

The Rationality of Revolution

A COMMENT ON LINDENBERG

Professor Lindenberg has made two critically important points in his rational choice interpretation of prerevolutionary France and Russia (Lindenberg 1989). First, revolutions are rarely made by a single "opposition", therefore any theory of revolution must account for the growth of many opposition groups, each with its own motivation for rebellion. Second, revolutionary struggles are often begun by groups seeking to defend existing property or privileges, rather than by those seeking innovation and change; thus a theory of revolution does not require a motivation for intentional novelty. Neither of these points is new. However, by showing how they undercut common objections to "rational choice" explanations of revolutions, Lindenberg has done an important service. He takes us beyond the Leninist vision of a revolution being the work of a vanguard party, which in light of free rider problems should be unable to gain sufficient adherents to create change. Instead, he shows how it could be rational for many individuals to be simultaneously motivated to defend property or privileges under attack by the government, thus giving rise to a diverse opposition coalition. This is both a theoretically richer, and an empirically superior, view of revolutionary action. It better fits the facts of the English Revolution of 1640, the French Revolution of 1789, and even the Russian Revolution of 1917.

My chief criticism is that Lindenberg has not gone far enough in noting the factors that may lead individuals to make a rational choice to engage in rebellion. Let me add two such factors: tipping effects and time-dependent utility estimation.

Let us assume that individuals have nonuniform propensities to engage in rebellion—these reflect differences in willingness to take risks and different cost-benefit weights on the outcome of successful or unsuccessful action. However, let us assume that for all individuals, the risks of rebellious action are lessened if increased numbers join, while the probability of success is increased. In that case, each individual has

Social System Rationality And Revolution

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Social System Rationality And Revolution:

Social System, Rationality and Revolution ,2025-02-10 **The Social Philosophy of Ernest Gellner** John A. Hall,Ian Charles Jarvie,1996 Contents PART 1 INTELLECTUAL BACKGROUND Ji_i MUSIL The Prague Roots of Ernest Gellner s Thinking Chris HANN Gellner on Malinowski Words and Things in Central Europe Tamara DRAGADZE Ernest Gellner in the Soviet East PART 2 NATIONS AND NATIONALISM **Historiography between Modernism and Postmodernism** ,2021-11-15 *Idealization V: The Dynamics of Idealizations* Izabella Nowakowa,2023-03-13 **The Totalitarian Paradigm After the End of Communism** Achim Siegel,1998 Concepts of totalitarianism have undergone an academic revival in recent years particularly since the breakdown of communist systems in Europe in 1989 91 the totalitarian paradigm so it seems to many scholars today had been discarded prematurely in the heat of the Cold War The demise of communism as a social system is however not only an important cause of the recurring attractiveness of the totalitarian paradigm but provides at the same time new evidence and correspondingly new problems of explanation for all approaches in communist studies and totalitarianism theory in particular This book contains articles by philosophers social scientists and historians who reassess the validity of the totalitarian approach in the light of the recent historical developments in Eastern Europe A first group of authors focus on the analytical usefulness and explanatory power of classic concepts of totalitarianism after having observed the failed reforms of the Gorbachev era and the collapse of Europe s communist systems in 1989 91 In these contributions the totalitarian paradigm is contrasted with other approaches with respect to cognitive power as well as normative implications In the second group of contributions the focus is on the reassessment of methodological and theoretical problems of the classic concepts of totalitarianism The authors attempt to reinterpret the classic concepts so as to meet the objections which have been put forward against those concepts during the last decades The study thereby traces some of the intellectual roots of the totalitarian paradigm that precede the outbreak of the Cold War such as the work of Sigmund Neumann and Franz Borkenau It also focuses on the most famous authors in the field Hannah Arendt and Carl Joachim Friedrich In addition it discusses theorists of totalitarianism like Juan Linz whose contributions to totalitarianism theory have too often been overlooked **To Be or Not to Be? Is that the Question?** Leon Gumański,2023-03-27 This volume may be of interest for all those who wish that philosophy had a scientific character As an adherent of the Polish Lvov Warsaw Philosophical School the author of this collection of papers endeavours to clarify some basic notions of epistemology ontology and psychology of cognitive acts such as judgment existence being etc In his investigations he refrains from unnecessary rejection of common sense knowledge but at the same time searches for suitable patterns in contemporary sciences Regarding formal logic as a fundamental tool for the precise expression and justification of thoughts the author tries to clear logic from ontological commitments shows how to construct logic of norms and how to use safely different definitions in research works The book presents a new conception of antinomies and an innovatory

approach to realistic epistemology Moreover some applications of logical methods are illustrated by examples of semantical analyses of the general notion of similarity and the biological concept of homology *The Postmodernist Critique of the Project of Enlightenment* Sven-Eric Liedman,1997 **Theories and Models in Scientific Processes** William E. Herfel,1995 Idealization VII: Structuralism, Idealization and Approximation ,2023-03-13 **The Heritage of Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz** Jan Woleński,Vito Sinisi,2023-03-13 This book presents Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz s philosophy Ajdukiewicz was one of the most distinguished and important philosophers of the contemporary Poland He produced important ideas in logic epistemology philosophy of language and ontology He influenced Polish analytic philosophy very much The collection gives a general account of Ajdukiewicz philosophy and it is the only full presentation of his ideas available in Western languages The volume is of interest for everybody working in analytic philosophy **Realism and Quantum Physics** Evandro Agazzi,2023-03-13 *On Comparing and Evaluating Scientific Theories* ,2022-04-19 Contents Leon KOJ Methodology and values Leon KOJ Science as system Adam GROBLER Explanation and epistemic virtue Piotr GIZA Intelligent computer systems and theory comparison Henryk OGRYZKO WIEWIEROWSKI Methods of social choice of scientific theories Kazimierz JODKOWSKI Is the causal theory of reference a remedy for ontological incommensurability Wolfgang BALZER On approximative reduction C ULISES MOULINES Is there genuinely scientific progress Adam JONKISZ On relative progress in science **Epistemology and History** ,2023-08-14 **Revolutionary Changes in Understanding Man and Society** Johann Götschl,2012-12-06 JOHANN GOTSCHL Over the last decades social philosophers economists sociologists utility and game theorists biologists mathematicians moral philosophers and philosophers have created totally new concepts and methods of understanding the function and role of humans in their modern societies The years between 1953 and 1990 brought drastic changes in the scientific foundations and dynamic of today s society A burst of entirely new revolutionary ideas similar to those which heralded the beginning of the twentieth century in physics dominates the picture This book also discusses the ongoing refutation of old concepts in the social sciences Some of them are the traditional concepts of rationality for example based on maximization of interests the linearity of axiomatic methods methodological individualism and the concept of a static society Today the revolutionary change from a static view of our society to an evolutionary one reverberates through all social sciences and will dominate the twenty first century In an uncertain and risky world where cooperation and teamwork is getting more and more important one cannot any longer call the maximization of one s own expectations of utility or interests rational *Idealization IX: Idealization in Contemporary Physics* ,2023-05-30 Here is presented for the first time a comprehensive review and analysis of the several roles played by idealization procedures in the logic mathematics and models that lie at the heart of modern twentieth century physics It is only through idealization of one form or another that the objects and processes of modern physics become tractable The essays in this volume will be of interest to all those who are concerned with the uses of models in physics and the relationships between models and the real

world The essays in this volume cover the role of idealization in all the main areas of modern physics ranging from quantum theory relativity theory and cosmology to chaos theory **Is Rational Choice Theory All of Social Science?** Mark I.

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Working Hypotheses for a Post-Revolutionary Society Michael Ryan,1989-06-18 A political sociology textbook which examines the impact of political thought on a society s culture and theorizes on the attitudes a post revolutionary society would adopt towards such subjects as feminism the arts and ideology **The Significance of Popper's Thought**

,2025-02-10 From the contents Towards hones public relations of science Joseph Agassi Between relativism and absolutism the Popperian ideal for knowledge Stefan Amsterdamski Karl Popper the thinker and the man Ernest Gellner Popper on prophecies and predictions Jan Wolenski skills in writing *Euphony and Logos* Roman Murawski,Jerzy

Pogonowski,2023-03-13 **Irrationality of Capitalism and Climate Change** Andrew Kolin,2022-02-07 The overwhelming scientific evidence indicates that planet Earth is in the process of undergoing dramatic climate change which threatens to undermine the quality of life around the world Irrationality of Capitalism and Climate Change demonstrates how the roots of humanity s assault on the environment are directly associated with the origins of capitalism an irrational social system in which reproduction of capital on a global scale is destructive to the environment The author begins with a philosophical analysis of the role that reason and passion assume in social systems then traces the local and regional environmental effects of preindustrial social systems The author argues that nations are faced with a global challenge to construct life affirming policy that functions as an alternative to the global devastation that the accumulation of capital causes The book concludes by proposing rational socialism a life affirming social system that functions in harmony with the environment

Social System Rationality And Revolution Book Review: Unveiling the Magic of Language

In an electronic digital era where connections and knowledge reign supreme, the enchanting power of language has are more apparent than ever. Its ability to stir emotions, provoke thought, and instigate transformation is really remarkable. This extraordinary book, aptly titled "**Social System Rationality And Revolution**," published by a very acclaimed author, immerses readers in a captivating exploration of the significance of language and its profound affect our existence. Throughout this critique, we shall delve into the book is central themes, evaluate its unique writing style, and assess its overall influence on its readership.

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