

# Spinoza for Our Time: Politics and Postmodernity (Insurrections: Critical Studies in Religion, Politics, and Culture)

By Antonio Negri

Antonio Negri, one of the world's leading scholars on Baruch Spinoza (1632–1677) and his contemporary legacy, offers a straightforward explanation of the philosopher's elaborate arguments and a persuasive case for his ongoing relevance. Responding to a resurgent interest in Spinoza's thought and its potential application to contemporary global issues, Negri demonstrates the thinker's special value to politics, philosophy, and related disciplines.

Negri's work is both a return to and an advancement of his initial affirmation of Spinozian thought in *The Savage Anomaly*. He further defends his understanding of the philosopher as a proto-postmodernist, or a thinker who is just now, with the advent of the postmodern, becoming contemporary. Negri also connects Spinoza's theories to recent trends in political philosophy, particularly the reengagement with Carl Schmitt's "political theology," and the history of philosophy, including the argument that Spinoza belongs to a "radical enlightenment." By positioning Spinoza as a contemporary revolutionary intellectual, Negri addresses and effectively defeats twentieth-century critiques of the thinker waged by Jacques Derrida, Alain Badiou, and Giorgio Agamben.

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Review

... Small, attractively produced... While the translation is lucid and elegant, Negri's analysis is subtle and couched in the philosophical grammar of contemporary Continental philosophy. The volume would be most appreciated by readers conversant in this idiom. (*Choice*)

About the Author

Antonio Negri is an independent researcher and world-renowned theorist, who has taught political philosophy at the University of Padua, the University of Vincennes, and College Internationale de Philosophie. His books include *Factory of Strategy: Thirty-three Lessons on Lenin*; *The Politics of Subversion: A Manifesto for the Twenty-First Century*; and *Negri on Negri: In Conversation with Anne Dufourmentelle*. With Michael Hardt, he coauthored the best-selling trilogy, *Empire*, *Multitude*, and *Commonwealth*.

Rocco Gangle is associate professor of philosophy at Endicott College and the author of François Laruelle's *Philosophies of Difference: A Critical Introduction and Guide*.

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