

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARXISM

5 May 1818 - Marx born in Trier, son of a lawyer.

1840s - worked as an editor of a newspaper, emigrated to Paris (1843), engaged in debates with other radicals like Proudhon, met Engels, and with him began working out the doctrine of "scientific socialism."

1848 - *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, published.

1849 - Marx exiled to London; lives there until his death.

1859 - *Critique of Political Economy* published, ignored, soon out of print.

1863 - Ferdinand Lassalle founds the *Allgemeiner Deutscher Arbeiterverein*, the General German Working Men's Assn. [Lassalle dies the next year, shot in a duel over a woman who was at first in love with him but whose father objected, who then said she would marry someone else. Lassalle challenged the man, who shot him. Marx saw Lassalle as a rival.]

28 Sept. 1864 - the First International, the International Working Men's Association, founded in London a month after Lassalle's death. Marx gives inaugural address. International meets each year in a new city.

1867 - Volume 1 of *Das Capital*.

1868 - at a trade union conference in Eisenach, Germany, the Social Democratic Labor Party is formed.

1869 – Mikhail Bakúnin, a Russian revolutionary and anarchist who had been in and out of jail for years, tries to get abolition of inheritance passed at meeting of International in Bâle. This seen as a take-over threat. Marx was not there, but next year he goes to meeting at the Hague and gets B. expelled. B. dies in 1876.

1870-95 - Engels lives in London.

1871 - Bismarck, the Prussian Chancellor under King Wilhelm I, gradually consolidated power in the 1860s. Through a series of wars with Austria and France he unified the various German states, and finally became Chancellor of the new German Empire (Reich).

1875 – Lassalle's party and the Social Democrats unite at Gotha in the *Sozialistische Arbeiterpartei* (SPD, or Socialist Worker's Party). This prompts Marx's *Critique of the Gotha Program*, later published in 1891.

1878 – Engels’s *Anti-Dühring* published: part of this forms the basis for “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific.” Anti-Socialist laws passed in Germany.

13 March 1883 - Marx dies at the age of 64.

1884 - Fabian Society formed in England, Shaw and Sidney Webb soon joined. Gradualism the byword; the name derives from Quintus Fabius Maximus Cunctator, the “delayer,” a Roman general known for delaying tactics. Fabians rejected the labor theory of value; preferred the marginalist approach.

1885 - posthumous publication of the second volume of *Kapital*.

1889 - Formation of the 2nd Socialist International. *Fabian Essays in Socialism* by Shaw, Webb and others published.

1890 - Anti-Socialist laws repealed in Germany.

1891 - Erfurt Programme, with Karl Kautsky (1854-1938) as principal architect, revealed. A return to a purer Marxism than found in the Gotha Programme it superceded.

1894 - publication of volume 3 of *Kapital*

1895 - Death of Engels

1899 - Eduard Bernstein (1850-1932) publishes *Evolutionary Socialism*; summarizes things he had said in articles over last few years. Questions some of Marx’s predictions; believes in gradual evolution, not revolution; socialism as an ideal to strive for rather than an inevitable outcome of history. He was influenced by Fabians; was in London 1888-1901. Opposed labor theory of value; was the prophet of democratic socialism. Attacked by Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919) and Kautsky, defenders of orthodoxy. First great schism.

1910 - Rudolf Hilferding publishes *Das Finanzkapital*. Financial capital of banks press for investment outlets abroad, which lead governments to imperialism, and promotes the formation of cartels and monopolies to protect them from foreign competition.

1915-1925 - heyday of guild socialism in Britain, led by G.D.H. Cole, a socialist academic. It resembles but was a milder version of French syndicalism.

1916 - Lenin criticizes Social Democrats, most of whom did not oppose the war. Beginning of the schism between Social Democracy and Soviet-style Communism.

1919 - March 2, First Congress of the Communist International opened by Lenin.

1920 - Ludwig von Mises publishes article on impossibility of socialist calculation, begins German-language socialist calculation debate.

## Readings for Section on Marxism

All readings found in Robert Tucker, ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. ed., N.Y.: Norton, 1978.

Preface – A useful overview of the organization of the volume, mostly for your information. It includes a bit on the history of Marxist scholarship.

Introduction – This contains four sections: I. The early Marx, and the influence of Hegel and Feuerbach. II. *Das Kapital*. III. Revolutionary theory and practice. IV. Marx and Engels.

“Theses on Feuerbach” (pp. 143-45) – materialism, religion, philosophy versus action.

“Working Class Manchester” (pp. 579-85) – the condition of the working class in 19<sup>th</sup> century England.

Engel’s Speech at the Graveside of Marx (pp. 679-81) – a eulogy and summary.

A taste of *Das Kapital* (pp. 329-36; 361-67).

“The Communist Manifesto” (pp. 473-91; 499-500. Omit section III.) – A call to arms. Enjoy the contrast between the short, staccato sentences of the revolutionary and the longer passages of the intellectual on the history of the class struggle. Marx and Engels even explain why middle class readers like you won’t like what you are reading! The concluding sentences will be familiar.

“Socialism: Utopian and Scientific” (pp. 681-717) – Engels’s popularization of Marxism. This pamphlet helped introduce Marxism to the West. It is easy but interesting reading, and includes everything from intellectual history, to a description of the emergence of capitalism, to a diagnosis of the resultant anarchy it produces, which ends in proletarian revolution.