

MARXISM AS A CRITICAL THEORY FOR LIBRARIANSHIP

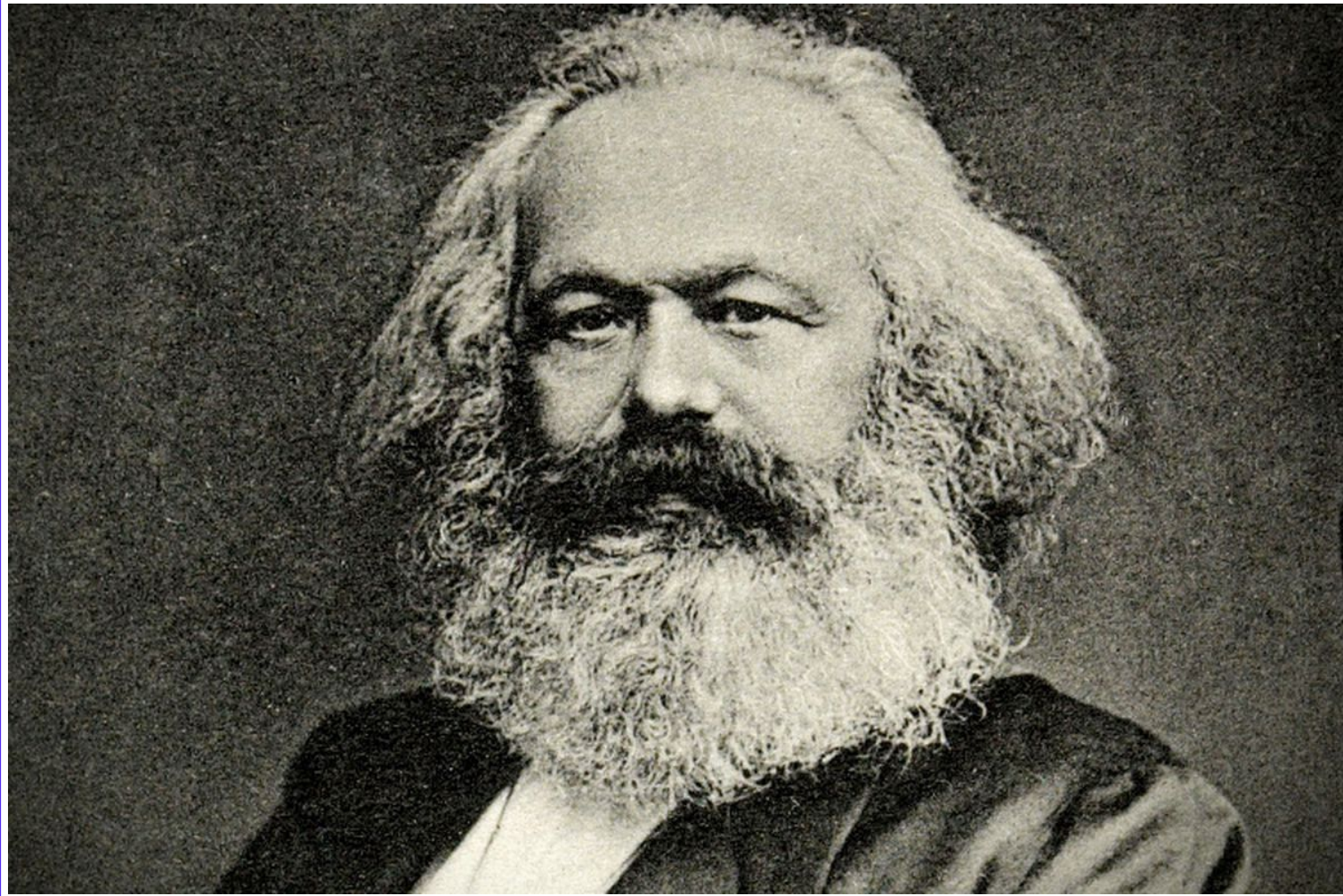
Sam Popowich, University of Alberta

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Outline

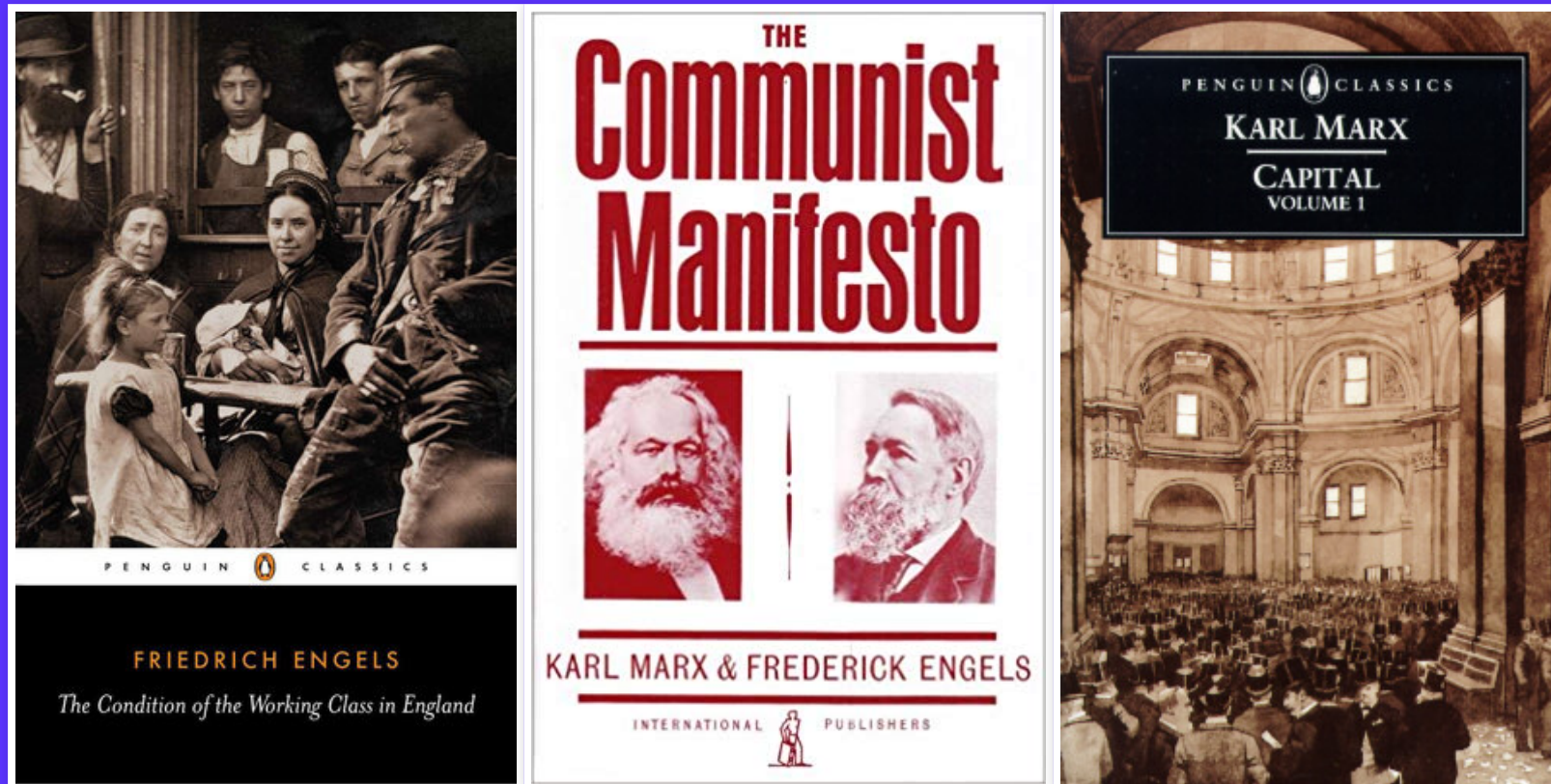
- Who was Karl Marx and what is Marxism?
- Marx and Engels' Major Works
- Marx's Eleventh Thesis on Feuerbach
- Marxist Critical Theory
- Three sources and three component parts
- Librarianship and Philosophy
- Librarianship and Politics
- Librarianship and Political Economy

Who was Karl Marx?

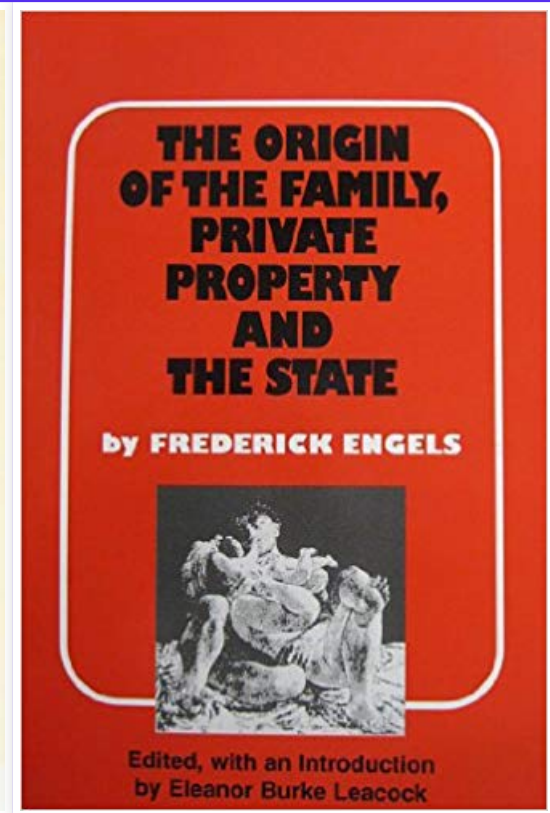
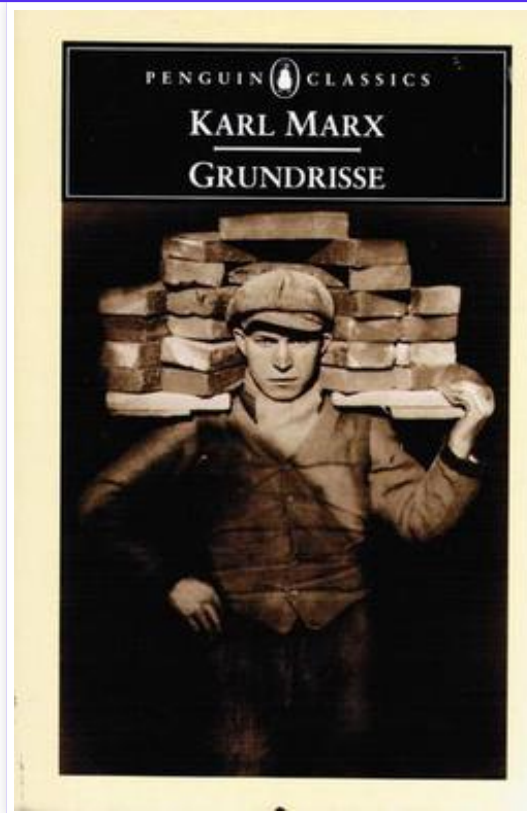
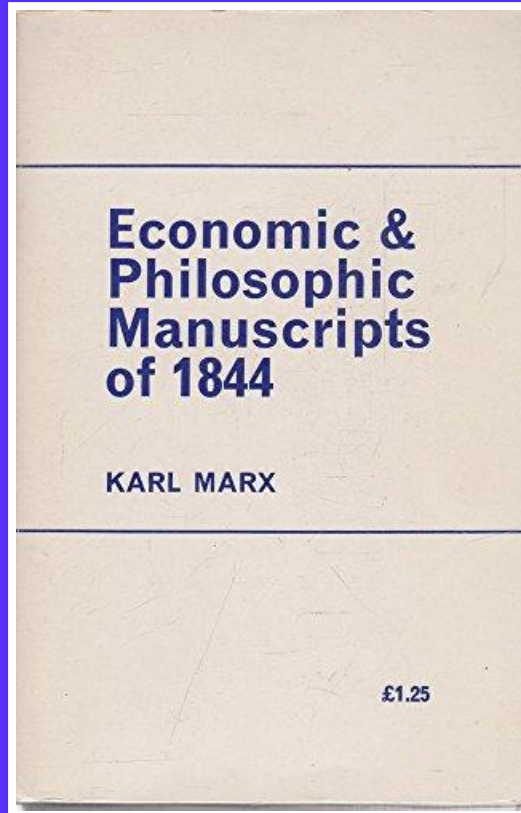


Born: Trier, Prussia, 1818. Died: 1883, London,
England.

Marx and Engels' Major Works



(1844) (1848) (1867, 1885, 1894)



(1844) (1857/8) (1884)

Theses on Feuerbach (1845)

Philosophers have hitherto only *interpreted* the world in various ways; the point is to *change* it.

Marxist Critical Theory

Scientific vs. Critical Theory

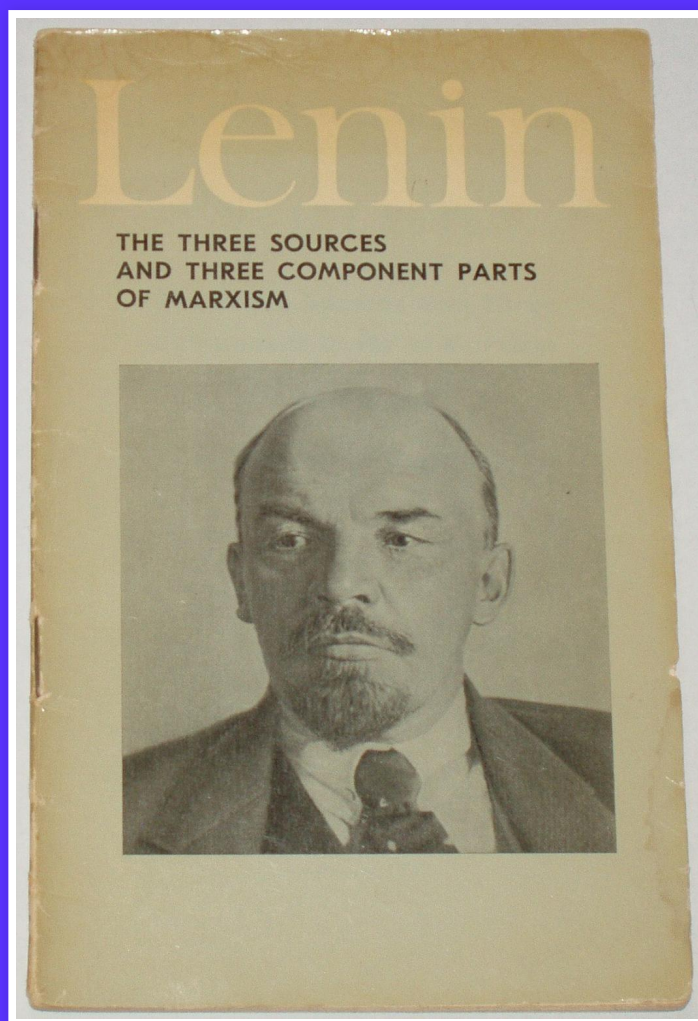
Scientific Theory:

- It's "aim or goal [is] successful manipulation of the external world."
- Objectifying: "one can distinguish clearly between the theory and the 'objects' to which the theory refers."
- Evidence: "require empirical confirmation through observation and experiment."

Critical Theory:

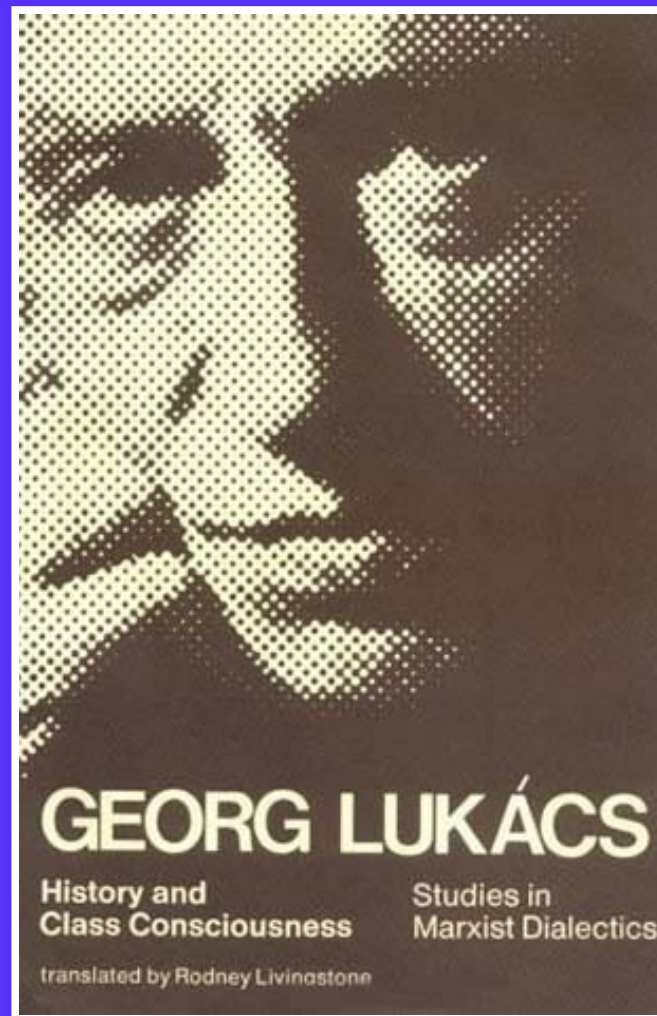
- "Aim at emancipation and enlightenment, at making agents aware of hidden coercion, thereby freeing them from that coercion."
- Reflective or self-referential: "a critical theory is always part of the object-domain which it describes; critical theories are always in part about themselves."
- Evidence: "are cognitively acceptable only if they survive a more complicated process of evaluation, the central part of which is that they are 'reflectively acceptable'."

Source: Raymond Geuss, *The Idea of a Critical Theory: Habermas and the Frankfurt School* (Cambridge University Press, 1981), pp. 55-56

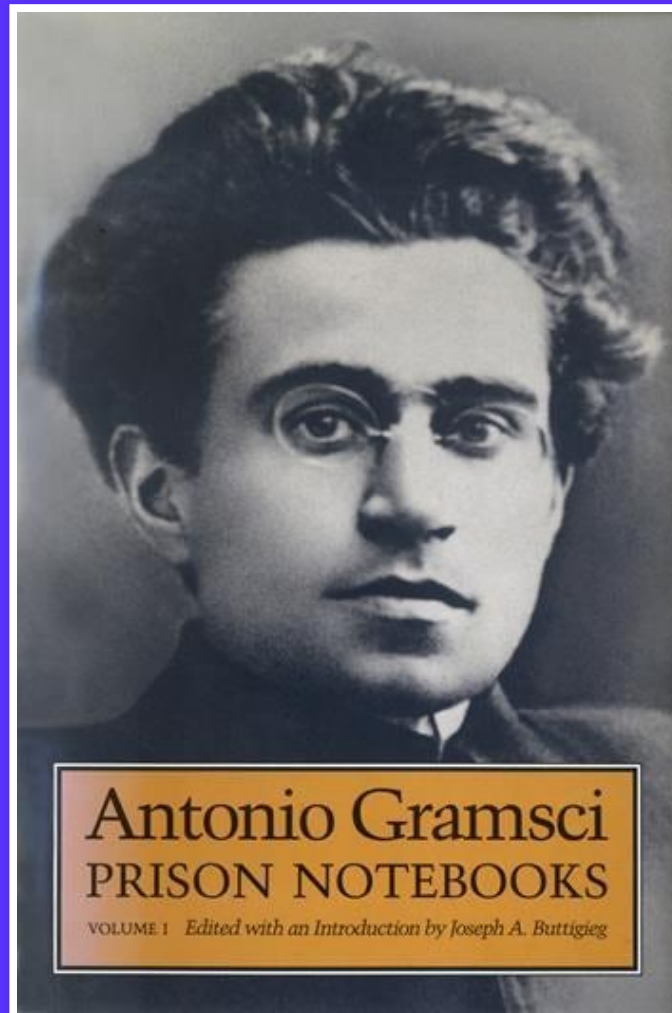


(1913)

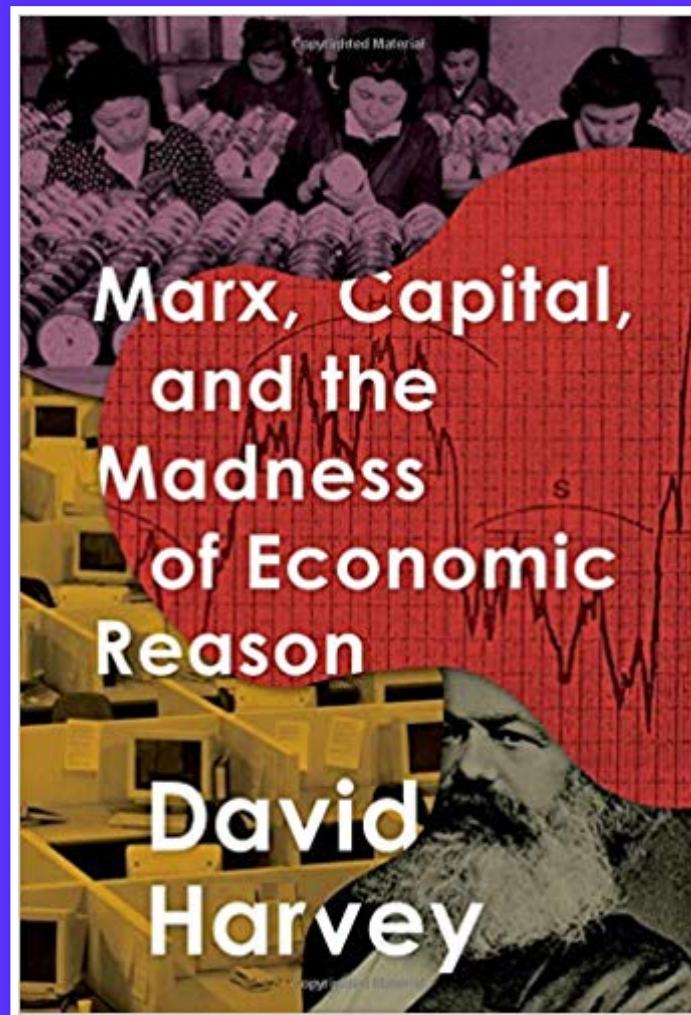
Librarianship and philosophy



Librarianship and politics



Librarianship and political economy



Conclusion

Die Kommunisten arbeiten endlich überall an der Verbindung und Verständigung der demokratischen Parteien aller Länder.

Die Kommunisten verschmähen es, ihre Ansichten und Absichten zu verheimlichen. Sie erklären es offen, daß ihre Zwecke nur erreicht werden können durch den gewaltsamen Umsturz aller bisherigen Gesellschaftsordnung. Mögen die herrschenden Klassen vor einer kommunistischen Revolution zittern. Die Proletarier haben nichts in ihr zu verlieren als ihre Ketten. Sie haben eine Welt zu gewinnen.

Proletarier aller Länder vereinigt Euch!

Thank you!

Questions?