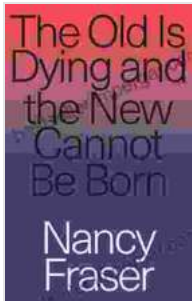


# Unveiling the Transformative Power of Gramsci's 'The Old Is Dying and the New Cannot Be Born'



## The Old is Dying and the New Cannot Be Born: From Progressive Neoliberalism to Trump and Beyond

by Nancy Fraser

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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In the realm of political thought, Antonio Gramsci's 'The Old Is Dying and the New Cannot Be Born' stands as a seminal work that has left an indelible mark on our understanding of society and power.

In this article, we will delve into the profound insights and enduring relevance of Gramsci's masterpiece, exploring its key concepts and their implications for our current political landscape.

### Gramsci's Context and the Birth of a Classic

To fully appreciate the significance of Gramsci's work, it is essential to understand the historical context in which it was written.

Gramsci, an Italian Marxist imprisoned under Mussolini's fascist regime, penned his groundbreaking ideas from within the confines of prison.

Faced with the collapse of traditional Marxist strategies in the face of fascism, Gramsci sought to develop a new political theory that could account for the complex relationship between power, culture, and society.

## **Key Concepts of 'The Old Is Dying and the New Cannot Be Born'**

Gramsci's work is characterized by several key concepts that revolutionized political thought:

- **Hegemony:** Gramsci argued that power is not simply imposed from above but rather is maintained through the consent and participation of the governed.

Hegemony refers to the ability of the ruling class to shape and control the ideas, beliefs, and values of society, thereby gaining consent for their rule.

- **Civil Society:** According to Gramsci, civil society is the realm of social and cultural institutions (e.g., schools, churches, media) that mediate between the state and the individual.

He emphasized the importance of civil society as a site of resistance and potential transformation.

- **Organic Intellectuals:** Gramsci believed that intellectuals play a crucial role in shaping 社会思潮.

He distinguished between "traditional intellectuals" who serve the interests of the ruling class and "organic intellectuals" who emerge

from the working class to represent their interests.

## **The Enduring Relevance of Gramsci's Ideas**

Despite being written nearly a century ago, Gramsci's ideas remain profoundly relevant to our contemporary world.

In an era marked by globalization, the rise of populism, and the crisis of traditional political institutions, Gramsci's insights provide a framework for understanding the complexities of power and the possibilities for social change.

- **Understanding Hegemony in the Digital Age:** Gramsci's concept of hegemony helps us to analyze the ways in which powerful actors shape public opinion and control the flow of information, particularly in the digital age.

Social media platforms, for example, have become powerful tools for disseminating dominant ideologies and shaping political narratives.

- **The Role of Civil Society in Resistance:** Gramsci's emphasis on civil society highlights the importance of grassroots movements, community organizations, and independent media in challenging dominant power structures.

In the face of growing social and environmental crises, civil society plays a vital role in mobilizing citizens and推动变革.

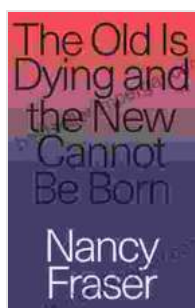
- **Organic Intellectuals and Social Movements:** Gramsci's concept of organic intellectuals sheds light on the role of intellectuals and activists in fostering social change.

By connecting with grassroots movements and articulating their aspirations, organic intellectuals can help to build a more just and equitable society.

'The Old Is Dying and the New Cannot Be Born' is not merely a historical document but a living testament to the power of critical thinking and the enduring search for social transformation.

Gramsci's ideas continue to inspire and challenge us, providing a roadmap for navigating the complexities of power and the struggle for a better world.

As we face the challenges of the 21st century, Gramsci's work offers valuable insights and a renewed sense of hope for a future where the old ways of doing things are truly dead and the new world we strive for is finally born.



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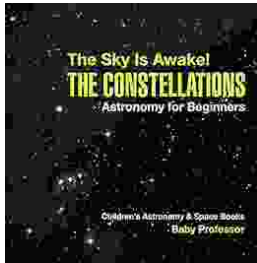
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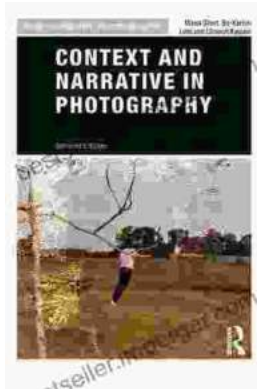
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