

Prison Notebooks, Volume 2

By Antonio Gramsci

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Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) is widely celebrated as the most original political thinker in Western Marxism and an all-around outstanding intellectual figure. Arrested and imprisoned by the Italian Fascist regime in 1926, Gramsci died before fully regaining his freedom. Nevertheless, in his prison notebooks, he recorded thousands of brilliant reflections on an extraordinary range of subjects, establishing an enduring intellectual legacy.

Columbia University Press's multivolume *Prison Notebooks* is the only complete critical edition of Antonio Gramsci's seminal writings in English. The notebooks' integral text gives readers direct access not only to Gramsci's influential ideas but also to the intellectual workshop where those ideas were forged. Extensive notes guide readers through Gramsci's extraordinary series of reflections on an encyclopedic range of topics. Volume 2 contains Gramsci's notebooks 3, 4, and 5, written between 1930 and 1932. Their central themes are popular culture, Italian history, Americanism, and the Catholic Church as a religious institution and formidable politico-ideological force. Gramsci also touches on the Renaissance and Reformation, language and linguistics, military and diplomatic history, and Japanese and Chinese culture. Notebook 4 features an innovative reading of canto 10 from Dante's Inferno and a philosophical analysis of materialism and idealism. It also includes the first draft of Gramsci's famous observations on the history and role of intellectuals in society.

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Prison Notebooks, Volume 2 By Antonio Gramsci Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2569978 in Books
- Published on: 1996-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.48" h x 2.01" w x 6.40" l, 2.70 pounds
- Binding: Library Binding
- 728 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Altogether a tremendous achievement.... This volume provides us with an immediate sense of the scale and diversity of Gramsci's project.

(Richard Bellamy *Times Literary Supplement*)

An impressive and welcome commencement to the translation of one of the great intellectual legacies of the twentieth century...in Gramsci, Marxism acquires the founder of a proletarian intellectual tradition that is likely to continue as long as society has use for democracy.

(William Hartley *Italian Quarterly*)

Review

Antonio Gramsci's Prison Notebooks have long been among the most remarkable documents of Western political thought. [Columbia edition] is a poignant record of his thoughts from a Fascist prison cell, which adds a human touch to a key political figure.

(Terry Eagleton)

This is the first time ever that Gramsci's extraordinary "Prison Notebooks" are available in English as he wrote them in Italian, in their fragmentary brilliance and their disconcertingly restless, unorthodox probity. Joseph Buttigieg's work is a monument of scholarship and of supple, deepy sensitive translation. When his work is completed in subsequent volumes, a remarkable monument of human courage and intellectual resourcefulness will stand forth as never before.

(Edward W. Said)

Until Joseph A. Buttigieg's meticulous translation and critical attention to Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*, this invaluable text, a testimony to the most emancipatory thinking of our time, was available to English readers only in an artificially contrived form. Now Buttigieg's monumental and magesterial work is available in paperback. Scholars, teachers, students, activists, general readers—rejoice!

(Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University)

Prison Notebooks is one of the fundamental texts of modern thought. Politics, cultural studies, philosophy, history, the dialectic—everything is here. Buttigieg's translation is a superb achievement.

(Fredric Jameson)

From the Back Cover
While in prison, Gramsci wrote a series of notebooks covering an extraordinarily wide range of issues; they

are his principal achievement. Written without thought of publication, the pages of Gramsci's notebooks record and reveal this interests in history and historiography, the role of intellectuals in society, political theory, philosophy, Americanism and Fordism, religion, education, cultural analysis, literature, folklore, and linguistics.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lillian Albrecht:

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Barbra Poole:

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