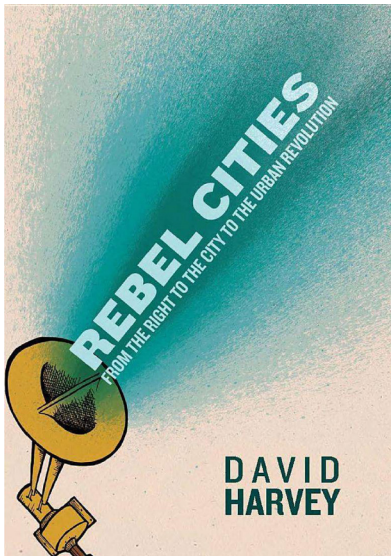


Rebel Cities

From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution

Author: David Harvey

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How did the city become the fortress of thriving capitalism, and how can it foster anti-capitalist potential? Geographer David Harvey from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York can provide his analysis and perspectives in his publication.

This 181-page, all-text book consists of two sections: “The Right to the City” and “Rebel City”. In the first section, Harvey explores how capitalism shapes urban environments, arguing that urbanization is key for capitalism to absorb surplus value. He uses Georges Eugène Haussmann’s Paris and Robert Moses’ U.S. planning to demonstrate the flaws of an urban development model, where the bourgeoisie monopolizes urban space, depriving the public of their „right to the city.“ In this unceasing urban construction, vulnerable groups are always the first to suffer. Urban commons, as a counter to capitalist urbanization, also cannot escape the fate of being privatized, leading to the vanishing of the city’s character. Therefore, an urban revolution to against capitalist control of the city is imperative. The second section gives some guidelines for anti-capitalism action. David Harvey offers political strategies and steps for anti-capitalism in urban spaces. Then he focuses on the London Riots and Occupy Wall Street, uses his commentaries on these two social events to advocate for urban revolution.

The strength of this book lies in inspiring interdisciplinary thinking. David Harvey’s arguments are not confined to urban geography, but he draws on different perspectives from sociology and urban planning, thus enabling many disciplines to draw inspiration from the book. Social activists can get instructions on how to use urban foundations to organize social events. Landscape architects learn the methods of shaping anti-capitalist urban space. For example, certain urban environmental features are more suitable for the interests of workers. However, understanding Harvey’s ideas requires a high level of urban geography knowledge. Awareness of Henri Lefebvre’s theory on urban rights is essential for fully grasping Harvey’s arguments. At the same time, the book contains numerous Marxist terms, such as „surplus value. „ For readers without this knowledge, the reading can be quite challenging. The book also lacks concrete, practical advice. Based on the first-section well-structured argument, readers expect David Harvey to give concrete strategies for translating anti-capitalist activism to the spatial and operational level afterward, but he stops abruptly with provoking and radical commentary on two social events. This leaves readers anticipating practical guidance feeling that the book is unbalanced.

This book is thought-provoking. While it is complex and demands background knowledge for complete comprehension, the insights are valuable for anyone interested in urban studies and Marxist theory. However, if you are expecting a practical guide to the urban revolution, you will be disappointed.