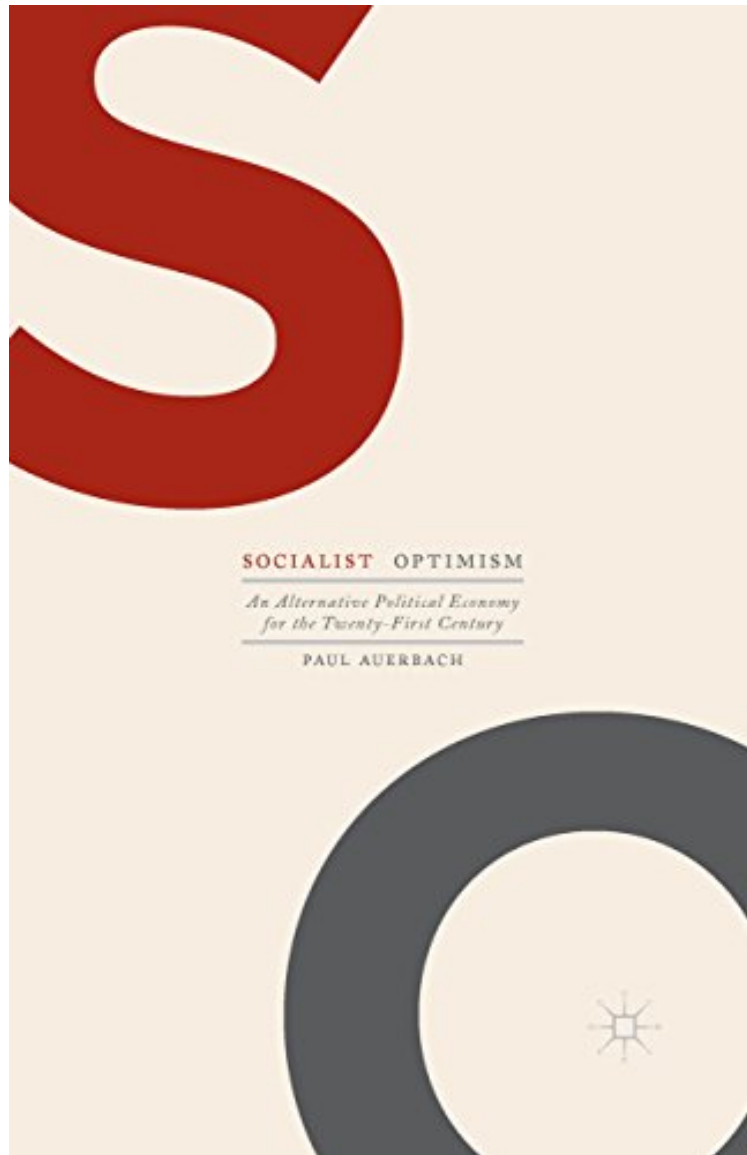


[Free download] Socialist Optimism: An Alternative Political Economy for the Twenty-First Century

Socialist Optimism: An Alternative Political Economy for the Twenty-First Century

Paul Auerbach

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2413186 in eBooks 2016-04-08 2016-04-08 File Name: B01FYB0SCY | File size: 72.Mb

Paul Auerbach : Socialist Optimism: An Alternative Political Economy for the Twenty-First Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Socialist Optimism: An Alternative Political Economy for the Twenty-First Century:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A world-changing bookBy Gilles CHRISTOPHPaul Auerbach's one-of-a-kind, once-in-a-generation political economy treatise offers a lucid diagnosis of what went

wrong with the Western world over the course of the twentieth century and suggests a realistic, progressive way out of our current predicament. The book addresses an enduring mystery. The 2008 financial crisis has signaled the economic, social and political bankruptcy of neoliberalism but has paradoxically not been followed a paradigm shift akin to the previous transitions from classical liberalism to Keynesianism after the 1930s Great Depression and from Keynesianism to neoliberalism in the aftermath of the 1970s stagflation crisis. So why is there no viable alternative to neoliberalism? In part 1 of the book, Dr. Auerbach locates the roots of this intellectual vacuum in the failures of twentieth-century radical thinking to formulate a genuine socialist program which would prove more economically feasible than Marxist microeconomic planning and more socially ambitious than Keynesian macroeconomic fine-tuning. In parts 2 and 3, Dr. Auerbach builds the rationale for and traces the contours of such a genuine socialist program. Auerbach's "developmental" socialism is based on massive human capital investment and widespread democratic participation. The radical ambition here is to fundamentally restructure the educational, economic, and political system so as to empower individuals to take meaningful control of their private and public lives. To be fair, the book is not always an easy read. Because of the breadth of the author's scholarship, the readers might sometimes feel overwhelmed and out of their depth. But since the writing is sharp and clear, and the argument intellectually intense, the book mostly reads like an academic page turner. And upon turning the last page, readers will come out feeling that they have been given a blueprint for a better future. Ultimately, Paul Auerbach has outlined the optimistic vision of a sustainable socialist society that works toward the flowering of human life. It is now incumbent upon all of us to construct a socialist edifice upon the foundations he has laid.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Superb!!! By Ioannis Potamianos Excellent book! Rigorous and analytical in its approach, the book also immerses the reader into an immense wealth of historical knowledge - a level of knowledge rarely found in other academic authors. A very pleasant and interesting reading with the potential to shape the way we think about capitalism, socialism, markets and planning. I would definitely recommend it!

Paul Auerbach's *Socialist Optimism* offers an alternative political economy for the twenty-first century. Present-day capitalism has generated growing inequality of income and wealth, persistent high levels of unemployment and ever-diminishing prospects for young people. But in the absence of a positive vision of how society and the economy might develop in the future, the present trajectory of capitalism will never be derailed, no matter how acute the critique of present-day developments. The detailed blueprint presented here focuses upon the education and upbringing of children in the context of social equality and household security. It yields a well-defined path to human development and liberation, as well as democratic control of working life and public affairs. Socialism as human development gives a unity and direction to progressive policies that are otherwise seen to be a form of pragmatic tinkering in the context of a pervasive capitalist reality.

Auerbach (Kingston Univ., UK) begins with a blunt description of present-day capitalism as a system of instability and dysfunction, producing inequality, unemployment, and diminishing prospects. *Socialist Optimism* offers an alternative vision for the future, one that rejects free-market neoliberalism, Keynesian managed capitalism, and traditional concepts of socialism as central planning. ... It offers a pathway into the future that is both possible and profoundly transformative. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.

(R. Hudelson, *Choice*, Vol. 54 (3), November, 2016) "With radical change in the air, Paul Auerbach has proposed a creative orientation for sustaining practical hope. Through the prism of education and its link to human potentials, Auerbach advances a biting critique of the ideology, political economy and class structures that sustain capitalism. And on this basis he presents an intriguing agenda for moving towards an egalitarian, solidaristic, democratically more substantive and culturally richer alternative." (Sam Gindin, co-author of *The Making of Global Capitalism*) "Here is a remarkable book that combines enormous wisdom, a deep historical and economic analysis, and a vision for a reconstructed socialist project which builds, not on fantasy, but on existing seeds within capitalism. Auerbach forensically analyses the errors of past socialist analysis and reconstructs a new vision founded on education and human development." (Francis Green, Professor of Work and Education Economics, Institute of Education, University of London, UK, and author of *Skills and Skilled Work*) "21st century capitalism, without a socialist rival to temper its excesses, has degenerated into a dystopia of financial instability, economic stagnation and extremes of inequality. The resultant lack of opportunity has stunted the development of a generation in a way that resembles a return to feudalism more than it does Hayek's vision of a creative spontaneous order. Auerbach proposes instead a socialism that emphasises human development, equality and genuine democracy." (Steve Keen, author of *Debunking Economics*) "Paul Auerbach has written a book not for the converted, not for those in search of certainties or dogmas, but for those looking for intelligent arguments, proposals which are historically based and theoretically sound with such the right dash of utopia to make the mix interesting and exciting - a book which puts at the centre of a major reform of society the pursuit of educational excellence for all. This is a book to be read slowly and carefully: the reader will emerge wiser and richer in the mind." (Donald Sassoon, Professor of Comparative European History, University of London, UK, and author of *One Hundred Years of*

Socialism) "Paul Auerbach has written a brilliant and immensely important book. In the face of economic crisis, increasing inequality and looming environmental disaster we need more than defensive, "neoliberal light" policies or vague calls for radical change. Auerbach demonstrates how past socialist failures derive closely from a misreading of history. More importantly, his analysis points us in a new and promising direction. This ambitious book combines clear economic insight with a compelling vision for change. It will appeal to all who recognize the dangers and inequities of unfettered capitalism." (Peter Skott, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, and author of *Conflict and Effective Demand in Economic Growth*)

From the Back Cover Paul Auerbach's *Socialist Optimism* offers an alternative political economy for the twenty-first century. Present-day capitalism has generated growing inequality of income and wealth, persistent high levels of unemployment and ever-diminishing prospects for young people. But in the absence of a positive vision of how society and the economy might develop in the future, the present trajectory of capitalism will never be derailed, no matter how acute the critique of present-day developments. The detailed blueprint presented here focuses upon the education and upbringing of children in the context of social equality and household security. It yields a well-defined path to human development and liberation, as well as democratic control of working life and public affairs. Socialism as human development gives a unity and direction to progressive policies that are otherwise seen to be a form of pragmatic tinkering in the context of a pervasive capitalist reality.