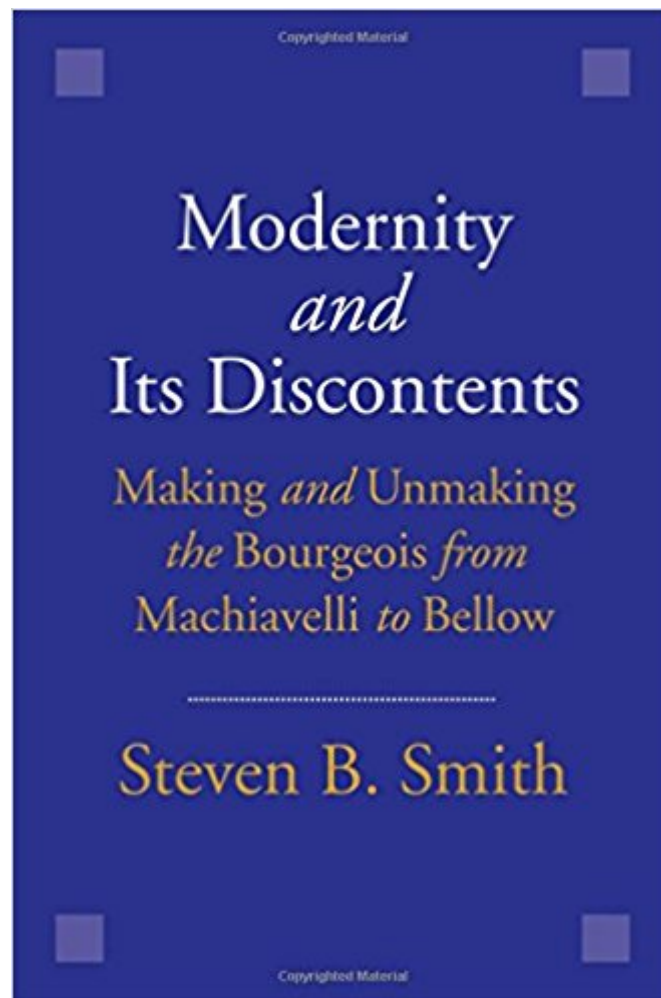




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Modernity And Its Discontents: Making And Unmaking The Bourgeois From Machiavelli To Bellow



Synopsis

Steven B. Smith examines the concept of modernity, not as the end product of historical developments but as a state of mind. He explores modernism as a source of both pride and anxiety, suggesting that its most distinctive characteristics are the self-criticisms and doubts that accompany social and political progress. Providing profiles of the modern project's most powerful defenders and critics—from Machiavelli and Spinoza to Saul Bellow and Isaiah Berlin—this provocative work of philosophy and political science offers a novel perspective on what it means to be modern and why discontent and sometimes radical rejection are its inevitable by-products.

Book Information

Hardcover: 416 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 1 edition (August 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300198396

ISBN-13: 978-0300198393

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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