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Titolo Making the Geologic Now: Responses to Material Conditions of

Contemporary Life / edited by Elizabeth Ellsworth + Jamie Kruse

Pubbl/distr/stampa Brooklyn, NY, : punctum books, 2012

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Sommario/riassunto Making the Geologic Now announces shifts in cultural sensibilities and

practices. It offers early sightings of an increasingly widespread turn toward the geologic as source of explanation, motivation, and inspiration for creative responses to conditions of the present moment. In the spirit of a broadside, this edited collection circulates images and short essays from over 40 artists, designers, architects, scholars, and journalists who are actively exploring and creatively responding to the geologic depth of "now." Contributors' ideas and works are drawn from architecture, design, contemporary philosophy and art. They are offered as test sites for what might become thinkable or possible if humans were to collectively take up the geologic as our instructive codesigner--as a partner in designing thoughts, objects, systems, and experiences. Recent natural and human-made events triggered by or triggering the geologic have made volatile earth forces sense-able and relevant with new levels of intensity. As a condition of contemporary life in 2012, the geologic "now" is lived as a cascade of events. Humans and what we build participate in their unfolding. Today, and unlike the

environmental movements of the 1970s, the geologic counts as "the environment" and invites us to extend our active awareness of inhabitation out to the cosmos and down to the Earth's iron core. A new cultural sensibility is emerging. As we struggle to understand and meet new material realities of earth and life on earth, it becomes increasingly obvious that the geologic is not just about rocks. We now cohabit with the geologic in unprecedented ways, in teeming assemblages of exchange and interaction among geologic materials and forces and the bio, cosmo, socio, political, legal, economic, strategic, and imaginary. As a reading and viewing experience, Making the Geologic Now is designed to move through culture, sounding an alert from the unfolding edge of the "geologic turn" that is now propagating through contemporary ideas and practices.

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Autore Barta Zsofia

Titolo In the red: the politics of public debt accumulation in developed

countries / / Zsofia Barta

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Nota di contenuto Intro -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- List of Abbreviations --

Acknowledgments -- One. The Puzzle of Relentlessly and Alarmingly Growing Debt -- Two. Fiscal Polarization, International Exposure, and Sustained Debt Accumulation -- Three. Evolving Social Coalitions, Intense Polarization, and Moderate Exposure: Italy -- Four. Fiscal Discord and Accord in Open Economies: Belgium versus Ireland -- Five.

Sommario/riassunto

Fiscal Discord in Closed Economies: Greece and Japan -- Six. Variations on Three Themes: Social Coalitions, Fiscal Polarization, and International Exposure -- Notes -- References -- Index.

Why do rich countries flirt with fiscal disaster? Between the 1970s and the 2000s, during times of peace and prosperity, affluent countrieslike Belgium, Greece, Italy, and Japan-accumulated so much debt that they became vulnerable and exposed themselves to the risk of default. In the past three decades, an extensive scholarly consensus emerged that these problems were created by fiscal indiscipline, the lack of sufficient concern for budgetary constraints from policy makers as they try to please voters. This approach formed the foundation for the fiscal surveillance system that attempted to bring borrowing in European countries under control via a set of fiscal rules. In the Red demonstrates that the problem of sustained, large-scale debt accumulation is an adjustment issue rather than a governance failure. Irrespective of whether the original impetus for borrowing arose from exogenous changes or irresponsible decision making, policy makers invariably initiate spending cuts and/or tax increases when debt grows at an alarming rate for several years in a row. Zsofia Barta argues that explaining why some countries accumulate substantial amounts of debt for decades hinges on understanding the conditions required to allow policy makers to successfully put into place painful adjustment measures.