# The New Spirit of Capitalism



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A century after the publication of Max Weber's The Protestant Ethic and the "Spirit" of Capitalism a major new work examines network-based organization, employee autonomy and post-Fordist horizontal work structures.

Why is the critique of capitalism so ineffective today? In this major work, the sociologists Eve Chiapello and Luc Boltanski suggest that we should be addressing the crisis of anticapitalist critique by exploring its very roots.

This highly acclaimed work examines the structure of capitalism and how it has been reorganized sicne the 1960s. Via an unprecedented examination of management texts the authors find that employers are using the language of 1968 counterculture to drive through new work practices and more successful and subtle forms of exploitation.

They argue that from the middle of the 1970s onwards, capitalism abandoned the hierarchical Fordist work structure and developed a network-based form of organization that was founded on employee initiative and authnomy in the work-place - a "freedom" that came at the cost of material and psychological security. in a work that is already a paradigm-shifting classic, Boltanski and Chiapello show how the new

spirit triumphed thanks to a remarkable recuperation of the Left's critique of the alienation of everyday life.

This book, remarkable for its scope and ambition, seeks to lay the basis for a revival of these two complementary critiques.

#### 作者介绍:

Luc Boltanski teaches sociology at the EHESS, Paris. He is the author of numerous books, including The Making of a Class: Cadres in French Society.

Eve Chiapello is an associate professor at the HEC School of Management, Paris. She is the author of Artistes versus Managers.

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# 标签

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### 评论

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## 书评

摘自《中华读书报》作者:宫敬才 在自由至上主义者如米塞斯、哈耶克、斯蒂格勒和弗里德曼等人看来,凡是批判资本主 义者,不是妒贤嫉能便是坏心恶意。他们针对"知识分子为什么反对市场"问题发表的 言论可资证明。这些人观点的偏执暂且不说,仅检视其看问题的角度就能明白...

在奉行資本主義的工作唯/第一世界裏,過去三十年僱主與員工的位置及思維、組織架構的轉型等歷經了徹底的改革。 這鉅著將帶領讀者深入認識這些變化,最後對這「新資本主義精神」進行更有針對性的 批判。

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