Contents

Preface viii

Manifesto for Good Living/Buen Vivir 2

Minifesto for Intellectual-Activists 3

Introduction Creating a Distance in Relation to Western-centric Political Imagination and Critical Theory 19

Strong Questions and Weak Answers 20

The End of Capitalism without End 24

The End of Colonialism without End 26

The Paradox of Urgency and Civilizational Change 27

Very Old or Very New? The Example of the Yasuní Project 30

The Loss of Critical Nouns 33

The Ghostly Relation between Theory and Practice 34

Conclusion 43

Part One

Centrifugal Modernities and Subaltern Wests: Degrees of Separation

Chapter 1 Nuestra America: Postcolonial Identities and Mestizajes 48

The European American Century and the Rise of Societal Fascism 48

The Nuestra America Century 51

The Founding Ideas of Nuestra America 51

The Baroque Ethos: Prolegomena for an Insurgent Cosmopolitan Politics and Culture 56

The Limits of Nuestra America 64

Counterhegemonic Possibilities for the Twenty-First Century 66

Conclusion: Which Side Are You On, Ariel? 68
Chapter 2  Another *Angelus Novus*: Beyond the Modern Game of Roots and Options

Introduction 70  
The Past in a Cage 73  
The Parable of the *Angelus Novus* 74  
Roots and Options 76  
The End of the Equation 81  
A Future for the Past 87  
Destabilizing Subjectivities 96

Chapter 3  Is There a Non-Occidentalist West?

Philosophy for Sale 103  
Learned Ignorance 109  
The Wager 111  
Conclusion 114

### Part Two

**Toward Epistemologies of the South:**  
**Against the Waste of Experience**

Chapter 4  Beyond Abyssal Thinking: From Global Lines to Ecologies of Knowledges

The Abyssal Divide between Regulation/Emancipation and Appropriation/Violence 124  
Conclusion: Toward Postabyssal Thinking 133

Chapter 5  Toward an Epistemology of Blindness:  
Why the New Forms of “Ceremonial Adequacy” neither Regulate nor Emancipate

Introduction 136  
Knowledge-as-Regulation and Knowledge-as-Emancipation 138  
The Representation of Limits 140  
The Determination of Relevance 140  
The Determination of Degrees of Relevance 144  
The Determination of Identification 146  
The Impossibility of Duration 148  
The Determination of Interpretation and Evaluation 152  
From the Epistemology of Blindness to the Epistemology of Seeing 154  
Toward an Epistemology of Seeing 156  
Conclusion 163
Chapter 6  A Critique of Lazy Reason: Against the Waste of Experience and Toward the Sociology of Absences and the Sociology of Emergences 164
  Introduction 164
  The Critique of Metonymic Reason 167
  The Critique of Proleptic Reason 181
  Conclusion 186

Chapter 7  Ecologies of Knowledges 188
  The Ecology of Knowledges and the Inexhaustible Diversity of World Experience 191
  Modern Science as Part of an Ecology of Knowledges 193
  External Plurality: The Ecology of Knowledges 199
  Relativizing the Distinction between the Internal and External Plurality of Knowledges:
  The Case of African Philosophy 202
  The Ecology of Knowledges, Hierarchy, and Pragmatics 205
  Orientations for Prudent Knowledge 206

Chapter 8  Intercultural Translation: Differing and Sharing con Passionalità 212
  On Intercultural Translation as a Living Translation 215
  Learning from the South through Intercultural Translation 222
  Conditions and Procedures of Translation 227

Conclusion 236

References R-1
Index I-1
About the Author A-1