

## **Platypus Marxist reading group Chicago catch-up reading list (10/5/06)**

Platypus home page URL: (with links to reading group schedule, public statements, and discussion site)

<http://www.platypus1917.com> -or- <http://home.comcast.net/~platypus1917>

E-mail: [platypus1917@comcast.net](mailto:platypus1917@comcast.net)

The following comprises a list of essential readings to date: (\*\* and \* indicate highest and higher priorities)

Links to most of the following can be found at: (others can be found at: <http://www.marxists.org>)

[http://home.comcast.net/~platypus1917/platypus\\_chicagoreadings2006.htm](http://home.comcast.net/~platypus1917/platypus_chicagoreadings2006.htm)

[http://home.comcast.net/~platypus1919/platypus\\_readingsarchive.html](http://home.comcast.net/~platypus1919/platypus_readingsarchive.html)

### **The Present: Crisis on the Left**

- \*\* • Moishe Postone, "History and Helplessness: Mass Mobilization and Contemporary Forms of Anticapitalism" (in *Public Culture*, 2006) \*\*
- \* • Spartacist League, "The Senile Dementia of Post-Marxism [on Hardt and Negri's *Empire* and *Multitude*, and John Holloway's *Change the World Without Taking Power*]" (in *Spartacist*, 2006) \*

### **Iraq invasion and occupation and the "Left"**

- \*\* • Spartacist League, "The Left and the Occupation" (in *Workers Vanguard*, 2005) \*\*
- \* • Fred Halliday, "Who is Responsible?" (interview with Danny Postel, 2005, in *Salmagundi*, 2006) \*
  - Iraqi Communist Party, "Letter to Fraternal and Friendly Parties About the Situation in Iraq and the Position of the Iraqi Communist Party" (2006) \*
- \*\* • Chris Cutrone and Spartacist League, "Exchange on Iraq Occupation" (in *Workers Vanguard*, 2006) \*\*

### **Hurricane Katrina and aftermath**

- \*\* • Adolph Reed, "The Real Divide" (in *The Progressive*, 2005) \*\*

### **Marxist Theory**

- \* • Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* (selections) \*
- \* • Marx and Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848) \*
  - Marx, *Critique of the Gotha Programme* (1875), and Karl Korsch, "Introduction to Marx's *Critique of the Gotha Programme*" (1922) (in Korsch, *Marxism and Philosophy*, 1970)
  - Paul Lafargue, *The Right to be Lazy* (1883)
- \* • Georg Lukács, "Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat" (especially Part 1. "The Phenomenon of Reification," in *History and Class Consciousness*, 1923) \*
  - Karl Korsch, "Marxism and Philosophy" (1923), in *Marxism and Philosophy* (trans. and introduction by Fred Halliday, 1970)
- \*\* • Richard Fraser, "Two Lectures [on the "black question" and revolutionary integrationism in America]" (1953) \*\*
- \*\* • Cliff Slaughter, "What is Revolutionary Leadership?" (1964) \*\*
- \*\* • Martin Nicolaus, "The Unknown Marx" (1968) (in Oglesby, ed., *New Left Reader*, 1969) \*\*

**Marxist Theory** (continued)

- \*\* • Juliet Mitchell, "Women: the Longest Revolution" (in *New Left Review*, 1966, and debate with Quintin Hoare, *New Left Review*, 1967; revised version in *Women's Estate*, 1971) \*\*
- \* • Leszek Kolakowski, "The Concept of the Left" (1968) (in Oglesby, ed., *New Left Reader*, 1969) \*
- Theodor W. Adorno, "Late Capitalism or Industrial Society?" (AKA "Is Marx Obsolete?," in *Diogenes*, 1968) (in Adorno, *Can One Live After Auschwitz?*, 2003)
- \* • Moishe Postone, "Necessity, Labor and Time" (in *Social Research*, 1978) \*
- \*\* • Postone, "Rethinking Marx (in a Post-Marxist World)" (1995) \*\*
- \* • Slavoj Žižek, "A Plea for Leninist Intolerance" (2002) (AKA "Repeating Lenin," 1997, in *On Belief*, 2001) \*
- Robert Pippin, "On Critical Theory: A Short History of Non-Being" (in *Critical Inquiry*, 2003)

**History: The Old Left**

- \* • Rosa Luxemburg, *The Junius Pamphlet*, or, *The Crisis of German Social Democracy* (especially Part 1, 1915) \*
- \* • Luxemburg, "The Russian Tragedy" (1918) \*
- \* • Luxemburg, "What is Bolshevism?" (1919) \*
- Luxemburg, "Order Reigns in Berlin" (1919)
- \* • Clara Zetkin and V. I. Lenin, "My Recollections of Lenin: an interview on the woman question" (interview 1920) \*
- \* • Lukács, "Lenin — theoretician of practice," \* and *Lenin: a study in the unity of his thought* (1924)
- Leon Trotsky, "Proletarian Culture and Proletarian Art," "Communist Policy Towards Art," and "Revolutionary and Socialist Art," Ch. 6, 7, and 8 of *Literature and Revolution* (1924)
- Max Horkheimer, selections from *Dawn/Dämmerung* (1926-31): "The Little Man and the Philosophy of Freedom" (pp. 50-52), "A Discussion about Revolution" (39-41), "Indications" (72-73), "Socialism and Resentment" (73-75), "Progress" (93-94), "Idealism of the Revolutionary" (94-95), "Change of Thought" (34-35), and "Skepsis and Morality" (35-37) (in *Dawn and Decline: Notes 1926-31 and 1950-69*, 1978)
- \* • Wilhelm Reich, "Ideology as Material Power" (1933/46) (in *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*) \*
- \* • Trotsky, "If America Should Go Communist" (1934/35) \*
- \* • Horkheimer and Adorno, "Elements of Anti-Semitism" (1944-47) (in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*) \*
- \* • Adorno, "Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda" (1951?) (in *The Culture Industry*) \*
- \* • Revolutionary Tendency of the Socialist Workers Party (U.S.) / Spartacist League, "In Defense of a Revolutionary Perspective" (1962) \*
- Adorno, "Those Twenties" (1962) (in *Critical Models*, 1998)
- Spartacist League, "Genesis of Pabloism" (1972)
- Spartacist League, *Lenin and the Vanguard Party* (pamphlet, 1978)
- \*\* • Richard Appignanesi and Oscar Zarate / A&Z, *Introducing Lenin and the Russian Revolution / Lenin for Beginners* (1977) \*\*
- \*\* • Tariq Ali and Phil Evans, *Introducing Trotsky and Marxism / Trotsky for Beginners* (1980) \*\*
- \* • Margaretha von Trotta, dir., *Rosa Luxemburg* (film, 1986, 122 min.) \*

**The New Left**

- \* • C. Wright Mills, "Letter to the New Left" (in *New Left Review*, 1960, and excerpted in "The Politics of Responsibility," in Oglesby, ed., *New Left Reader*, 1969) \*
- \* • Carl Oglesby, "Introduction: The Idea of the New Left" (1969, in Oglesby, ed., *New Left Reader*, 1969) \*