

Nietzsche & Anarchism

An Elective Affinity and a Nietzschean reading of the December '08 revolt in Athens

SERIES IN POLITICS

Summary

This book aims to establish the bond between Friedrich Nietzsche and the anarchists, through the apparatus of “elective affinity”, and to challenge the boundaries of several anarchist trends – especially “classical” and “post” anarchism – and “ideologies” like anarchism and libertarian Marxism. Moreover, it highlights the importance of reading Nietzsche politically, in a radical way, to understand his utility for the contemporary anarchist movement.

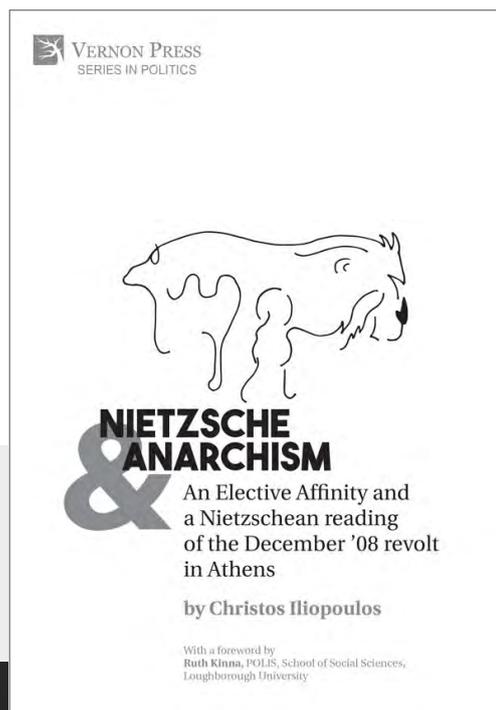
The review of the literature concerning the Nietzsche-anarchy relationship shows the previously limited bibliography and stresses the possibility of exploring this connection, with the methodological help of Michael Löwy's concept of “elective affinity”. The significance of this finding is that the relevant affinity may contribute to an alternative, to the dominant, perception of anarchism as an ideology. It may also designate its special features together with its weaknesses, meaning the objections of Nietzsche to certain aspects of the anarchist practices and worldview (violence, resentment, bad conscience), thus opening a whole new road of self-criticism for the anarchists of the twenty first century. In addition, the location and analysis of the elective affinity serves the debunking of the Nietzschean concepts used by conservative and right-wing readings in order to appropriate Nietzsche, and of the accusations that the German philosopher had unleashed against anarchists, which reveals his misunderstanding of anarchist politics. The final part of this book applies the whole analysis above on a

Nietzschean reading of the December '08 revolt in Athens based on the “Of the Three Metamorphoses” discourse from Thus Spoke Zarathustra, offering an alternative view of the events that shook Greece and also had an important global impact.

About the author

Christos Iliopoulos was born and lives in Athens where he works as a teacher of Theory of Knowledge, Politics, Political Theory, Philosophy and History in secondary education.

He holds a PhD in Political Philosophy and Theory from Loughborough University (UK), where he explored the political elective affinities of Friedrich Nietzsche. He has also received an MA in Political Science and Sociology from the National University of Athens, and his BSc in Applied Physics and Mathematics from the National Technical University of Athens (Greece) – MSc equivalent, where he majored in Optoelectronics & Laser Physics as well as Nuclear Physics & Elementary Particles. His academic interests include philosophy of science, political theology, as well as the resignification of philosophical concepts through the practices of social movements. He has participated in conferences, workshops and seminars of academic and educational interest and has published a number of relevant papers and articles. He is currently a member of the World Philosophy Network, the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO), the British Postgraduate Philosophy Association (BPPA) and the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).



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