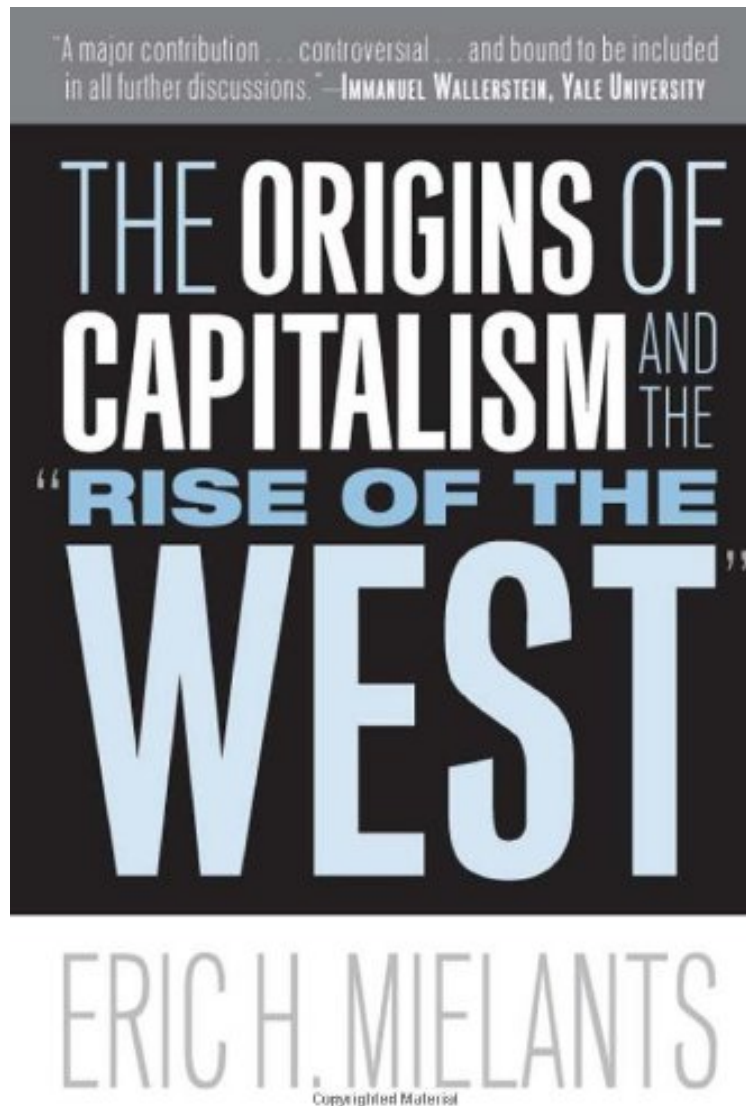


[Ebook free] The Origins of Capitalism and the "Rise of the West"

The Origins of Capitalism and the "Rise of the West"

Eric H Mielants

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Eric H Mielants : The Origins of Capitalism and the "Rise of the West" before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Origins of Capitalism and the "Rise of the West":

8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Complementary readings to Mielants' book By Csar Gonzlez Rouco I was surprised that no one else had made a comment before to this work. Now that I have read it, I recognize that, although the subject is very interesting, because of the author's style, the book, without being dry, is often somehow flat, not engaging: certainly it will not become a best-seller. So my rate is between 5 (content) and 3

(pleasure, sometimes falling to 2). Anyhow, on the vexing question of why Western countries have dominated the world during the last few centuries [the very way the question is posed is controversial!], I would suggest reading the following books: 1) "Power and Plenty: Trade, War, and the World Economy in the Second Millennium" by Ronald Findlay and Kevin H. O'Rourke; 2) "The Great Divergence", by Kenneth Pomeranz; 3 - 4): "The world economy. A millennial perspective" (2001) plus "The world economy: Historical Statistics" (2003) by Angus Maddison (a combined edition of these two volumes appeared on December 2007); 5) "Why Europe Was First: Social Change and Economic Growth in Europe and East Asia, 1500-2050" by Erik Ringmar; and 6) "The Mystery of Capital Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else" by Hernando de Soto.

Eric Mielants argues that, contrary to established thinking, the 'rise of the West' should not be examined through the lens of the Industrial Revolution or of the colonization of the New World but viewed through long-term developments that began in the Middle Ages.

"A major contribution to the worldwide debate on the origins of the modern world. It is controversial, encompassing in its survey of the data and the literature, and bound to be included in all further discussions." Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University "The strength of this book is its careful comparisons among regions and the strong effort to overcome the Eurocentrism that has undeniably been a great plague on our efforts to comprehend and explain the rise of the West." Christopher Chase-Dunn, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside "Mielants has pulled together a vast mass of material and challenges hypotheses that have been in danger of being repeated as unquestionable dogmas in some circles." International Socialism "Overall, Mielants' timely book offers a well-thought argument that bucks a popular, ahistorical trend locating the 'rise of Europe' in very specific conditions that emerged only in the 18th or even the 19th century. Summing Up: Essential." Choice "Overall, this is an erudite and concise argument that marshals a massive literature in its defense. The book will appeal to a wide range of substantive interests due to its multi-regional comparative and historical analysis. And regardless of your willingness to agree with Mielants's thesis, you will undoubtedly find it thought provoking... While this is certainly not the last word in this ongoing discussion, it is a worthy entry nonetheless." The International Journal of Comparative Sociology "Mielants makes a noteworthy contribution to the transition debate and more broadly to the historical sociology literature." - March 2009 issue of Contemporary Sociology "[A]n important contribution both to world history and to world-systems analysis... Mielants is able to clear a relatively novel path by assembling a holistic and coherent account that challenges some of the prevailing wisdom regarding why, how, and when capitalism emerged in Europe. In doing so, he provides an intriguing explanation of why Europe ultimately gained ascendancy in the world-system." - Journal of World-Systems Research Volume XV, Number 1, 2009 "This small book, on a very big topic, makes a substantial contribution to the debates on which elements of European society were crucial to its later economic and military might... One of the major assets of this book is that despite its brief length, it fully engages in comparisons of European history with developments in North Africa, China and south Asia... Mielants has given us a deeply informed and important new twist on old arguments about the role of merchants and cities in the origins of capitalism. It is an argument that deserves attention and should provoke fruitful debates." The British Journal of Sociology, Summer 2009 "This is a very good book...[Mielants'] documentation is extremely impressive... Mielants's study will be very useful for those who have an interest in understanding the variation in long-term path dependencies of the socio-political-economic configurations of capitalist societies... The cross-disciplinary breadth and range of geographical knowledge of [the] author [is] quite remarkable...highly recommended for scholars interested in the most recent explanations for the development of Western capitalism." Perspectives on Politics, September 2009 About the Author Eric H. Mielants is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in the College of Arts and Sciences, at Fairfield University.