursuit of cash, I guess we can all hope we're near the blast radius when mankind decides to finally blow up the world. Not the most cheerful book, it's a cold, hard look at what has happened to the state of democracy in the USA, and how the forces of capital have boxed and wrapped every facet of life, destroying anything the founding fathers had in mind. Time to go live in the woods.

This book argues that neoliberalism is not simply an economic theory but also a set of values, ideologies, and practices that works more like a cultural field that is not only refiguring political and economic power, but eliminating the very categories of the social and political as essential elements of democratic life. Neoliberalism has become the most dangerous ideology of our time. Collapsing the link between corporate power and the state, neoliberalism is putting into place the conditions for a new kind of authoritarianism in which large sections of the population are increasingly denied the symbolic and economic capital necessary for engaged citizenship. Moreover, as corporate power gains a stranglehold on the media, the educational conditions necessary for a democracy are undermined as politics is reduced to a spectacle, essentially both depoliticizing politics and privatizing culture. This series addresses the relationship among culture, power, politics, and democratic struggles. Focusing on how culture offers opportunities that may expand and deepen the prospects for an inclusive democracy, it draws from struggles over the media, youth, political economy, workers, race, feminism, and more, highlighting how each offers a site of both resistance and transformation.

Against the Terror of Neoliberalism showcases why Henry A. Giroux is one of the most important and influential thinkers on the cultural left. [He] critiques the present of politics, as always, eloquently and yet clearly and pointedly, with theoretical sophistication, acute insights into the structures in which power operates, a careful reading of its contemporary manifestations as well as its historical roots, and an in-depth grasp of current academic debates. *Against*

the Terror of Neoliberalism makes an incontrovertible demonstration of the ways that education is at the center of both how the forces of oppression gain ascendance and how the forces of dissent need to think [about] the future of opposition. Robin Truth Goodman, Florida State University, in *Symploke* At the core of Henry Giroux's latest, and perhaps most incisive, encompassing and challenging book, *Against the Terror of Neoliberalism*, are urgent questions and concerns about youth, education, responsibility, the future, and democracy, all rigorously examined and captured brilliantly. [The book] should be obligatory reading across the spectrum of US education, from high schools and schools of education, to cultural studies, political science, union halls, military barracks, and departments of communications. Giroux thinks and writes with an unrelenting urgency, rigor, and clarity that provides us with critical tools for thinking hard about the world. Scott D. Morris in *Dissident Voice* Henry Giroux has done it again! Against a fastball from Wall Street, the World Bank and the IMF, and the ideologues and practitioners of free market fundamentalism, he smashes a home run. Giroux surgically and decisively dissects the contradictions and the brutal inhumanity and injustice of the free market. He also provides the outlines for a roadmap to get out of this living hell. Robert W. McChesney, author, *The Problem of the Media* About the Author Henry A. Giroux currently holds the Global TV Network Chair Professorship at McMaster University in the English and Cultural Studies Department. He has published numerous books and articles and his most recent books include *America's Educational Deficit* and *the War on Youth* (2013) and *Neoliberalism's War on Higher Education* (2014). The *Toronto Star* has named Henry Giroux one of the twelve Canadians changing the way we think! Read the article here: [Twelve Canadians Changing the Way We Think](#)