

October 1, 1978

Prof. Mikhail Vitkin
University of Manitoba
Manitoba, Canada

Dear Professor Vitkin:

Your article "Karl Marx and the 'Asiatic Mode of production'" in the April, 1978 issue of Asian Thought and Society, interested me greatly, but I must admit that I did not read it when it appeared; my attention was drawn to it by your note of correction in the September issue.

While I knew about most of your references, your profound analysis shed a new light on the whole question of the Asiatic mode of production.

However, I must admit that the reason I became most interested in the Grundrisse, as well as the correspondence with Zasulich, was not only the question of Chinese society, but rather, the total concept of revolution in Marx, which got reduced, either to a mechanical materialism or a Eurocentrism or just transformed into its total opposite. I wondered whether there was more material in the Russian Archives, which would further relate that totality of revolution (with which, after all, Marx began in the 1844 Manuscripts with the fundamental man/woman relationship) to what we now call the Women's Liberation Movement. To make it more comprehensive, I enclose a recent work of mine, Philosophy and Revolution -- from Hegel to Sartre and from Marx to Mao. I

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. You may write to me in Russian, even though my Russian is sufficiently stilted that I did not dare to write to you in Russian.

Sincerely,

As you can see from the postmark, I happen to be in Canada, but I will be back home within a week.

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