



Knowledge and Human Liberation

Towards Planetary Realizations

Ananta Kumar Giri

Pub Date: 01 November 2014

Binding: Paperback

Price: £25.00 / \$40.00

ISBN: 9781783083275

Extent: 332 pages

Size: 152 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

BISAC CATEGORY: PHILOSOPHY / Epistemology;

SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology / General; PHILOSOPHY / Social

BISAC CODE: PHI004000

BIC CODE: HPK

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Exclusive: WORLD

An exploration of the multidimensional struggle for modern human liberation, and an investigation of how social, spiritual and self-knowledge influence the journey towards this end.

"Perspective taking with a deep knowledge of reality and an imaginary view of future is a major requirement of the 'critical theory,' and it can be met only in a work like this book, and by a scholar like its author." –Tong Shijun, Director of the Institute of Philosophy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

"'Knowledge and Human Liberation' not only calls for transcivilizational and transcultural dialogues but practices them in a beautiful and engaged manner. Ananta Kumar Giri juxtaposes for instance Jürgen Habermas with Sri Aurobindo, Martha Nussbaum with Mahatma Gandhi, and Fred Dallmayr with Daisaku Ikeda, drawing important lessons from each encounter. For him, personal self-development, global democracy and cultivation of our cosmic humanity go hand-in-hand. Giri is replacing anti-colonial anger with a dialogue on cosmopolitanism; and simultaneously reminds Western progressive cosmopolitans of their limited and biased understanding of other cultures. Warmly recommended reading for anyone interested in the future of humanity!" –Heikki Patomäki, Professor of International Relations, University of Helsinki

Human liberation has become an epochal challenge in today's world, requiring not only emancipation from oppressive structures but also from the oppressive self. It is a multidimensional struggle and aspiration in which knowledge – self, social and spiritual – can play a transformative role. 'Knowledge and Human Liberation: Towards Planetary Realizations' undertakes such a journey of transformation, and seeks to rethink knowledge vis-à-vis the familiar themes of human interest, critical theory, enlightenment, ethnography, democracy, pluralism, rationality, secularism and cosmopolitanism. The volume also features a Foreword by John Clammer (United Nations University, Tokyo) and an Afterword by Fred Dallmayr (University of Notre Dame).

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