

# Contesting the global order : the radical political economy of Perry Anderson and Immanuel Wallerstein (/review/10.5860/CHOICE.222671)

Williams, Gregory P. (</search?exactauthor=Williams, Gregory P>) SUNY Press, 2020

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This is a thoroughly impressive first book by a young scholar. Reviewing the career-long development of Perry Anderson and Immanuel Wallerstein, Williams (Univ. of Northern Colorado) provides a well-written, sophisticated analysis of the two radical intellectuals while almost entirely avoiding the off-putting jargon that can easily encumber a work of this sort. Instead, he smoothly examines the similar and disparate backgrounds of his subjects; their association with elite institutions such as Columbia University, the Fernand Braudel Center, the British journal *New Left Review*, and UCLA; and their cutting-edge explorations. Wallerstein, the son of Polish Jewish immigrants to the US, was drawn to world-systems theory; Anderson, the Anglo-Irish offspring of noteworthy figures, subscribed to his own version of political economy. Key emphases in Williams's text include the impact of events in 1956, 1968, and 1989; both writers' activist sensibilities; their propensity to alternate between optimism and despair (the latter of which never became debilitating); and their committed opposition to capitalism and imperialism. Important influences are pointed out, among them Marx, Fanon, Braudel, Polanyi, Gibbon, Sartre, Lukács, Colletti, and Gramsci. Williams ably underscores his subjects' efforts to create totalizing histories through their macro-historical projects and reflections on agency.

**Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates. Graduate students, faculty, and professionals. General readers.

**Reviewer:** [R. C. Cottrell \(/search?reviewer=R. C. Cottrell\)](/search?reviewer=R. C. Cottrell), emeritus, California State University, Chico

**Recommendation:** Highly recommended

**Readership Level:** General Readers, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners

**Interdisciplinary Subjects:**

**Subject:** [Social & Behavioral Sciences - Political Science - Political Theory \(/search?q=&sbj\[\]=polit\)](/search?q=&sbj[]=polit)

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