

Critique of the Gotha Program

**Karl Marx • Translated by Kevin B. Anderson and Karel Ludenhoff • Introduction by Peter Hudis
Foreword by Peter Linebaugh**

Marx's *Critique of the Gotha Program* is a revelation. It offers the fullest elaboration of his vision for a communist future, free from the shackles of capital, but also the state. Neglected by the statist versions of socialism, whether Social Democratic or Stalinist that left a wreckage of coercion and disillusionment in their wake, this new annotated translation of Marx's *Critique* makes clear for the first time the full emancipatory scope of Marx's notion of life after capitalism. An erudite new introduction by Peter Hudis plumbs the depth of Marx's argument, elucidating how his vision of communism, and the transition to it, was thoroughly democratic. At a time when the rule of capital is being questioned and challenged, this volume makes an essential contribution to a real alternative to capitalism, rather than piecemeal reforms. In the twenty-first century, when it has never been more needed, here is Marx at his most liberatory.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Karl Heinrich Marx was a German philosopher, economist, historian, sociologist, political theorist, journalist, and socialist revolutionary. Author of *The Communist Manifesto*.

Kevin B. Anderson is Professor of Sociology at University of California, Santa Barbara, with appointments in Feminist Studies and Political Science. He is the author of *Lenin, Hegel, and Western Marxism*, *Foucault and the Iranian Revolution* (with Janet Afary), and *Marx at the Margins*.

Karel Ludenhoff is an Amsterdam-based labor activist and a writer on Marx's critique of political economy whose essays have appeared in *Logos* and other journals.

Peter Hudis is Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Oakton Community College and author of *Marx's Concept of the Alternative to Capitalism* and *Frantz Fanon: Philosopher of the Barricades*. He edited *The Rosa Luxemburg Reader* and *The Letters of Rosa Luxemburg*.

Peter Linebaugh is the coauthor of *Albion's Fatal Tree*, and is the author of *The London Hanged*, *The Many-Headed Hydra* (with Marcus Rediker), *The Magna Carta Manifesto*, and introductions to Verso's selection of Thomas Paine's writings and PM's new edition of E.P. Thompson's *William Morris: Romantic to Revolutionary*. He lives in the region of the Great Lakes and works at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

ACCOLADES

"This is a compelling moment for a return to Marx's most visionary writings. Among those is his often neglected, *Critique of the Gotha Program*. In this exciting new translation, we can hear Marx urging socialists of his day to remain committed to a truly radical break with capitalism. And in Peter Hudis's illuminating introductory essay we are reminded that Marx's vision of a society beyond capitalism was democratic and emancipatory to its very core. This book is a major addition to the anti-capitalist library."

—David McNally, Distinguished Professor of History, University of Houston and author of *Monsters of the Market*

"In their penetrating account of Marx's famous hatchet job on the 19th-century left, Hudis and Anderson go to the heart of issues haunting the left in the 21st century: what would a society look like without work, wages, GDP growth, and human self-oppression."

—Paul Mason, writer for *New Statesman* and author of *Postcapitalism: A Guide to Our Future*

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—PAUL MASON

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KARL MARX



SUBJECT CATEGORY

Political Science / Communism /
History & Theory

PRICE

\$15.95

ISBN

9781629639161

PAGE COUNT

128

SIZE

5x8

FORMAT

Paperback

PUBLICATION DATE

10/18/2022

US DISTRIBUTION

Publishers Group West
1-866-400-5351

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Publishers Group Canada
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