das kapital

das kapital stands as one of the most influential works in the history of economic thought, authored by Karl Marx in the 19th century. This comprehensive article explores the core concepts, historical context, and continued impact of "Das Kapital" on modern economics, politics, and society. Readers will learn about its intricate analysis of capitalism, the labor theory of value, class struggle, and the revolutionary ideas that continue to shape academic debates and policy discussions. Whether you are a student, researcher, or simply interested in the foundations of economic theory, this guide provides clear explanations, historical insights, and practical applications. The article delves into Marx’s methodology, the structure of the volumes, and the relevance of "Das Kapital" in contemporary contexts. By the end, you'll have a thorough understanding of the key themes and lasting legacy of Marx’s seminal work.

Understanding Das Kapital: Background and Purpose

Das Kapital is the masterwork of Karl Marx, published initially in 1867. Marx aimed to present a critical analysis of capitalism, its inner mechanisms, and its inherent contradictions. Drawing on historical materialism, Marx argued that economic systems evolve due to material conditions and class relations. The book was written during a period of rapid industrialization and social upheaval in Europe, which heavily influenced Marx's perspective.

The primary purpose of Das Kapital was to expose the dynamics of capitalist production and the exploitation of labor. Marx sought to demonstrate how capital accumulates, the role of surplus value, and the consequences for workers and society. This foundational text continues to be a cornerstone for those studying economics, sociology, political theory, and philosophy, reflecting the depth and complexity of Marx’s analysis.

The Structure and Volumes of Das Kapital

Volume I: The Process of Capitalist Production

The first volume of Das Kapital, published in 1867, focuses on the production process within capitalism. Marx examines commodity production, labor value, surplus value, and the transformation of money into capital. This volume is the most widely read and serves as the basis for understanding Marx's critique of capitalism.

- Analysis of commodities and labor power
- Mechanisms of surplus value extraction
- The accumulation of capital
- The dynamics of wage labor

Volume II: The Circulation of Capital

The second volume, published posthumously in 1885 by Friedrich Engels, explores the movement of capital through production, circulation, and distribution. Marx investigates how capital flows through businesses and markets, highlighting the interconnectedness of various economic sectors.

Key topics include the turnover of capital, the role of money, and the reproduction of the capitalist system. This volume provides a systematic approach to understanding the operational logic of capitalism beyond the factory floor.

Volume III: The Process of Capitalist Production as a Whole

Volume III, also edited and published by Engels in 1894, presents a broader overview of capitalist dynamics. Marx discusses profit, interest, rent, and the tendency of the rate of profit to fall. This volume synthesizes the findings from the previous books and considers the implications for the long-term stability of capitalism.

The final volume is essential for grasping the systemic risks and contradictions that Marx believed would eventually lead to capitalism's transformation or collapse.

Core Concepts in Das Kapital

The Labor Theory of Value

Central to Das Kapital is the labor theory of value, which posits that the value of a commodity is determined by the socially necessary labor time required for its production. Marx built upon classical economics, arguing that labor is the source of all value in capitalist economies. This concept underpins his critique of exploitation, as capitalists pay workers less than the value they produce to generate surplus value and profit.

Surplus Value and Exploitation

Surplus value is a key concept in Marx's analysis of capitalism. It refers to the difference between the value produced by labor and the wages paid to workers. Capitalists extract surplus value by extending the working day, increasing productivity, or reducing wages, leading to the accumulation of wealth and deepening inequality. Marx argued that this exploitation is fundamental to the capitalist mode of production.

- Surplus value creation through unpaid labor
- Mechanisms of exploitation in wage systems
- Role of surplus value in capital accumulation

Commodity Fetishism

Marx introduced the concept of commodity fetishism to describe how social relations are obscured by the exchange of goods in the marketplace. People perceive relationships between commodities rather than the human labor behind them, leading to alienation and mystification of economic relations. This phenomenon remains relevant in discussions about consumer culture and the nature of value in modern societies.

Class Struggle and Capitalist Dynamics

Das Kapital emphasizes the central role of class struggle in shaping economic and social development. Marx contended that the interests of capitalists and workers are inherently opposed, driving conflict and change. The book analyzes how the capitalist system creates and perpetuates class divisions, setting the stage for potential social transformation.

Historical Impact and Reception

Initial Reception and Spread

Upon its publication, Das Kapital received mixed reactions. While some scholars and activists embraced its revolutionary ideas, others criticized its complexity and radical conclusions. Over time, the book gained global prominence, influencing labor movements, socialist parties, and academic circles across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

Role in Political Movements

Das Kapital became a foundational text for socialist and communist movements worldwide. Its critique of capitalism and advocacy for social change inspired revolutions, policy reforms, and new economic schools of thought. Prominent leaders and thinkers, including Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg, drew extensively on Marx’s analysis to develop political strategies and ideologies.

Academic and Cultural Legacy

In academia, Das Kapital has shaped disciplines such as economics, sociology, history, and philosophy. Its methodological approach, combining empirical analysis with philosophical critique, continues to inform research and debate. The book also entered popular culture, referenced in literature, film, and art as a symbol of critique and resistance.

Das Kapital’s Influence on Modern Thought

Economic Theory and Policy

Marx’s ideas in Das Kapital have influenced a range of economic theories, including heterodox economics and critical political economy. Concepts like surplus value, exploitation, and the falling rate of profit have been revisited and debated by economists seeking to understand contemporary crises and inequalities. While mainstream economics often diverges from Marxist theory, elements of Das Kapital remain relevant in discussions about labor rights, wealth distribution, and social justice.

Social Movements and Activism

Das Kapital continues to inspire social movements advocating for economic equality and workers’ rights. Its critique of capital accumulation and class struggle resonates with organizations fighting against poverty, discrimination, and global inequality. The text provides a theoretical foundation for activism and policy advocacy in the modern era.

Interpretation in the Digital Age

With the advent of globalization and digital technologies, scholars have revisited Das Kapital to analyze new forms of labor, capital flows, and market dynamics. Marx’s framework is applied to gig economies, automation, and financialization, demonstrating the enduring relevance of his analysis in understanding contemporary capitalism.

Common Misinterpretations and Criticisms

Misconceptions about Marx’s Intentions

Many misunderstand Das Kapital as a prescriptive manual for communism rather than a critical analysis of capitalism. Marx’s primary goal was to reveal the inner workings of the capitalist system, not to design an alternative society. Recognizing this distinction is crucial for a nuanced reading of the text.

Critique of Methodology and Predictions

Critics have questioned Marx’s methodological approach and some of his predictions, such as the inevitable collapse of capitalism. While some aspects have been challenged by historical developments, others remain relevant in explaining cycles of crisis and inequality. Ongoing debates reflect the complexity and depth of Marx’s analysis.

Relevance in Contemporary Economics

Some argue that Das Kapital is outdated due to changes in technology, globalization, and policy. However, many of its core concepts, such as exploitation and commodity fetishism, continue to offer valuable insights into modern economic challenges. The enduring debate over Marx’s legacy underscores the significance of Das Kapital in economic thought.

Frequently Asked Questions about Das Kapital

Q: What is the main thesis of Das Kapital?

A: The main thesis of Das Kapital is that capitalism is driven by the extraction of surplus value from labor, leading to exploitation, inequality, and eventual systemic crises.

Q: Who wrote Das Kapital and when was it published?

A: Karl Marx wrote Das Kapital, with the first volume published in 1867. Subsequent volumes were edited and published by Friedrich Engels after Marx’s death.

Q: How many volumes does Das Kapital have?

A: Das Kapital consists of three volumes, each addressing different aspects of capitalist economics: production, circulation, and the overall dynamics of the system.

Q: What is the labor theory of value in Das Kapital?

A: The labor theory of value asserts that the value of a commodity is determined by the amount of socially necessary labor required to produce it, forming the basis for Marx’s critique of exploitation in capitalism.

Q: How did Das Kapital influence political movements?

A: Das Kapital became a foundational text for socialist and communist movements, shaping revolutionary strategies, labor activism, and policy debates across the world.

Q: Is Das Kapital still relevant today?

A: Yes, Das Kapital continues to inform academic research, economic theory, and social activism, especially in discussions about inequality, labor rights, and systemic crises.

Q: What is commodity fetishism according to Marx?

A: Commodity fetishism describes how social relationships between people are obscured by the exchange of goods, leading individuals to perceive economic value as inherent in commodities rather than in human labor.

Q: Did Marx predict the collapse of capitalism in Das Kapital?

A: Marx analyzed contradictions and crises within capitalism but did not claim its collapse was certain or imminent; rather, he emphasized the potential for systemic transformation through class struggle.

Q: Can Das Kapital be applied to modern digital economies?

A: Many scholars use Marx’s framework from Das Kapital to analyze labor, capital flows, and market dynamics in digital economies, demonstrating its adaptability to contemporary contexts.

Q: How is Das Kapital different from the Communist Manifesto?

A: Das Kapital is a detailed, scholarly analysis of capitalism's mechanics, while the Communist Manifesto is a political pamphlet advocating for revolutionary change and outlining the principles of communism.

Das Kapital

Das Kapital: Unpacking Marx's Masterpiece and Its Enduring Relevance

Das Kapital. The very name conjures images of dense academic texts, complex economic theories, and revolutionary fervor. But what is it really about, and why does this 19th-century work remain relevant in the 21st? This comprehensive guide delves into Karl Marx's magnum opus, exploring its core concepts, historical context, and enduring legacy, providing you with a clear understanding of its impact on economics, politics, and society. We'll unpack its complexities, making this seminal work accessible even to those without a background in economics.

1. The Historical Context of Das Kapital

Before diving into the intricate arguments within Das Kapital, understanding its historical context is crucial. Written primarily between 1867 and 1894 (with posthumous publication of later volumes), the book emerged during the height of the Industrial Revolution. Marx witnessed firsthand the brutal exploitation of workers in factories, the widening gap between the bourgeoisie (the capitalist class) and the proletariat (the working class), and the growing societal inequalities stemming from unchecked capitalism. This firsthand observation fueled his critique of capitalism and provided the impetus for his monumental work. He aimed to expose the inherent contradictions within the capitalist system, arguing that it was not only morally unjust but also inherently unstable.

2. Key Concepts in Das Kapital: Understanding the Critique

Das Kapital is not a light read. However, several key concepts form the backbone of Marx's argument. Understanding these is crucial to grasping its central thesis:

2.1 The Labor Theory of Value:

This is arguably the most fundamental concept. Marx argued that the value of a commodity is determined by the socially necessary labor time required to produce it. This means the value isn't simply dictated by supply and demand, but by the actual human effort invested. He believed that capitalists exploit workers by appropriating a portion of this labor value as surplus value – profit.

2.2 Surplus Value and Exploitation:

Capitalists, according to Marx, extract surplus value by paying workers less than the value they produce. This difference constitutes the source of capitalist profit, representing, in Marx's view, the exploitation of the working class. This exploitation, he argued, is inherent to the capitalist system.

2.3 The Accumulation of Capital:

Marx argued that the relentless pursuit of profit drives capitalists to constantly accumulate capital. This leads to a cyclical process of expansion, crisis, and ultimately, the potential for revolution. The competitive nature of capitalism, he believed, forces constant innovation and expansion, ultimately leading to overproduction and economic downturns.

2.4 Class Struggle:

Central to Marx's analysis is the concept of class struggle – the inherent conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. This struggle, he argued, is the driving force of history and the engine of societal change. Capitalism, he believed, inevitably leads to increased class consciousness and ultimately, a proletarian revolution.

3. The Enduring Relevance of Das Kapital

While written over a century ago, Das Kapital remains remarkably relevant. The debates around inequality, exploitation, and the potential for economic crises continue to resonate. Marx's critique of capitalism, while not without its critics, has forced economists and social scientists to grapple with fundamental questions about wealth distribution, power dynamics, and the sustainability of economic systems. The book's enduring legacy lies in its ability to provoke critical thinking about the social and economic structures that shape our world. Its impact is evident in various political and economic ideologies, from socialist and communist movements to contemporary critiques of globalization and neoliberalism.

4. Criticisms and Counterarguments

It's crucial to acknowledge that Das Kapital has faced significant criticism. Economists have challenged Marx's labor theory of value, arguing that market forces and consumer demand play a more significant role in determining prices. Others criticize Marx's prediction of an inevitable proletarian revolution, pointing to the complexities of modern societies and the emergence of a middle class. Despite these criticisms, Das Kapital remains a powerful and influential text that continues to spark debate and inspire critical analysis.

Conclusion

Das Kapital is not just a historical artifact; it's a living text that continues to engage and challenge readers. Its exploration of capitalism's inherent contradictions, its analysis of class struggle, and its enduring relevance in the face of ongoing economic inequality make it a vital read for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of the modern world. Whether you agree with Marx's conclusions or not, grappling with his ideas is crucial for informed participation in contemporary political and economic discussions.

FAQs

1. Is Das Kapital still relevant today? Absolutely. Its core themes of inequality and exploitation remain central to contemporary debates about economics and social justice.

2. Is Das Kapital difficult to read? Yes, it's a demanding read, requiring patience and a willingness to grapple with complex economic concepts. However, many accessible summaries and interpretations are available.

3. What are the main criticisms of Das Kapital? Critics often challenge Marx's labor theory of value and his prediction of inevitable proletarian revolution.

4. What is the significance of surplus value in Marx's theory? Surplus value represents the exploitation of workers, the difference between the value they produce and the wages they receive – the source of capitalist profit.

5. How has Das Kapital influenced modern political thought? Its impact is profound, shaping socialist, communist, and various other leftist ideologies, and influencing critiques of capitalism and globalization.

das kapital: Das Kapital Karl Marx, 2012-03-27 One of the most notorious works of modern times, as well as one of the most influential, Capital is an incisive critique of private property and the social relations it generates. Living in exile in England, where this work was largely written, Marx drew on a wide-ranging knowledge of its society to support his analysis and generate fresh insights. Arguing that capitalism would create an ever-increasing division in wealth and welfare, he predicted its abolition and replacement by a system with common ownership of the means of production. Capital rapidly acquired readership among the leaders of social democratic parties, particularly in Russia and Germany, and ultimately throughout the world, to become a work described by Marx's friend and collaborator Friedrich Engels as 'the Bible of the Working Class'.

das kapital: *Das Kapital* Karl Marx, 1996-07-01 Presents a new revision and modern translation of Marx's great work, which laid the foundation for the development of new political and economic systems in the twentieth century.

das kapital: Das Kapital Karl Marx, 2011-08-31 Marx, Heinrich Karl,was born in Trier on May 5, 1818, the son of the lawyer and later counsellor of justice Heinrich Marx, who, as is shown by the baptismal certificate of his son, converted with his family from Judaism to Protestantism in 1824. After concluding his preparatory education at Trier Gymnasium, Karl Marx studied from 1835 in Bonn and then in Berlin, first law and later philosophy, attaining his Dr. Phil. in Berlin in 1841 with a dissertation on the philosophy of Epicurus. In the same year he moved to Bonn in order to qualify as a lecturer, but the obstacles which the government laid in the path of his friend Bruno Bauer, officially there as lecturer in theology, which culminated in Bauer's removal from the university, soon made it clear to him that there was no room for him at a Prussian university. — This was the time when the younger elements of the radical bourgeoisie of the Rhineland, tinged with Young Hegelianism, urged, in agreement with the liberal leaders Camphausen and Hansemann, the publication of a big opposition paper in Cologne; Marx and Bauer were also consulted as capable main contributors. A concession — necessary at that time — was quietly obtained by a devious route, and the Rheinische Zeitung appeared on January 1, 1842. Marx contributed lengthy articles from Bonn for the new paper; foremost among these were: a critique of proceedings in the Rhine Province Assembly, a study of the situation of the peasant vintners on the Mosel, and another on wood theft and the relevant legislation. In October 1842 he took over the management of the paper and moved to Cologne. From this point the paper adopted a sharply appositional character. But the management was so adroit that despite first double censorship, and then triple censorship, imposed upon the paper (first the ordinary censor, then the Regierungspräsident, and finally a Mr. von Saint-Paul dispatched ad hoc from Berlin), the government found this sort of newspaper hard to deal with and therefore decided to forbid further publication of the paper as of April 1, 1843. Marx's resignation from the editorial board on this date bought a three months' stay of execution, but then the paper was finally suppressed.

das kapital: Capital: Volume One Karl Marx, 2019-01-01 Capital: Volume One by Karl Marx is a classic of political economics and was described by Friedrich Engels, the author's friend and collaborator, as the bible of the working class. Thirty years in the making, this 1867 publication was the first in the three-part Das Kapital series and the only volume published during Marx's lifetime. The polemic asserts that society is advancing from primitive economic systems toward the utopian state of communism. It remains a work of tremendous importance and influence and offers an astute critique of capitalism, exploring commodities, value, money, and other factors related to the system's historic origins and contemporary functions. The examination of these elements forms the basis of Marxist doctrine: the system is irredeemable, a revolution is imperative, and a socialist system is the only viable alternative, providing a structure in which production serves the needs of all rather than the enrichment of the elite. AUTHOR: Philosopher and radical thinker Karl Marx (1818-74) was expelled from Germany and France after publishing controversial material, including The Communist Manifesto, which he co-wrote with Friedrich Engels. In 1848, he was exiled to London, where he wrote Das Kapital and resided for the remainder of his life.

das kapital: Das Kapital Viken Berberian, 2007-06-05 Moving seamlessly between the financial skyscrapers of New York and the crisp blue skies of Corsica and Marseille, Das Kapital is an extraordinary homage to Marx's seminal work for the twenty-first century. Wayne is the emblematic

Wall Street trader: opportunistic, brash and driven. His position is something of a rarity; he bets against the market's rise, gambling vast quantities of money on the short sell and profiting hugely from the collapse of entire economies and cultures -- in short, from the dissolution of financial and social infrastructure on a global scale -- all from the remote comfort of his Gloomberg terminal. To accomplish this, Wayne enlists the aid of a cryptic Corsican whose own culture and identity are fast disappearing in the rise of a universal nationality -- one whose common language is email and whose treasured artifacts are zipped into slick JPEGs, viewed only in thumbnail size. Unbeknownst to them, both men are involved with the same woman, an architecture student named Alix who lives in Marseille. But while she and the Corsican have a physical relationship, it is the playfully erotic and strangely elusive email correspondence between Alix and Wayne that evokes both passion and tenderness. Exquisitely written and infused with moments of irresistible humor, Das Kapital is a riveting story about capitalism and love, and the technology that controls them both.

das kapital: Marx's Das Kapital Francis Wheen, 2013-03-01 'The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it,' wrote Karl Marx in 1845. This is the essence of Das Kapital, a blazing expose of the new capitalist world of the Victorian era, whose ideas would affect the lives of millions, and alter the course of world history. In vivid detail, Francis Wheen tells the story of Marx's twenty-year fight to complete his unfinished masterpiece. Das Kapital was born in a two-room flat in Soho amid political squabbles and personal tragedy. The first volume was published in 1867, to muted praise, but, after Marx's death, went on to influence thinkers, writers and revolutionaries, from George Bernard Shaw to Lenin. Wheen's brilliant and accessible book shows that, far from being a dry economic treatise, Das Kapital is like a vast Gothic novel, whose heroes are enslaved by the monster they created: capitalism. Furthermore, Wheen argues, as long as capitalism endures, Das Kapital demands to be read and understood.

das kapital: Karl Marx's Das Kapital Explained Seungsoo Lim, 2019-05-01 Powerful lumber interests stood in the way of the first campaigns to save the redwood trees of Humboldt County, California, but they were boldly opposed and pushed back. This history of the early 1900s recalls the Progressive Era crusades of women and men who prevailed against great odds, protecting the best of California’s northern redwood forests. This book tells the forgotten, dramatic story of early 20th-century Californians and other Americans who were the first group to preserve an important span of California’s northern redwood forests, a story never told before in one place. Numerous books have been published about battles to save the redwoods, particularly during the California redwood wars of the 1960s, 1970s and 1990s. But no book exclusively details the first fights during the 1920s and 1930s and portrays the significant role of women. By successfully fending off the logging industry, they paved the way for the modern environmental movement. The book, incorporating archived material that highlights for the first time the prominent role of women, covers the most formative period of early efforts to save the redwoods, the 21 years from 1913 through 1934. The story recounts a colorful moment in time when a paradigm firmly shifted toward preservation and a new generation of native Californians successfully faced down Eastern lumber interests over destruction of their beautiful, ancient forests. The storyline follows a trajectory of initial failure and ridicule, then limited successes, and the determination that overcame the entrenched intransigence of lumber interests. Finally, a historic rush of stunning preservation victories established Humboldt Redwoods State Park as the largest expanse of surviving old-growth redwoods on earth. This book offers a definitive account of a pivotal moment in environmentalism and a new explanation of how forceful, determined people a century ago preserved the great California redwood forests that are now enjoyed by millions of visitors from every corner of earth. This book tells the forgotten, dramatic story of early 20th-century Californians and other Americans who were the first group to preserve an important span of California’s northern redwood forests, a story never told before in one place. By successfully fending off the logging industry, they paved the way for the modern environmental movement. The book, incorporating archived material that highlights for the first time the prominent role of women, covers the most formative period of early efforts to save the redwoods, the 21 years from 1913 through 1934. The story recounts a colorful moment in time when a paradigm firmly shifted toward preservation and a new generation of native Californians successfully faced down Eastern lumber interests over destruction of their beautiful, ancient forests. The storyline follows a trajectory of initial failure and ridicule, then limited successes, and the determination that overcame the entrenched intransigence of lumber interests. Finally, a historic rush of stunning preservation victories established Humboldt Redwoods State Park as the largest expanse of surviving old-growth redwoods on earth. This book offers a definitive account of a pivotal moment in environmentalism and a new explanation of how forceful, determined people a century ago preserved the great California redwood forests that are now enjoyed by millions of visitors from every corner of earth.

das kapital: *Marx's 'Das Kapital' For Beginners* Michael Wayne, 2012-05-29 Marx’s 'Das Kapital' cannot be put into a box marked economics. It is a work of politics, history, economics, philosophy and even in places, literature (yes Marx’s style is that rich and evocative). Marx’s 'Das Kapital' For Beginners is an introduction to the Marxist critique of capitalist production and its consequences for a whole range of social activities such as politics, media, education and religion. 'Das Kapital' is not a critique of a particular capitalist system in a particular country at a particular time. Rather, Marx's aim was to identify the essential features that define capitalism, in whatever country it develops and in whatever historical period. For this reason, 'Das Kapital' is necessarily a fairly general, abstract analysis. As a result, it can be fairly difficult to read and comprehend. At the same time, understanding 'Das Kapital' is crucial for mastering Marx's insights to capitalism. Marx's 'Das Kapital' For Beginners offers an accessible path through Marx's arguments and his key questions: What is commodity? Where does wealth come from? What is value? What happens to work under capitalism? Why is crisis part of capitalism's DNA? And what happens to our consciousness, our very perceptions of reality and our ways of thinking and feeling under capitalism? Understanding and learn from Marx's work has taken on a fresh urgency as questions about the sustainability of the capitalist system in today's global economy intensify.

das kapital: The Communist Manifesto and Das Kapital Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, Robert Weick, 2019-02-12 The unabridged versions of these definitive works are now available together as a highly designed paperback with flaps with a new introduction by Robert Weick. Part of the Knickerbocker Classics series, a modern design makes this timeless book a perfect travel companion. Considered to be one of the most influential political writings, The Communist Manifesto is as relevant today as when it was originally published. This pamphlet by the German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, published in 1884 as revolutions were erupting across Europe, discusses class struggles and the problems of a capitalist society. After being exiled to London, Marx published the first part of Das Kapital, a theoretical text that argues that capitalism will create greater and greater division in wealth and welfare and ultimately be replaced by a system of common ownership of the means of production. After Marx's death, Engels completed and published the second and third parts from his colleague's notes. The Knickerbocker Classics bring together the essential works of classic authors from around the world in stunning editions to be collected and enjoyed.

das kapital: *Capital* Carl Marx, 2018-04 Written: in draft by Marx 1863-1878, edited for publication by Engels; First published: in German in 1885, authoritative revised edition in 1893; Source: First English edition of 1907; Published: Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1956, USSR.

das kapital: *Das Kapital - Capital* Karl Marx, 2012-07-20 Capital, Volume II, subtitled The Process of Circulation of Capital, was prepared by Friedrich Engels from notes left by Karl Marx and published in 1885. It is divided into three parts: The Metamorphoses of Capital and Their Circuits The Turnover of Capital The Reproduction and Circulation of the Aggregate Social Capital In Volume II, the main ideas behind the marketplace are to be found: how value and surplus-value are realized. Its dramatis personae, not so much the worker and the industrialist (as in Volume I), but rather the money owner (and money lender), the wholesale merchant, the trader and the entrepreneur or 'functioning capitalist.' Moreover, workers appear in Volume II, essentially as buyers of consumer goods and, therefore, as sellers of the commodity labour power, rather than producers of value and surplus-value (although, this latter quality, established in Volume I, remains the solid foundation on which the whole of the unfolding analysis is based). Reading Volume II is of monumental significance to understanding the theoretical construction of Marx's whole argument. Marx himself quite precisely clarified this place, in a letter sent to Engels on 30 April 1868: 'In Book 1. . . we content ourselves with the assumption that if in the self-expansion process $100 becomes $110, the latter will find already in existence in the market the elements into which it will change once more. But now we investigate the conditions under which these elements are found at hand, namely the social intertwining of the different capitals, of the component parts of capital and of revenue. This intertwining, conceived as a movement of commodities and of money, enabled Marx to work out at least the essential elements, if not the definitive form of a coherent theory of the trade cycle, based upon the inevitability of periodic disequilibrium between supply and demand under the capitalist mode of production . Volume II of Capital has indeed been not only a 'sealed book', but also a forgotten one.

das kapital: A Companion to Marx's Capital David Harvey, 2010-03-01 “My aim is to get you to read a book by Karl Marx called Capital, Volume 1, and to read it on Marx’s own terms…” The biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression has generated a surge of interest in Marx’s work in the effort to understand the origins of our current predicament. For nearly forty years, David Harvey has written and lectured on Capital, becoming one of the world’s most foremost Marx scholars. Based on his recent lectures, this current volume aims to bring this depth of learning to a broader audience, guiding first-time readers through a fascinating and deeply rewarding text. A Companion to Marx’s Capital offers fresh, original and sometimes critical interpretations of a book that changed the course of history and, as Harvey intimates, may do so again. David Harvey’s video lecture course can be found here: davidharvey.org/reading-capital/

das kapital: Engels before Marx Terrell Carver, 2020-04-15 This book examines the life and works of Friedrich Engels during the decade before he entered a political partnership with Karl Marx. It takes a thematic approach in three substantial chapters: Imagination, Observation, and Vocation. Throughout, the reader sees the world from Engels’s perspective, not knowing how his story will turn out. This approach reveals the multifaceted and ambitious character of young Friedrich’s achievements from age sixteen till just turning twenty-five. At the time that he accepted Marx’s invitation to co-author a short political satire, Engels was far better known and much more accomplished. He had published many more articles on far more subjects, in both German and English, than Marx had managed. Moreover, he had written a critique of political economy from a perspective unique in the German context, and published his own pioneering and substantial study of working class conditions in an industrializing economy. Offering an innovative approach to a largely neglected period of Engels’s life before meeting Marx, Carver upends standard narratives in existing biographical studies of Engels to reveal him as an important figure not just in relation to his more famous collaborator, but a key voice in the liberal-democratic, constitutional and nation-building revolutionism of the 1830s and 1840s.

das kapital: An Outline of the Dialectic of Capital T. Sekine, 1997-09-30 'A work of fundamental importance. The most extensive and sophisticated reconstruction of Marx's Capital ever written takes the work of the Unoist school to new heights' - Robert Albritton, Associate Professor of Political Science, York University, Toronto Sekine follows the method advanced by Kozu Uno to provide an updated version of Marx's economic theory, in its full scope, as described in the three volumes of Das Kapital. It constitutes a dialectical system, consisting of the doctrines of Circulation, Production and Distribution. The whole system defines the idea of capitalism. More than a hundred years after Marx's death, his economic work is revived here with the analytical rigour expected of modern scientific theory, yet with no concession in substance to bourgeois economics.

das kapital: *Marx’s Capital, Capitalism and Limits to the State* Raju J Das, 2022-06-01 Marx’s Capital, Capitalism and Limits to the State examines the capitalist state in the abstract, and as it exists in advanced capitalism and peripheral capitalism, illustrating the ideas with evidence from the North and the South. The volume unpacks the capitalist state’s functions in relation to commodity relations, private property, and the crisis-ridden production of (surplus) value as a part of the capital circuit (M-C-M′). It also examines state’s political and geographical forms. It argues that no matter how autonomous it is, the state cannot meet the pressing needs of the masses significantly and sustainably. This is not because of so-called capitalist constraints, but because the state is inherently capitalist. Each chapter begins with Capital volume 1. And each chapter ends with theoretical/practical implications of the ideas which taken together counter existing state theory’s focus on state autonomy and reforms and point to the necessity for the masses to establish a new transitional democratic state. But the book goes ‘beyond’ Marx too, as it deploys the combined Marxism of 19th and 20th centuries. Marx’s Capital, Capitalism and Limits to the State will interest scholars researching state-society/economy relations. It is suitable for university students as well as established scholars in sociology, political science, heterodox economics, human geography, and international development.

das kapital: An Introduction to Karl Marx's Das Kapital Gérard Maarek, 1979

das kapital: Love and Capital Mary Gabriel, 2011-09-14 Brilliantly researched and wonderfully written, Love and Capital reveals the rarely glimpsed and heartbreakingly human side of the man whose works would redefine the world after his death. Drawing upon previously unpublished material, acclaimed biographer Mary Gabriel tells the story of Karl and Jenny Marx's marriage. Through it, we see Karl as never before: a devoted father and husband, a prankster who loved a party, a dreadful procrastinator, freeloader, and man of wild enthusiasms -- one of which would almost destroy his marriage. Through years of desperate struggle, Jenny's love for Karl would be tested again and again as she waited for him to finish his masterpiece, Capital. An epic narrative that stretches over decades to recount Karl and Jenny's story against the backdrop of Europe's Nineteenth Century, Love andCapital is a surprising and magisterial account of romance and revolution -- and of one of the great love stories of all time.

das kapital: Das Kapital (Capital) Karl Marx, 2019-11-18 English edition. Das Kapital (Capital) is a truly revolutionary book; it was forged during the political and industrial revolutions of the nineteenth century and became the keystone of many Communist revolutions of the twentieth century. In this comprehensive and carefully footnoted analysis of capitalist economics and expression of his theory of class conflict, Karl Marx (1818-1883) relentlessly argues that the accumulation of capital can only be achieved by bourgeoisie exploitation of the working classes.

das kapital: Capital in the Twenty-First Century Thomas Piketty, 2017-08-14 What are the grand dynamics that drive the accumulation and distribution of capital? Questions about the long-term evolution of inequality, the concentration of wealth, and the prospects for economic growth lie at the heart of political economy. But satisfactory answers have been hard to find for lack of adequate data and clear guiding theories. In this work the author analyzes a unique collection of data from twenty countries, ranging as far back as the eighteenth century, to uncover key economic and social patterns. His findings transform debate and set the agenda for the next generation of thought about wealth and inequality. He shows that modern economic growth and the diffusion of knowledge have allowed us to avoid inequalities on the apocalyptic scale predicted by Karl Marx. But we have not modified the deep structures of capital and inequality as much as we thought in the optimistic decades following World War II. The main driver of inequality--the tendency of returns on capital to exceed the rate of economic growth--today threatens to generate extreme inequalities that stir discontent and undermine democratic values if political action is not taken. But economic trends are not acts of God. Political action has curbed dangerous inequalities in the past, the author says, and may do so again. This original work reorients our understanding of economic history and confronts us with sobering lessons for today.

das kapital: *Karl Marx's Das Kapital* Steve Shipside, Karl Marx, 2009 First published in 1876, Das Kapital is Karl Marx's most important contribution to the world of political economy. Kapital is a critical analysis of capitalism and its practical economic application and also a critique of other related theories. Today it is considered one of the most influential books ever written. Through Marx's criticisms of the vulnerability of free-market capitalism we can see the inevitability of recent financial turmoil. In this timely interpretation, Steve Shipside uses twenty-first century examples and case studies to re-evaluate Marx's text for the new world of business and economics. Today's reader will discover:* Why bigger business is not necessarily better business;* How to develop a workforce made up of creative individuals;* Why a successful business needs to develop a social conscience;* The best ways to introduce new strategies, systems and technologies to your team;* Why you need to keep your staff fit, healthy and happy.This interpretation of Karl Marx's Das Kapital is not a substitute for the original. Its purpose is simply to illustrate the timeless nature of Marx's insights by bringing them to life with contemporary examples. Given the continuing turbulence of the global economy this brilliant interpretation of a classic of political economy couldn't be more timely. Marx's views frequently chime with criticisms of current business practice and gathering anti-globalisation sentiment, making Das Kapital as relevant today as it was 140 years ago.

das kapital: Marx, Capital and the Madness of Economic Reason David Harvey, 2018 Prologue -- The visualisation of capital as value in motion -- Capital, the book -- Money as the representation of value -- Anti-value: the theory of devaluation -- Prices without values -- The question of technology -- The space and time of value -- The production of value regimes -- The madness of economic reason -- Coda

das kapital: The Economic Ideas of Marx's Capital Ludo Cuyvers, 2016-09-13 Nearly two hundred years have passed since the birth of Karl Marx and continuing to this day the influence of his economic views, insights and theories can still be felt. However, since the publication of Das Kapital, the scientific community has not been sitting idle – it is time to evaluate Marx as an economist and explore what he can bring to modern economic thinking, particularly post-Keynesian economics. Starting with Marx’s schemes of reproduction, which, it is shown, are the basis of the linear model of production as used since the 1960s by Piero Sraffa, Michio Morishima and others, the book reviews and assesses Marx’s major economic theses. These include: the labour theory of value; accumulation and technical change and its impact on labour; the concept of unproductive labour; the tendential falling rate of profits; the evolution and determinants of the share of wages in national income; as well as short-run and long-run economic dynamics. The Economic Ideas of Marx's Capital updates the theses of the labour theory of value and the conditions for balanced growth using the recent scholarly literature, and also further develops issues related to Marx’s concept of productive labour. Moreover, the book analyses the intellectual relationship of Marx’s economic theory with post-Keynesian neo-Marxism, particularly in the writings of Michal Kalecki, Joan Robinson and others. By doing so, the book shows the need and possibilities of integrating major insights of Marxist and post-Keynesian theory. This volume will be of interest to those who wish to explore Marx’s economic theories through a non-ideological approach, as well as students of Marxist economics, post-Keynesian economics and the history of economic thought.

das kapital: *Representing Capital* Fredric Jameson, 2014-01-07 Representing Capital, Fredric Jameson’s first book-length engagement with Marx’s magnum opus, is a unique work of scholarship that records the progression of Marx’s thought as if it were a musical score. The textual landscape that emerges is the setting for paradoxes and contradictions that struggle toward resolution, giving rise to new antinomies and a new forward movement. These immense segments overlap each other to combine and develop on new levels in the same way that capital itself does, stumbling against obstacles that it overcomes by progressive expansions, which are in themselves so many leaps into the unknown.

das kapital: An Introduction to the Three Volumes of Karl Marx's Capital Michael Heinrich, 2012-06-01 The global economic crisis and recession that began in 2008 had at least one unexpected outcome: a surge in sales of Karl Marx's Capital. Although mainstream economists and commentators once dismissed Marx's work as outmoded and flawed, some are begrudgingly acknowledging an analysis that sees capitalism as inherently unstable. And of course, there are those, like Michael Heinrich, who have seen the value of Marx all along, and are in a unique position to explain the intricacies of Marx's thought. Heinrich's modern interpretation of Capital is now available to English-speaking readers for the first time. It has gone through nine editions in

Germany, is the standard work for Marxist study groups, and is used widely in German universities. The author systematically covers all three volumes of Capital and explains all the basic aspects of Marx's critique of capitalism in a way that is clear and concise. He provides background information on the intellectual and political milieu in which Marx worked, and looks at crucial issues beyond the scope of Capital, such as class struggle, the relationship between capital and the state, accusations of historical determinism, and Marx's understanding of communism. Uniquely, Heinrich emphasizes the monetary character of Marx's work, in addition to the traditional emphasis on the labor theory of value, this highlighting the relevance of Capital to the age of financial explosions and implosions.

das kapital: Formation of Econ Thought of Karl Marx Ernest Mandel, 1971 In this book, Mandel discusses the development of Marx's economic ideas from their beginnings to the completion of the Grundrisse. He combines a historical retrospective and a review of current discussions on each of the subjects and problems central to Marxist economic theory. He traces the development of the concept of alienation in Marx, and its fate in the hands of succeeding generations, down to the present discussion in East and West Europe, summarizes the fascinating debates over the Asiatic mode of production, and discusses labor theory of value, the problem of periodic crises, the theory of wages and the polarization of wealth and poverty, and the problem of progressive disalienation through the building of socialist society.

das kapital: Secret Diplomatic History of the Eighteenth Century Karl Marx, 1899-01-01

das kapital: A Guide to Marx's 'Capital' Vols IIII Kenneth Smith, 2012-11-15 This book provides a comprehensive guide to all three volumes of Karl Marx’s ‘Capital’, with advice on further reading and points for further discussion. Recognizing the contemporary relevance of ‘Capital’ in the midst of the current financial crisis, Kenneth Smith has produced an essential guide to Marx’s ideas, particularly on the subject of the circulation of money-capital. This guide uniquely presents the three volumes of ‘Capital’ in a different order of reading to that in which they were published, placing them instead in the order that Marx himself sometimes recommended as a more user-friendly way of reading. Dr Smith also argues that for most of the twentieth century, the full development of the capitalist mode of production (CMP) has been undermined by the existence of a non-capitalist ‘third world’, which has caused the CMP to take on the form of what Marx called a highly developed mercantile system, rather than one characterized by an uninterrupted circuit of industrial capital of the kind he expected would develop. While the guide can be read as a book in its own right, it also contains detailed references to Volumes I–III so that students, seminars and discussion groups can easily make connections between Smith’s explanations and the relevant parts of ‘Capital’.

das kapital: Capital Karl Marx, 1999-09-02 A classic of early modernism, Capital combines vivid historical detail with economic analysis to produce a bitter denunciation of mid-Victorian capitalist society. It has also proved to be the most influential work in social science in the twentieth century; Marx did for social science what Darwin had done for biology. Millions of readers this century have treated Capital as a sacred text, subjecting it to as many different interpretations as the bible itself. No mere work of dry economics, Marx's great work depicts the unfolding of industrial capitalism as a tragic drama - with a message which has lost none of its relevance today. This is the only abridged edition to take account of the whole of Capital. It offers virtually all of Volume 1, which Marx himself published in 1867, excerpts from a new translation of `The Result of the Immediate Process of Production', and a selection of key chapters from Volume 3, which Engels published in 1895. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

das kapital: *Socialism in Marx’s Capital* Paresh Chattopadhyay, 2021-02-05 This book explores how Marx envisaged society after capital(ism) by a close examination of the idea of socialism in the text(s) of Capital. Going beyond Marx’s critique of the Gotha Programme, Paresh Chattopadhyay challenges those who leave Capital aside in discussions of socialism in Marx’s works on the grounds that it is uniquely preoccupied with the critical analysis of capitalism. Instead, Chattopadhyay shows how Marx, in Capital, considered capitalism as a simple transitional society preparing the advent of socialism envisioned as an association of free and equal individuals.

das kapital: *Capital* Karl Marx, 1990 The forgotten second volume of Capital, Marx's world-shaking analysis of economics, politics, and history, contains the vital discussion of commodity, the cornerstone to Marx's theories.

das kapital: Marx's Inferno William Clare Roberts, 2018-03-13 Marx’s Inferno reconstructs the major arguments of Karl Marx’s Capital and inaugurates a completely new reading of a seminal classic. Rather than simply a critique of classical political economy, William Roberts argues that Capital was primarily a careful engagement with the motives and aims of the workers’ movement. Understood in this light, Capital emerges as a profound work of political theory. Placing Marx against the background of nineteenth-century socialism, Roberts shows how Capital was ingeniously modeled on Dante’s Inferno, and how Marx, playing the role of Virgil for the proletariat, introduced partisans of workers’ emancipation to the secret depths of the modern “social Hell.” In this manner, Marx revised republican ideas of freedom in response to the rise of capitalism. Combining research on Marx’s interlocutors, textual scholarship, and forays into recent debates, Roberts traces the continuities linking Marx’s theory of capitalism to the tradition of republican political thought. He immerses the reader in socialist debates about the nature of commerce, the experience of labor, the power of bosses and managers, and the possibilities of political organization. Roberts rescues those debates from the past, and shows how they speak to ever-renewed concerns about political life in today’s world.

das kapital: *Karl Marx: Capital. A Critical Analysis of Capitalist Production, London 1887* Waltraud Falk, Hanna Behrend, Marion Duparré, Hella Hahn, Frank Zschaler, 2017-03-20 Die zweite Abteilung vereint Marx' Werk Das Kapital in seinen autorisierten Ausgaben, einschließlich Übersetzungen, und alle direkt dazugehörenden Werke und Manuskripte, beginnend mit den ökonomischen Manuskripten von 1857/58.

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das kapital: Understanding Marx’s Capital: A reader’s guide Adam Booth, Rob Sewell, 2019-07-11 Marx's Capital was a book that revolutionised political economy and for the first time opened our eyes to the real workings of capitalism. It was, however, met with a wall of silence from the mainstream economists and the establishment. Despite this, Capital became regarded in the workers' movement as the Bible of the working class... The aim of this book, written by authors from the International Marxist Tendency, is to help guide readers through the pages of volume one of Capital; to bring out the main themes and ideas contained within it; and to discuss the relevance of this great Marxist classic in terms of understanding the crisis-ridden world around us today - and, most importantly, how we can radically transform it.

das kapital: Late Capitalism Ernest Mandel, 2024-07-30 Late Capitalism is the first major synthesis to have been produced by the contemporary revival of Marxist economics. It represents, in fact, the only systematic attempt so far ever made to combine the general theory of the laws of motion of the capitalist mode of production developed by Marx, with the concrete history of capitalism in the twentieth century. Mandel’s book starts with a challenging discussion of the appropriate methods for studying the capitalist economies. He seeks to show why the classical approaches of Luxemburg, Bukharin, Bauer and Grossman failed to accomplish the further development of Marxist theory whose urgency became evident after Marx's death. He then sketches the structure of the world market and the variant types of surplus-profit that have characterized its successive stages. On these foundations Late Capitalism proceeds to advance an extremely bold schema of the long waves of expansion and contraction in the history of capitalism, from the Napoleonic Wars to the present. Mandel criticizes and refines Kondratieff's famous use of the notion. Mandel’s book surveys in turn the main economic characteristics of late capitalism as it has emerged in the contemporary period. The last expansionary long wave, it argues, started with the victory of fascism on the European continent and the advent of the war economies in the US and UK during the 1940s, and produced the record world boom of 1947-72. Mandel discusses the reasons why the dynamic upswing of growth in this period was bound to reach its limits at the turn of the 1970s, and why a long wave of economic stagnation and intensified class struggle has set in today. Late Capitalism is a landmark in Marxist economic literature. Specifically designed to explain the international recession of the 1970s, it is a central guide to understanding the nature of the world economic crisis today.

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das kapital: Karl Marx's 'Capital': A Guide to Volumes IIII Kenneth Smith, 2021-03-31 This guide uniquely presents the three volumes of Capital in a different order of reading to that in which they were published, placing them instead in the order that Marx himself sometimes recommended as a more user-friendly way of reading. Dr Smith also argues that, for most of the twentieth century, the full development of the capitalist mode of production (CMP) has been undermined by the existence of a non-capitalist ‘third world’, which has caused the CMP to take on the form of what Marx called a highly developed mercantile system, rather than one characterized by an uninterrupted circuit of industrial capital of the kind he expected would develop.

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