

Impressions of Being & Becoming

Introduction

Deleuze and Guattari's profound philosophical explorations have left an indelible mark on contemporary thought, challenging conventional notions of subjectivity, desire, and becoming. Their unique approach to philosophy, characterized by its radical embrace of difference and multiplicity, has inspired countless scholars and artists alike. In this comprehensive introduction to their groundbreaking work, we delve into the depths of their philosophical concepts, tracing the evolution of their ideas and examining their profound implications for understanding the world around us.

From their early collaborations on capitalism and schizophrenia to their later explorations of aesthetics, ethics, and politics, Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy

forms a coherent and challenging body of thought that continues to resonate with readers today. We begin our journey by examining the origins of their becoming philosophy, tracing its roots in the works of Nietzsche, Spinoza, and Bergson. We then explore their central concepts of desire, difference, and multiplicity, demonstrating how these concepts form the foundation of their unique philosophical framework.

Next, we turn our attention to Deleuze and Guattari's critique of capitalism, examining their analysis of the ways in which capitalism shapes and constrains our desires and identities. We delve into their concept of the desiring-machines, exploring the ways in which desire operates as a productive force that can both liberate and enslave us. We then move on to consider their ethics and politics, examining their ideas about resistance, subversion, and the possibility of creating a more just and equitable society.

Finally, we conclude our exploration of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy by examining their aesthetics and their thoughts on art and literature. We consider their concept of the rhizome, a non-hierarchical and constantly evolving structure, as a metaphor for understanding the creative process. We also explore their ideas about cinema and literature, examining the ways in which these art forms can challenge conventional notions of representation and reality.

Throughout this comprehensive introduction, we aim to provide readers with a clear and accessible understanding of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy. We hope to inspire readers to engage with their work and to explore the profound implications of their thought for our understanding of the contemporary world.

Book Description

Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy is a profound and challenging exploration of desire, multiplicity, and becoming. This comprehensive introduction provides a clear and accessible guide to their groundbreaking work, tracing the evolution of their ideas and demonstrating their profound implications for understanding the world around us.

We begin by delving into the roots of Deleuze and Guattari's becoming philosophy, tracing its lineage through the works of Nietzsche, Spinoza, and Bergson. We then explore their central concepts of desire, difference, and multiplicity, demonstrating how these concepts form the foundation of their unique philosophical framework.

Next, we turn our attention to Deleuze and Guattari's analysis of capitalism and schizophrenia, a central theme in their early collaborations. We examine their

concept of desiring-machines, exploring the ways in which desire is a productive force that can both liberate and enslave us. We also consider their critiques of psychoanalysis and their alternative approach to madness, proposing a radical new understanding of mental illness.

Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy also offers a profound and provocative analysis of art, literature, and aesthetics. We explore their concept of the rhizome, a constantly evolving and non-hierarchical structure, as a metaphor for understanding the creative process. We also examine their ideas about cinema and literature, considering the ways in which these art forms challenge conventional notions of representation and reality.

Finally, we conclude our exploration of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy by considering their thoughts on politics and resistance. We examine their analysis of the State and the apparatus, and their call for a more

radical and creative approach to politics. We also consider their ideas about minoritarian politics and the possibility of creating a more just and equitable society.

Throughout this comprehensive introduction, we aim to provide readers with a comprehensive overview of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy, offering new insights into their complex and groundbreaking work. Whether you are new to Deleuze and Guattari or a seasoned reader, this introduction will deepen your understanding of their ideas and their profound implications for understanding the contemporary world.

Chapter 1: Philosophers of Desire

Origins of Becoming

In the realm of philosophy, few thinkers have delved into the enigmatic depths of becoming as profoundly as Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. Their collaborative endeavors have illuminated the intricate tapestry of desire, subjectivity, and the ever-shifting landscapes of existence. At the heart of their philosophical project lies a radical exploration of becoming, a concept that challenges conventional notions of stasis and unity.

Deleuze and Guattari trace the origins of becoming to the pre-Socratic philosophers, particularly Heraclitus, whose fragmentary yet evocative writings hinted at the ceaseless flux of reality. Heraclitus's famous dictum, "Everything flows," captures the essence of becoming, suggesting that the world is an ever-changing tapestry of interconnected processes rather than a fixed and immutable entity. This notion of constant flux and

transformation forms the bedrock of Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy.

Central to their understanding of becoming is the concept of desire. For Deleuze and Guattari, desire is not a mere psychological state or a longing for something lacking. Rather, it is an active force that propels us into the world, shaping our encounters with others and with our environment. Desire is not confined to the realm of the individual but rather exists as a collective and creative force that animates the universe.

Deleuze and Guattari's exploration of becoming also draws inspiration from the work of Friedrich Nietzsche, particularly his critique of traditional metaphysics and his emphasis on the perspectival nature of knowledge. Nietzsche's concept of the will to power, a relentless drive for self-affirmation and self-overcoming, resonates with Deleuze and Guattari's

notion of becoming as a process of continuous transformation and self-creation.

Through their engagement with these philosophical forebears, Deleuze and Guattari forge a unique path, challenging the boundaries of traditional thought and offering new ways of understanding the world. Their philosophy of becoming opens up a dynamic and multifaceted perspective on reality, inviting us to embrace the fluidity and interconnectedness of all existence.

Chapter 1: Philosophers of Desire

Desire: A Philosophical Framework

In the realm of philosophy, desire has long been a subject of fascination and debate. From ancient Greek philosophers to contemporary thinkers, desire has been explored as a fundamental driving force in human behavior and experience. In their groundbreaking work, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari offer a unique and provocative perspective on desire, challenging conventional notions and opening up new avenues of thought.

Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy of desire is rooted in the idea that desire is not simply a psychological or biological phenomenon but a creative and transformative force that shapes our identities and our relationships with the world. They argue that desire is not something that we possess or control but rather

something that flows through us, propelling us towards new experiences and possibilities.

This conception of desire as a dynamic and generative force stands in stark contrast to traditional views of desire as a lack or deficiency. For Deleuze and Guattari, desire is not about acquiring or satisfying an object but about engaging with the world in new and inventive ways. It is a process of becoming, of constantly transforming ourselves and our surroundings.

Central to Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy of desire is the concept of the desiring-machine. The desiring-machine is a non-human entity, a network of forces and affects that produces and circulates desire. It is not a fixed or stable entity but rather a constantly evolving assemblage that is constantly interacting with its environment.

The desiring-machine is a powerful metaphor for understanding the complex and multifaceted nature of desire. It highlights the fact that desire is not something

that is inherent to the individual but rather something that is produced and shaped by our interactions with the world. It also suggests that desire is not a passive or reactive force but rather a creative and transformative one.

Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy of desire has profound implications for our understanding of subjectivity, ethics, and politics. It challenges the idea of the individual as a rational, autonomous agent and instead posits a subjectivity that is constantly in flux, constantly becoming. It also calls into question the traditional distinction between subject and object, suggesting that desire is a relational phenomenon that emerges from the interactions between different entities.

Furthermore, Deleuze and Guattari's philosophy of desire has inspired new ways of thinking about ethics and politics. By viewing desire as a creative and transformative force, they open up the possibility of a

more affirmative and liberatory ethics, one that embraces difference and celebrates the becoming of new forms of life.

Chapter 1: Philosophers of Desire

Capitalism and the Politics of Desire

Deleuze and Guattari's critique of capitalism is a central aspect of their philosophical project. They argue that capitalism is a system that produces and perpetuates desire, and that this desire is ultimately unsatisfiable. This is because capitalism is based on the idea of scarcity, which means that there is never enough to go around. As a result, we are constantly striving to acquire more and more things, in the hope that they will finally satisfy our desires. However, this is a futile quest, because our desires are always changing and evolving.

Deleuze and Guattari also argue that capitalism is a system of control. It controls our desires by creating a false sense of need. We are constantly bombarded with advertising and other forms of propaganda that tell us what we should want. This creates a sense of

dissatisfaction and inadequacy, which drives us to consume more and more. In this way, capitalism creates a cycle of desire and consumption that is endless and ultimately unsatisfying.

Deleuze and Guattari's critique of capitalism is not simply a negative one. They also see capitalism as a site of potential liberation. They argue that capitalism has the potential to produce new and innovative forms of desire, and that these desires can be used to challenge and subvert the existing order. For example, they point to the rise of new social movements, such as the environmental movement and the LGBTQ movement, as evidence of the potential for capitalism to produce new forms of desire that can challenge the status quo.

Deleuze and Guattari's critique of capitalism is a complex and challenging one. However, it is also a profoundly important one. Their work helps us to understand the ways in which capitalism shapes our desires and our lives. It also points to the potential for

capitalism to be transformed into a more just and equitable system.

Deleuze and Guattari's work on capitalism and desire has had a profound impact on contemporary thought. It has inspired scholars and activists to rethink the relationship between capitalism and desire, and to explore new ways of creating a more just and equitable society.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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