

LIMITATIONS OF MARX'S REVOLUTION IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

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Preface

This outline presents a proposed book regarding problems in Marx's revolution in political economy, sometimes including subsequent developments after Marx's 1883 death. I am not claiming that these would be the only limitations and am well aware of profound work by others on such issues of gender, race, ethnic, and sexual orientations, and divisions within the working classes. I am also aware of the absence here in addressing organizing against capitalism and for socialism, and what the principles and practices of socialism ought to be.

The first chapter makes the claim from the history of his works that Marx became less and less interested in Hegel's importance for his theoretical work, concluding in a positive fashion that this issue no longer absorbs much attention. The next chapter presents Marx's development of the law of value in explaining the capitalist mode of production, while also showing a weakness as capital penetrates non-capitalist areas.

The next two chapters argue that the concept of accumulation of capital does have a basic meaning for Marx but that there remains an ambiguity. Luxemburg was instrumental in pushing this theoretical issue forward even as she has had opponents across the spectrum of Marxist thought.

Chapter V focuses on the understanding of force and violence as crucial for Marx's thought. It also considers whether "alienated labor" has been rather over-rated in Marx. The following chapter addresses the manner in which Lenin deflected Marx's fundamental orientation.

Chapter VII develops a new model of capitalist accumulation and uses available empirical evidence to suggest only a small portion of surplus value is needed to accomplish the accumulation that has in fact taken place. Chapter VIII argues that Marx was quite comfortable discussing conspiracies within and by the ruling classes and we should be comfortable also, simply addressing the evidences available for specific situations, including for September 11th in the United States.

The last two chapters, if the book materializes as currently projected, will address the role of nationalism in Marx's thought, and address two major issues unknown in Marx's time, namely, nuclear weapons and nuclear power and anthropogenic global warming. It should be noted, however, that the role of money, although addressed in my Karimzadi, *Money and its Origins* (**Review of Keynesian Economics**, Autumn, 2015, pp. 438-441) is not anticipated as warranting a separate chapter.

Citations to relevant earlier work of mine that are germane are indicated below.

I. The Problem of Hegel

1. *Capital, Volume 1*, First Edition
2. Changes in Later Editions from the First; The 1872 Russian translation

3. Sieber on Marx and Marx on Sieber
4. Developments after Sieber's Death
5. Plekhanov's Influence
6. Lenin's Evolution on Dialectical Materialism
7. Luxemburg
8. Kalecki and Political Economists Thereafter

[revised from "Marxist Political Economy without Hegel: Contrasting Marx and Luxemburg with Plekhanov and Lenin", **The Legacy of Rosa Luxemburg, Oskar Lange and Michal Kalecki**, Riccardo Bellofiore, Ewa Karwowski and Jan Toporowski, editors, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 58-77.]

20 pp.

II. Marx's Evolution with the Concept of Value

1. *Poverty of Philosophy* (1847): Economic Concepts Historically Conditioned
2. *Contribution* (1859): Abstract Labor as the Substance of Value
3. *Capital* (1867)
4. Marx's 1868 Retrospective on Value; Luxemburg's Later Understanding
5. Marx's 1873 Appreciation of Sieber's Discussion of Value, *Capital, Volume I*, First Edition
6. "Notes on Wagner" (1881): Finale
7. A Problem: Value alongside Accumulation of Capital
8. Reconsidering Value with Accumulation of Capital Understood as Increased Employment of Wage Labor
9. Conundrum

[revised from "Value: Marx's Evolution and Luxemburg's Legacy", Rosa Luxemburg: A Permanent Challenge for Political Economy, Judith Dellheim and Frieder Otto Wolf, editors, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 55-91.]

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III. The Problem with the Concept of Accumulation of Capital

1. "Accumulation of Capital" in Marx: The Essential, but an Ambiguity
2. "Accumulation of Capital" in Lenin: Increased Production
3. Problem in Marx; Solution in Luxemburg
4. Conclusion: A Definition of "Accumulation of Capital"

[revised from "Accumulation of Capital, its Definition: A Century after Lenin and Luxemburg", **Value, Capitalist Dynamics and Money, Research in Political Economy**, Vol. 18, Paul Zarembka, editor, New York: JAI/Elsevier Press, 2000, pp. 183-241, leaving out Lenin's notes on Luxemburg, pp. 225-235, while considering adding to section on "Schemes of Reproduction in Volume 2" pp. 67-68 in 2009 chapter.]

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IV. Critics of Luxemburg's *Accumulation of Capital* try to bury the Message

1. Bukarin's Sword and Grossmann's Knife
2. "The Theory was wrong": Council Communists and 'Independent' Marxists
3. A Lance from Dunayevskaya's Hegelian Humanism
4. The Revolutionary gets an Assist: Joan Robinson

[revised from "Rosa Luxemburg's *Accumulation of Capital*: Critics try to bury the Message", **Bringing Capitalism Back for Critique by Social Theory, Current Perspectives in Social Theory**, Vol. 21, Jennifer Lehmann, editor, New York: JAI/Elsevier Press, 2002, pp. 3-45, leaving out repetition, pp. 3, 5-10, covered in the prior chapter and moved appendix to short footnote in modeling chapter below. Considering adding discussion of Weeks, pp. 73-75 in 2009 chapter, currently only footnoted at the end of a section of the Value chapter.]

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V. Althusser on "Brutal Violence", rather than Alienation, as a Central Discovery in *Capital*

[Althusser will be addressed as well as a related misreading of primitive accumulation. "Primitive Accumulation in Marxism, Historical or Trans-historical Separation from Means of Production?", as reprinted from **The Commoner** as edited in **Subverting**

the Present, Imagining the Future, Werner Bonefeld, editor, Brooklyn, New York: Autonomedia, 2008, pp. 67–75. Perhaps include Pastrello, 2014, “Luxemburg as an Economist”?)

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VI. Lenin’s Ricardian Step Backwards

1. Technical Change Leads to Market Expansion, Coercion Is Neglected
2. Production Creates a Market for Itself, Following Ricardo
3. Crises Arising from Disproportionalities: Modifying Tugan, Admirer of Say
4. Accumulation of Capital: Surplus Value Is Used for “New Production”
5. Conclusion: Lenin as Economist of Production

[“Lenin as Economist of Production: A Ricardian Step Backwards”, **Science & Society**, Vol. 67, 2003, pp. 276-302]

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VII. Small Portion of Surplus Value Needed for Accumulation: Historical Evidence

1. Marx Estimating Constant and Variable Capital Consumption in Cotton Spinning
2. Modern Estimates of the Composition of Capital
3. An Improved Model of Capital Accumulation, correcting Marx's
4. Population Increase and Accumulation

[“Materialized Composition of Capital and its Stability in the United States: Findings Stimulated by Paitaridis and Tsoulfidis (2012)”, **Review of Radical Political Economy**, Vol. 47, No. 1, Winter, 2015, pp. 106-111 with measurement of quality of capital a la Shaikh a possible additional consideration. And “Low Surplus Value Historically Required for Accumulation, Seen in a Model derived from Marx”, **The National Question and the Question of Crisis, Research in Political Economy**, Vol. 26, Paul Zarembka, editor, Bingley, U.K.: Emerald Group, 2010, pp. 145-172.]

6+28

VIII. Marx and the Problem of State Conspiracy

1. Adam Smith on Secret Combinations by Capitalists
2. Marx on Louis Bonaparte’s Conspiratorial Coup
3. Initiations of Wars by False-Flags? Only Sometimes
4. Assassination of John F. Kennedy: “Conspiracy Theory” became a Pejorative
5. Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.: Jury Verdict of Conspiracy but only in 1999
6. World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001

[A portion of this chapter was included for the conference, “From the Thirty Years’ Crisis to Twenty-first Century Multipolarity: The Evolution of the Twenty-first Century World”, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, September 25-27, 2015, in turn from some of “Marxism, Conspiracy, and 9-11”, **Socialism and Democracy**, Vol. 24, No. 2, July 2010, pp. 18-42 (with David MacGregor), linked at <http://sdonline.org/53/marxism-conspiracy-and-9-11>.]

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IX. [Possible] Nationalism: Marx, Lenin, Luxemburg, Trotsky and Veblen

X. [Possible] Unforeseen in Production of Relative Surplus Value: Nuclear Energy and Anthropogenic Global Warming

[This chapter might seem to suggest the prior chapters to be ‘small potatoes’, i.e. two questions so dramatic as to wonder the role of those other issues. It would consider changes wrought by nuclear bombs and nuclear power. It would also consider anthropogenic global warming with its consideration of Marx’s theory on the metabolic Rift, e.g., Foster, “Marx and the Rift in the Universal Metabolism of Nature” at <https://monthlyreview.org/2013/12/01/marx-rift-universal-metabolism-nature> (also, interesting read at <http://noblesseoblige.org/2007/03/22/the-goracle-of-doom>).]

Conclusion

235+ pp.