

Maurice Dobb Papers, Trinity College Cambridge

Lectures DD22B

Doyle 27 290 (12)

The seminars on Marxism

The intention of these seminars is to provide a basis for, and a stimulus to the Marxist discussion of political issues within the Socialist Society. Hence the seminars taken together constitute a historical and critical account of Marxist theory, and the development of a Marxist view of capitalism today. The reading attached to particular topics should if possible be read before the seminars in question. Michaelmas term seminars will be held in the Lloyd room, Christ's, 3-6 p.m. on Sundays. Thus, the first seminar will be on Sunday, \* 19th Oct.

Michaelmas Term

Marxist socio-economic critique of capitalism

- 19th Oct. Commodity and exchange. George Fodor. 'Capital' vol 1. ~~xxxxxxx~~ pt. 1.
- 26th. Oct. Theory of exploitation: capitalism. Frank Wilkinson. \* 'Capital' vol 1. pts. 2-5
- 2nd Nov. Development of capitalism (1): accumulation. ~~Ajit Singh or Don Harris~~ ~~MURGO RADICE~~ John Eatwell.
- 9th Nov. Development of capitalism (2): accumulation. ~~DICK GEARY~~ ~~to be announced.~~
- 16th Nov. Development of capitalism (3): dynamics of class. ~~to be announced.~~
- 23rd Nov. Imperialism. Arturo O'Connell. 'Imperialism: the highest stage of capitalism' Lenin.
- ~~30~~ 30 Nov. Class in modern society. ~~to be announced.~~ **ANDREW CRAMBLE**

GROWTH & THEORIES OF CRISIS VALUE  
- REVOLUTIONAL

Lent Term

Marxist social philosophy

- 18th Jan. Economics after Marx. Maurice Dobb.
- 25th Jan. (a) Sociology of thought. John Urry. 'The social construction of reality' Berger & Luckmann.  
(b) Class and ideology. John Urry.

- 1st Feb. (a) Marxist social-philosophical concepts. Grahame Lock. 'Theses on Feuerbach' and Preface to 'Critique of political economy' Marx.  
(b) 20th century Continental influences. Terry Eagleton.

- 8th Feb. Alienation. Jack Skorupski. '1844 manuscripts' Marx.

The classless society

- 15th Feb. (a) Community and communism. Jack Skorupski. 'Critique of the Gotha programme' Marx.  
(b) Theory of the state. Grahame Lock.

- 22nd Feb. Post-revolutionary economic strategy (a) in Russia, (b) in Cuba, compared and contrasted. Brian Pollitt.

- 1st March. (a) Worker's Control. Ajit Singh. ~~or~~ **LEW COATES** to be announced.  
(b) Theory of planning.

Historical development of Marxism

- 9th March. (a) The role of the party. Martin Jacques. Michael Eilman.  
(b) Russia: the development of Stalinism.

Easter Term

Historical development (cont.)

- 26th April. Revisionism. Dick Geary.

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The task is to separate the sheep from the goats, to dissociate oneself from alien elements, to organize cadres of experienced revolutionaries in the localities, to provide them with a clear programme and firm tactics, and lastly, to gather these cadres into a single, militant organisation of professional revolutionaries, sufficiently secret to withstand the onslaughts of the gendarmes, and at the same time, sufficiently connected with the masses to lead them into battle at the required moment.

Official seminarist's slogan

- 'The Communist Manifesto' Marx & Engels.
- 'Wage-labour and Capital' Marx.
- 'Capital' vol I Marx.
- 'Karl Marx' Lenin.
- 'State & Revolution' Lenin.
- 'Argument on socialism' Maurice Dobb.
- 'Marx: sociological writings' ed. Bottomore & Rubel.
- 'Marx on economics' ed. Freedman.
- 'Marxism' G. Lichtheim.

General reading list

- 3rd May. China. Martin Bernal.
- 10th May. The state in modern capitalism. to be announced.
- 17th May. The Marxist view of capitalism today. Bob Rowthorn.

nil found ?

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Correspondence CB27

DOBBS CB 27 3(1)

Fulbourn

6.8.70

Dear Piero.

I feel I ought to write an explanation, in contrite and confessional mood, about something of which you may well disapprove. To cut a long story as short as possible: In January, as you may have heard, I read a paper to a conference of socialist economists at Marc House, largely an attempted popularised version of your 'system' (my excuse being that the conference-organisers presented me with this as my brief!). A Dutch economist who was present asked whether he could try it on 'De Economist' with which he was connected; <sup>Box 35 ff, 112</sup> <sup>RE</sup> and I weakly raised no

objection, thinking the chance  
 very small. Without hearing  
 any more in the interval,  
 I have now been confronted  
 with page-proofs (plus the usual  
 request to keep corrections  
 minimal). Had I known  
 this was coming <sup>I regret</sup> I should,  
 of course, have given you the  
 chance of deleting or modifying  
 anything you thought distorting  
 or derogatory before it went in.  
 Now it really seems too  
 late to make any more than  
 verbal changes. The only  
 consolation seems to be that  
~~but~~ very few people seem to  
 read, or even to have heard of,  
 this Dutch journal.

Maurice