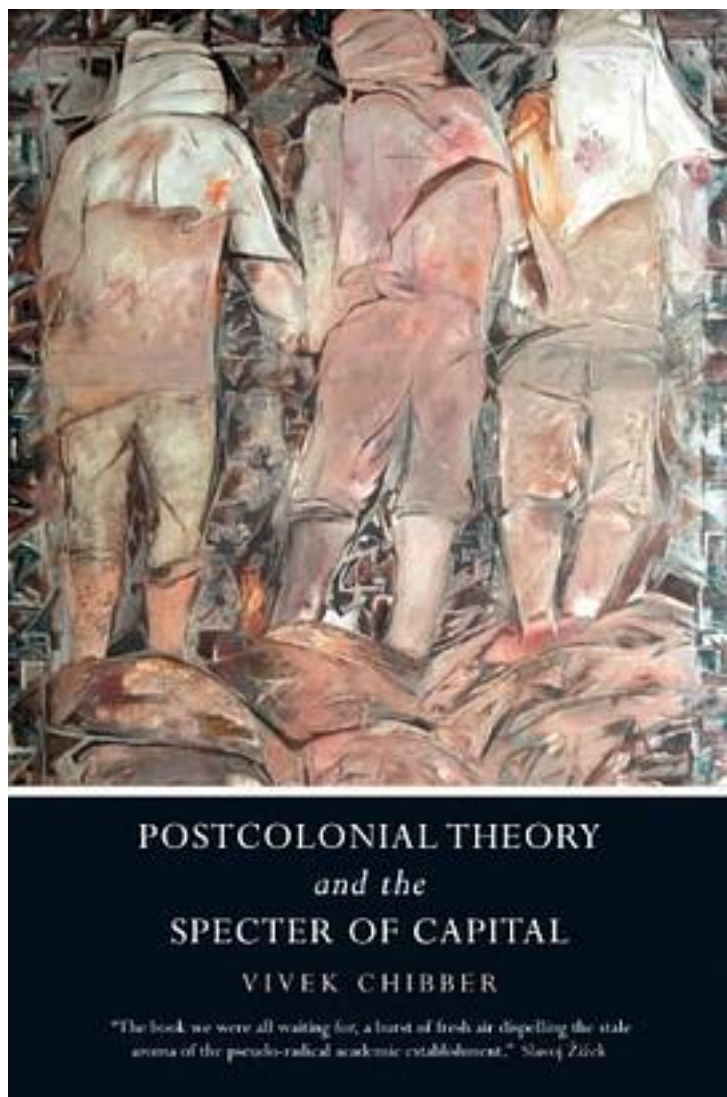


Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital



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In recent years, postcolonial theory has emerged as the most influential scholarly explanation for the historical trajectory and social anatomy of the Global South. Its leading proponents - many of whom have become academic superstars - not only reject Enlightenment political and economic theories, especially Marxism, but accuse them of complicity in Europe's imperial project. In this devastating critique, Vivek Chibber offers the most comprehensive response yet to postcolonial theory mounted on behalf of the radical Enlightenment tradition. Focusing on the hugely popular Subaltern Studies project, Chibber carefully examines this project's core arguments about the specificity of the Global South and the deficiencies of Western thought. He shows that their foundational arguments are based on a series of analytical and historical errors, chief among which is a flawed understanding of capitalism's "universalizing" tendency. Once the real history of capital's universalization is reconstructed, aspects of modernity that appear to be unique to the South turn out to be shared with the North - - and the history of the Global South can be explained by the very theories that postcolonial theorists urge us to reject. *Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital* promises to be a turning point in contemporary social theory.

作者介绍:

Vivek Chibber is Associate Professor of Sociology at New York University. He has contributed to, among others, the *Socialist Register*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Boston Review* and *New Left Review*. His book *Locked in Place: State-Building and Late Industrialization in India* won the 2005 Barrington Moore Book Award and was one of *Choice's* Outstanding Academic Titles of 2004.

目录: Review

“With its focus on cultural identities and mixtures, postcolonial theory ignored the larger context of capitalist relations and thus limited its scope to Western academia where it excelled in the game of growing and profiting from the liberal guilt feeling. Chibber’s book simply sets the record straight, bringing postcolonialism down from cultural heights to where it belongs, into the very heart of global capitalist processes. The book we were all waiting for, a burst of fresh air dispelling the stale aroma of pseudo-radical academic establishment.” (Slavoj iek)

“In this scrupulous and perceptive analysis, Vivek Chibber successfully shows that the ‘universalizing categories of Enlightenment thought’ emerge unscathed from the criticisms of postcolonial theorists. He shows further that—perhaps ironically—Subaltern Studies greatly underestimates the role of subaltern agency in bringing about the transformations that they attribute to the European bourgeoisie. Chibber’s analysis also provides a very valuable account of the actual historical sociology of modern European development, of Indian peasant mobilization and activism, and much else. It is a very significant contribution.” (Noam Chomsky)

“In this outstanding work—a model of clarity in its architecture and argumentation—key theorists of the ‘Subaltern’ and of postcoloniality have met their most formidable interlocutor and critic yet. Chibber’s critique of postcolonial theory and the historical sociological studies associated with it is, at the same time, a vigorous and welcome defense of the enduring value of certain Enlightenment universals as an analytical framework to both understand and radically change the world we live in” (Achin Vanaik)

“Vivek Chibber has written a stunning critique of postcolonial theory as represented by the Subaltern Studies school. While eschewing all polemics, he shows that their project is undermined by their paradoxical acceptance of an essentially liberal-Whig interpretation of the bourgeois revolutions and capitalist development in the West,

which provides the foundation for their fundamental assertion of the difference of the East. Through a series of painstaking empirical and conceptual studies Chibber proceeds to overturn the central pillars of the Subalternists’ framework, while sustaining the credibility of Enlightenment theories. It is a bravura performance that cannot help but shake up our intellectual and political landscape.” (Robert Brenner)

“Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital is a must-read book for students of comparative politics and social theory. Vivek Chibber presents a forceful challenge to the Subaltern Studies school and to postcolonial theory more broadly. Arguing with great clarity, Chibber raises fundamental objections to their ideas about capitalism, power, and agency, and presents an alternative account of these ideas. Most fundamentally, he rejects the fundamental division between ‘East and West’ associated with postcolonial theory and defends the ‘universalizing categories of Enlightenment thought.’ This is a major contribution that is bound to reshape debate on these important issues.” (Joshua Cohen)

“In this book, Vivek Chibber has carried out a thoroughgoing dissection of Subaltern Studies. Like a highly skilled anatomist, he lays bare the skeleton, the nervous system, the arteries and veins of this school ... In the process the reader is also exposed to the nitty-gritty of a materialist historiography.” (Amiya Kumar Bagchi)

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标签

后殖民

政治經濟學

postcolonial

英文原版

社会学

新书记

文化研究

学术

评论

庶民研究的结论常常振聋发聩，积极确立殖民地本土在资本主义、现代性、主体性等方面的与欧美的差异。但这些结论到底依据哪些社会和历史理论？后者一直备受忽视。作者用历史社会学的方法抽丝剥茧，提出：庶民研究对资本、权利和主体性所做的论断（东西方有根本性差异），大错特错！两者固然有异，但庶民研究者们找错了点。

總結後殖民理論，給四星。用B教授話："It is a problematic book"，減一星。

仔细看了第五章和第十章对资本的“普世化”和后发国家的民族主义到底是不是新的之民主与的分析，把后殖民理论里的大词都具化成了清晰的经验层面的社会关系，把“说不清楚哪里不对”的地方都说清了。real sociological analysis.

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书评

Vivek Chibber是NYU社會學教授，十五歲遷居美國，求學、任教於此。此書一出引起極大爭議，subaltern studies本身在近年受到眾多質疑，但尤以此書為最。Chatterjee與他的辯論可見：<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbM8HJrxSJ4> 重點： 1. 後殖民理論與其說是理論，不如說是政...

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