

Remember Lukacs vs

precisely on  
Nature

4/3/87

from  
(3/16/87) Why Phenomenology? Why Now? What is the Relationship  
either to Organization, or to Philosophy, not Party? (1984-7)

*Frank Jean*  
In 1986, I suddenly decided that what is concretely  
needed is both a more comprehensive ~~more~~ dialectic of  
Phen. than the 1960 Notes, and yet very much "narrower"  
that is more concrete and limited to the present concentration  
on that subject as a <sup>continuing</sup> form of (how to begin anew.)

On the road to discovery of a whole new continent  
of thought and revolution, in 1843-44, Marx, without ~~any~~  
~~any concrete reach for any such~~ <sup>concrete</sup>  
Promethean vision, was ~~posing~~ <sup>posing</sup> in his Doctoral Thesis  
the question of where to begin. As a Hegelian, he ~~found~~  
found himself in disagreement with his master, not just on  
the analysis of the different views of Epicurus and Democritus  
on the philosophy of nature. Rather, he saw the <sup>grandiose</sup> system  
of Hegel failing to achieve a unity of reason and reality  
in the present (1840) period of crisis. Instead, there  
seemed to be a total diremption of 2 separate totalities,  
reason and reality confronted each other with hostility.  
"This duality of philosophical self-consciousness appears  
finally as a double trend, each side utterly opposed to the  
other." (p. 86 of "The Difference between the Democritean  
and Epicurean Philosophy of Nature," as published in Marx-  
Engels Collected Works, vol. 1 (Intern. Publ 1975))

10883

4/3/87

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Marx's answer was to turn to the dialectical method stressing that "the practice of philosophy is itself theo-<sup>1</sup>retical. It is the critique that measures the individual existence by the essence, the particular reality by the Idea." (p. 85) And that ~~meant~~ meant that the answer could only be found through a new beginning, <sup>in</sup> a totally new element. Marx found it in revolution, the very specific revolution which had both inspired and mystified Hegel -- the great French Revolution, ~~which had both inspired and mystified Hegel~~ but he extended his hearing of the self-determination of the Idea to the sans-coulottes.

Begin

The most difficult of all tasks that has confronted every generation of Marxists, to work out Marxism for its age, has never been more <sup>difficult</sup> ~~onerous~~ than the one that confronts the decade of the 80s. We often like to quote that creatively great statement of Hegel about the birth-time of History. What we fail to see is that same para. that talks of birth-time of history and period of transition is the period of darkness before the dawn, and that's what we all have to suffer through. Here is how Hegel articulated it in his Preface ~~which was written after the war & was complete~~

<sup>Soon after</sup> ~~the~~ the Doctoral Dissertation Marx moved ~~to~~ to break with capitalism as well as the Young Hegelians, and on to the Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic in 1844.

4/3/67

From Hegel's Preface to Phenomenology

"The spirit of the time, growing slowly and quietly ripe for the new form it is to assume, disintegrates one fragment after another of the structure of its previous world. That it is tottering to fall is indicated only by symptoms here and there. Frivolity and again ennui, which are spreading in the established order of things, the undefined foreboding of something unknown-- all these betoken that there is something else approaching. This gradual crumbling to pieces, which did not alter the general look and aspect of the whole, is interrupted by the sunrise, which, in a flash and at a single stroke, brings to view the form and structure of the new world."

Baillie, <sup>XV</sup>p. 75

The very way Marx abbreviates the contents page of Hegel's Phen. shows a reorganization which, far from "subverting" Hegel, actually brings ~~the work~~ greater order into the work than that magnificent, seemingly chaotic ~~elemental~~ bursting forth of ~~the work~~ all the profundities on Spirit -- ~~in such spontaneity~~ in such spontaneity that Hegel didn't even have subheadings for it, whereas Marx raises Ab. Knowledge which was just a ~~ch~~ <sup>intel</sup> into a Part unto itself.

Secondly, Marx wasn't only critiquing Hegel, but the materialist Feuerbach, whom he had "followed" but who he now says was deficient, having not understood the greatest creative contribution of Hegel of all, and that was "the negation of the negation" as the most creative, not mysterious, but actual movement of history which he tried to shroud

10885



with abstractions by "dehumanizing", that is to say, turning man into an <sup>of</sup> the abstraction, "self-consciousness."

(p. 309, M&F): "The greatness of Hegel's Phenomenology, and its final result;--the dialectic of negativity as the moving and creating principle--lies in this: that Hegel comprehends the self-production of man as a process . . . grasps the essence of labor and conceives of objective man, true actual man, as the result of his own labor. "

But since it was in alienated form, it had to, just when it reached its highest point, Absolute Knowledge, ~~itself~~ undergo the Golgotha of the Spirit and perish.

"The Phenomenology is, therefore, the hidden, still unclear even to itself, and mystifying critical philosophy. However, to the extent that it holds fast the alienation of Man -- even if Man appears only in the form of Spirit -- to that extent all

elements of criticism lie ~~there~~ hidden in it and are often already prepared and worked out in a manner extending far beyond the Hegelian standpoint. The sections on "Unhappy Consciousness," the "Honorable Consciousness," the fight of the noble and downtrodden consciousness, etc., etc., contain the critical elements-- although still in an alienated form -- of whole spheres like Religion, the State, Civil Society, Life, etc."

Historic Transcendence.

What is exciting about transcendence is that he credits Hegel with seeing it as ~~Marx~~ that made him grasp objectivity and because he does that though Hegel lives in an alienated world, (and as a philosopher is the most ~~Marx~~ alienated of all individuals), <sup>uses the philosophy</sup> as the yardstick, <sup>nevertheless</sup> he does not take the last step -- boredom -- but "arrives at an essence which is its very opposite, i.e., Nature".

Stop. Do you realize how great that is? What a leap? ~~It~~ It was not only for Marx clearing his road, his totally new continent of thought and of revolution, but ours? Well, just consider how far in advance it is even of Lenin. Nature is not Practice. And Nature is not Sartrean exteriority. Nature, says Marx, is true essence because you can't separate Nature from Human Nature. And that is why he uses, not as a naturalist, ~~Marx~~ 'thoroughgoing <sup>alone</sup> Naturalism or Humanism' which ~~Marx~~ would "first grasp the act of world history" and therefore have undergone the transcendence both of religion and thinghood, i.e., mediated by ~~Marx~~ atheism and ~~Marx~~ communism as the abolition of private property, and only then would there start "positive Humanism, beginning from itself".



4/3/87

The fact that we cannot give an answer, a blueprint, does not absolve us from the task. It only makes it more difficult. What we are trying to do with this book-to-be is to make this task historically and philosophically so deeply-rooted that both we and all whom we can reach on the outside will be glad to journey these uncharted roads. What I want to do at the present is to probe what we all know, and see whether there are new facets we didn't fully see as they happened <sup>of</sup> these past four months. . .

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I have now located the exact letter, or rather the 1st random thoughts, on the dialectic of organization -- 9/24/86, which must have been when I must have decided to call it not "Dialectic of Organization" but adding to it: "Dialectic of Philosophy," since the very 1st para. states:

(K) "The one thing that is new and surprised me for being new this 1st week of working on the book is that somehow the difference is not on the difference between Party and forms of organization born out of spontaneity, both of which are organization. Rather, it is the dialectics of philosophy and dialectics of organization."

This is followed in Nov. 18, 1986 with some ideas for a new Introduction and these 4 pages call attention to the objective situation in 2 ways: 1) 1964-66 as the beginning of Sino-Soviet orbit becoming Sino-Soviet conflict, with its climax of the rev'n in China and the trip to Japan,

10838

which made me decide I would not get a collaborator for P&R;  
2) 1967-8 on the 100th anniversary of the publication of  
Capital. It may not have meant what they had to acknow-  
ledge on the 100th anniversary of Marx's death, but we treated  
it that way, both by all the new we published, so that even  
the Stalinists had to ask us where did we get "it." ("It"  
was the original ending of Vol. I, the famous chapter 6, that  
we translated from the Archives and published in N&L.) We  
our thesis jointly published ~~with~~ with the Japanese state-capitalist theorist,  
Tsushima, except that we subheaded ours "Philosophy and Revolu-  
tion." Finally, that's where I used the expression from the  
artificer "the darkness of thought mated to the clearness of  
expression" directed against Ronald Reagan.

"The artificer, therefore, combines both by blending the forms of  
nature and self-consciousness; and these ambiguous beings, a riddle to  
themselves-- the conscious struggling with what has no consciousness, the  
simple inner with the multiform outer, the darkness of thought mated with  
the clearness of expression-- these break out into the language of a wisdom  
that is darkly deep and difficult to understand". Phenom. of Mind (p. 707).

The ~~1/21/87~~ 1/21/87 "Talking to Myself", which was  
sent to the locals for individual study, was once again on  
the 1953 Letters, calling attention to all the points we  
didn't see, especially those directed against Lenin, not only  
on the elitist party plus its reference to a 1952 letter  
that evidently was on the Idea of Cognition centering on the  
question, "What Kind of Organization Now?" very much directed  
to the period ~~1950 to 53~~ 1950 to 53.

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All that is now left is a few quotations I took out  
from others like, 1) Löwith, who, on ~~Marx~~ Marx shows that  
the dialogue with Hegel has continued much more profoundly  
when he left the 1st sphere of direct critique of Hegel and  
did his own Capital, because Marx "begins with an antithesis

10889

to Hegel's consummation. The question which now moves Marx in his dissertation concerns the possibilities of a new beginning after the conclusion." He then works out nodal points appearing as historical necessity because Marx sees that philosophy itself is at stake, so a completely new philosophy is needed, whether it is an evening twilight before dawn or the twilight of dawn before a new day.

2) George Armstrong Kelly, p. 299, where he speaks about Hegel by 1801 "saw clearly that the inherent movement of reason would have to be seen in the form of metaphysical logic in order for philosophy to come to grips with all actuality; this is the <sup>way</sup> ~~his~~ his system began at Jena and this is the way it ended with para. 577. of the 3rd edition of the Encyclopedia, where logic of pure Ideas mediates and cements the dialectically opposed fields of Nature and Spirit; the Hegelian last word."

"A Mind of One's Own" may <sup>attitude</sup> not be a bondage =

1) Totalities  
Reality  
Consciousness

2) Stubbornness  
a cleverness that

same confuse unless  
Obj. Reality as totality of fact

3) Stoicism's world  
spirit (but) in the name of fear  
& bondage

4) Ditts for Skepticism = Giddy Mind  
a self-perpetuating disorder of the soul

"crucible of history"



-9- 11

I have something dated Sept. 1986, called Letter # 2, but also a circled 3 to indicate the 3rd of Random Thoughts, that was evidently something of "Talking to Myself" on the 2 versions of Notes on Phenomenology: 12/12/60 Notes and 11/16/68 on Literature, tragedy. P. 3 of these notes is where I speak of how Hegel combines immanent rhythm and strenuous toil as a way to reject the philosophers because none had for 25 years done anything to express the new, objective situation created by the Fr. Rev'n and to whom Hegel refers as "those 'representatives' who <sup>are</sup> like the dead burying the dead" (p. 130) And then I refer to pp. 789, where I jump to 1969, to one of the latest Canadian academic discussions in 1982 on the meaning of Absolute Spirit ("Le Sens de l'esprit absolu") on the 150th anniversary (of ?)

I received a letter from Louis Dupré in answer to my letter where he reminds me that academia does not accept my equating all Absolutes -- Knowledge, Idea and Spirit. And I also refer to H.S. Harris as having written the most exciting contribution. Dupré's was called "Hegel's Absolute Spirit: A Religious Justification of Secular Culture." The magazine in which these appeared is Revue de l'Université d'Ottawa.

~~10~~ - 12

4/3/67

The whole point of the timeliness of this discussion is not that it is a commemoration of 150 years. Quite the contrary. It is precisely because, rather than a commemoration, it actually answers today's problems and in doing so actually ~~elicit~~ <sup>ORGANIZATIONAL</sup> elicits questions that you wouldn't think is anywhere near the interest of Hegel either in his time or in ours, is what makes it so contemporary. And this contemporaneity emerges not in order for someone to say, well he was young and this was origin which Hegel long since abandoned, in fact totally demolished as he glorified the state, is now quoted not to show the youthfulness and contrast it to the abandonment, but to the objectivity which first brought it about, that is to say, the French Revolution which had him say ~~these~~ ~~more~~ utopian things like "we must also go beyond the state! For every state has to ~~be~~ treat man as mechanical clockwork, and this it shall not do. So it, shall ~~cease~~ <sup>cease</sup>. This abolition of the state (quoted on p. 448) which certainly did not get repeated again, nevertheless remained in Hegel's concept of freedom and not merely in the poetry of Holderlin, of the myth of Hyperion. It is ~~what~~ <sup>the way</sup> H.S. Harris defines ~~it~~ dialectically, ~~that is to say~~ in the mature period: "that is to say, they are not directly consistent with one another".

Dupre's commentary and questions here, becomes even more important as he expresses it as a Universal Brother-Hood :

" But from the time that (Hegel) decides that there is a radical breach between spirit and nature, his philosophy assumes this tripartied character: logic, the basic conceptual structure--nature, meaning sub-human nature, spirit in otherness.--and spirit, which is the realm of the realization of human nature, in the old terminology. The introduction of this radical breach between spirit and nature is at the same time the abolition of what used to be an absolute ~~div~~ divide between Absolute Spirit--and finite spirit ~~which~~ which was part of Nature. Because now all of spirit is ~~se~~ separate from nature and it becomes continuous."

10892

I'm not very sure this follows p. 12, since I interrupted myself before I finished the Notes on Phenomenology and intended, and still intend, to make the climax be that last page of Phenomenology, where Hegel uses organization twice, once on organization phenomenologically, or what he calls "free existence" and once on intellectual comprehension of that historic phenomenon, intellectually comprehended.

But since I just developed the idea in my head that it isn't true that the separation of Organization from philosophic principles, i.e. the whole theory of Organization, began with Lenin's theory of the vanguard party, I want to develop that historic background here.

First and foremost, that isn't a fact, and it isn't 1902 that all this occurred. The truth is that organization totally separated from philosophy, or any theory of politics, unless you consider "vote for me" as a theory of politics, began in Germany, began with Lassalle, was not just a sect but a mass movement he got so much credit for, while Marx was shunted aside as just an intellectual, was actually the idea, the practice, the persistence, the popularization, the never-ending path for all so-called socialists, whether reformists or revolutionaries. And it wasn't because he, Lassalle, wasn't an intellectual; he most certainly was, and a very typical statist-Hegelian whom Marx called a "workers' dictator". So you have both organization and dictatorship and authoritarianism and wheeler-dealing and that equalled "organization".

So when this organization, the General Association of German Workers, decided to merge with what was supposed to

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THE INTERLUDE THAT NEVER ENDED ORGANIZATIONALLY



4/4/87

be a Marxist group, the Eisenachists, to form a German Workers Party. By the time they got to meet in 1875 Marx had finished the French edition of Capital, ~~which~~ which further developed, at one and the same time, the fetishism of commodities and greatly extended the ~~XXXXXX~~ general law of capitalist accumulation, with its law of concentration and centralization of capital that would reach their ultimate in the hands of one single capitalist or capitalist economy. In a word, Marx was now ready to so eliminate any distinction, not only between economics and dialectics, but between organization and principles, that is to say, theories of revolution, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>(not only)</sup> ~~XXXXXXXX~~ dialectics of philosophy, that he wrote a Critique <sup>(make public that he was going to)</sup> of the Gotha Programme but was going to cut off all relationship to this newly-formed organization. He didn't make it public but he most certainly cut off relations and contrasted the difference between a national party and the International which he headed and which resulted in starting a new form of organization, the Paris Commune. To make sure that that would not die along with any physical death, that is, historic disappearance because of defeat by the counter-revolution, he asked the Marxists to go deeper and lower into the proletariat, as well as to the oppressed in general, whether they be peasants or minorities like Jews, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ while he went searching for pre-capitalist social forces and passions that we now call the Third World. The result was his very last work, the EN

10894

4/4/87

included  
that stretched from Iroquois women and Indians in America  
to the intelligent Black aborigine in Australia, as well  
as including the Asians in general, especially the Chinese and East  
Indians. Which actually brought us back to the 1841 Thesis  
and the Greeks as well as Hegel on how to begin anew when  
two totally different totalities -- reality and ideas --  
collide.

Now it's only after still another division in the  
GSD with the new Erfurt Program, that finally after much  
prodding from Engels, that Critique of the Gotha Program  
was made public as a mere "contribution to the discussion"  
of what constitutes an organization, its principles. And  
it's that Kautskyian concept of the intellectual bringing  
socialism to the masses through a party that would lead  
them, which is what Lenin "copied", ~~and~~ concretizing it  
further for Tsarist conditions <sup>to</sup> became "What is to be Done?"  
Luxemburg in her critique was neither at the Congress which  
voted to accept that, having refused to even attend a  
Congress that stood for self-determination of nations,  
nor did she criticize the specific principle of the fact  
that the workers could not get to socialism unless ~~they~~ had  
political  
a/party to lead them.

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What is true in all the debates on Organization,  
spontaneity, philosophy/politics, class struggle, class  
struggle, class struggle, is that all those who scream so  
much about class struggle are the very ones who think the

4/4/87

workers are backward, and are the ones who lost all these revolutions because ~~the workers~~ ~~are~~ not "mature" enough, so they wish to subject them to further stay under capitalism to learn about "democracy." The one who is supposed to have written the most important book ever on Political Parties is Robert Michels that Cyrus summarized for me. It was published back in 1912 in Germany, in 1915 in English, and why it is still held up I'll never know. I remember being furious when I first read it way back when and I judged it to be totally unaware of what is really at stake when I found he had exactly one reference to Luxemburg. Cyrus notes that the first 300 pages exposes the very deep opportunism of the Second International in the first decade of this century, claiming this is "conclusive proof of the existence of immanent oligarchical tendencies in every kind of human organization." The only thing I would say "in favor of it" is that, at least he says that democracy leads to oligarchy, so that really the principle is that the very nature of organization is conservative, and that social revolution accomplishes nothing. So that Marx, too, is a "dictator". The most ridiculous of all is that, right after he refers to Marx's Critique of the Gotha Programme, he claims Marx remained a Lassallean, and a theoretician aloof from practical matters.

Obviously, this loose review on Nov. 7, 1985, was criticised by me and so on Nov. 29 I got another with page numbers to the references and the edition he uses

10896



4/4/87

here is a 1962 edition of 371 pages, with a 25 page Introduction by Seymour Lipset, which shows that it did indeed remain the Bible for those kind of intellectuals in the 40s and 50s, and ~~XXX~~ that the reference to Bukharin's reference on Michel, pp 309-11 of his Historical Materialism. The references to Marx and to Luxemburg are on pp. 76 on parliamentarism, p. 89, regarding a letter of Marx to Schweitzer, Oct. 13, 1868, pp. 93-96 on "cult of veneration", pp. 194-95 discusses the First International alongside of Lassalle's party. And there are a lot more references I'm not interested in.

He first (Oct. 23, 1986) wrote on the Marx-Lassalle correspondence, 1864-72, that is, it's in a book on the German Social Democrats and the First International by Roger Morgan. The only interesting thing about that I can see is that he openly states that this is not a book about ideas but about how German labor leaders perceived them in the day to day problems of organization and tactics. The only thing that is interesting is the Marx-Lassalle correspondence 1857-59, which is surely full of dialectics, where Marx says that Lassalle has no "critical reflection on dialectics as such, and the very famous p. 261: "He will discover to his cost that it is one thing for a critique to take a science to a point at which it admits of a dialectical presentation, and quite another to apply an abstract, ready-made system of logic to vague presentiments of just such a system."

After which follows a lot of praise of Hegel as "the first to comprehend the entire history of philosophy". As for Lassalle's contemplations, Marx calls them (to Engels) "philistine ruminations" (Look up Marx's letter of May 31, 1858) and also how, in the one of Nov. 10, 1858, he is talking about responsibility for "the party": "I owe it to the party that it (CPE) shouldn't be disfigured by a heavy, wooden style." In April 19, 1859, Marx has extended his literary criticism of Lassalle to his inability to see the peasantry as a revolutionary.

10898

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The parallelism between the early 50s, when the statue of Stalin was knocked to the ground by the very 1st revolution from under against Communist totalitarianism, <sup>Hungarian Rev'n</sup> ~~from~~ in the face of their machine guns rushing to restore "law and order" and the 1980s, when the question posed to the West rushing to its deadline was such a momentous, type of existence and even the historic moment as to put a question mark over the/very survival of ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ humanity. And yet the burning question led not to Golgotha (unless one also believed in Resurrection), and not to the perishing of thought, but <sup>and thought, philosophy and</sup> how to begin anew when 2 totalities -- reality/~~the~~ revolution -- are in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ such drastic collision as to search not for ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>a non-existent</sup> haven, but a totally new beginning. This new beginning is not really just a new beginning. ~~XXXXXX~~ When 2 such wholes collide ~~the~~ <sup>emerges</sup> a totally new philosophy/<sup>emerges</sup> that would ~~XXXXXX~~ unite, the "contingency", ~~the~~ the past, ~~the~~ history, with notional comprehension. For that you need new forces of revolution, new passions, a new vision of totally new human relations, be they Man/<sup>the end of</sup> Woman, ~~master~~/slaves, <sup>the end of</sup> alienated labor and the end of the fetishism of commodities. ~~a~~ The long trek of history, striving to achieve this in different historic periods, fought under the name of freedom but always crippled by the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ narrowing of specific freedoms have not, however, sunk into oblivion but reappear in this recollection of forms now inwardized as the ground for the new.

10899



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The question that remains unanswered is why should suddenly the word Organization appear as the key, whether we talk about it as spontaneous/existence <sup>free</sup> <sup>or</sup> all fully worked out as an intellectual expression which yet becomes a new beginning that is first to be worked out during ~~the~~ actuality as history is first being "made"? That is the arduous task that seems to have no answer and yet is put forward as something that must be answered by the coming generation who has absorbed all that objectivity of the past and the present.

10900