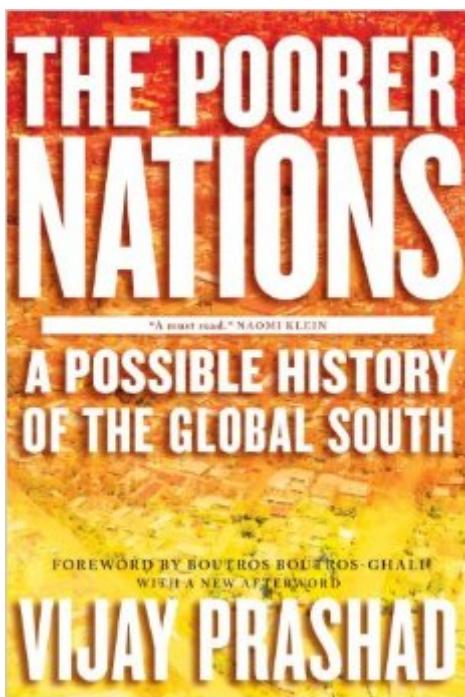


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The Poorer Nations: A Possible History Of The Global South



Synopsis

In *The Darker Nations*, Vijay Prashad provided an intellectual history of the Third World and traced the rise and fall of the Non-Aligned Movement. With *The Poorer Nations*, Prashad takes up the story where he left off. Since the '70s, the countries of the Global South have struggled to build political movements. Prashad analyzes the failures of neoliberalism, as well as the rise of the BRICS countries, the World Social Forum, issuebased movements like Via Campesina, the Latin American revolutionary revival – in short, efforts to create alternatives to the neoliberal project advanced militarily by the US and its allies and economically by the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO, and other instruments of the powerful. Just as *The Darker Nations* asserted that the Third World was a project, not a place, *The Poorer Nations* sees the Global South as a term that properly refers not to geographical space but to a concatenation of protests against neoliberalism. In his foreword to the book, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Boutros Boutros-Ghali writes that Prashad "has helped open the vista on complex events that preceded today's global situation and standoff." • *The Poorer Nations* looks to the future while revising our sense of the past. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

This book is somewhat of a sequel to his prior book "the darker nations" and perhaps an attempt to tell the same story with a more hopeful ending than "darker nations". It generally suffers from the same flaws of disorganization, a tendency to not be able to string longer arguments together and

the appearance of a book of small stories going nowhere. There is also the same fanatical tendency to endlessly talk about reports, committees and international conferences as the expense of actual people and events. He starts off the book in the 1970s with the crisis of what he calls "northern atlantic liberalism" and the slow collapse of the third-world project. But rather than see it as a systemic economic crisis, he sees it as a sinister plot against the forces of "good" such as the Soviet Union and perhaps five or so dictatorships in Africa who pass his test as being proper third-worlders. Again, he looks at the consequences of international debt without really looking at its causes. He brings up the absurd idea of a bunch of broke debtor countries trying to run the world bank and IMF without seeming to realize where the money into those institutions was coming from. He is (again) angry at OPEC but (again) fails to see that the resource-cartel idea which he himself believes in would inevitably hit the third world very hard economically and it was unrealistic to expect the OPEC countries to fund socialism in the third world rather than their own economic development. Very strangely, he fails to understand that the "gold standard" before the 1970s was in fact a dollar standard and that further, the enormous payments in dollars to OPEC created their economic logic in terms of American banks.

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