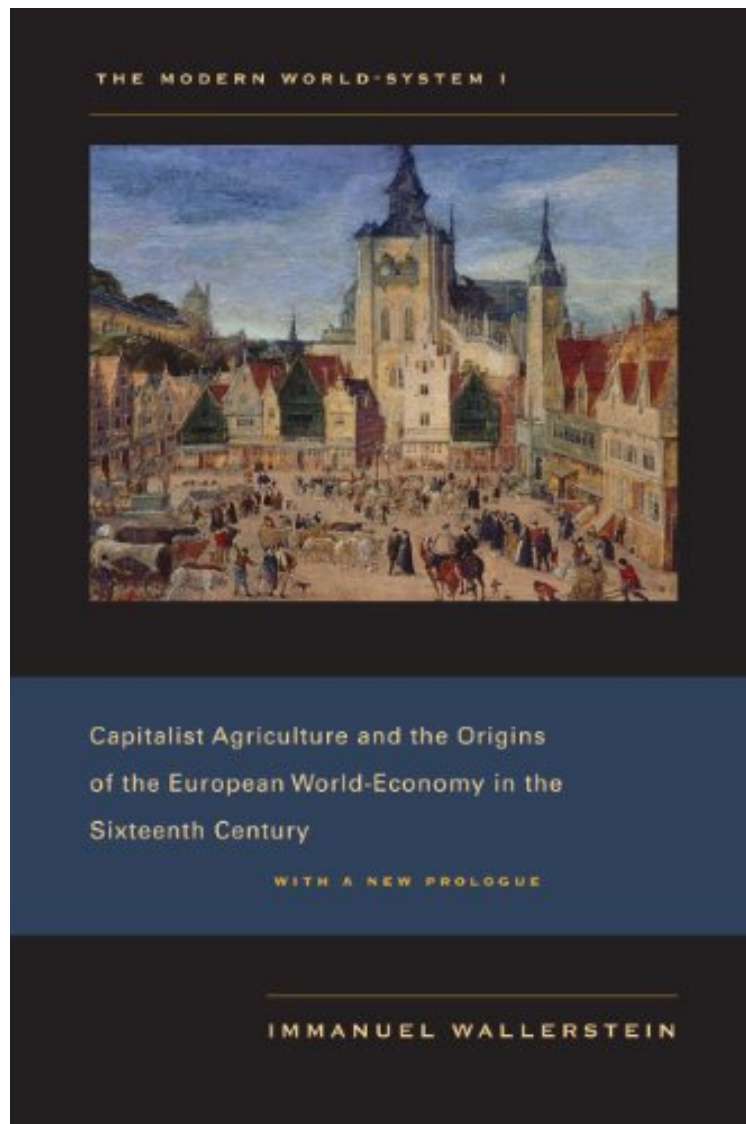


[Free pdf] The Modern World-System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century

The Modern World-System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century

Immanuel Wallerstein

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#719815 in eBooks 2011-06-10 2011-04-27File Name: B005CPYF40 | File size: 41.Mb

Immanuel Wallerstein : The Modern World-System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Modern World-System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy FangIn his seminal works on capitalist world-system,

Emmanuel Wallerstein made several major contributions/revisions to theories of capitalism. First, he re-defined the geography of capitalism, arguing that capitalism can only fully emerge in a world-system economy consisting of core, semi-peripheral and peripheral areas. Second, based on classical Marxism, he proposed that division of labor and formation of one bourgeois/capitalist class on a world-system scale across different areas nurtured particular modes of production, social organizations and subsequently domestic and international politics. Third, he reconfigured economic history of Europe into one of various stages of thrusts in the core areas and interactions among core, semi-peripheral and peripheral areas, and he attempted to reconstruct major surges of capitalism as connections between secular developments (for example the introduction of American precious metal bullions into Europe and the population cycle) with cyclical nature of capitalism (the long-term economic booms and busts) and historical accidents (wars, ecological crisis, balance of power etc). "Wallerstein should especially be credited with challenging the territorial compartmentalization of previous theories. For Wallerstein, 'world-system' not only denotes a geographical area in which a particular economic model—capitalism, to be precise—is feasible, it also incorporates material and labor force inputs from semi-peripheral and peripheral areas as indispensable for capitalism's emergence. Logically this implies the dismantling of territorial fixations of political and economic units; hence Wallerstein is able to penetrate rigid division of 'internal' and 'external' perspectives of state formation and emergence of capitalism, reconstruct 'state' as an outgrowth of capitalist development, and observe the 'free flow' of class, state and economic trends across an entire world-system." Still, world-system theory in Wallerstein's earlier works leaves much to be desired. Wallerstein was particularly proud of the 'holistic', across-the-system combination of economic, political and social factors. But in explaining particular events of rise and fall of states, he often collapsed back to attributions of particular states. For example, China was not able to take the Western European route to capitalism due to its imperial political structure and early maturation of rationalist culture, and England was blessed with a delicate balance of monarchial power, class relations and geographical advantage. The inconsistency between his ambition and such tactics of explanation raises questions whether Wallerstein indeed had a 'holistic' theory of capitalism. The relationship between world-system theory and traditional Marxism, which became one of Wallerstein's major antagonists, is also intriguing. Wallerstein apparently followed Marxist historical materialism in emphasizing of division of labor and production forces as primary explanatory factors, but his assertion of the feasibility of capitalism in a territorial sense, i.e. the 'geographical' nature of capitalism was premised upon geography as part of, or even more radically the true 'bearer' of the 'material reality' of historical materialism, a point which traditional Marxists could hardly accept.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Difficult to read but worth it
By Customer
Wallerstein's work has had an enormous influence on the social sciences and historical scholarship. This book is the first volume, and is still fresh, insightful and full of fascinating insights even after 40 years of additional research have added a lot to our understanding of the period he analyzes. Although the book is primarily a meta-empirical work (re-interpreting the findings of secondary sources), its most significant innovation is theoretical: the concept of the world-system, and the resulting insight that differential development is a necessary feature in the rise of modern capitalism - not a bug. This theory has been greatly disputed, but is still a key reference point in macro-historical debates, and the author has added a very valuable new introduction in which he responds to critics. The book is to be lauded for its valuable combination of great attention to detail in each of the many areas it analyses, with a broad view of historical change. However, the melding of these two levels is executed very poorly in terms of the book's overall organization, making it extremely difficult to read. Neither the division between the chapters nor their internal structure seems to make much sense, and the writer continually refers to issues he has previously discussed, that are very difficult to locate - even with the Kindle's search function! This is particularly vexing in light of the fact that the overall argument and ideas are not at all confused or disorganized. This book sometimes feels like a coherent work which was shattered to pieces and re-assembled by an only partially competent editor. As the five stars indicate, I still warmly recommend this book, which is well-worth the effort.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An interesting view of early capitalism
By Horst D Moller
The new introduction resumes the recent discussion about the book and the position of left wing critics of capitalism very well. The book shows new facts of the development of capitalism and state.

Immanuel Wallerstein's highly influential, multi-volume opus, *The Modern World-System*, is one of this century's greatest works of social science. An innovative, panoramic reinterpretation of global history, it traces the emergence and development of the modern world from the sixteenth to the twentieth century.