

279 West 4th Street
NY 14, May 13, 1956

Dear Rae,

I read your chapter the day it arrived and jotted down some comments to send you. But I have gotten lost in work these last weeks, weeks which took me out of town several times and left me little chance for other things. I'm sorry that my silence has caused you any inconvenience.

I do not know the new people at the Oxford Press personally, as I knew Vaudrin there some years ago. I doubt that my word would have any weight with them. My own present publisher will touch only books on art; he's a specialist pure and simple.

Here are the notes I jotted down :

- p.1- is the man on the street less in an ivory tower today than the philosopher ? does he understand better what is actually developing ?
- p.8a- Is not Kant a "classical" German philosopher ? and does he not precede the French Revolution ?
- p.14- would not a worker in a socialist society work more hours than it takes to produce his means of subsistence ?
- p.21- how can you attribute the non-publication of Lenin's Notebooks in English to Russian totalitarians ? after all, they did publish them in Russian and French (twice).
- p.24- it isn't clear what the alternative to the law of value would be in a socialist society; I should like to see this discussed.
- p.26- it isn't clear to me why the large rural population indicates an army of unemployed; since constant capital is increasing, the rural population, by your argument, should increase too; but the fact is that it's decreasing in both USSR and USA..... Is the profit rate in USSR declining ?

I hope your publisher, who is lingering over the dotted line, will soon put his name there.

and Joan,

Lillian sends her best regards along with mine to you

Yours,

Walter

PS Will you deal in your exposition of Marx's economic theory with his critics ? I would like very much to see a careful examination of these serious criticisms..
Your outline is very attractive, but I think it would have a stronger effect, ~~if~~ if an attempt to deal with the critics of Marxian economics, dialectics and political theory/ were indicated.

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