



New Departures in Marxian Theory

Stephen Resnick and Richard Wolff

Major changes have shaken Marxism over recent decades. This collection of essays documents what has become the most original formulation of Marxist theory as it repositions itself for the twenty-first century. The authors' new *non-determinist and class-focused Marxist theory* is both responsive to and critical of the other movements transforming modern social thought from post-modernism to feminism to radical democracy and the "new social movements." In facing and trying to resolve contradictions and lapses within Marxism, Resnick and Wolff have confronted the basic incompatibilities among the dominant modern versions of Marxian theory, and the fact that Marxism seemed cut off from the criticisms of determinist modes of thought offered by post-structuralism and post-modernism as well as by some of Marxism's greatest theorists.

A critique of classical Marxism's economic and methodological determinisms paves the way for a systematic alternative, "overdetermination," that is developed far beyond the fragmentary gestures of Lukacs, Gramsci, and Althusser. Successive essays begin by returning to Marx's original definition of class in terms of the surplus. This class analysis is developed and applied to produce new understandings of modern capitalism's contradictions, communism, households, gender differences, income distribution, markets, and monopoly. Further chapters specify how this "overdeterminist class theory" differentiates itself in new ways from the alternative neo-classical and Keynesian traditions in economics.

This collection of topically focused essays enables readers to understand and make use of a major new paradigm in Marxist thinking and showcases the exciting analytical breakthroughs now punctuating a Marxism in transition.

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