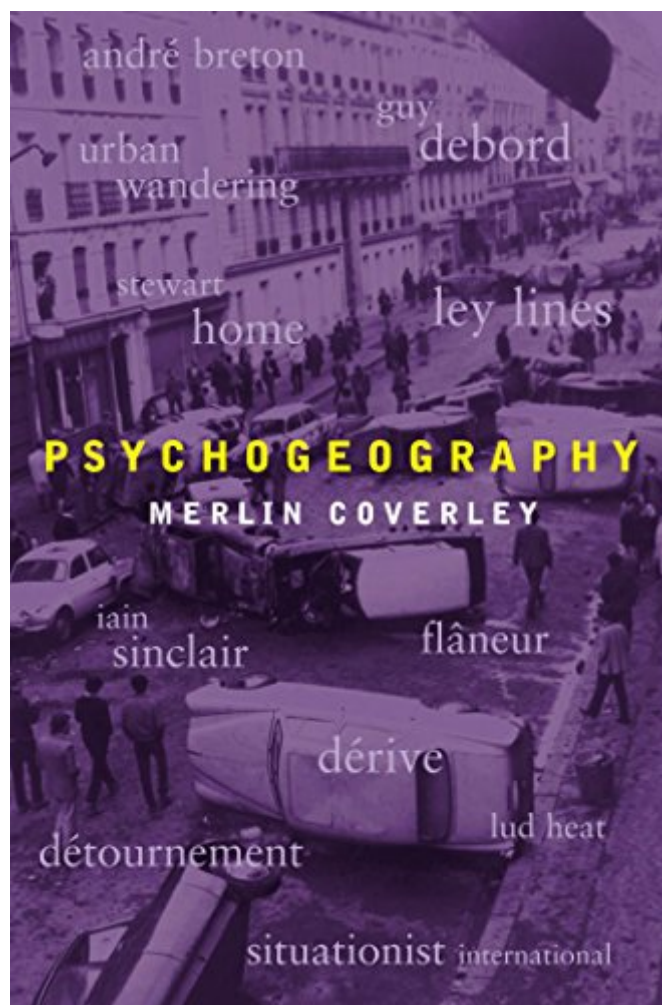


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Psychogeography (Pocket Essential Series)



Synopsis

Psychogeography. Increasingly this term is used to illustrate a bewildering array of ideas from ley lines and the occult, to urban walking and political radicalism. But where does it come from and what exactly does it mean? Psychogeography is the point where psychology and geography meet in assessing the emotional and behavioural impact of urban space. The relationship between a city and its inhabitants is measured in two ways - firstly through an imaginative and literary response, secondly on foot through walking the city. From Urban Wandering to the Society of the Spectacle, from the Dérive to Détournement, Psychogeography provides us with new ways of apprehending our surroundings, transforming the familiar streets of our everyday experience into something new and unexpected. This guide conducts the reader through this process, offering both an explanation and definition of the terms involved, an analysis of the key figures and their work as well as practical information on Psychogeographical groups and organisations.

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Customer Reviews

This book presents itself as a starting point for readers to learn about psychogeography. The crux is that most people who even know the word psychogeography are already going to know enough that the material in this book will seem redundant. The information is on a very basic level, and primarily the book reads like an annotated bibliography of works touching on psychogeography than any kind of sustained argument. I suppose this bibliographic feel may derive from the fact that the author is a "bookseller" (as described on the jacket) and perhaps more used to viewing books as catalogue items. At any rate, the chapters are repetitive and the information is far too basic. Add to the simplicity a habit of annoying breeziness in the prose and the book becomes slightly more disappointing. For instance, in discussing Michel de Certeau, readers are treated to such outstanding insights as: "Upholding the finest traditions of contemporary French theory, de Certeau's comments display an utter disregard for clarity, instead favouring an approach that ensures his work a place within the burgeoning ranks of the unread." Ahem. Such dismissiveness really injures the author's credibility as an authority to introduce this subject at all. Overall, this book was a waste of money, save for one thing: a somewhat useful list of web addresses for resources relating to psychogeography. However, be warned that many of the addresses are already out of date, so just Googling may turn up better results than relying on this bibliography.

The first half of this book is a tedious read but do not give up Coverley makes very valid points during later half about how Psychogeography has evolved. The website addresses at the end of the book are definitely worth investigating, a few are dead ends while others are informal and yet some are quiet humorous.

I am studying psychogeography for my MA. This book is a brilliant starting point. It is stimulating and well written.

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