

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
WALTHAM 54, MASSACHUSETTS

September 21, 56

Dear R.D.

I found your letter and manuscript after my return from Europe - later than I expected and therefore again too late for a stay and meeting in NY. I did not know that Beacon had rejected the book and I do hope that Frager sticks to his promise.

Of the three sections you sent me, I liked most the last chapter of Part I - splendid! The chapter on the Second International is too sketchy and does not justice to the historical problem. You accept - as far as I can see, in toto - Lenin's theory of the corrupted labor aristocracy - a theory which, in my view, is utterly inadequate. Whereas you handle the dialectic so consistently and refuse so valiantly to treat Marxian concepts as dogmas, you do not take this position with regard to the notion (and to the reality) of the proletariat. In the development of late industrial society in the advanced countries, this class qua class has changed its position, structure, consciousness, etc. The full force of a Marxian economic and political analysis has to be applied in the examination of this process - the aristocracy business wouldn't do!

As to the last part: I disagree with your assumption of a complete break between Leninism and Stalinism. I have recently reread Lenin's writings and speeches of 1921-22 and was amazed at the degree of continuity and consistency in basic questions and policies - even formulations! But all these things have to be discussed orally. I expect to be in NY after Christmas, for the meeting of the Philosophical Association - should I get to NY prior to this date, I shall let you know immediately when I know. My study of "Soviet Marxism", in which I try to discuss some of the problems indicated above, is before completion and will be published by Columbia University Press early in 1957. I shall send you the typescript for your comments and your critique before it goes to the printer's.

Thanks, and with very best wishes,

*Yours,
H.M.*

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