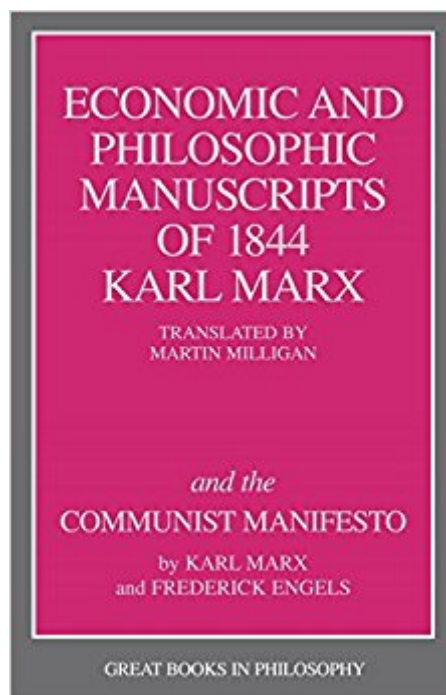




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# The Economic And Philosophic Manuscripts Of 1844 And The Communist Manifesto (Great Books In Philosophy)



## Synopsis

Communism as a political movement attained global importance after the Bolsheviks toppled the Russian Czar in 1917. After that time the works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, especially the influential Communist Manifesto (1848), enjoyed an international audience. The world was to learn a new political vocabulary peppered with "socialism," "capitalism," "the working class," "the bourgeoisie," "labor theory of value," "alienation," "economic determinism," "dialectical materialism," and "historical materialism." Marx's economic analysis of history has been a powerful legacy, the effects of which continue to be felt world-wide. Serving as the foundation for Marx's indictment of capitalism is his extraordinary work titled Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts, written in 1844 but published nearly a century later. Here Marx offers his theory of human nature and an analysis of emerging capitalism's degenerative impact on man's sense of self and his creative potential. What is man's true nature? How did capitalism gain such a foothold on Western society? What is alienation and how does it threaten to undermine the proletariat? These and other vital questions are addressed as the youthful Marx sets forth his first detailed assessment of the human condition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

KARL MARX was born in Trier, Prussia, on May 5, 1818, to an intellectual Jewish family. At seventeen he enrolled at the University of Bonn and a year later transferred to the University of Berlin where he became interested in the philosophy of G. W. F. Hegel. In 1841, Marx obtained his

doctorate in philosophy, having presented a thesis on post-Aristotelian Greek philosophy. As a young graduate deeply involved in the radical Hegelian movement, Marx found it difficult to secure a teaching post in the autocratic environment of Prussian society. In 1842 he became editor of the Cologne newspaper *Rheinische Zeitung*, but his probing economic critiques prompted the government to close the publication, whereupon Marx left for France. While in Paris, Marx quickly became involved with emigre German workers and French socialists, and soon he was persuaded to the communist point of view. His first expression of these views occurred in the *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, which remained unpublished until 1930. It was during this brief initial stay in France that Marx became associated with Friedrich Engels. For his radical political activities, Marx was expelled from Paris toward the end of 1844. He moved, with Engels, to Brussels, where he was to remain for the next three years, except for occasional short trips to England. Here Marx wrote the manuscript for *The German Ideology* and the polemic *The Poverty of Philosophy* against idealistic socialism. Marx later joined the Communist League, a German workers group, for which he and Engels were to become the primary spokespersons. In 1847 Marx and Engels were asked to write a manifesto for the league conference in London. This resulted in the creation of the *Communist Manifesto*, one of the most influential popular political documents ever written. Its publication coincided with a wave of revolutions in Europe in 1848. Marx returned to Paris in 1848 but soon after left for Germany, where in Cologne he founded the *Neue Rheinische Zeitung*, a radical newspaper that attacked Prussian rule. As revolutionary fervor waned, the government suppressed his paper and Marx fled to England in 1849. For the next thirty-four years Marx remained in England absorbed in his work. During this period he composed *The Class Struggles in France* (1848), *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (1848), *Grundrisse* (1858), *Theories of Surplus Value* (1860), *Das Kapital* (Vol. 1, 1867), and *The Civil War in France* (1871). Karl Marx died in London on March 13, 1883. FRIEDRICH ENGELS was born in Barmen, Prussia, on November 28, 1820. His father was a very wealthy textile manufacturer who owned cotton mills in both Germany and England. Engels met Karl Marx in Paris in 1844 and soon discovered that they shared similar socialist views. During Marx's lifetime, the two collaborated on a great many projects. After Marx's death, Engels completed the last two volumes of *Das Kapital* and continued to defend Marxist views. In addition to Engels's coauthorship of the *Communist Manifesto*, he produced a substantial amount of independent work: *Conditions of the Working Class in England* (1845), *Anti-Duehring* (1878), and *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (1884). Friedrich Engels died in London on August 5, 1895.

In my studies during college (engineering) I was only aware of Marx (and Engels for that matter) in the context of the Communist Manifesto. It is now interesting to me how relevant this work is to anyone who is an engineer. Talk about being the ultimate commodity...

19 century material..good stuff. solid book and condition.i think its worth it, depending on the price

cool

good

good

Pages were yellowed but there were no highlights & no markings!! I love no markings for study purposes as markings are distracting.

This is kind of a mixed bag. It's seems more like a peek into Marx's private notebook than a fully formed treatise per se, he's just starting here to pin down things like capital, labor, money, and the individual, and to give some basic analysis with regards to how they interact. But by the end, I was surprised at just how humanistic it turned out to be. This isn't the often cold, polemical materialism that he would develop later on, but something which is deep down concerned with the problems that capital et al. has for basic human dignity and value. Maybe I'm telgraphing too much of Heidegger into it, but it seems that what this gets at is the ways in which capitalism alienates us not just in our day to day lives, but on a more metaphysical level, from our sense of Being itself. It's a very sensitive, musing piece of writing which, for it being Marx, I found refreshing

If you are looking for an introduction to Marx, this is an excellent place to start.I was daunted by Capital's sheer length and dryness. Though Capital does present Marx's key ideas (Surplus value and exploitation), this handy compilation gives a more humanist and accessible introduction to Marx.There are interesting explanations for the tendency of businesses towards monopoly (Marx calls it "capitals concentrated in a few hands") among other blights. Marx turns much of what now passes as basic economic laws on their head. And the explanation of estrangement of labor, which inspired Braverman's classic Labor and Monopoly Capital, is a must read that has worthwhile insights.Also included is the Communist manifesto and a wonderful exploration of the terms Marx

uses. I'm giving this book five stars because a great deal of effort was put into the editing and it shows. Truly a wonderful value and introduction to Marxian thought!

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