

MLB #71, 1-2/72. NORMAN CERAS "Louis Althusser - An Assessment"

Alt's "Reading"

p.57 Critical -- "far from taking for granted that the whole of Marx forms a coherent valid unity, attempts to distinguish in(sic) bet. th. deficiencies(?) terminological ambiguities, & ideological 'survivals'(!)... & truly scientific concepts."

BIGOTOUS: the condition for the fruit ul application & further (NB-rd) of these can for what they EXCLUDE(?) as much for they include.

vs. (p.56) humanism, historicism, hegelianism which have haunted W.Marxism since Lukacs' early works & become powerfully influences in the last 2 decades

1. EXPOSITION: Alt. central overriding concern, FM, p.21: "the investigation of Mx's phil. thoughts"

FM, p.31: "WHAT is Mxit phil? Has it any th. right to existence? If it does exist in principle how can its specificity be defined?"

Alt's claim there are 2, not one distinct disciplines, his.dialectat...1st = "science"

ALT'S CLAIM THAT DIAMAT EXISTS ON SCIENTIFIC WKS IN AN UN(?)theorized PRACTICAL STATE

FM, pp.173-5 & RC, p.185

Ne59: "For Alt. Mxit phil. is a 'the' of the differential nature of th. formations & their his., i.e., a th. of EPISTEMOLOGICAL his." (FM, p.55)
or what comes to the same thing, 'the th. of the his. of the PEC. OR KNOWLEDGE' (EC, 56, 44, 75, 89, 167).

It is, in short, 'the th. SCIENCE of the history of science.' (RC, pp.145, 86, 153)

EC, p.77 "th. th. future of his. mat., depends today on deepening dia. mat." Alt's diamat contains set of epistemological concepts (process of th.knowledge)
Central to Alt's 1st principle, intelligibility, is his concept .PRACTICE OR PROD.
So (p.60) NG will proceed from 1)concept of practice/prod., to 2)epistemological
concepts & 3)the his.concepts which are based upon it.

"PRIMACY OF PRACTICE" turns out to mean EC, p.77: "showing that ALL the levels of social existence are the sites of DISTINCT PRACTICES" (eco., pol., ideological, scientific & phil.)

p.61: "Thus in Alt./we find ref. not only tp the eco-mode of prod., relations of prod.; EC pp.170 ... but also for ex: to ' the mode of th.prod.', 'the mode of prod., of knowledge'! (RC pp.27.n/8.p.41, & to the 'mode of ideol.' (RC p.52)

RC, p.220: "all the levels of the social structure have a STRUCTURE of a 'mode' in the sense in which I have anal zed the mod of prod. strictly (???)speaking."

p.62. 4 major practices with EACH having a disinct, different type of labor/instruments of labor..th.eir scientific practice brings together "THOUGHT POWER"(SIC!)&cares of th.labor, concepts of th.&its method(???)

?????????????

RC, p.42: "IT IS PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE to say that

pr. constitutes a process that takes place entirely in thought" (NB NB NB rd)
Just as we can say, mutatis mutandi that the process of eco. prod.takes place entirely in eco.

EPISTEMOLOGICAL-DIAMAT "in person" (FM p.168-9. Kautz)

AL's What Is To Be Done?

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EPISTEMOLOGICAL CONCEPTS, p.65ff ('the Th. of th.pr.
HQ, p.34: "To conceive Mr's. phil. in its specificity is...
knowledge as production." rds NO NO NO NO
DE p.32: "new conception of knowledge"

p.61 Thought & Reality Generalities, I, II, III

'entirely in thought' 'entirely in thought' 'entirely in thought'

GENERALITIES:

I: conceptd abstractions which constitute RAW MATERIALS of th.practice, NEVER concrete
II: transformation of means of th.pr. into a product
III: the product of th.practice are the SCIENTIFIC (!) concepts embodying knowledge.
(pp.183-188; HQ, pp.41, 67-8.109-DECONCRETE IN THOUGHT.

"What impels Alt. to SUnder the identity bet.real obj. & obj. of
knowledge is, once again, his concern to emphasize that unpr.
has its own raw materials & its own product, both of them distinct from the reality it
aims to know."

pp.80-82 main points: science, Scientific knowledge IDEAS for its validity on values
perspectives of social group &
historical epoch..

② Scientific knowledge is not immediately & directly
(miraculously) given in consciousness of indiv. or class

leads straight into realm of mystery"

4 of Alt's more ambiguous arguments:
(1) Science is not a superstructure. It is OUTSIDE of
that complex..Alt. EXCLUDES science from social formation. HQ, p.111.n.68
(2) Diamat is 'the theory of science & of the rise of
science.' (3) Ideology..is distinguished from science (4) Ideology is governed by interest
KNOWLEDGE FOR ITS OWN SAKE..

pp.82-3 The Final Idealism
UNAMBIGUOUS SILENCE

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