

Dec 14, 1972

Dear Ray - Thank you for the Xmas greetings. I don't know what you want. Right after you informed me about your success with Hegel I had written you a note congratulating you. Yes, this is an achievement to be proud of. What else? I still do not believe in Hegel now. I think it can only lead to more confusion. Sure, I am also for studying Hegel now as I was in the 20's when Lenin's Notes appeared. But not much more than for studying Spinoza, Hegel etc. I am afraid it is again a slipping away from Marx. It is the same, exactly the same as when the good intellectuals started to go back to the "Young Marx". I enjoy, and will agree with, every word of the "Young Marx", (but) I do not see "Young Marx" (= Hegel) meant what he did about the "waging mass" since I have a much better (concrete) one from the year (1852) on. Engels hit it right when after summing up his great theoretical, philosophical as scientific achievements said: "Marx was our allum Revolutionary." You are the one who, rightfully, speaks so much about theory and practice - where was Hegel's practice? He turned away; maybe you don't know that Hegel was (first) a journalist (= practice) and took refuge in the university. (No) While Marx (= just turning Hegel on its feet) started to become a professor but decided to accept the editorship of the "Praeceptor" feebly! You can jump to the top best I do just believe, without even having to see your book, that you know your Hegel. ^{Lassalle was a Renegade, it was the logic of Hegel to go to Prussia} Lassalle was a Renegade, it was the logic of Hegel to go to Prussia better than Lassalle did. Lassalle went to Prussia! And walking through the streets in East-Germany I saw plenty of Lassallian socialism, and nowhere is Hegel taught or used.

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that the believers in Hegel [Everywhere you see people through the walls] the good Hegelian word "people" (=Volk) but not once "proletariat." I agree, Hegel introduced the idea of freedom into philosophy by saying: "The people will learn to feel the dignity of man." Here truly is the genius of Hegel; but "Hegel Now" when he lived 30 or 40 years ^{after} ~~still~~ longer ~~and younger~~ against them is something ^(a) ~~Marx and Engels?~~ (this horror against them is something ^(a) ~~the same as yours against Mao~~). What other effect can you ~~the same as yours against Mao~~ have than winning ~~the~~ friends for something and backwards? What the real Marx?

"You know from his letters to Weydemeyer ^{from 1842} — the decisive year, by the way! Lenin was right that one should already Hegel to be better able to understand Marx, but you ^{one} ~~do not even~~ ^{can} Hegel to understand Marx. Lenin spoke to revolutionaries who fell for Kautsky etc., like he himself before he had studied Hegel; you however, spread - through Dell Company - to people who at best are on the way to become revolutionaries. One can be a revolutionary without Hegel! Blanqui and Karl Liebknecht were the ^{two} ~~two~~ "Heart and Brain" of the French and German proletariat, but complete "Aust" - Marxists. Liebknecht who was the greatest revolutionary, yes proletarian revolutionary of this century, the speaker of the proletarian youth, was also the author of "Der Weg ins Paradies der Existenzkunst"; a thick monistic, ~~materialistic~~ work, clearly anti - bourgeois.

Why Hegel Now? Why not Feuerbach Now? After all,

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Fennerbress was just as important as Haged. You
should read him, not only what Engels wrote about him.

Fennerbress, and not Haged, was the first in the whole history
of Philosophy who introduced consciously the idea of
"the whole of the "I." (For Haged even "the people" were
"I.") Let us see, how Engels agrees with Fennerbress.

If you fine Kautzky's lectures only, Haged (or at
best Marx with Haged), they will never understand the
Proletariat as Lenin's and Engels' discovery from the "Haged
Family," or, how important than the whole Marx's view
the development of the struggle of workers and Engels, and
if you arise the development from Haged, but from reading
Kautzky's lectures against Haged. — Can't you see that it is learned
more strengths were from Fennerbress than from the whole
Haged? Why going back to Haged for the whole Proletariat with
Marxology no matter what his God wants? Today,
in self criticism will never, and that over years, misleads
understanding the Proletariat from studying Haged. The task
is just the dialectic of class struggle and never class
(as I am writing you dialectic) our freedom at this moment
— all that, to recover long before Marx through Marx
was the secret consequent dialectic — but the Role of the
Philosophers. That, and that alone, the young people
have to be taught and that one can only get from Marx
and Engels as Lenin at present and ("don't jump at
me") from Trotsky as Mao [I for one can say nothing better].

(4)

Marx's recent consequent dialectic — but the Role of the
Philosophers. That, and that alone, the young people
have to be taught and that one can only get from Marx
and Engels as Lenin at present and ("don't jump at
me") from Trotsky as Mao [I for one can say nothing better].

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since I never, never agree with anything typically
Trotsky), at never from Hegel. ^{Any one of the proletarian revolutions}
~~because Marx~~ ^{is more worth than the whole Hegel}
Isn't it typical that the official intellectuals
in the West as well as in the East fall for "Alienation."
Here, a good word, very Hegelian and Marxist,
but there is a very very good reason why Marx
since 1852 didn't use this word any more ~~except~~
~~in connection with labor~~ in the proletarian process. Every
liberal you can impress with the slogan "Alienation,"
but he will still be a liberal. Indeed: the best way
to become and feel a liberal is the outcry against
"Alienation," because the best way to ~~reduce~~ ^(not abolish) "Alien-
ation" is to make the fellow "interested" - if the horse
would could only be interested in the beauty of its
manes, it would ~~then~~ pull manes better.

It is true that up till the later Lenin, Hegel was
treated as Moses Mendelssohn has treated Spinoza - as
"total Hund," but I also fall for it when the Comintern
introduced the great "Composse" for Hegel. Yes, I profited
from it, I studied at that time Hegel very intensively.

With August Thalheimer, I enjoyed it and with
the "Miles - New Begin" I thought Hegel to be the

Wisdom stone of J. Bret ^{when he ever began 1938/39}

I began to understand why Hegel is used by

the Russians just as the Prussians used

14169 Hegel in the time of the Kings (S. Hegel's beginning words
in "Fenrest").

(5)

I bear in mind that I have not read your book, and
you can say what you want, I do not agree with
"Hegel Now" for whatever reasons you might have.
For it forces me to suspect that you simply want
to impress. But "Hegel Now" can only lead to more

confusion. Do you know that the Hegel-Cult of the
Hungarian "Marxists" after 1945? (Tugorcsy etc.)¹⁸ of

I don't mean Lucas. He should be a warning! One can accept every word
of Hegel and still not be a revolutionary. Kautsky etc.
tried to do it with Marx - it didn't work, the Party -
every year. Conrad had to cut out references from Marx and Engels,

explains "as in the end" to say openly that Marx and Engels
after all they were human, were not they, made mistakes?

True, they were tidy with the flag of Marxism, ^{but Hitler},
in 1927 on the Party Congress etc., behaved better already like

a very sick horse at finally my friend Erler succeeded in
taking out the worst class struggle from the 1958 programme. It
does not work. The Russians still talk Marxism-Leninism (but

but Stalinism was taken out, ^{from} it will come back), but the
introduction of "value" etc. in "Socialist Economy," as you

had shown, clashed too much with Marx's fetish character
of commodities. Don't tell me that Hegel understood the
real meaning of Napoleon in the White Horse, I do not think

he did, but even if he did, the whole Hegel can not hang up

to the few pages of (T.) in the First chapter of "Kapital" again,
what does one need Hegel for? Why Today? It can be ^{so} great

excitement to read Hegel today. As it can be smart (it is
really done today, a new ^{fashion} ^{version}) to read Clausewitz - he

is brilliant, witty on a great Hegelian dialectic, but will
who can teach Clausewitz to ^{and history today} understand his voluminous
analyses of the war 1815-6 through and through fully?

Concrete Human science starts with Marx, with nobody

else! Up till Marx is over the great dream! It was

141⁷⁰ before Marx an abstraction, also for Hegel though!

(C)

undeniably went after the experience of the French Revolution, further than all Humanists (=Philosophy) before him. I can take Hegel and prove Humanism

as Freedom as much as you take Hegel and as much as Hegel took Benjamin Franklin (Hegel calls Franklin his idol of the century because of his "Sinn der Freiheit"). Why Hegel? Why not an anthology of everybody, begining with Socrates, an anthology of Freedom as Humanism. But why vanish Idealism? I will not give up what I learned in the Marxian "Chapel" that Hegel was an Idealist. More than that: just the same as with Spinoza stated Philosophy (as Hegel rightfully said) and thereby starts the end of Theology - just the same starts with Marx the end of Philosophy. Why going back?

You know that Marx had planned to write a "Dialectic" similar to "Capital". To say that it would have not been a "philosophy" or a "system", it would have been a gigantic Critique, exactly as his Critique of Political Economy. Yes a critique! (If this word means anything, I even translate the title "(The) Dialectic - Critique of social philosophy" as his "Dialectic, Not System and Ricardo would have been (Spinoza, Kant and Hegel (as of course all the Vulgarists). Would you for example say: "Ricardo Now"? Read the Vulgar economist, as you will see that Ricardo was not more but not less revolutionary than Hegel. As consequent Hegel leads to revolution just as ^{he did} same old Ricardo consequent Ricardo leads to revolution. But NOW?

All this because you never always to insist on my opinion. You might, if you wish, use this letter public and answer publicly. All the best!

P. D.

Letter from Peter Bergman

December 14, 1972

Dear Ray - Thank you for the Xmas greetings. I don't know what you want. Right after you informed me about your success with Dell I had written you a note congratulating you. Yes, this is an achievement to be proud of. What else? I still do not believe in Hegel Now. I think it can only lead to more confusion. Sure, I am also for studying Hegel now as I was in the 20's when Lenin's Notes appeared. But not much more than for studying Spinoza, Herder, etc. I am afraid it is again a smuggling away from Marx. It is the same, exactly the same as when the great intellectuals started to go back to the "Young Marx". I enjoy, and will agree with, every word of the "Young Marx", but I do not need the "Young Marx" (he really meant what he said about the "nagging mice") since I have a much better (congratula) one from the year 1852 on. Engels hit it right when he at the funeral after summarising the great theoretical, philosophical and scientific achievements said: "For Marx was before all else a revolutionist." You are the one who, rightfully, speaks so much about theory as practice--where was Hegel's practice? He-Hegel-was away; maybe you don't know that Hegel was first a journalist ("practice") and then took refuge in the university while Marx ("turning Hegel on its feet") started to become a professor but decided to accept the editorship of the "Rheinische Zeitung". You can jump to the top but I do not believe, without even having to see your book, that you know your Hegel better than Lassalle did. Lassalle went to Bismarck. Lassalle was not a renegade, it was the Logik of Hegel to go to Bismarck. Walking through the streets in East Germany I saw plenty of Lassallian socialism, and nowhere is Hegel taught as much as at the university in Leipzig. Everywhere at the walls you see the good Hegelian word "people" (=Volk) but not once "proletariat". I agree, Hegel introduced the idea of freedom into philosophy by saying: "The people will learn to feel the dignity of man." Here truly is the genius of Hegel; but "Hegel Now" when he lived 30 and 40 years after Marx and Babeuf and still did not go as far as they? His horror against them is somewhat the same as yours against Mao.** What other effect can your Hegelianism have than winning friends for something which is away-and backwards-from the real Marx? [What the real Marx is, you know from his letter to Weydemeyer from 1852--the decisive year, by the way.] Lenin was right that one should study Hegel to be better able to understand Marx, but one does not need Hegel to understand Marx. Lenin spoke to revolutionaries who fell for Taubky etc. like he himself before he had studied Hegel; you, however, speak--through the Dell Company--to people who at best -- on the way to become revolutionary. One can be a revolutionary without Hegel! Blanqui and Karl Liebknecht were the "Heart and Brain" of the French and German proletariat, but complete "Anti-Marxists". Liebknecht who was the greatest revolutionary, yes proletarian revolutionary of this century, the speaker of the proletarian youth, was also the author of "

"... a thick monistic work, clearly anti-Marxist.]

*I can't help it but for no word and deed go together. Parvus was a genial politician with great revolutionary ideas but a scoundrel, and therefore not worth reading any more.

**Let's not kid ourselves. Hegel was revolutionary in Germany (and Russia!) but already far behind, I dare say "reactionary" compared to his French and English contemporaries, far behind St. Simon and even Holbach. The trouble with German philosophy was that it became dependent on Hegel and did not realize what N. Scine had said: "The philosophical revolution is at its end. Hegel had closed its circle." The next stop was Weithen (Communism), a stop away from Hegel.

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Why Hegel Now? Why not Feuerbach Now? After all, Feuerbach was just as important as Hegel. You should read him, not only what Engels wrote about him. Feuerbach, and not Hegel, was the first in the whole History of Philosophy who introduced consciously the idea of "WE" instead of the "I". (For Hegel even "the people" were still "I"!) I bet Marcuse-and the psycho-analysts-never bothered with Feuerbach.

If you give today's intellectuals only Hegel (or at best Marx via Hegel), they will never understand the Proletariat and Marx's and Engels' discovery from the "Holy Family" on. More important than the Marxism as a whole is the development of the thoughts of Marx and Engels, and if you wish the development from Hegel, but from many many others than Hegel.---[Can't you see that M & E learned much + much more from Fourier than from the whole Hegel?] Why going back to Hegel who still-contrary to the French and English thinkers-bothered with theology no matter what his GOD-really-existed of? Today's intellectuals will never, and that was Lukacs's mistake, understand the Proletariat from studying Hegel. The task is not only the Dialectic of Class Struggle and hereby discover (as I am sure you do emphasise) our Freedom and Humanism--all that was discovered long before Marx though Marx was the most consequent--but the Role of the Proletariat. That, and that alone, the young people have to be taught and that one can only get from Marx and Engels and Lenin and Luxemburg and (don't jump at me) ~~many~~ Trotsky and Mao [I for one can say such things since I never, never agreed with anything typically Trotsky], and never from Hegel. Any one of the proletarian revolutionaries is more worth than the whole Hegel. Remember Marx's "One step of real rev. movement"-----

Isn't it typical that the official intellectuals in the West as well as in the East fall for "Alienation". Sure, a good word, very Hegelian and Marxian, but there is a very very good reason why Marx since 1852 did not use this word any more except in connection with labor in the production process. Every liberal you can impress with the slogan "Alienation", but he will still be a liberal. Indeed: the best way to become and feel a liberal is the outcry against "Alienation", because the best way to reduce (not abolish) "Alienation" is to make the fellow "interested"--if the horse could only be interested in the beauty of its harness, it would pull much better.

It is true that up till the later Lenin, Hegel was treated as Moses Mendelschi had treated Spinoza--as " ", but I also fell for it when the Comintern introduced the great "Campaign" for Hegel. Yes, I profited from it, I studied Hegel at that time very intensively with

I enjoyed it and with the " " I thought Hegel to be the store of wisdom. But when the war began 1938/39 I began to understand Why Hegel(Now) is used by the Russians just as the Prussians used Hegel in the time of the Kings (Engels' beginning words in "Feuerbach"). I bear in mind that I have not read your book, but you can say what you want, I do not agree with "Hegel Now" for whatever reasons you might have. For it is from me to suspect that you simply want to impress. But "Hegel Now" can only lead to more confusion. Do you know the Hegel-Cult of the Hungarian "Marxists" after 1945? I mean etc.* It should be a warning! One can accept every word in Hegel, and still not be a revolutionary. Kautsky etc. tried to do it with Marx--it did not work; the Partei-vorstand had to cut out sentences from Marx and Engels, "explain" and in

* I don't mean Lukacs. He at that time got away from it. Lukacs always changes every 5 years.

the end to say openly that Marx and Engels, after all they were humans, weren't they, made mistakes—or were valid for a certain time only. True, they were riding with the flag of Marxism, but Hilferding in 1927 on the Party Congress behaved already like a very sick or fallen horse and finally my friend Ester succeeded in taking out the word "class struggle" from the 1936 programme. It does not work. The Russians still talk Marxian-Leninism (too bad Stalinism was taken out; it will come back), but the introduction of "value" etc. in "Socialist Economy", as you had shown, clashed too much with Marx's Fetish character of commodities. Don't tell me that Hegel understood the real meaning of Napoleon on the white horse, I do not think he did, but even if he did, the whole Hegel can not reach up to the few pages of section 4 in the first chapter of "Kapital". Again, what does one need Hegel for? Why Today? It can indeed be of great excitement to teach Hegel today. As it can be smart (it is really done today, a new fashion) to read Clausewitz—he is brilliant, witty and a great Hegelian Dialectician—no to quote from—but who can teach Clausewitz to militants and historians today—when his voluminous analyses of the war 1815 is through and through faulty?

Concrete Humanism starts with Marx, with nobody else! Up till Marx it was the great dream! It was before Marx an abstraction, also for Hegel through he undoubtedly went after the experience of the French Revolution further than all Humanists (=Philosophy) before him. I can take Herder and prove Humanism and Freedom as much as you take Hegel and as much as Herder took Benjamin Franklin (Herder calls Franklin his idol of the century because of his ""). Why Hegel? Why not an anthology of Freedom and Humanism. But why nourish Idealism? I will not give up what I learned in the Marxian "Cheder" that Hegel was an Idealist. More than that; just the same as with Spinoza started Philosophy (as Hegel rightfully said) and thereby started the end of Theology—just the same started with Marx the end of Philosophy. Why going back?

You know that Marx had planned to write a "Dialectic" similar to "Kapital". I swear that it would not have been a "philosophy" or a "system", it would have been a gigantic Critique*; exactly as his critique of Ricardo. Yes, a critique! (If this word means anything than not Hegel Now). I even visualise the title: ("The) Dialectic—Critique of Social Philosophy" and Quesnay, Adam Smith and Ricardo would have been here, Spinoza, Kant and Hegel (and of course all the vulgarists). Would you for example say: "Ricardo Now"? Read the vulgar economists and you will see that Ricardo was not more but not less revolutionary than Hegel. Like consequent Hegel just the same did consequent Ricardo lead to revolution. But Now?

All this because you seemed always to insist on my opinion. You might, if you wish, use this letter and answer publicly. All the best, P.A.

* Marx never accused the young Hegelians that they could not read—and understand—Hegel—they were used to his language better than Ray Dunayevskaya, what he said is that they were "dependent" on Hegel ["ABHANGIGKEIT VON HEGEL"] and "that was the reason why they had not even tried to give a throughout critique of the Hegelian system, though every one of them claimed to have already surpassed Hegel." Communism meant to get away from, to criticize radically, Hegel, and not HEGEL NOW.