

Summaries

Klaus Weber: Four Marx Biographies, weighed by Liveweight. A Literature Review with a Use-Value Viewpoint

The last four biographies that were published before Marx's 200th birthday are reviewed in this article. Life and work of Karl Marx are contents of the works of Sperber, Stedman Jones, Neffe and Michael Heinrich. The implicit and explicit »evaluations« of the authors are presented: from Sperber's assertion that Marx is useless to the present, Neffe's enthusiastic, superficial »use« of Marxian theorems for contemporary problems, Stedman Jones's inclusion in historical-philosophical references, and Heinrich's accounting-archival »fixed position« of individual stages of Marx's life. What is clear in all authors is the inability to think of the overall social relations in relation to the subject Marx; thus the refusal to implement the subject theories inspired by Marx within the framework of a biography.

Michael Rahlwes: Four Examples of the Marx-Rezeption in the Anniversary Year

The collection of reviews deals with four Marxist publications on the occasion of the 200th birthday of Karl Marx. As the critical discussion of these texts reveals, the German Marxist discussion is disparate. At the same time concretising impulses can be identified, for example approaches that refer to a complex understanding of bourgeois capitalist societies, transformation of ideology and analyses of present changes in the capitalist mode of production.

Jean Quétier: Marx in Political Battles (1864–1883)

Through the analysis of two examples, that of the debate in the General Council of the International Working Men's Association on the abolition of the right of inheritance in 1869, and that of the guidelines for the leaders of the German Social Democracy on the rallying of individuals stemming from the ruling class to the proletarian movement in 1879, this article aims to account for a specific kind of writing, typical of the political struggle in which Marx will intervene constantly until his death. Either way, Marx's interlocutors, whether they are political opponents or not, are connected with a theoretical elaboration process which the author calls »working with a party«.

Frigga Haug: Contradictions of Marxism-Feminism

The article examines the transformative potential of the contradictions immanent in Marxist Feminism. With Brecht's and Mueller's notion of the gendered concepts underlying social revolution as a basis, Haug draws attention to the way women are forced to adopt masculine behavioural patterns in order to transform society (first contradiction). Drawing on Marx's and Luxemburg's notion of the dependence of construction and destruction (second contradiction), Haug urges women to abandon

the dichotomy of oppressor and oppressed and consider themselves both, actively reproducing oppressive social patterns, and capable of resisting tradition. Conclusively, Haug suggests that ›care‹ becomes a part of the daily routine of each individual so that the division into male and female social tasks can be overcome in its entirety. By increasing free time and producing ›collective shelters‹ Haug's ›4-in-1 perspective‹ serves as a supportive structure.

Dominik Novkovic and Alexander Akel: The Humanism of Liberation of Young Marx and the Question After a Critical Materialistic Theory of Education

In light of the praxis philosophical conditions under which the early works (Frühschriften) of Marx have been developed, it becomes apparent that the ultimate vision of human emancipation connects to the philosophy of education's humanistic tradition. Within the context of the historical materialistic foundation of his social theory, Marx transforms civic humanism into a revolutionary humanism of liberation. Forwarding the praxis philosophical continuity and unity of Marx's complete works, the authors stress that the concept of education regains its genuine political connotation and thereby its potential to transform society.

Jan Loheit: Thinking Exercises with Lothar Kühne

On the occasion of the Marx jubilee in 1983 Lothar Kühne, one of the most important architectural and design theorists in the GDR, writes his »Thinking Exercises on Marx«, which reflect in an emancipatory perspective on the historical forms of social wealth, in relation to the future communist design of social living conditions. His »exercises« were not allowed to appear in the anniversary year. He publishes them in the year of his suicide in 1985. Looking back on this text, Loheit tries to reconstruct Kühne's reception of Marx and, in view of the postmodern aestheticization, to update the emancipatory elements of Kühne's theoretical work on aesthetic culture, which is oriented to the economy of time, the rational limitation of the material expenditure and a preserving appropriation of nature – a culture that can realize the Marxian vision of an association in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all.