

SF Bay Guardian
Lit Supplement
October 30th

The Anti-Capitalism Reader: Imagining a Geography of Opposition

Edited by Joel Schalit. Akashic Books, 336 pages, \$16.95.

Joel Schalit, a Bay Guardian contributor and editor of *The Anti-Capitalism Reader: Imagining a Geography of Opposition*, writes that Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels's Communist Manifesto and Rudolf Bahro's *Alternative in Eastern Europe* "metaphorically book-end the parameters of my own political thinking" and that he learned the essentials and the struggles of communism and capitalism from his politically charged older sister. In *The Anti-Capitalism Reader*, Schalit keeps these two texts firmly in place as the status quo for contemporary political thought. Now, he and his contributors have become the older siblings who recognize the importance of teaching the next generation of thinkers and activists and possess the patience and the diligence to do so.

This book is a highly accessible collection of the basics, immediately answering questions such as what anticapitalism is and is not, why we need to call for structural reform, and why this is a critical change for day-to-day culture and economy. Provocative modern writers speak simply enough to educate the thinking masses. Newbie politicians are welcomed with open arms, seated, and taught a lesson that will not only garner them intrigued conversationalists at the next cocktail party but likely will also help them recognize the flaws and inconsistencies of the capitalist system.

Anticapitalism is not simply a synonym for leftist thinking but an invitation for the entire political spectrum – left, right, and center – to voice its opinion on how our current system is failing every socioeconomic stratum. It's impressive how, in a mere 300 pages, Schalit and company manage to incorporate such a wide view and treat each new perspective as something worth serious consideration. In addition, anticapitalism isn't simply defined as a governmental or monetary revolution but includes a broader scope of culture, such as gender, sex, and taste. Living outside the current norm is allowed to take on a flavor of its own. In the schema of anticapitalism, everyone will be invited to the revolution. (Karen Solomon)