

Critical Marxism: An Introduction

‘We pre-suppose labour in a form
that stamps it as exclusively human’
(Marx, 1867)

Structure of the Introduction

General Introduction

Part One: Philosophy

Part Two: Sociology

Part Three: Economy

General Conclusion

General Introduction

Karl Marx (1818-1893) *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy, Volume 1* (1867)

Frederick Engels (1820-1895) with Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Lenin (1870-1924) 'The three sources and three component parts of Marxism', *Enlightenment* (1913)

I: PHILOSOPHY

- ALIENATION: Work, Others, Bodies, Nature
 - ‘What is animal becomes human and what is human becomes animal.’ (Marx, 1844)
- DIALECTICS: Hegel (1770-1831): Contradiction, Relations, Consciousness
 - ‘Sublation’
- MATERIALISM: Objectivity, Practice, Standpoint
 - ‘from the abstract to the concrete’

II: SOCIOLOGY

- ORDER: Utopias, Organisation, State, Family
 - ‘The executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie.’ (Marx and Engels, 1848)
- PROGRESS: Enlightenment, Globalisation, Growth
 - ‘Promethean’ to ‘metabolism’
- CLASS: Relation, Change, Abolition
 - ‘class itself a product of the bourgeoisie’

III: ECONOMY

Adam Smith (1723-1790), David Ricardo (1772-1823), Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)

LABOUR: Capital ('constant capital' & variable capital', Value ('labour power', 'surplus value'), Profit (class struggle)

EXPLOITATION: Reproduction ('absolute surplus value' & 'relative surplus value', Division ('distribution of labour')

COMMUNISM: Commons, Use ('use value' & 'exchange value')