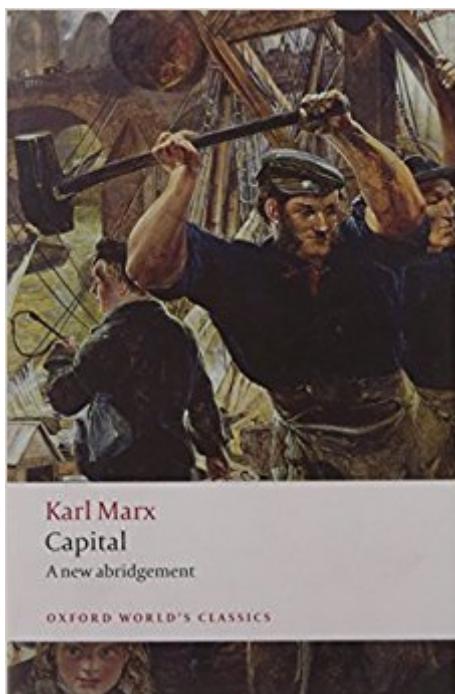


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Capital: An Abridged Edition (Oxford World's Classics)



Synopsis

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 proved to be the most influential work in twentieth-century social science; Marx did for social science what Darwin had done for biology. This is the only abridged edition to take into account 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 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 broadest spectrum 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, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David McLellan is Professor of Political Theory at the University of Kent.

To be honest it wasn't an easy read since this is not the usual book that I would choose, so I am glad that I chose the abridged instead of the original copy. I wasn't very familiar with Marxism and I found several of his thoughts jaw dropping especially given the fact that it was written 150 years

ago. It made me rethink what I have been taught and practiced. I wouldn't recommend to people who want to criticize his work just because he is considered as communist. Communism or extreme communism has been proved that it doesn't really work throughout history. It might be better to read the book with the perspective of which ideas can be tolerated into capitalism in order to make it more reasonable. However, I didn't like his writing style or his examples which made a good portion of the book tedious. This abridged version did a great job of keeping his writing style but what I really wanted was a more concise without redundancy. But I talked to a person who said that it's his writing style that make the book even more valuable. So I keep it as a personal opinion. If you are reading alone I highly recommend Youtube video of David Harvey 'reading Karl Marx's Capital with David Harvey'. I probably would have stopped reading chapter one without it. However if somebody rewrite his book in a more concise and with more plain English I would prefer that.

This edition of "Capital" contains the original English translation of Volume One - and it is an excellent translation which I prefer to the one in the Penguin edition. (I do not understand why a previous reviewer made a comment about needing to speak French or German to read this edition.) The introduction by David McLellan is also quite good, although I think that McLellan is unfair in claiming that Marx was not concerned enough with issues such as gender inequality and ecology. To many people Marxism is a dirty word because of its association with the bureaucratic tyranny of the Stalinist regimes of Russia, Eastern Europe, China etc. But these regimes had/have nothing to do with genuine Marxism, as anyone who reads this book will see. The so-called "communist" states were actually state capitalist systems controlled by a ruling class of bureaucrats who betrayed the aims of the 1917 Russian Revolution and turned on its head Marx's aim of a democratic workers' state and classless society. Marx's humanism and democratic instincts shine out throughout this book. There are marvellous indictments of the alienating, exploitative and undemocratic nature of the capitalist system, as well as some remarkably vivid historical sections. But Marx's main aim in this book is not to set out a blueprint for a future socialist society, it is to lay bare the "law of motion" of the capitalist society we live in. Marx shows that there are two key features of the capitalist system. Firstly, there is the fact that the capitalists make their profits by exploiting the working class. (The working class today includes ordinary white collar workers as well as manual workers.) As Marx writes, "Capital...vampire-like, only lives by sucking living labour..." Secondly, there is the competition between rival capitalists which drives on the exploitation and which leads to the anarchy of the market system, with its booms, slumps and crises, as we are seeing today. I particularly like how Marx shows that people are alienated under capitalism, in the

sense of their work being turned into soulless degradation, and also in the sense of having lost control of their lives to something they themselves have created - capital. "As, in religion, man is governed by the products of his own brain, so in capitalist production, he is governed by the products of his own hand." "Capital" is not an easy read, and it is best tackled after reading a modern introduction to Marxism. On Marxist economics, I would recommend either Joseph Choonara's "Unravelling Capitalism" or Chris Harman's "Zombie Capitalism". On Marxism as a whole, Alex Callinicos's "The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx" is a brilliant starting point. Phil Webster. (England)

hard to read

What is the deal with the labor theory of value?

may I suggest the Penguin version....this is the original transcript, and, if you don't speak French or German, you will find yourself reaching for a translator. A member of my family teaches Economics and says that the Penguin version is a much easier read to comprehend, as Marx is a little difficult for some of us anyway. But, the genius cannot be hidden.

It is what it is...

Karl Marx's technical masterpiece painstakingly, and often dramatically, roots out the causes of social and economic inequality. Unlike "The Communist Manifesto", which he wrote with Friedrich Engels, this classic text is not a call to revolution but rather a comprehensive and systematic analysis and "critique of political economy," according to its original subtitle. Marx spent 15 years working on just the first volume of his complex masterwork. In it he details the "surplus value" that workers create for those who own the "means of production," and how exploitative capitalists sell their goods not to purchase other goods, but to increase their own wealth. "Money making money," or the capital accumulation process, lies at the heart of Marx's critique of capitalism. getAbstract recommends his seminal work to those who wish to understand the origins of arguably the most disruptive work of political and economic philosophy of the 20th century.

Besides "The Origin of Species" one of the books that transformed the world.

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