

Praise for *Gramsci: Space, Nature, Politics*

‘From the backwoods to the frontlines, Gramsci’s geographical imagination receives here the thorough going exploration it has always deserved. With deep and nuanced attention to Gramsci’s spatial historicism, this collection foregrounds the profoundly geographical nature of Gramsci’s critical consciousness and what it offers for thinking space, nature and politics relationally. As beautifully considered as its cover, this book is alive to the ‘earthliness of thought’ and its political possibilities.’

Cindi Katz, Earth and Environmental Sciences & Environmental Psychology Programs, The City University of New York

‘This well-crafted volume pushes the boundaries of current debates on Gramsci. Highlighting spatial and geographical relations, the diverse contributions pay detailed attention to Gramsci’s writings while opening an array of contemporary issues including struggles in Brazil, Nepal, India and South Africa; discussions of gender, class, race and ecology; and engagements with the theoretical work of Laclau & Mouffe, Lefebvre, Harvey, Hardt & Negri and Subaltern Studies. The contributors have set a hallmark in scholarship that will be very influential across many fields from critical geography and international relations to political theory, development studies and postcolonialism.’

Peter Ives, Department of Politics, University of Winnipeg, Canada

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Gramsci

Space, Nature, Politics

EDITED BY

Michael Ekers, Gillian Hart,
Stefan Kipfer and Alex Loftus

 **WILEY-BLACKWELL**

A John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Publication

This edition first published 2013
© John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Wiley-Blackwell is an imprint of John Wiley & Sons, formed by the merger of Wiley's global Scientific, Technical and Medical business with Blackwell Publishing.

Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Gramsci : space, nature, politics / edited by Michael Ekers ... [et al.].

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4443-3971-0 (cloth) – ISBN 978-1-4443-3970-3 (pbk.)

1. Gramsci, Antonio, 1891–1937.
 2. Communism–Italy.
 3. Marxian historiography.
 4. Marxist philosophy.
 5. Political science–Philosophy.
- I. Ekers, Michael, 1978–
HX288.G7G753 2013
335.43092–dc23

2012020900

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Cover images: Collage of Orgosolo murals, Sardinia © Pietrina Rubanu

Cover design: Darin Jensen and Cyan Design

Set in 10.5/12.5pt Sabon by SPi Publisher Services, Pondicherry, India

Contents

Notes on Contributors	vii
Abbreviations of Works by Antonio Gramsci	ix
Preface	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Framings	1
“A Barbed Gift of the Backwoods”: Gramsci’s Sardinian Beginnings <i>Michael Ekers, Gillian Hart, Stefan Kipfer, and Alex Loftus</i>	3
How to Live with Stones <i>John Berger</i>	6
Introduction	13
1 Gramsci: Space, Nature, Politics <i>Michael Ekers and Alex Loftus</i>	15
Part I Space	45
2 Traveling with Gramsci: The Spatiality of Passive Revolution <i>Adam David Morton</i>	47
3 “Gramsci in Action”: Space, Politics, and the Making of Solidarities <i>David Featherstone</i>	65
4 City, Country, Hegemony: Antonio Gramsci’s Spatial Historicism <i>Stefan Kipfer</i>	83

5	State of Confusion: Money and the Space of Civil Society in Hegel and Gramsci <i>Geoff Mann</i>	104
Part II Nature		121
6	The Concept of Nature in Gramsci <i>Benedetto Fontana</i>	123
7	Space, Ecology, and Politics in the Praxis of the Brazilian Landless Movement <i>Abdurazack Karriem</i>	142
8	On the Nature of Gramsci's "Conceptions of the World" <i>Joel Wainwright</i>	161
9	Gramsci, Nature, and the Philosophy of Praxis <i>Alex Loftus</i>	178
10	Difference and Inequality in World Affairs: A Gramscian Analysis <i>Nicola Short</i>	197
11	Gramsci and the Erotics of Labor: More Notes on "The Sexual Question" <i>Michael Ekers</i>	217
Part III Politics		239
12	Cracking Hegemony: Gramsci and the Dialectics of Rebellion <i>Jim Glassman</i>	241
13	Gramsci at the Margins: A Prehistory of the Maoist Movement in Nepal <i>Vinay Gidwani and Dinesh Paudel</i>	258
14	Accumulation through Dispossession and Accumulation through Growth: Intimations of Massacres Foretold? <i>Judith Whitehead</i>	279
15	Gramsci, Geography, and the Languages of Populism <i>Gillian Hart</i>	301
Conclusion		321
16	Translating Gramsci in the Current Conjuncture <i>Stefan Kipfer and Gillian Hart</i>	323
	Index	345

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Abbreviations of Works by Antonio Gramsci

- FSPN *Further Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, ed. and trans. D. Boothman, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1995
- HPC *History, Philosophy and Culture in the Young Gramsci*, ed. P. Cavalcanti & P. Piccone, Telos Press, St. Louis, MO, 1975
- LN *L'Ordine nuovo 1919–1920*, Einaudi, Turin, 1955
- LPI *Letters from Prison*, vol. 1, ed. and trans. F. Rosengarten, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1994
- LPII *Letters from Prison*, vol. 2, ed. and trans. F. Rosengarten, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1994
- MPW *The Modern Prince and Other Writings*, ed. and trans. L. Marks, International Publishers, New York, 1957
- PN I *The Prison Notebooks*, vol. 1, ed. and intro. J. A. Buttigieg, trans. J. A. Buttigieg & A. Callari, Columbia University Press, New York, 1992
- PNII *The Prison Notebooks*, vol. 2, ed. and trans. J. A. Buttigieg, Columbia University Press, New York, 1996
- PNIII *The Prison Notebooks*, vol. 3, ed. and trans. J. A. Buttigieg, Columbia University Press, New York, 2007
- PPW *Pre-Prison Writings*, ed. R. Bellamy, trans. V. Cox, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1994
- QC *Quaderni del carcere: edizione critica dell'Istituto Gramsci*, 4 vols., ed. V. Gerratana, Einaudi, Turin, 1975
- SCW *Selections from Cultural Writings*, ed. D. Forgacs & G. Nowell-Smith, trans. W. Boelhower, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1985
- SPN *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, ed. and trans. Q. Hoare & G. Nowell-Smith, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1971

- SPWI *Selections from Political Writings, 1910–1920*, ed. Q. Hoare, trans. J. Matthews, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1977
- SPWII *Selections from Political Writings, 1921–1926*, ed. and trans. Q. Hoare, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1978
- VWAG *A Volume of Works of Antonio Gramsci*, ed. S. Giovanili, Einaudi, Turin, 1975

Preface

The collective project from which this volume emerged began to take shape in a workshop on “Gramscian Geographies” held in January 2009 at Royal Holloway’s Bloomsbury premises and supported by the British Academy. Alex Loftus and Mike Ekers developed the initial proposal for the workshop; Joel Wainwright and Bob Jessop were great sources of support, enthusiasm, and ideas; and Geoff Mann’s work in earlier collaborations was also a tremendous boost. Although, disappointingly, several participants were unable to attend for a variety of reasons (the UK Border Agency deserves a special mention in this regard for erecting ridiculous obstacles to the free movement of people), the two days of discussion were rich, comradely, and generative, and we forged lasting friendships.

Something vital is contained in Gramsci’s philosophy of praxis. Our shared conviction that this approach can serve as a basis for breathing new life into concrete engagements with space, nature, and politics enabled the four of us to take the rich discussions in London forward. Although mainly working remotely (often on three different continents), we have been fortunate to be able to meet as editors in Toronto (2010) and Seattle (2011) along what has been a long but immensely rewarding and enriching journey toward final publication. Along the way, Rachel Pain responded positively and warmly to our requests for support from the Antipode Book Series, and it has been a pleasure working with Jacqueline Scott. Andy Merrifield was a generous friend who liaised with John Berger over the inclusion of the latter’s open letter to Subcommandante Marcos.

We would like to give special thanks to those who contributed so generously to the cover image and design. Tracey Heatherington put us in touch with Pietrina Rubanu in the town of Orgosolo in Sardinia, which is covered in marvelous murals. Many of them – including the

image on the cover – were painted by art teacher Francesco Del Casino and his students. Pietrina, the author, together with Gianfranco Fistrale, of *Murales politici della Sardegna: guida, storia, percorsi* (published by Massari in 1998), took the cover photograph one morning in April 2012, after having requested a driver to move a car parked in front of the mural. We are also immensely grateful to Darin Jensen, cartographer and graphic designer in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Berkeley for his extraordinary care and creativity in producing the cover design.

Last but not least, we would like to record our gratitude to our families, and to the many friends and colleagues who have supported us.

Acknowledgments

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