



"A well documented analysis of the global justice movement"

ALTER-GLOBALIZATION
Becoming Actors in the Global Age
Geoffrey Pleyers
Foreword by Alain Touraine

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Reformulating the possibilities for action in this global world constitutes a major issue in contemporaneous social sciences and a central challenge of the alter-globalization/global justice movement. This book proposes to discuss it starting from concrete experimentations by social actors who have contested globalization in its neoliberal form, proposed alternative policies, implemented participatory organization models and promoted a nascent global public space. Alter-Globalization provides a comprehensive account of these critical global forces, analyzing their main political cultures, their outcomes and limits as well as the inner tensions of the movement on the base of extensive field research conducted since 1999 and until the aftermath of the global crisis in Europe, Latin America and at eight world social forums.

"Pleyers has traveled the world to offer readers the most sweeping look yet at this crucial global movement, including how it has changed in the face of the recent crisis of the very capitalism it criticizes. By showing us a movement grappling continuously with the Pyramid Dilemma over top-down versus bottom-up approaches, this book helps us think about the most basic issues of democracy and social change."

James M. Jasper, City University of New York.

"This important book is the first scholarly account of the alter-globalization movement. This highly original analysis of the way the movement is constructed around the tension between its two logics - subjective experience and expertise based on reason - helps us to understand not only the movement itself but also the role that the movement plays in inventing global citizenship."

Mary Kaldor, Director, LSE Global Governance.

"Well-documented and relying on the most in-depth analyses. This book presents a movement both truly global and adapted to the economic context of each country and region. The main contribution of Geoffrey Pleyers, and what makes this book an indispensable tool, is that he clearly exposes the mixed strengths and weaknesses of a movement which was, and remains, a grassroots movement in which activists from poor countries occupy a place observed in no other movement."

Alain Touraine, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.

"An outstanding example of contemporary sociological research that rises to the immense demands of a truly global ethnography. Pleyers' book is bound to become the definitive account by a contemporary of the alter-globalization movement."

Martin Albrow, London School of Economics.

"This masterpiece will be the main reference for those who want to understand how the alter-globalization movement shapes today's world, how it modifies our perception of action, but also of democracy, and how this new actor articulates local and personal meanings with general concerns for the future of humanity. This study enables us to discover with precision the short, but real history, the aims, the functioning, the internal tensions, the hopes and the difficulties of the first real global movement."

Michel Wieviorka, President of the International Sociological Association (2006-2010).