

Hegel's Logic tries to comprehend the whole range of human knowledge as a living unity, as well as an internal, eternal "becoming."
~~dialectical materialism~~, A Historical & Systematic Survey of Phil. in the S.U., by Gustav A. Wetter, S.J. "world's leading authority on Communist ideology" bk jacket
pub'd. in Ger. language, Vienna, 1952, revised, 4th Ger. ed. pub'd. by Praeger, NY, 1958; more than a 1/3rd is new, in last 2 yrs., since deStalinisation; "corresponding rehabilitation of the law of negation of negation" & reversion to theory of Engels.

Translated from Ger. by Peter Heath, ^{of Edinburgh}, Author bk. was course of lectures delivered in summer of (1945) at Papal Oriental Institute in Rome & published in Italian, "Il Materialismo dialettico sovietico", Turin (1948); in (1952) extensively revised & pub'd. in Ger. '52. Takes up "only dial. mat." which is "properly phil. portion" and not his mat. -- his mat. in Sov. usage deals with society & should not be dealt with here. Does not deal much with early phil. writings of Mx as these are "quite definitely & 70
*****consciously set aside in Sov. phil." ▽

Part I Historical. This is quite poor as author himself admits by claiming it is given only to understand Part II.
pp. 3-17 Ch. I. The His. Roots of Marxism. Hegel, Hegelian Left, Feuerbach, Positivism.
17-41 Ch. 2, M&F. On 1844 MSS: "Mx points to a 2-fold defect///... Its basic error is to represent the Idea as a genuine reality... Since man is essentially self-consciousness, the product of his activity, namely, the alienation of consciousness into the obj. & its subsequent transcending of this, remains, therefore something abstract & unreal." This involves a further deficiency in the Hegelian view. Since every opp. bet. subj. & obj. remains within consciousness the Heg. conception of dialectic is inherently liable to transcend the obj. itself by demonstrating it to be merely another aspect of consciousness. The recovery of what was alienated becomes not so much a matter of overcoming the estrangement of the obj. as of transcending the obj. itself. Instead of achieving a genuine synthesis bet. thought & being, the Heg. phil. tends towards a disavowal of being & reality, & their dissolution in consciousness." (26-7)

Wetter then reduces Marx's counterposition of of spiritual to actual to mean man's primary activity "is not spiritual, not cognitive," when Marx shows that a being having no objects external to itself, nor an object for some other being is not an objective being. "Thus there is no opp. in this respect bet. man & Nature, subj. & obj., but only a mutual interfusion & dependence; man becomes a product of Nature & Nature a product of man. The adjustment of Nature to human needs furnishes the content of his... This 2-f. adaptation constitutes the essence of labour, it is the stuff of 'practice' which from now on becomes a key-concept in the phil. of Marxism."

Wetter apologizes for having spent so much time on 1844 writings for he agrees that they have neither connection to Bol. & are of interest "only in so far as they contain seeds of his later social doctrines" AND THEN STUPIDLY THINKS THAT V.A. KARPUSHIN, of all people, shows new attitude to them, since, as lecturer at Univ. of Moscow, in VF (see M&F) shows regret that Mx's Phil. MSS were "no longer" included in the 2nd impression of Russ. Coll. Ed. of wkr of M&F. Also Wetter sees Zhdanov's 1947 intervention as only est'g. that Mx was not just 1 of many philosophies & inc. prol. phil. in bourgeois thought, but was, to quote Zhd "a new phil. differing qualitatively from all previous phil. systems however progressive they were// (but) became a scientific weapon the hands of prol. masses...."

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Ilyin's "The Phil. of Hegel" as an exposition
of the concreteness of God's emanation
DIAMAT BY WETTER, CONT'D. -2-

pp.56-68
pp.73-110
pp.114-128

Ch.3--Rev. Movements in Rus.: Origins of Rus. Mx --Nihilism, Narodnichestvo

Ch.4 -Phil. Tendencies in Rus. Mxism before Rev --up to VIL

Ch. 5, VIL--Up to '21 all phil. tendencies flourish; autumn '21 change.

In '22 (Aug.) arrested & exiled later Bulgakov, Berdayev, Ilyin
but interesting part is that 1) "adherents to vulgar mat.
were so numerous among supporters of Bol. Party that this
dominated until 21, as witness in 1922 eve, O. Minin
wrote "Both VIL & Pl also employ old-fashioned terms such as 'the
phil. of Mxism' but these terms as used by L&P are MERELY SLIPS OF PEN
& nothing more. In fitting out & trimming the ship of science we must
take care to throw, not only religion, but also the whole of phil.
overboard." (POD ZNAM. #22, #11-12). Only in 1925 was this offset by
supporters of Diamat by AM. Deborin, a2) time of pub. of Engels'
Dialectics of Nature & ESP. IN 1929 WITH PUB. OF VIL'S PHIL. NTBKS
but 21th 12/27/29 with Stalin's Speech to the Conf. of Mxist Students on
the Agrarian Question M. Mitin & P. Yudin get going against Deborin
for theory "not keeping pace with practical work"

pp.137-149

Ch.7-Mechanism--NIB'S THEORY OF EQUILIBRIUM VS. the "teleological
flavour which inevitably clings to Hegelian formula which
speaks of a self-dev. o nthe part of spirit." (NIB, ATAKA)

Ch.8, Men. Idealism (incl. Deborin AND LT) Deborin in "Lenin the Thinker"
wrote: "Both thinkers (Plekhanov & Lenin!) are in a certain
sense complementary to one another... Plekh is essentially
the theoretician, Lenin essentially the man of action, the
politician, the leader." (joined Bol. only in '28) at present
he is member of ed. bd. of Vestnik, official organ of Academy of Sci.
Dying Men. per (1907-1917) wrote his most imp. wk. "Introd. to the
Phil. of Diamat" (Plekhanov wrote preface to it, pub'd. Petrograd, '16)
(Lenin criticized it in Phil Ntbks, 1947, pp. 403-6) opposed, Lukacs, Freud
Deborin's definitions: "The mat. dial. as a general scientific metho-
dology (incl. also theory of knowledge); the dial. of nature, the
methodology of the natural sciences (scientific mat.); & the
dial. of his. (his. mat.)"

pp.1755-208 Developments since 1931 (Ch. X concerns Stalin As philosopher) 4/209/31

CC, 1/25/31. Decree against mechanists & Deborinists. Pokrovsky, Adoratsky,
Mitin, Yudin & Maximov take over Under the Banner of Mxism

By 1936 Philosophical Institute became part of Academy of Sciences
& placed under direction of Adoratsky & Mitin

In 1944 CC attacks Vol. 3 of His. of Phil. which had appeared for
passing over reactionary attitude of Hegel. (VF, '49, 2, p. 10)

1947 ZHDANOV --new names that came up in field, Kedrov, Leonov, Lovchuk
GFAlexandrov

Wetter does not the least understand this intervention,
never mentioning "new dial. law" but only fight on We. phil
he claims Voprosy Filosofii replaced Under Banner of Mxism
which disappeared in '44, not saying why (LAW OF VALUE
controversy). Then Minchurin-Lysenko. Also Marr controversy

1951--19th congress & Stalin's Eco. Problems of Soc.

pp.231-246, Ch. XI Since the Death of Stalin 3/5/53

8/10/53 Presidium Res. Phil. removed from His. & Phil. Section
of Academy of Sciences & attached to the Economics & Law
section Kedrov said Stalin's book on "Diamat is
insufficient since "law of negation of negation"
was left out altogether.

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8/23-8/54 large Sov. delegation attended Union Internationale de
Philosophie et Sciences in Zurich

Part II. The System of Sov. Phil.

Ch. 1. Conception of Phil. (as partisan)

Ch. 2. The Theory of Matter. Until 1951, there was distinction drawn bet. phil. & scientific or physical concept of matter.

Then this dual concept is dropped, & attack launched on

"philosophical materialism"

They now refer to Lenin's Phil. Ntbks on substance & difference bet. finite & infinite where VIL notes

"Apply this to the atom vs. electron. Matter thruout

infinite in depth" (Kadrov, "Lenin's View of Electron

& Modern Physics" Bolshevik 1948) 2.: "Just as the rel. bet things & their

degrees of change are endless, so too is the no. of stages leading into

the depth of things, in to the depth of their being. 'Man's thought

probes ever deeper into the infinite,' says Lenin, 'from the phenomenon

to its essential nature, from its 1st order nature, as it were, to

its 2nd order nature & so on without end.'" (See also M. Schlik, "Phil.

of Nature" NY 1949) where he speaks of Modern physics being not physics

of substance or physics of the "field")

Ch. 3. Mat. Dialectic takes up Stalin's "Principle Features" of mat. dial.

Also "Lenin took over the concept of self-movement

from Hegel." (p. 336) ~~But~~ Wetter finally here brings

in Zhdanov's "new dial. law" based on no antagonistic

contradictions, merely saying that lately too (1955, etc) that ques.

has been matter of "lively discussion", but admits that criticism

& self criticism 1st arose at (15th) congress after victory over all opp.

Supposedly all remains same, quantity into qual., law of contrad. &

only when we come to negation which (until '38) featured in Sov. accts.

of dial. but then "for some reason or other fell out of favor."

A thing does not pass into any sort of opposite but into its own opp. (K)

Of. T. A. Kazakevich, A. G. Abolentseva "Some Problems Concerning the

Law of the Negation of the Negation" (Vestnik Leningradskogo Universiteta,

1956, 23, p. 77: "The nihilistic attitude towards the science & culture

of bourgeois society which has long been in evidence, was having a

negative effect upon various aspects of our own practical

work. The Pl. of the Party CC, of July 1955 forcibly condemned such

an approach to the achievements of the cap. countries & called for an

application of the best of these achievements in the fields of science &

technology in the interests of the communist construction."

They say now that negation not only negates but assures a new determinati-

on higher level. & Wetter asks "But is this possible? This must definitely

be denied. For in the 1st place negation whether metaphysical or dial

can do nothing more than negate & can never produce a new determination

on its own acct."... Moreover it owes this new determination not to

negation but to a previous determination of A.

Dialectical Materialism by Gustav A. Wetter, revised ed., 1958

Part II, Ch.V, Dial. Mat. & Modern Science

Wetter sets task of this ch. as two-fold: 1) in what manner Sov. claims that modern science, from quantum physics & relativity theory to the Pavlovian physiology of higher nervous activity & psychology, is supposed to be a 'dazzling confirmation' of dial.mat. 2) in what manner Sov. philosophy seeks solutions of problems of modern science

1) Quantum physics. Sov. science attacks Copenhagen School (Bohr, Heisenberg etc) because of its championing of the complementarity principle, indeterminism & specific interpretation they give to quantum physics.

Heisenberg's "uncertainty relation" founded on dualism of waves & particles. Copenhagen school inclined to restrict reality principle to "physical reality", i.e. those properties which can actually be attributed to micro-objects by way of physical description.

P.407: "Questions concerning reality existing 'in itself' & such as to underlie physical measurement & description, are dismissed, rather in the positivistic manner, as 'meaningless.'"

Question of measuring apparatus representing 'extension' of sense-organs of physical observer; physical reality is thus dependent on cognitive orientation of observing subject & is hence "idealistic." Thus there is in it a certain denial of "causality." Laws thus are "statistical" (probable or average situations) rather than "dynamic."

Bohr, Jordan, Born deny validity of strict causality in atomic field. De Broglie, Einstein, Schrodinger & Planck insist on universal validity of causal law, believing later dev. of physics will enable a deterministic interpretation of microphysical facts.

(Cf. D.I. Blokhintsev "Critique of Phil. Views of the So-called Copenhagen School, Filozofskie Voprosy sovr. fiziki, pp. 358-95) (Behavior of totality (ensemble) not indiv. micro-particle is issue.)

(V.A. Fok Vop. Fil., 1952.4. pp. 1704 took exception however in his "On So-called Totalities in Quantum Mechanics," on ground that totalities are "a speculative construction", insisting that wave function reflects real state of indiv. macro-obj.)

Wetter takes no position on either dispute but goes over to ques. whether modern physics confirms dial.mat. so that scientist must apply dial.mat. to investigations of Nature. For ex., contention of law of unity & struggle of opposites seen in wave-and-corpuscle character of matter, & rel. bet. necessity & contingency in problem of determinism. Wetter claims that both Soviet & Copenhagen schools only "prove" what was their phil. starting point.

2. Relativity theory. Originally (till Stalin's death) Sov. scientists had nihilistic attitude to this theory, rejecting not only it but even relativity-principle of Galileo. Opposition was all to dependence of observer's standpoint. (Cf. Fil. voprosy sovremennoy fiziki, 1952) Holding on, as against Einstein, to some alleged Leninist theory of "absolute motion".

Epecially mathematicians, I.P.Bazarov, V.A.Fok, A.D.Alexandrov began attack on the attackers of Einstein relativity theory & this reached its conclu. in 1955 vol. of Vop.Fil. Alexandrov then shows that main point of relativity theory is not in generalization of principle of relativity (but) in its discovery of unity of space & time. Space & time, in themselves, are relative, & yet objective aspects of absolute space-time. Confusion was to equate relative & non-objective.

But V.A.Fok rejects Einstein's progression from special to general relativity (extension of relativity principle from uniform rectilinear motion to accelerated & rotary motion) & attempts to derive connection bet. the 2 theories from the equation for the expansion of the front of a light-wave.

Thus Soviet scientists now see doctrine of space & time as forms of existence of matter, which theory is further extended by unity of space & time, which is to be regarded as "a single unitary form of the existence of matter; the discovery of the interconnections bet. space & time, mass & energy, etc. represents a confirmation of the dial.mat. thesis as to the reciprocal connection of mutual conditioning amongst all phenomena; the est. of the connection bet. mass & energy & the dependence of the space-time metric upon the presence & motion of matter, confirms the doctrine of the inseparability of matter & motion & so forth." But Soviets take violent exception to interpretation of formula of $E=mc^2$ which would indicate possibility of transforming mass into energy, or of changing matter into energy & thereby implying disappearance of matter.

Soviets question that Copernicus & Ptolemy reckoned as equally right, attributing it to "error" in Einstein in believing general relativity to be a generalization of the special theory. Because they are addicted to belief that religious outlook stands or falls with acceptance of geocentric system, they reject also Einstein's conclusion of "curvature of space", namely that universe, tho unbounded, is not infinite, resembling in this the surface of a sphere.

(Cf. A.I.Uemov, "Can the Space-Time Continuum Interact with Matter" in VF, #3, 1954, where he treats rel. of space-time & matter in terms of categories of form & content; close to Aristotelian hylomorphism, which regards all material things as having produced from 2 essential principle, matter & form, as a result world appears as a single substance.)

Wetter claims this could not prove dial.mat. since "it" took so long to recognize relativity theory.

3. Mass & Energy. Soviet scientists attack "energeticism" & "physical idealism" having in mind writers like Jeans & Eddington who considered radiation of energy by the sun & stars to be due to "annihilation of matter", or Barnett who refers to mass or matter as "form of energy" deriving action of atomic bomb from "transformation of matter into energy" & E.S. Brightman, American "personalist" who designates God or "higher personality" as nearer of energy & P. Jordan who thinks ("Physics in 20th C.") that new physics has thus destroyed scientific foundations of materialism.

Sov. phil. believes matter occurs in 2 forms: "stuff" and "light", i.e. electro-magnetic field, & inseparable connection bet. matter & motion is true meaning of Einstein formula.

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Lysenko's experiments
will show
Men Belt
Interview
Sov. (1948)
reviewed
Khrushchev
April 1957

Any given material object having a mass of this or that nature necessarily also possesses the corresponding type of energy. (N.F. Ovohinnikov, "The materiality of the World & the Laws of its Dev." ,V.E.1951,#5)

Hence Sov.philosophers regard this physical principle as proof of the dial.mat.thesis of self-movement whereby there can no more be matter without motion than motion without matter, & from this they conclude that all motion, incl.that in inanimate, must be regarded as self-movement.

All Wetter has to say here is that since non-materialistic philosophy also rejects the theory of the unnihilation of matter, dial.mat. cannot claim that only by its method can this be proven.

4.Chemistry. 5. Cosmogony (Not summarized here because in essence the fight here is same as above bet."materialism"& "idealism."

6.The Origin of Life. (p.442-451 should be reread)

7. The "New Cell Theory" of O.B.Lepeshinskaya.

8.The New Theory of Inheritance: I.V.Michurin, T.D.Lysenko

All of Wetter's hostility & that of "the West" in general is concentrate here for he considers that Sov.science which he puts in quotation marks has entirely departed from classical genetics & where dial. mat. has thus made it depart "most widely from science in general."

(Incidentally, Gogol, I remember that I was furious with Haldane because he seemed half to approve Lysenko; I wish I now had that statement; do you remember reading it anywhere?)

Wetter calls Lysenko "a practical man without any real scientific training." But admits: "Lysenko has great practical success, esp. in rearing frost-resistant southern varieties for norther climates. Particularly well known is his method of 'yarovization' or 'vernalization' i.e., the transformation of winter into summer crops by chilling the seed-corn so that when sown in spring it produces ears in the summer of the same yr." In 1930s this vernalization technique was put into practice & since then his rise to fame & position. Member of Academy of Sciences & 3 times Stalin Prize winner, 1941, '43, & '49)

Lysenko's theory of inheritance sets out from thesis that organism & environment constitute a unity, rejecting classical theory of heredity of Mendel & Morgan. Lysenko insists changes of heredity occur as "the result of the ~~single~~ realization of individual development, but deviating from the normal usual course." He distinguishes bet. conservative & "destabilized" types of heredity (a) by grafting, b) by bringing external conditions to bear upon it at definite moments when the organism undergoes this or that process of its dev. & c) by cross-breeding. He holds very strange views about process of fertilization, not as a new combination of hereditary factors but as a reciprocal assimilation of the male & female germ-cells whereby a new metabolism came into being. (For description of Lysenko see E.Ashby's "Scientist in Russia", Pelican, 1947.) According to Hans Nachtsheim 'summit of fantasy' is Lysenko's new theory of transformation of one species into another.

Praska
April 15, 10, 57