

HISTORY 854: MARXISM AND CHINA (seminar)

Fall 1992

Sept. 14: Introductory Meeting (N.B. The seminar will meet on Mondays 3:30-5:30, unless otherwise announced).

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Part I: The Marxist Theory of History

1. Karl Marx's Theory of History -- Basic Theses of Original Mid-19th Century Marxism Viewed from Late 20th Century Historical and Intellectual Perspectives (Sept. 21).

Readings:

"Manifesto of the Communist Party," The Marx-Engels Reader (edited by Robert C. Tucker, second revised and enlarged edition, Norton, 1978), pp. 469-500. (Or any other edition of the Manifesto.) N.B. To be read as a compressed summary of Marx's theory of history.

2. The Nature of Socio-Historical Transitions and Problems of Historical Periodization (Sept. 28).

Readings:

Karl Marx, "Preface" to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, Marx-Engels Reader, pp. 3-6.  
 Marx, The German Ideology (Part I), ME Reader, pp. 146-200.  
 Marx, Letter to the editorial board of Otechestvenniye Zapiski (1877) in Teodor Shanin, Late Marx and the Russian Road: Marx and the Peripheries of Capitalism -- and elsewhere. (Copies will be distributed)

G.A. Cohen, Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence (Princeton, 1978), esp. Ch. 6 (on Marx as a technological determinist).

Chinese Historical Perspectives: Arif Dirlik, Revolution and History: Origins of Marxist Historiography in China, 1919-1937 (California, 1978), esp. ch. 6 and scan the preceding chapters. N.B.: The whole of the Dirlik book should be read carefully over the next two or three weeks.

3. The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism (Oct. 5)

Readings:

Paul Sweezy, Maurice Dobb, et al, The Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism (any of several editions)

Perry Anderson, Lineages of the Absolutist State (London, 1974), appendix on "Japanese Feudalism," pp. 435-461.

Robert Brenner, "The Origins of Capitalist Development; a critique of Neo-Smithian Marxism," New Left Review, No. 104 (1977), pp.

China: Arif Dirlik, Revolution and History, esp. ch. 4

4. Marxism and Populism (Oct. 12) (Prof. Catherine Lynch)

Readings: TBA

5. The Asiatic Mode of Production (Oct. 19)

Readings:

Karl Marx, "The British Rule in India," ME Reader, pp. 653-658.

Perry Anderson, Lineages of the Absolutist State, pp. 462-549. (or Hal Draper, Karl Marx's Theory of Revolution Vol. I: State and Bureaucracy, pp. 515-71, 629-64).

China: Dirlik, Revolution and History, ch. 6.

Wu Dakun, "The Asiatic Mode of Production in History as Viewed by Political Economy," in Su Shaozhi, Marxism and China (Nottingham, 1983), pp. 53-77.

## 6. The Appeals of the Marxist Theory of History in China(Oct.26)

Readings:

Joseph Levenson, Confucian China and Its Modern Fate (California, 1968), Vol. I, ch. 10; Vol. III, chs. 3 & 4

Benjamin Schwartz, Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao (Harvard, 1952), ch.1 & 2.

Maurice Meisner, Li Ta-chao and the Origins of Chinese Marxism (Harvard, 1967), chs. 5-8.

Arif Dirlik, Revolution and History, chs. 7 & 8.

PART II: MARXISM AND CAPITALISM

## 7. Marxism and the Historical Progressiveness of Capitalism (Nov. 2)

Readings:

Maurice Meisner, Marxism, Maoism and Utopianism, chs. 1 and 2 (pp. 3-75)

Robert C. Tucker, The Marxian Revolutionary Idea, chapter 4 on "Marxism and Modernization" (pp. 92-129).

Marx and Engels, The Manifesto

M. Meisner, portion of Ch. 15 of mss. on Post-Mao China, section on capitalism in Post-Maoist Chinese Marxist thought.

## 8. The Marxist Critique of Capitalism (Nov. 9)

Readings:

Robert C. Tucker, The Marxian Revolutionary Idea, chs. 1 & 2 (pp. 3-53).

Karl Marx, selections from Capital, Vol. I

M. Meisner, "Marx, Mao and Deng on the Division of Labor in History," in A. Dirlik and M. Meisner (eds), Marxism and the Chinese Experience, ch. 5 (pp. 79-116).

## 9. Marxism Bound by Capitalism (Nov. 16)

Reading: Arif Dirlik, "Post-Socialist Marxism: Critical Considerations" (copies of the paper will be distributed)

Comments by Tom Lutze, M. Meisner, Wang Yaan-tee and others

PART C: Selected Theoretical and Historical Topics (to be continued in the Spring semester)

10. Classes and Class Struggle in Marxist Theory and Chinese History (Nov. 23)

Readings:

Erik Olin Wright, Classes (London: Verso, 1985), pp. 6-34 and passim  
 Richard C. Kraus, Class Conflict in Chinese Socialism (Columbia University Press, 1981).

11. The Nation and Nationalism in Marxist Theory and Chinese Marxist Thought (Nov. 30)

Readings:

Tina Chen, "The Role of the Nation in Chen Duxiu's Thought"  
 Tina Chen,

The meetings of December 7 and 14 will be devoted to the discussion of research and paper proposals -- or, possibly, actual papers.