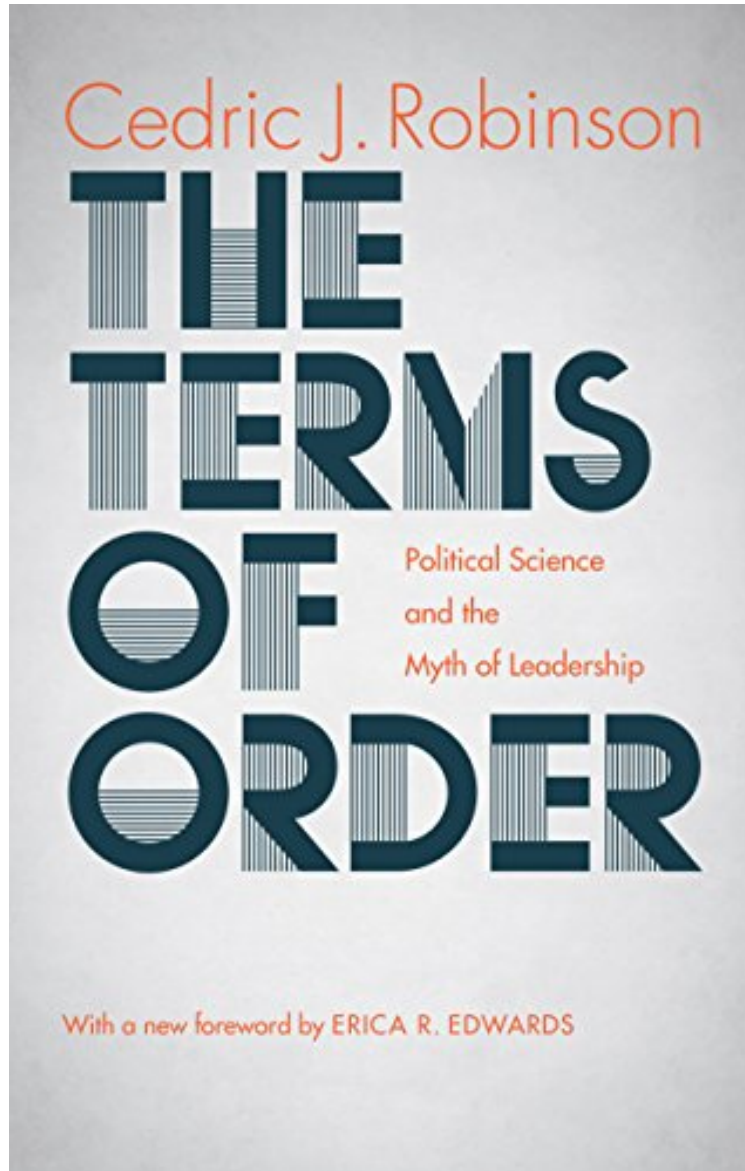


(Free pdf) The Terms of Order: Political Science and the Myth of Leadership

The Terms of Order: Political Science and the Myth of Leadership

Cedric J. Robinson

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#550526 in Books Cedric J Robinson 2016-04-01 2016-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .78 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 146962821X310 pagesThe Terms of Order Political Science and the Myth of Leadership | File size: 70.Mb

Cedric J. Robinson : The Terms of Order: Political Science and the Myth of Leadership before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Terms of Order: Political Science and the Myth of Leadership:

Do we live in basically orderly societies that occasionally erupt into violent conflict, or do we fail to perceive the constancy of violence and disorder in our societies? In this classic book, originally published in 1980, Cedric J. Robinson contends that our perception of political order is an illusion, maintained in part by Western political and social theorists who depend on the idea of leadership as a basis for describing and prescribing social order. Using a variety of critical approaches in his analysis, Robinson synthesizes elements of psychoanalysis, structuralism, Marxism, classical and neoclassical political philosophy, and cultural anthropology in order to argue that Western thought on leadership is mythological rather than rational. He then presents examples of historically developed "stateless" societies with social organizations that suggest conceptual alternatives to the ways political order has been conceived in the West. Examining Western thought from the vantage point of a people only marginally integrated into Western institutions and intellectual traditions, Robinson's perspective radically critiques fundamental ideas of leadership and order.

Cedric Robinson is an original thinker whose work challenges disciplinary and epistemological boundaries by painstakingly revealing the substance of such limits. But more, this book serves not simply to expose the weaknesses of certain explanatory forms, but more usefully to propose alternative approaches to the problem of understanding both past and present. His prose sharp, considered, lyrical, funny compels us to think again about what we think we already know about knowledge, power, social order, and social change.--Ruth Wilson Gilmore, author of *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* Cedric Robinson is an intellectual treasure, a world-historical theorist whose influence is already great and will only increase as time passes.--Howard Winant, University of California, Santa Cruz About the Author Cedric J. Robinson (1940-2016) was professor of Black Studies and political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His books include *Black Marxism*, *Forgeries of Memory and Meaning*, and *The Anthropology of Marxism*.