

Marxism in the 21st Century
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Theoria and Praxis

With the decline of worldly existent communism at the end of the last century, many commentators, politicians and journalists, have signed the death certificate of Marxism as a social and political theoretical tool. The claim was that the 'ideological phase' of history was dead and gone and that the triumph of liberal democracy was an assured verity of the new century. In light of the 2008 financial crisis and the growing difficulties of a neo-liberal agenda, this claim seems to have been, at the least, an exaggeration. Further, the extensive and intensive expansion of consumption models and globalized culture has shown that neo-liberalism does have an ideological agenda and that the critique of this agenda, the very critique of present-day capitalism that imbibed the spirit of *Das Kapital*, is as crucial and important now as at any time in the past. Marxism, as a result, cannot be ignored as a *method and/or tool of critique*.

The following papers seek to use the tools of Marxist critique as a form of understanding our contemporary situation. They seek, further, to explore the implications of an ever-extensive capitalism, of a process that seems to operate without subjects and their purported agency. How does a run-away consumerism influence the tentacle-like development of corporate sovereignty? How do corporations integrate their interests into the everyday contexts of life? How are our living environments re-made in the light of these corporate interests? Lastly, what are the (im)possibilities for agency and subjectivity and resistance?

These papers seek to explore these issues with the intention not of revising or re-introducing Marxism to a world that has surpassed its theoretical premises but to a context that continues to live with the need and relevance of Marx's ideas. The historical moment for Marxism's overcoming, in which it could be piled on the debris heap of failed philosophies, is deferred and put off interminably.