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The Fourth Political Theory



Synopsis

All the political systems of the modern age have been the products of three distinct ideologies: the first, and oldest, is liberal democracy; the second is Marxism; and the third is fascism. The latter two have long since failed and passed out of the pages of history, and the first no longer operates as an ideology, but rather as something taken for granted. The world today finds itself on the brink of a post-political reality - one in which the values of liberalism are so deeply embedded that the average person is not aware that there is an ideology at work around him. As a result, liberalism is threatening to monopolise political discourse and drown the world in a universal sameness, destroying everything that makes the various cultures and peoples unique. According to Alexander Dugin, what is needed to break through this morass is a fourth ideology - one that will sift through the debris of the first three to look for elements that might be useful, but that remains innovative and unique in itself. Dugin does not offer a point-by-point program for this new theory, but rather outlines the parameters within which it might develop and the issues which it must address. Dugin foresees that the Fourth Political Theory will use the tools and concepts of modernity against itself, to bring about a return of cultural diversity against commercialisation, as well as the traditional worldview of all the peoples of the world - albeit within an entirely new context. Written by a scholar who is actively influencing the direction of Russian geopolitical strategy today, *The Fourth Political Theory* is an introduction to an idea that may well shape the course of the world's political future. Alexander Dugin (b. 1962) is one of the best-known writers and political commentators in post-Soviet Russia. In addition to the many books he has authored on political, philosophical and spiritual topics, he currently serves on the staff of Moscow State University, and is the intellectual leader of the Eurasia Movement. For more than a decade, he has also been an advisor to Vladimir Putin and others in the Kremlin on geopolitical matters, being a vocal advocate of a return of Russian power to the global stage, to act as a counterweight to American domination.

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Customer Reviews

Dugan is a thinker and his sketch of a fourth political way is challenging as it is the first post modern narrative that sheds light on this time. Read it, and see if you don't find it surprising

He may be right in that the old paradigms of political theory are passe, and new constructions are necessary.

Even if someone hates Dugin's views, everyone should bother to read his opus, because it makes sense of Putin's behavior and Russian policy, foreign and domestic. It put my doubts of Putin's authenticity to rest. I think Putin is too Russian to let Mother Russia be treated like a twenty buck whore by the Western NWO. That's the quick and dirty way to put it. Dugin gives a more ideological explanation of why British liberalism won't go over in Russia without a war: Classical Liberalism emerged with the 17th century enlightenment. It was about the liberation of the individual from the constraints imposed by theocracy and monarchy. So back then the 17th and 18th century liberals were concerned with obtaining freedoms that we took for granted in the 20th century. Such things as social mobility through merit rather than class. Freedom of religion. Most important of all, laissez faire economics. These are not the things that Dugin rejects, per se. The problem is that the impulse to liberation didn't stop while it was ahead. Postmodern Liberalism can't be satisfied with equal rights and opportunity regardless of race, sex or creed under the laws of state. Now they insist that the individual must be free of the constraints of natural law too. That's why - seemingly out of the blue - the US and NATO governments have become obsessed with trivial pursuits such as 'gender neutral' public toilets. That's why Hillary Clinton's personal mission as Secretary of State was

applying pressure to force African and Muslim nations to impose gay marriage universally. Whether you or I are for or against these things in our own country isn't the point. Is it acceptable for the Liberal West to unilaterally dictate morals and mores to less powerful nations - because it 'can'? Dugin nails it. That's exactly what's going on. When you understand it's the late stage result of a long process of an ideology that doesn't know when to quit, everything going on begins to finally make sense.

A different view and a different approach. These views need to be watched and understood in light of the struggle for power in Europe today

What this guy talks about is happening right now with Iran, Russia and China. He is truly a visionary.

Alexander Dugin is an incendiary figure, given to controversial actions and comments on current affairs. All you need to do is check out his biography on Wikipedia. This book, his magnum opus, is no different. Dugin thinks outside the box, and his ideas promulgated in this book are innovative. He writes with a clarity and honesty which is both provocative and illuminating. Even though written over ten years ago, it is still relevant to and speaks about the present age. Dugin's premise is that three great political theories of the 20th Century have failed in one way or another. The first failed political theory is Western Liberalism. The second failed political theory is Communism. The third failed political theory is Fascism. While liberalism may have won the battle, it lost the war. The two driving forces in Western Liberalism are • overemphasis on the individual and its systematic weaknesses due to its own inherent contradictions • have allowed the rise of neo-liberalism which Dugin indicates is destroying what is left of the ideology. While initially established to promote equality and freedom, it has produced the exact opposite. What is following the fall of communism is not a Brave New World ruled by neoliberal ideologues, but a protracted period of uncertainty, with no clear leading ideology. This instability is fueled also by what Dugin calls the "opponents to modernity," which, had his book been written a few years later, would have included international terrorism. With no opposing political system to constrain the contradictions inherent in the system, the neoconservative faction of liberalism has so skewed past political distinctions that Left and Right don't mean anything anymore. Dugin remarks that libertarians and old-guard leftists start agreeing with each other. This is the territory of the Fourth Political Theory. Dugin's solution is the subject of this book, the Fourth Political Theory.

Dugin's thesis is not unlike the political alliance proposed recently Ralph Nader in his book, *Unstoppable, the Emerging Left-Right Alliance*. The only difference is that Dugin published his book ten years before Nader's. The Fourth Political Theory accepts aspects of the previous three which are still viable and discards other concepts which prove unworkable or irrelevant. From Liberalism Dugin would eliminate the over-emphasis on the individual and keep its sense of freedom; from Communism Dugin would reject the material dialectic and retain its emphasis on class struggle but keep its remedies to alienation produced by Liberalism. Because its system is almost wholly based on virulent racism in one form or another, although that tendency is also shown in liberalism, Dugin would just eliminate Fascism altogether, keeping yet modifying its over-emphasis to nationalism to a general sense of community. Roughly the last one-third of the book is devoted to related issues regarding Dugin's current assessment of geopolitical matters. The argument follows standard Continental political thinking, and is interesting in its own right. The truly innovative stuff however is his call for the need to recognize and develop a Fourth Political Theory. This book and the theory it espouses are the incisive, stinging critique of the postmodern world, and very thought provoking.

Most of the political theories that we now embrace are failing us. And even though this book was primarily directed at the Russian polity, it is significant for the rest of the world for many reasons. First of all, this author is Putin's adviser, so we need to know where the thinking is coming from in the rest of the world. Second, Dugin's political analysis applies just as well to the rest of the world. Dugin says that we need a new political theory, that the 18th century liberalism that we have been operating from is no longer valid. He says that we should borrow from the past - religion and real values - and construct a new political theory that will engage these values and also update our societies to cope with the processes we now face. I agree with him. Liberalism grew out of the typographical era, when reading the printed word was king. We have long since moved into the modern era of social media and computers and the Internet. We need to get to know one another better and quit regarding everyone as "the enemy of the month." This will entail electing political leaders that are more conscious of the global village and also the need for national identities as well. It's a good read and excellently translated. And it is an essential book!

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