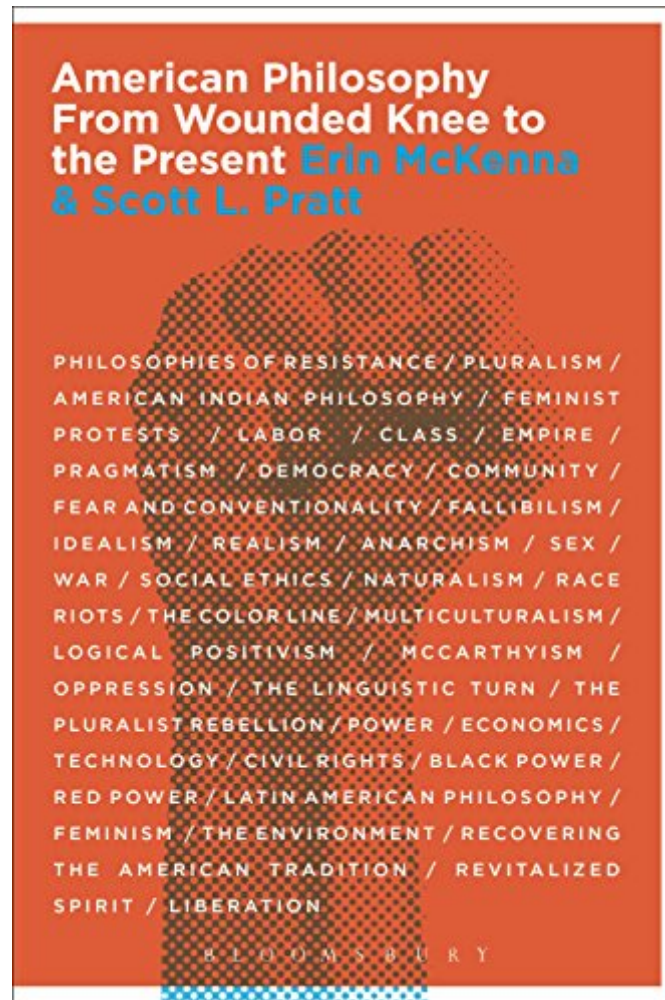




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American Philosophy: From Wounded Knee To The Present



Synopsis

American Philosophy offers the first historically framed introduction to the tradition of American philosophy and its contemporary engagement with the world. Born out of the social and political turmoil of the Civil War, American philosophy was a means of dealing with conflict and change. In the turbulence of the 21st century, this remains as relevant as ever. Placing the work of present-day American philosophers in the context of a history of resistance, through a philosophical tradition marked by a commitment to pluralism, fallibilism and liberation, this book tells the story of a philosophy shaped by major events that call for reflection and illustrates the ways in which philosophy is relevant to lived experience. This book presents a survey of the historical development of American philosophy, as well as coverage of key contemporary issues in America including race theory, feminism, indigenous peoples, and environmentalism and is the ideal introduction to the work of the major American thinkers, past and present, and the sheer breadth of their ideas and influence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

So much is wonderful, thoughtful, and informative about this book and so much is dogmatic and infuriating. I loved most of this book with its provocations, but it began to wear out its welcome towards the end. Erin McKenna and Scott Pratt are both professors of philosophy at Pacific Lutheran University and the authors of this lengthy, ambitious book, "American Philosophy From Wounded Knee to the Present." This book is a history of American philosophical thinking, social and political thinking, polemic, and much more. The book sees American philosophy as centered in a philosophy of resistance. The book observes that some individuals have denied that there is an "American" philosophy "because it associates the endeavor with industrial capitalism, militarism, the creation of grinding poverty and extreme wealth, exploitation based upon gender and race, and global domination." This would present a dismal picture indeed, and the book focuses on the path of American philosophy as "inexorably bound to a history of domination and the struggle for liberation" and for its resistance to what the individuals denying the possibility of an "American" philosophy understand of the nature of American life. McKenna and Pratt thus devote a great deal of attention to writers that for a long time received little attention in the study of American philosophy -- Indians, African Americans, women, Latin Americans, and more. The book intertwines discussion of these once little known figures with a treatment of American pragmatism and its successors in American academic philosophy, particularly analytic philosophy. It is sometimes difficult to tell which philosophers are on the side of resistance.

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