



Iconomy: Towards a Political Economy of Images

By Terry Smith

Pub Date: 2022

Binding: Durable back

Price: £8.95 / \$15.00

ISBN: 978-1-85196-888-1

Extent: 236 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /
6 x 9 inches

Series: Anthem symplek Studies in Theory

BISAC CATEGORY: POLITICAL SCIENCE / Political
Economy BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / Economics / Social &
Behavioral, ART / American / African American & Black

BISAC CODE: POL023000

BIC CODE: JFD

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Argues that imagery of all kinds has become a definitive force in the shaping of contemporary life and a vital part in most of the many economies operative within contemporary societies.

Exploring viral imagery of the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Presidents Trump and Biden, Black Lives Matter, as well as the rise of a “black aesthetic” in white artworlds, this book shows that iconopolitics—especially constellations of visual images—has become pervasive within contemporary life. It questions the implications for critical thought and political action.

Readership

Scholars, teachers, graduate students in these fields: politics, sociology, economics, visual culture, art history, American Studies.

Contents

Part 1. Iconomy: Plato, Nikephoros, Marx, Benjamin, Debord, and since; Part 2. Iconoclash: 1. The Spike-Crowned Virus; 2. Trumpmania; 3. Incident at Powderhorn, May 25, 2020; 4. Videodeath 1991 and 2020: King vs. Floyd; 5. The Contest of the Images; 6. Image War, Civil War? January 6, 2021; 7. The Trail, Rebuilding America?; 8. White Artworlds, Black Aesthetics; Part 3. Iconopolitics, or, Towards a Political Iconomics.

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