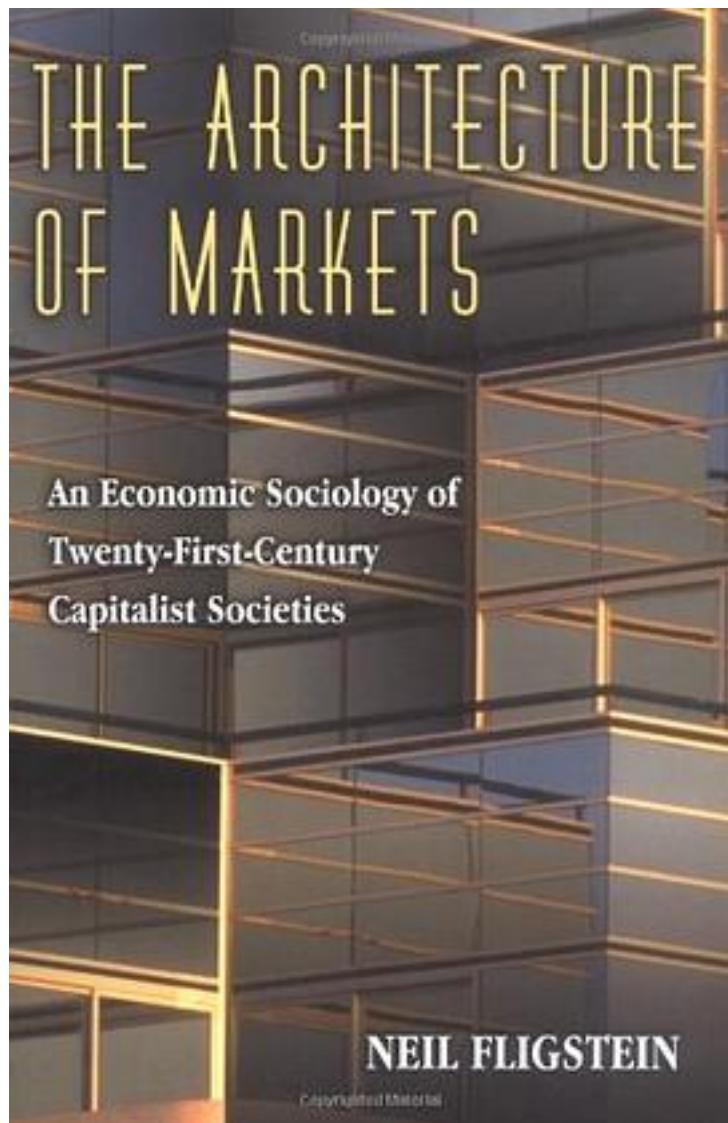


The Architecture of Markets



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Market societies have created more wealth, and more opportunities for more people, than any other system of social organization in history. Yet we still have a rudimentary understanding of how markets themselves are social constructions that require extensive institutional support. This groundbreaking work seeks to fill this gap, to make sense of modern capitalism by developing a sociological theory of market institutions. Addressing the unruly dynamism that capitalism brings with it, leading sociologist Neil Fligstein argues that the basic drift of any one market and its actors, even allowing for competition, is toward stabilization. The "Architecture of Markets" represents a major and timely step beyond recent, largely empirical studies that oppose the neoclassical model of perfect competition but provide sparse theory toward a coherent economic sociology. Fligstein offers this theory. With it he interprets not just globalization and the information economy, but developments more specific to American capitalism in the past two decades - among them, the 1980s merger movement. He makes new inroads into the "theory of fields," which links the formation of markets and firms to the problems of stability. His political-cultural approach explains why governments remain crucial to markets and why so many national variations of capitalism endure. States help make stable markets possible by, for example, establishing the rule of law and adjudicating the class struggle. State-building and market-building go hand in hand. Fligstein shows that market actors depend mightily upon governments and the members of society for the social conditions that produce wealth. He demonstrates that systems favoring more social justice and redistribution can yield stable markets and economic growth as readily as less egalitarian systems. This book will surely join the classics on capitalism. Economists, sociologists, policymakers, and all those interested in what makes markets function as they do will read it for many years to come.

作者介绍:

目录: 第1章 回归到社会学 / 1
第一篇 / 23
第2章 作为制度的市场 / 25
第3章 市场制度创建的政治学 / 43
第4章 场域理论和市场形成问题 / 63
第二篇 / 95
第5章 雇佣系统的逻辑 / 97
第6章 美国公司的动态变化及20世纪70年代公司的所有权和控制权问题 / 118
第7章 20世纪80年代公司股东价值观的兴起与公司合并浪潮 / 142
第8章 资本主义社会的公司控制 / 164
第9章 全球化 / 186
第10章 结论 / 218
参考文献 / 233
索引 / 255
· · · · · (收起)

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标签

经济社会学

社会学

Sociology

美国

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network

market

complexity

评论

顺

applies Bourdieu's field typology to explain the market structure. A better illustration than Fligstein 1996 AJS.

我把宝贵的冬令时一小时都花在读文献上了.....

没有想象中那么“醍醐灌顶”，作者比较话唠，不少东西换个行当似乎不言自明。理论上看他那篇“Markets as politics”的论文基本就够了

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