

Book Review: Deric Shannon, *The End of the World As We Know It? Crisis, Resistance, and the Age of Austerity*. AK Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-1849351867 (Paperback). 500 Pages. \$22.95.

Reviewed by Clara Perez¹

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The End of the World As We Know It? boasts a collection of diverse experiences and lenses through which to understand, and struggle against, the current age of austerity, with class struggle and its intersections with various forms of oppression as its most central tenet. Austerity politics in our post-2008 neoliberal era, Shannon explains, are characterized by “cutting social spending and upwardly distributing wealth,” implemented by the ruling class to regulate in the interest of the wealthy. The contributors grapple with the effects of austerity policies through the ways that they know best, offering us writings ranging from the exacerbation of racial economic inequality by predatory lending practices to the new aggravation of patriarchal social relations in the wake of the 2008 economic recession.

Editor Deric Shannon has organized the publication into five parts, flowing intuitively from the defining and contextualizing of our age of austerity, to outlining responses to the crises from both the top and the bottom, “the ruling class” and “the dispossessed,” and devoting an entire section to the college student response from universities around the world.

For a student attempting to understand and navigate this current crisis and locate actionable literature, this book offers both an assortment of diagnoses of the present state of austerity and useful accounts of people shaping their own forms of resistance all over the world. Especially valuable is the last section, dedicated entirely to the student’s stake in the age of austerity and written to “young people with less and less to lose”

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