



Cartographies of the Absolute

By Alberto Toscano, Jeff Kinkle

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Can capital be seen? *Cartographies of the Absolute* surveys the disparate answers to this question offered by artists, film-makers, writers and theorists over the past few decades. It zones in on the crises of representation that have accompanied the enduring crisis of capitalism, foregrounding the production of new visions and artefacts that wrestle with the vastness, invisibility and complexity of the abstractions that rule our lives.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Cartographies* is an essential guide to the most formidable and urgent questions about how we see, represent and try to understand the greatest forces shaping our historical moment." -Trevor Paglen, artist and author of *Blank Spots on the Map: The Dark Geography of the Pentagon's Secret World*

From the Inside Flap

"*Cartographies of the Absolute* takes us beyond current fashions for perspectivalism and flat ontologies, and beyond the tired (and often quietistic) formulae that argue how capitalism's modern complexities must remain forever beyond human grasp. Bringing vital insights to a range of aesthetic practices - and recognising the torsions, refractions and ruses required to puncture the reified social forms before us - Toscano and Kinkle elaborate a praxis of dissident totalisation to counter capital's limited horizons."

Gail Day, author of *Dialectical Passions: Negation in Postwar Art Theory*

"Culture, in the last decade, has had a simple duty: to be the dreamlife of the bust. It has answered this call in ways uneven, tawdry, messed up, beautiful - but it has finally not failed to make a veiled reading of this obscene catastrophe. But how then to wake from the purling images, how to leap from dream to map of the present? Here we need ideal readers of culture's readings, and none have come closer than Alberto Toscano and Jeff Kinkle. Their bravura cleavings of spectacular representation and the transformations of global capital become themselves a kind of new knowledge, a kind of psycholocation from which we might take an orientation and a sense of possibility."

Joshua Clover, author of the *Totality for Kids* and *1989*

"How this complex, chaotic, vicious system of exploitation called capitalism has been rendered by TV writers, Hollywood directors, and glamorous or struggling artists forms the theme of this book. From box sets to boxes floating across the seas, from dialectical thinking to diabolical reckoning: it is all here, laid out, picked out and unpicked, absorbed and turned over. Rubbish practices are called out, whether they originate in governments or the artworld. Cognitive mapping, which may be the poor analyst's conspiracy theory, gets its abstractions made real. Read it and move more consciously and dialectically through the globe."

Esther Leslie, author of *Walter Benjamin and Synthetic Worlds: Nature, Art and the Chemical Industry*

"A grand tour de force of western cognitive maps and a searching dérive through anti-capitalist dimensions of theory, media and art - now pulsing on the rotting flesh of the world system. With critical acumen, serious political commitment and more than a modicum of erudite cool, Toscano and Kinkle revisit Jameson's landmark work on cognitive mapping and, by drawing extensively on the Marxist critical tradition, forward the life and death project of teaching readers to read in a dialectical mode. Grasping the aesthetic as at once program and battleground, they clearly manifest the necessity, the stakes, and the fine-grained resolution of a radical critical practice."

Jonathan Beller, author of *The Cinematic Mode of Production*

From the Back Cover

"How much of capitalism can we see from the moon? This remarkable, unclassifiable book sets out to map the ways. *Cartographies* takes as its object representation as such, which it tracks through theories, models, visual works, films, novels, engineering projects and whole cities: it is an immense museum exhibition of artefacts material and mental which attempt, consciously or not, to convey the totalisation implacably at

work everywhere in late capitalism. But this is also a profoundly theoretical work: indeed, it summons us to think new philosophical thoughts about this system and how to make it visible. We ought to emerge from it with a new conception of the tasks of criticism and the production of art itself." -Fredric Jameson, author of *Representing Capital* and *The Antinomies of Realism*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Carr:

Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading practice give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with training books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. The actual Cartographies of the Absolute is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Kent Dennis:

Hey guys, do you wants to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the concept Cartographies of the Absolute suitable to you? Often the book was written by famous writer in this era. The book untitled Cartographies of the Absolute is a single of several books this everyone read now. This kind of book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new shape that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their idea in the simple way, consequently all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this guide. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world in this book.

Bryan Foxworth:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the entire day to reading a book. The book Cartographies of the Absolute it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more very easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

Kenneth Armstrong:

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Absolute, you are able to enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout people. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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