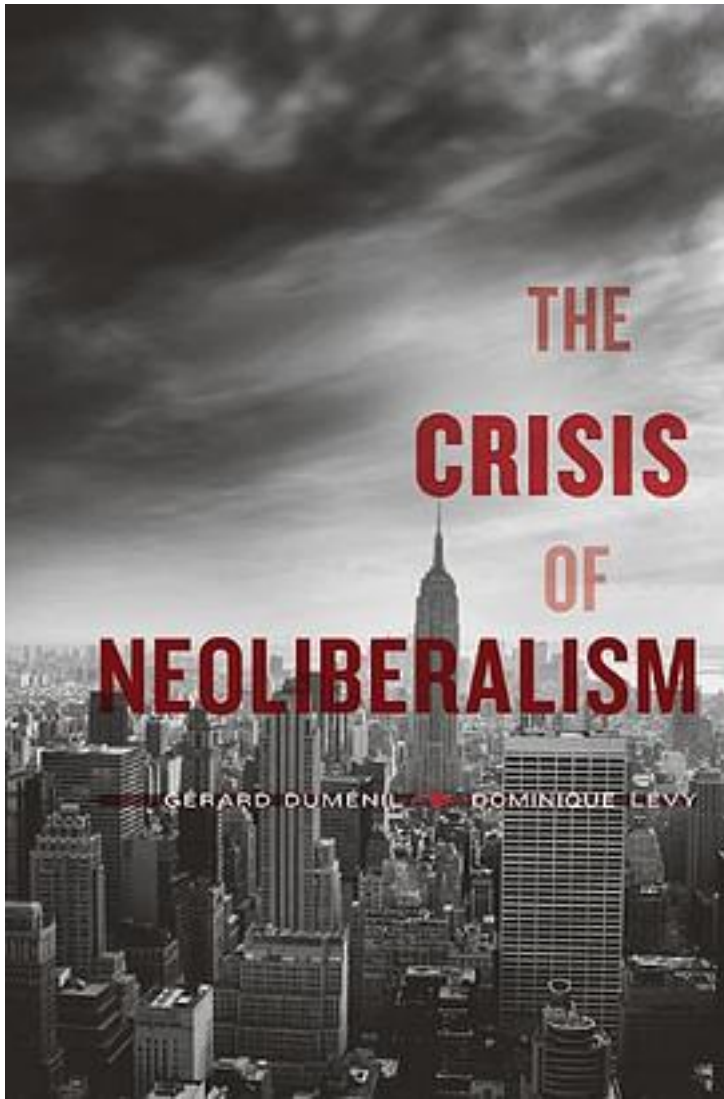


The Crisis of Neoliberalism



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著者:Gérard Duménil

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French economists Gérard Duménil and Dominique Lévy proceed from the somewhat heterodox proposition that ruling ideas arise not from their persuasive power or inner logic but from the interest of ruling groups...Duménil and Lévy move directly to the social and political history that led us to this turn, the underlying situation in which such intellectually bankrupt ideas could prevail. And what might become of a world that can no longer sustain such beliefs...Though elements of their analysis proceed (in their words) "à la Marx," the book is scarcely what one might thereby expect--that is, the opposite of [an] unreflective apologia for capitalism's premises...The two argue...that neoliberalism is not a collection of theories meant to improve the economy. Instead, it should be understood as a class strategy designed to redistribute wealth upward toward an increasingly narrow fraction of folks. This transfer is undertaken, they argue, with near indifference to what happens below some platinum plateau--even as the failures and contradictions of the economic system inevitably drive the entire structure toward disaster. Duménil and Lévy offer two provocative and interlocking schemas. They decline the bluntest of Marxist oppositions, which supposes a world divided only between owners and workers. But they equally abjure the endless proliferation of categories and distinctions, the slippery slope of micro-differences that leads to the paradoxical homily of conventional American thought: that individuals are just that, and thereby classless--and that everybody is middle-class. One might well see in this the shadow of Thatcher's other hyperbolic dictum of neoliberalism: 'There is no such thing as society. There are only individuals and families.'

作者介绍:

Gérard Duménil is a Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.

Dominique Lévy is a Director of Research at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris.

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评论

这本书将新自由主义视为一种美国特色的阶级+金融现象，阶级上资本所有者和管理阶层（包括商业经理和政府官员）中的高端者胶合成为权力阶层，但资本所有者掌握最终大权；金融上表现为金融产品、资本流动和证券化的兴起，造成金融资本反过来掌控工业资本。权力阶层一方面将实体产业外迁寻求低成本地区，另一方面又面对战后大众阶层对经济高增长的渴求、自己又寻求新的掌控整体经济的方式，故开发出经常账户长期赤字+长期大额赤字+金融信贷泡沫的怪胎体制。此体制下持续存在家庭消费提高但储蓄下降、固定资产投资过低，诱发大危机，恰好跟大萧条时期投资过热消费不足的诱因是相反的。对2008-2010年金融经济危机的记录及同大萧条的对比极其详尽。对未来一段时间的预测，此书认为权力阶层仍集中在右翼，但改以管理阶层为权力中心。

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