



Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment

By David Scott

 Download

 Read Online

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott

At this stalled and disillusioned juncture in postcolonial history—when many anticolonial utopias have withered into a morass of exhaustion, corruption, and authoritarianism—David Scott argues the need to reconceptualize the past in order to reimagine a more usable future. He describes how, prior to independence, anticolonialists narrated the transition from colonialism to postcolonialism as romance—as a story of overcoming and vindication, of salvation and redemption. Scott contends that postcolonial scholarship assumes the same trajectory, and that this imposes conceptual limitations. He suggests that tragedy may be a more useful narrative frame than romance. In tragedy, the future does not appear as an uninterrupted movement forward, but instead as a slow and sometimes reversible series of ups and downs.

Scott explores the political and epistemological implications of how the past is conceived in relation to the present and future through a reconsideration of C. L. R. James's masterpiece of anticolonial history, *The Black Jacobins*, first published in 1938. In that book, James told the story of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the making of the Haitian Revolution as one of romantic vindication. In the second edition, published in the United States in 1963, James inserted new material suggesting that that story might usefully be told as tragedy. Scott uses James's recasting of *The Black Jacobins* to compare the relative yields of romance and tragedy. In an epilogue, he juxtaposes James's thinking about tragedy, history, and revolution with Hannah Arendt's in *On Revolution*. He contrasts their uses of tragedy as a means of situating the past in relation to the present in order to derive a politics for a possible future.

 [Download Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial E ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial ...pdf](#)

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment

By David Scott

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott

At this stalled and disillusioned juncture in postcolonial history—when many anticolonial utopias have withered into a morass of exhaustion, corruption, and authoritarianism—David Scott argues the need to reconceptualize the past in order to reimagine a more usable future. He describes how, prior to independence, anticolonialists narrated the transition from colonialism to postcolonialism as romance—as a story of overcoming and vindication, of salvation and redemption. Scott contends that postcolonial scholarship assumes the same trajectory, and that this imposes conceptual limitations. He suggests that tragedy may be a more useful narrative frame than romance. In tragedy, the future does not appear as an uninterrupted movement forward, but instead as a slow and sometimes reversible series of ups and downs.

Scott explores the political and epistemological implications of how the past is conceived in relation to the present and future through a reconsideration of C. L. R. James's masterpiece of anticolonial history, *The Black Jacobins*, first published in 1938. In that book, James told the story of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the making of the Haitian Revolution as one of romantic vindication. In the second edition, published in the United States in 1963, James inserted new material suggesting that that story might usefully be told as tragedy. Scott uses James's recasting of *The Black Jacobins* to compare the relative yields of romance and tragedy. In an epilogue, he juxtaposes James's thinking about tragedy, history, and revolution with Hannah Arendt's in *On Revolution*. He contrasts their uses of tragedy as a means of situating the past in relation to the present in order to derive a politics for a possible future.

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #764670 in eBooks
- Published on: 2004-11-12
- Released on: 2004-11-12
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial E ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment* By David Scott

Editorial Review

Review

"[R]eaders... will find it a provocative and insightful challenge for postcolonial studies of the Caribbean and other world regions.... *Conscripts of Modernity* marks a significant step forward in the project of exploring critical histories of the postcolonial present in the Caribbean and around the globe." - Jacob Campbell, *Transforming Anthropology*

"This book is fascinating, and I recommend it highly. . . . Tremendously thought-provoking and relevant." - Danny Postel, *opendemocracy.net*

"This is a well-argued, rich book raising pertinent questions about the writing of history. . . . Historians interested in the postcolonial era should take note of this important study." - Rosemarijn Hoef, *American Historical Review*

"I derived immense pleasure from reading this book, a book that offers a challenging, insightful set of questions to postcolonial theory and to scholars of C. L. R. James." - Sophie McCall, *Topia*

"*Conscripts of Modernity* is an important contribution to world knowledge. . . . And it should do much to displace the easy assumptions about temporality and power apparently so much a part of the academy's horizon of possibility today." - John F. Collins, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*

"Scott's strikingly original argument about the need for a tragic mode of criticism in the postcolonial present is developed through a stunning critical reading of *the* foundational text in Atlantic studies. This is C.L.R. James' *The Black Jacobins*." - **David Lambert**, *Cultural Geographies*

"The lessons of the book are pertinent to anthropological writing as much as historical writing. . . . Although its focus on theory and history may be disconcerting to the general anthropological audience, Scott moves through his argument slowly, and the book's novel and powerful theoretical approach make it well worth the effort. It is a significant achievement that contributes to the development of new analytical models fit for a postcolonial world." - **Emma Kowal**, *Oceania*

"*Conscripts of Modernity* is a highly original and lucidly argued text, a major advance in David Scott's effort to elaborate a new form of postcolonial criticism in the wake of the collapse of the emancipatory hopes embodied in the anticolonialist moment. Scott's position will be found controversial by some. But it will not and cannot be ignored."—Stuart Hall, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, The Open University

"*Conscripts of Modernity* is an important contribution to world knowledge. . . . And it should do much to displace the easy assumptions about temporality and power apparently so much a part of the academy's horizon of possibility today."

(John F. Collins *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*)

"I derived immense pleasure from reading this book, a book that offers a challenging, insightful set of questions to postcolonial theory and to scholars of C. L. R. James."

(Sophie McCall *Topia*)

"Scott's strikingly original argument about the need for a tragic mode of criticism in the postcolonial present is developed through a stunning critical reading of *the* foundational text in Atlantic studies. This is C.L.R. James' *The Black Jacobins*."

(David Lambert *Cultural Geographies*)

"The lessons of the book are pertinent to anthropological writing as much as historical writing. . . . Although its focus on theory and history may be disconcerting to the general anthropological audience, Scott moves through his argument slowly, and the book's novel and powerful theoretical approach make it well worth the effort. It is a significant achievement that contributes to the development of new analytical models fit for a postcolonial world."

(Emma Kowal *Oceania*)

"[R]eaders... will find it a provocative and insightful challenge for postcolonial studies of the Caribbean and other world regions.... *Conscripts of Modernity* marks a significant step forward in the project of exploring critical histories of the postcolonial present in the Caribbean and around the globe."

(Jacob Campbell *Transforming Anthropology*)

"This book is fascinating, and I recommend it highly. . . . Tremendously thought-provoking and relevant."

(Danny Postel *opendemocracy.net*)

"This is a well-argued, rich book raising pertinent questions about the writing of history. . . . Historians interested in the postcolonial era should take note of this important study."

(Rosemarijn Hoelt *American Historical Review*)

From the Back Cover

"*Conscripts of Modernity*" is a highly original and lucidly argued text, a major advance in David Scott's effort to elaborate a new form of postcolonial criticism in the wake of the collapse of the emancipatory hopes embodied in the anticolonialist moment. Scott's position will be found controversial by some. But it will not and cannot be ignored."--Stuart Hall, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, The Open University

About the Author

David Scott is Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. He is the author of *Refashioning Futures: Criticism after Postcoloniality* and *Formations of Ritual: Colonial and Anthropological Discourses on the Sinhala Yaktovil*. He is editor of the journal *Small Axe*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Laflamme:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

Milton Jones:

Don't be worry for anyone who is afraid that this book may filled the space in your house, you could have it in e-book way, more simple and reachable. That Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment can give you a lot of friends because by you looking at this one book you have issue that they don't and make anyone more like an interesting person. This particular book can be one of a step for you to get success. This reserve offer you information that perhaps your friend doesn't know, by knowing more than additional make you to be great folks. So , why hesitate? We need to have Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment.

Jillian Diaz:

Do you like reading a book? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book seemed to be rare? Why so many problem for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy to get reading. Some people likes examining, not only science book but also novel and Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment or others sources were given understanding for you. After you know how the fantastic a book, you feel want to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to put their knowledge. In various other case, beside science guide, any other book likes Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment to make your spare time a lot more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

Timothy Montgomery:

Guide is one of source of understanding. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students and also native or citizen have to have book to know the revise information of year in order to year. As we know those books have many advantages. Beside many of us add our knowledge, may also bring us to around the world. By the book Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment we can take more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? To become creative person must choose to read a book. Merely choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't possibly be doubt to change your life by this book Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment. You can more appealing than now.

Download and Read Online Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott #Z5I9UPJ1BAY

Read Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott for online ebook

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott books to read online.

Online Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott ebook PDF download

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott Doc

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott Mobipocket

Conscripts of Modernity: The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment By David Scott EPub