

Green Politics Is Eutopian (Paperback)



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(Mr. Mustafa Sanford IV)

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Wipf Stock Publishers, United States, 2008. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Various thinkers have attempted to explain the Earth-altering (even ecocidal) features in modern life. Jacques Ellul, for instance, a French intellectual, became famous for his exposition of technique. But technique does not adequately address the institutional incubation out of which technique itself arises. In these essays, Paul Gilk stands on the shoulders of two American scholars in particular. One is world historian Lewis Mumford, whose career spanned fifty years. The other is classics professor Norman O. Brown, who brought his erudition into a systematic study of Freud. From these intellectuals especially, Gilk concludes that the accelerating ecocidal characteristics of globalization are inherent manifestations of perfectionist, utopian, predatory institutions endemic to civilization. Our great difficulty in arriving at or accepting this conclusion is that civilization contains no negatives. It is strictly a positive construct. We are therefore incapable of thinking critically about it. A corrective is slowly emerging from Green intellectuals. Green politics, says Gilk, is not utopian but eutopian. It is not aimed at perfectionist immortality but rather at earthly wholeness. Yet the ethical message of Green politics confronts a society saturated with utopian mythology. The question is to what extent and at what speed ecological and cultural breakdown will dissolve civilized, utopian certitudes and provide the requisite openings for the growth of Green, eutopian culture. The fact that few of the books on Green Politics articulate the relevance of a neo-agrarian future makes Paul Gilk s book especially important as we face the end of cheap oil and/or climate change. Gilk s eutopian vision will help our bankrupt industrial civilization come to a soft landing rather than a crash. --Maynard Kaufman, Retired professor of religion and environmental studies at Western...

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