

Debord, Time and Spectacle

Hegelian Marxism and Situationist Theory

[Historical Materialism Book Series](#), Volume: 155

Author: [Tom Bunyard](#)

In *Debord, Time and Spectacle* Tom Bunyard provides a detailed philosophical study of the theoretical work of Guy Debord and the Situationist International. Drawing on evidence from Debord's books, films, letters and notes, Bunyard reconstructs the Hegelian and Marxian ideas that support Debord's central concept of 'spectacle'. This affords a reconsideration of Debord's theoretical claims, and a reinterpretation of his broader work that foregrounds his concerns with history and lived time. By bringing Situationist theory into dialogue with recent reinterpretations of Marx, this book also identifies problems in Debord's critique of capitalism. It argues, however, that the conceptions of temporality and spectacle that support that critique amount to a philosophy of praxis that remains relevant today.

"This is one of the few serious books about Debord, an author too frequently treated as if he were only a media theorist or artist. By drawing on all available sources and on unpublished material, Bunyard demonstrates that Debord's theory of 'spectacle' has a substantial philosophical dimension with deep Hegelian roots. This book's convincing and detailed arguments definitively establish Debord as an important modern thinker." – Anselm Jappe, author of *Guy Debord* (1999)

Contents:

Introduction: Radioactivity

PART ONE: Subjectivity, Temporality and Spectacle

- 1 Interpreting the Theory of Spectacle
- 2 Five Aspects of Debord's Theoretical Work

PART TWO: The New Beauty: 1951–62

- 3 'We are Artists Insofar as We are No Longer Artists'
- 4 The Everyday and the Absolute
- 5 'Avant-Gardes Have Only One Time'

PART THREE: 'Everything that had Formerly been Absolute Became Historical'

- 6 Debord and French Hegelianism
- 7 Subjects and Objects: Debord, Lukács and the Young Marx
- 8 Life and Non-life

PART FOUR: In Pursuit of the Northwest Passage: 1963–73

- 9 Never Work!
- 10 'I am Nothing and I Should be Everything'
- 11 The 'Fetishism of Capital'

PART FIVE: The Integrated Spectacle: 1974–94

- 12 Moving with History's 'Bad Side'
 - 13 Strategy and Tactics in the Integrated Spectacle
 - 14 The Knight, Death and the Devil Bibliography
- Index