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978-0-521-87477-9 - The Young Karl Marx: German Philosophy, Modern Politics, and Human Flourishing

David Leopold

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THE YOUNG KARL MARX

The Young Karl Marx is an innovative and important new study of Marx's early writings. These writings provide the fascinating spectacle of a powerful and imaginative intellect wrestling with complex and significant issues, but they also present formidable interpretative obstacles to modern readers. David Leopold shows how an understanding of their intellectual and cultural context can illuminate the political dimension of these works. An erudite yet accessible discussion of Marx's influences and targets frames the author's critical engagement with Marx's account of the emergence, character, and (future) replacement of the modern state. This combination of historical and analytical approaches results in a sympathetic, but not uncritical, exploration of topics including alienation, citizenship, community, antisemitism, and utopianism. *The Young Karl Marx* is a scholarly and original work which provides a radical and persuasive reinterpretation of Marx's complex and often misunderstood views of German philosophy, modern politics, and human flourishing.

DAVID LEOPOLD teaches political theory in the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford, and is a Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford. His previous publications include an edition of Max Stirner, *The Ego and Its Own*, for the Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought series.

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The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

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Mansfield College, Oxford



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For Lucinda

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Acknowledgements

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A note on language, references, and translation

With some reluctance, I have occasionally followed the convention of using not only masculine pronouns and possessives ('he', 'him', 'his') but also the noun 'man' to denote persons of both sexes. This convention may be grammatically correct but it is also, in certain respects, outmoded. I have used it here in order both to maintain consistency with translations which overwhelmingly adopt that usage and to avoid the appearance of anachronism (since, when he wrote in English, Marx followed this same convention).

I have used short titles for works by Marx and some other authors. Those titles are expanded in the Bibliographical Note that follows the main text. Wherever appropriate and possible – and especially for the writings of Marx and his contemporaries – I have provided references to both a German source and an English translation (although I have not always followed the translation cited).

I have throughout resisted the enthusiasm of some translators of German for capitalising what they consider to be extravagant philosophical entities, not least because that device was not available to the original authors. The one exception concerns Marx's parody of speculative method in *Die heilige Familie*, where capitalisation distinguishes the absolute Fruit from finite fruits in an appropriately exaggerated manner.