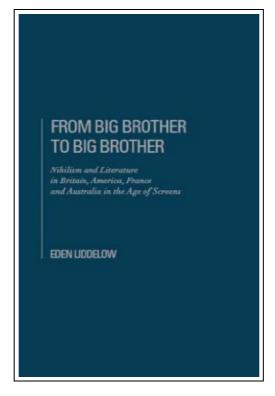
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FROM BIG BROTHER TO BIG BROTHER: NIHILISM AND SOCIETY IN THE AGE OF SCREEN (HARDBACK)



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Academica Press, United States, 2013. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book. The Nietzschean revolution governed the twentieth century, preaching the revaluation of all values, the privileging of interpretations over facts, the dominance of art. The crisis of consciousness is our normality. Nihilism is both good and bad, in Nietzsche s view and my own. It opposes all the conventional thinking and moralistic repressions of periods before the telescreen age. But not so many people can believe in nothing, and Nietzsche wasn t one of them. What have we been believing in when we thought we weren t believing in anything? The book asserts that while Nietzsche s insights were necessary, in 2012 we have to revalue his value. Novels do this probably more effectively than the screen to which, since Orwell s 1984 from the time of the fictive Big Brother to the almost as fictive TV program we have become vulnerable. They show what goes on behind the scenes as the individual evaluates contemporary life: his/her crisis or repudiation- of value, meaning and desirability. The book observes the social and artistic waves still emanating in our century from the philosophical Big Bang of Descartes institution of doubt at the heart of mankind s existence - with special attention to Nietzsche, the Russians, Plato, existentialism, Dada, Mickey Mouse, popular fundamentalisms, End-Timers, surveillance (Orwell s and ours) and particularly neo-liberalism. The following chapters each investigate a civilisation - Britain, the USA, France and Australia - examining six novels closely, each within their social context, from 1948 (Orwell s 1984) to century s end. How do individuals handle the proliferating doubt which has split consciousness, in the screen age, into an unstable oscillation between theory and impulse? We see the impulse on the telescreen: another theory may lie behind...



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