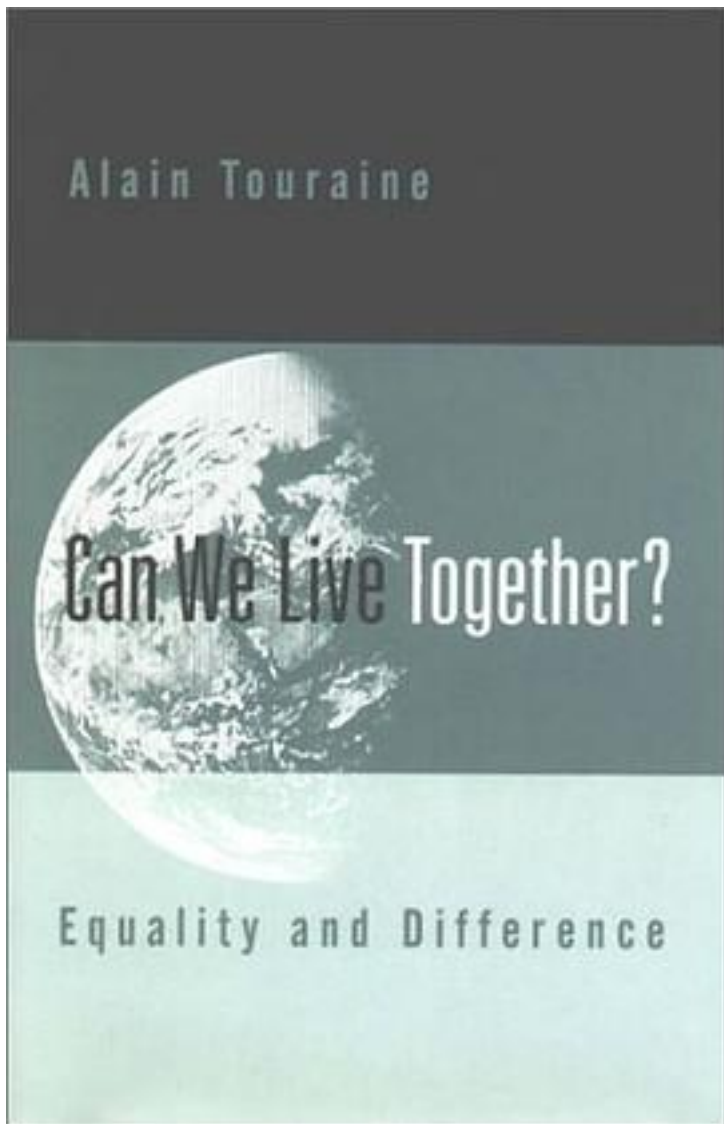


Can We Live Together?



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著者:Touraine, Alain

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In this provocative and timely new book, Alain Touraine explores the question of how we might live together in a truly globalized world society. Rejecting the seductive metaphor of a global melting pot, Touraine mounts a powerful attack on the idea that we now live together as equals, sharing the same social and cultural values. If anything, he argues, our differences are being heightened, as communities increasingly define their identities against the encroaching forces of globalization.

Touraine argues that the twin processes of globalization and particularization are pushing us further and further apart. On the one hand, traditional values and forms of cultural expression are being eroded by homogenized mass culture. On the other, communities are becoming more introverted as they fight to defend themselves from outside influences. Even the cities where our global networks originate and are controlled are made up of communities which are foreign to one another, as they defend their identities from the tokens of mass culture.

How do we avoid a global conflict between those who control the international networks of information, and those who feel threatened by them? The first part of Touraine's book asserts that the only way to prevent the destruction of identity is for individuals to develop a personal life-project, which he calls the 'Subject'. To become a subject, the individual constructs itself as an actor, forming a stable point of reference in a world of permanent and uncontrollable change. In the second part of the book, Touraine examines how this apparently non-social principle might be used to reconstruct social life. The first step is to recognize that others are also subjects, striving for a sense of personal freedom. Touraine then argues for a replacement of the old idea of democracy, defined as participation in the general will, with the new idea of institutions that safeguard the freedom of the subject and permit communication between subjects. This is the only approach that will allow us to live together, equal and different.

This book will be of great interest to second- and third-year undergraduates and graduate students of sociology and politics.

作者介绍:

阿兰·图海纳(Alain Touraine)是法国当代最主要的社会学家之一。1925年出生，现任教于法国高等社会科学学院。对工业社会学、行动社会学和后工业社会研究具有重要影响和杰出贡献。

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书评

（面对逆现代化的局面） “……通过一个转制政权的一只把经济自由主义与文化民族主义联系在一起。这种意志主义，既是推行现代化的，又是主张同一性的。这种民族主义，或推行现代化的社群主义，从政治上说，比反现代化的原教旨主义强大的多……他们都像动用他们国家的文化资源来…

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