



Nomadology: The War Machine

Gilles Deleuze , Félix Guattari

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Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari redefine the relation between the state and its war machine. Far from being a part of the state, warriers (the army) are nomads who always come from the outside and keep threatening the authority of the state.

In this daring essay inspired by Nietzsche, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari redefine the relation between the state and its war machine. Far from being a part of the state, warriers (the army) are nomads who always come from the outside and keep threatening the authority of the state. In the same vein, nomadic science keeps infiltrating royal science, undermining its axioms and principles. Nomadology is a speedy, pocket-sized treatise that refuses to be pinned down. Theorizing a dynamic relationship between sedentary power and "schizophrenic lines of flight," this volume is meant to be read in transit, smuggled into urban nightclubs, offices, and subways. Deleuze and Guattari propose a creative and resistant ethics of becoming-imperceptible, strategizing a continuous invention of weapons on the run. An anarchic bricolage of ideas uprooted from anthropology, aesthetics, history, and military strategy, Nomadology carries out Deleuze's desire to "leave philosophy, but to leave it as a philosopher."

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Spoust1 says

Before I say anything, it should be noted that this book is by Deleuze AND Guattari, the latter of which is not listed as an author on GoodReads.

Now, I have a love-hate relationship with Deleuze. I think he is one of the more original French philosophers, and I appreciate his refusal to subordinate philosophy to any sort of discourse theory. But still I am torn. On one hand, in an age after philosophers sound like philosophers - the analytic philosophers sound like...(snore), Derrida sounds like he desperately wants to avoid saying anything at all, Foucault sounds at times like a historian or sociologist, the list goes on - Deleuze decided to continue to write philosophy as philosophy. "Difference and Repetition," "The Logic of Sense," his books on Nietzsche, Spinoza, and others - they are all modern, "hip" in their own way, but they nevertheless read like philosophy. Then again, with some of his later books Deleuze - with Guattari - turns away from this kind of writing and thinking - philosophical writing and thinking - toward what I will call metaphor-ology. As I see it, these later books read more like extremely elaborate metaphors. These metaphors in many ways illuminate other philosophical texts, as well as current events, but they remain metaphors. It is this later Deleuze - and one can see how he developed from the early Deleuze - that frustrates me. At times I find these books exciting, and I can see their use; but I also think these books are silly. "Nomadology" is an excerpt from one of these later books, "A Thousand Plateaus." It is what I said these later books are.

So who SHOULD read this book? It should be read by those who find the idea of the nomad and the war machine exciting and sexy. As I see it, this criteria for determining who should read the book in a way damns the book. It has been suggested (by Badiou and Zizek) that Deleuze is the revolutionary philosopher for the white, middle-class, 20 something crowd. Revolutionary indeed.

Sherwin says

It is semantically dense, due to its brevity...

Bryn Hammond says

So, has this extravaganza of French philosophy any insight for a student of real, historical steppe nomads?

Yes.

It's a helluva lot better (on the *nomads*) than Azar Gat War in Human Civilization or John Keegan A History of Warfare. They have no inkling about nomads.

I'll study this further.

PS. If you're here for steppe research in a strict sense, you can safely start on p.50. Not that there wasn't food

for thought beforehand. On waterworks, I thought of the human control of water in China, a story told in *The Retreat of the Elephants: An Environmental History of China*.

Jamie says

Essential Deleuze & Guattari, particularly for its illustration of nomadic structures that are prevalent in corporate transformations. Approachable for those new to D&G, especially for those with a background in Mann or Serres.

Matt says

I got hosed on this one.

It's actually just a chapter from *A Thousand Plateaus*. This one is a nice little review, but should be taken in the broader context of *Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Read that instead. After you've finished reading *Anti-Oedipus*.

Then people will think your smart because you've read Deleuze.

Dan William says

This provoked me to again think I have to get into interstellar space, in a yurtship... Depressingly vital... I read this at least once a year when i become comfortable curled up in the corner...

Dr. A says

Read this and reviews of other classics in Western Philosophy on the History page of www.BestPhilosophyBooks.org (a thinkPhilosophy Production).

Page nine. The deterritorialization velocity of affect is an invented sense of exteriority that will change the very rhythm of time. Yes, but of course!

One, deterritorialization: to "make the outside a territory in space"; to shatter an enemy's territory from within." (4) Two, velocity of affect: "feelings become uprooted from the interiority of a 'subject', to the exteriority..." (9) Three, to change the rhythm of time through the control of space qua territory.

Time changes rhythm according the space and place, then. The idea that we are productive because we are terribly busy all the time is a way of consuming space, doing away with the gaps, of not allowing any obvious void to show.

It is the place that will tell you what is to be done. If in the bedroom, sleep or fuck. If in the study, read and work; if at the park, recreate. Is there any place not already filled with activity, with purpose, with intelligence or end? But then that would mean no room for idleness, for thinking, for refusals or freedom,

even.

...exteriority comes to be absorbed by the "subject" who rides it like a motor, all the better not to think, not to feel, the shell, the boredom-anxiety that prepares the way for the new.

The Situationists had it almost right; they would navigate the streets of Paris according to a map of Amsterdam, or Brussels, etc. But according to this exercise, place is made by plot or trajectory, not inhabited. What if we were able to invent new space-logics, beginning by violating some of the old ones. Don't tell me that time and thoughts would not be different, were we not all working in offices, but on the floor of the public restroom, or in the isle of some Safeway.

...we must give up some of our modern day comforts, so called.

Read this and reviews of other classics in Western Philosophy on the History page of www.BestPhilosophyBooks.org (a thinkPhilosophy Production).

Roger Green says

This is a readable little excerpt from *A Thousand Plateaus*. A good "think piece" but I stress that it's an excerpt and hard to get the gist of terms like "nomadology" without some background in other works. Still, it's handy.

D.S. Mattison says

Look out on your current skyline and ask yourself about the geometrical configuration of space. Think about the war in Iraq and the genocide in Darfur and ask yourself why humans continue to plow one another over creating an unceasing river of blood. We are bound by metal and operate through a metallurgic medium. Deleuze and Guattari mind fuck you into a catatonic swiss cheese state of understanding space, time, and politics. This is a great companion to *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. Don't worry if it takes you longer to digest these one hundred odd pages than it does Diamond's 800 - you are perfectly normal (and most likely don't speak French).

Karlo Mikhail says

Read for some paper in class. Fairly interesting. I have to read this again along with the entire *A Thousand Plateaus*.

Kasparas says

Maybe one of the great books of nowaday political strategy and tactics, the one that academic activist must read and use as their tool in revolution of everyday life.

Lara Richardson says

The way these authors write, and their subject matter....be still my beating heart!

Joelle says

I should have read this by now...
