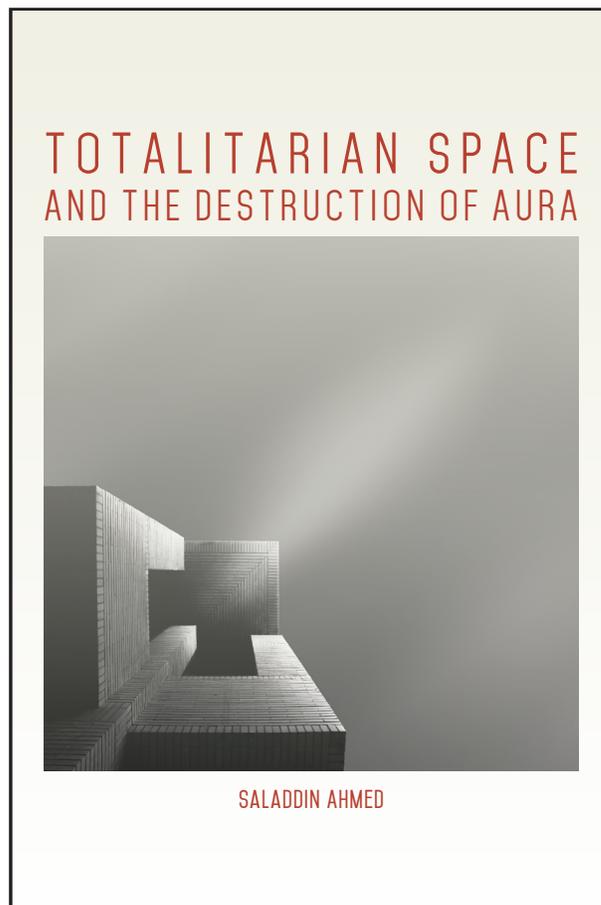


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We live today within a system in which state and corporate power aim to render space flat, transparent, and uniform, for only then can it be truly controlled. The gaze of power and the commodity form are capable of infiltrating even the darkest of corners, and often, we invite them into our most private spaces. We do so as a matter of convenience, but also to placate ourselves and cope with the alienation inherent in our everyday lives. The resulting dominant space can best be termed totalitarian. It is space stripped of uniqueness, deprived of the "spatial aura" necessary for authentic experience. In *Totalitarian Space and the Destruction of Aura*, Saladdin Ahmed sets out to help us grasp what has been lost before no trace remains. He draws attention to that which we might prefer not to see, but despite the bleakness of this indictment of reality, the book also offers a message of hope. Namely, it is only once we comprehend the magnitude of the threat to our spatial experience and our own complicity in sustaining this system that we can begin to resist the totalizing forces at work.

"This is a clear and important contribution to the existing literature and contemporary political thought in general. It expounds upon Benjamin's analysis of the aura in his famous essay, 'Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction,' and, importantly, illustrates how this concept is incredibly pertinent to our society today." — Mary Caputi, author of *Feminism and Power: The Need for Critical Theory*

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