

Hegel. Why do you suppose academics to this day refer to Phenomenology of Mind as "chaotic," "very brilliant and profound in spots," but definitely "Hegel didn't know where he was headed"; he didn't even have subheads once he came to "Spirit"?

It was because he didn't have the categories worked out systematically as they were in Science of Logic, where it was nice and smooth and they took for granted they understood it; they certainly could repeat the categories; indeed, though it took them all the way until 1929 (having rejected the translation that was done in America by the Hegelians in St. Louis) before they published an English translation, they then appended a long and precise list of categories -- 128 to be exact -- so that anyone can repeat them if they can memorize 128 names.

We have yet to get any serious, full explanation of why there has been no reference to the fact that the year before Hegel died, he felt that he should add the three final syllogism to the Absolute Mind. Do you know why that is? I'll tell you why. It is because we haven't understood that Phenomenology of Mind (1807, not 1830) projected ground for the Absolutes, and they haven't understood that ground because it was the French Revolution. And Hegel was saying very passionately: "look at what happened in France, and we haven't even developed a single dialectical category, and we are talking philosophy time and time again." The whole philosophy of 2,500 years has to find a new language, and here it is.

Academics had no vision then and they have no vision now. The whole truth is that between 1807 and 1831 (death) it was a matter of developing that movement, historic movement, and that vision

is because he was in a new age and needed a new language to express the

forces and the Reason of Revolution both continuity and discontinuity of the dialectic and of the new European Revolutions (1840s). That is why a serious Introduction is really always written at the end and is at the same time an Overview, which is what Marx was doing from 1843 to 1883.

- R D  
June 1986