

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

Alt's "Heading"

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

EXCERPTS: the condition for the fruitful application & further (NB-nd) of these can be for what they EXCLUDE(!) as much for they include.

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

I. EXPOSITION: Alt, central & overriding concern, FM, p.21: "the investigation of Mr's. phil. thought"

FM, p.31, "WHAT is Marx phil? Has it any thought? Existence? & if it does exist in principle how can its specificity be defined?"

Alt's claim there are 2 not one distinct disciplines, his. dial.mkt., 1st = "science of social formations" & their history, i.e., a th. of EPISTEMOLOGICAL hist. (FM, p.75)
ALT'S CLAIM THAT DIAMAT EXISTS ON SCIENTIFIC WKS IN AN UN(?) THEORIZING PRACTICAL STATE (FM, pp.173-5& RC, p.185)

p.58: "For Alt, Marxist phil. is a 'th. of the differential nature of th. formations & their hist., i.e., a th. of EPISTEMOLOGICAL hist.' (FM, p.75) or what comes to the same thing, 'the th. of the hist. of the PROD. OR KNOWLEDGE' (RC, 56, 44, 75, 89, 157).

It is, in short, 'the th. of SCIENCE of the history of science.' (RC, pp.145, 56, 153)

RC, p.77 "th. th. future of hist. depends today on deepening dial.mkt." 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) EG 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 EG, p.77: "showing that ALL the levels of social existence are the sites of DISTINCT PRACTICES" (eco., pol., ideological, scientific & phil.)

RC, p.58: "THE STRUCTURE OF PROD."

p.61: "Thus in Alt, we find ref. not only to the economy of prod., relations of prod., etc. pp.170 ... but also for ex: to 'the mode of the prod.', 'the mode of prod., of knowledge' (RC pp.27, n.9, 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 analyzed the mod. of prod. strictly (???) speaking."

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

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

RC, p.42: "IT IS PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE to say that prod. of knowledge which is peculiar to the pr. constitutes a process that takes place entirely in thought" (NB NB NB-nd) 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)

& L's What Is To Be Done!

LIKE HELL

ED; it's not WHERE but WHO IS SUBj.

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epistemology

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.2: "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 the practice, NEVER concreted
II: transformation of means of th.pr. into a product
III: the product of th.practice are the SCIENTIFIC (1) concepts embodying knowledge.
(2, pp.183-183; HQ, pp.41, 87-8.109-110 CONCRETE IN THOUGHT.

"What impels Alt. to SUEDDER the identity bet.real obj. & obj. of knowledge is, once again, his concern to emphasize that un.pr. has its own raw materials & its own product, both of them distinct from the theory it

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

Scientific knowledge is not immediately & directly (miraculously) given in consciousness of indiv. or class
leads straight into realm of mystery"

4 of Alt's mere 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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