

This is Not a Program

Tiqqun

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Tida Wilson says

This is not a review.

River says

The first essay "This is not a Program" is a good introduction to Tiquun and their perspective.

pplofgod says

A worthwhile text to read, at least the first part, that is.

The main problem with this text is the notion that somehow "becoming a non-subject" is "revolutionary" by itself. Yes, it may be. But what it fails to take into account is the fact that Empire, secularism, liberalism, capitalism, whatever you want to call it, already produces certain subjects which are "imperceptible." It seems as if becoming-imperceptible is only a tactic. And not the only one either. In my opinion at least.

Sylvain Bérubé says

«Il n'y a pas d'"identité révolutionnaire". Sous l'Empire, c'est au contraire la non-identité, le fait de trahir constamment les prédicats qu'on nous colle, qui est révolutionnaire. Des "sujets révolutionnaires", il n'y en a plus depuis longtemps que pour le pouvoir, Devenir quelconques, devenir imperceptibles, conspirer, cela veut dire distinguer entre notre présence et ce que nous sommes pour la représentation, afin d'en jouer. Dans la mesure exacte où l'Empire s'unifie, où la nouvelle configuration des hostilités acquiert un caractère objectif, il y a une nécessité stratégique de savoir ce que l'on est pour lui, mais nous prendre pour cela, un "Black Bloc", un "Parti imaginaire" ou autre chose, serait notre perte»

Ty says

I don't agree with everything Tiquun says, but I love the way they say it. It's a style that makes reading much more useful than typical academic language where so much time is spent parsing the argument. With academic language, after traveling through the dry desert of the text, do you really have energy left over to apply the ideas to your life?

The first book covers Autonomia in 70's Italy, and it is good even if it doesn't contribute anything new. The second book is also good and deals with apparatuses and the metaphysics that spawns from them. Some of the Philosophy-philosophy is probably bullshit, I dunno it sounds like it, but it's a thought-provoking essay.

Yupa says

Tiqqun's text titled "A Critical Metaphysics Could Be Born as a Science of Apparatuses" is actually the clearest and most understandable introduction to their ideas. Who woulda thunk?!

Kimberly Curette says

nice word play

6655321 says

you know when you read something, and you are young and you are like THIS IS THE BEST EVER? thats sort of how i feel about my relationship to Tiqqun 3 years after i first read TCI? like, i'm probably better off being like "woo thanks for the memories lets never call each other"

Sean A. says

This book is technically like two separate texts in one. These are called 'This is Not a Program' and 'A Science of Apparatuses'. I've only read the first text out of this book so far, so, obviously, that is what I will address here.

'This is Not a Program' uses a lot of the theory heavy quasi-militant language of the other tiqqun works 'theory of bloom', 'intro to civil war' and the tiqqun related but invisible committee credited and glen beck shouted-out 'the coming insurrection', but this time especially informed by a historical context. It does this with the mention of the french worker-student uprising/general strike which took place in may '68 in contrast with a movement known as the Italian Autonomia, a diverse wave of subversive uprising which we are told crested in 1977. Tiqqun tend to champion Italian Autonomia with a lot of attention paid to the actions of The Red Brigades, a militant hyper-communist armed struggle group which took place somewhat within the framework of the Autonomia movement but in an uncertain shaky relation to how much they were helping a movement which was much more diffuse and disparate in intention and organization than the The Red Brigades ever were.

Tiqqun elaborate on their concept of warfare (against the state/empire) first primarily introduced in 'intro to civil war'. However, this concept is not as simple and flatly militant as the term might indicate and they seem to think what they call 'civil war' can take the form of all sorts of subversive subtleties. This concept is one of contesting the fabric of empire at every possible opportunity while still being strategic about such contestation and operating with methods of hiding-in-plain-site as championed in 'theory of bloom'. While this did manage to resonate with me personally as a person fed up with a lot of how capitolism and thusly what they call empire operates as well as with at least a bit of fore-knowledge regarding militant anti-state theory, I realize what an obscure and impenetrable audience this constitutes. Tiqqun's books presuppose a lot both in terms of philosophical references to Foucoult and Debord among others that they automatically introduce with not much explanation as well a passionate hatred of capitalism (or as they coin it 'empire') so while I personally give the book a high rating, it's a bit hard to imagine it transcending the territory of a fierce history-informed polemic. But maybe that's alright...

McKenzie Wark says

Flirts dangerously with the idea of violence. Contains caustic remarks on Negri and the Multitudes group in Paris. I actually thought the second, shorter text was more interesting. A critique of Marx on fetishism, towards a practice of the invention of forms of life.

Rui Coelho says

This may not be a program, but it is worth your time. Unlike most Tiqqun texts which focus on a specific concept (civil war, terrible community, young-girl), this book provides a relatively comprehensive overview of the authors' worldview. It covers the key concepts (empire, invisible party, social war...) and the relations among them.

It is also Tiqqun's most focused on apparatus text. It is really helpful to read it alongside Agamben's "what is an apparatus?".

Italian Autonomy makes many appearances throughout the book. It's nice how they manage to ground their theory with an historic example, but (despite the authors ending up dismissing it) their enthusiasm with the Red Brigades is unsettling at times.

Roger Green says

This book contains two powerful essays. The first relies quite a bit on political and historical knowledge of Italy in the 1970s and to a lesser extent France in the 1960s. Nevertheless, the language resonates even for the situation in the United States in 2017. This is particularly a powerful comparative critique in the second essay, which was the founding act for the Society for the Advancement of Criminal Science.

Rhys says

You are so sly, Tiqqun ... that was a program.

"All armed prophets have conquered, and unarmed ones fail." [Gopal Balakrishnan] (p.121) ... "On the contrary, we have to start from the simple fact that our struggle is *criminal from the outset* and behave accordingly" (p.131).

Mari says

Great read. A tad sophisticated, though I feel I got most of what it was conveying as a message. I would try and share my pece, though sometimes one must keep their tongue silenced from Empire. This would be more of a conversation amongst friends and family that one would consider allies and open minded of what needs to be done to go against the norm or to be with the flow of the norm yet still fight against it without making

one be noticed. If anyone gets this, well awesome, we are all not suppressed by the apparatuses of Empire. :)

Mark says

YES
