

# Marx in the Anthropocene

Facing global climate crisis, Marx's ecological critique of capitalism more clearly demonstrates its importance than ever. *Marx in the Anthropocene* explains why Marx's ecology had to be marginalized, and even suppressed by Marxists after his death, throughout the 20th century. Marx's ecological critique of capitalism, however, revives in the Anthropocene against dominant productivism and monism. Investigating new materials published in the complete works of Marx and Engels (*Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe*), Kohei Saito offers a wholly novel idea of Marx's alternative to capitalism that should be adequately characterized as degrowth communism. This provocative interpretation of the late Marx sheds new light on recent debates on the relationship between society and nature and invites readers to envision a post-capitalist society without repeating the failure of the actually existing socialism of the 20th century.

**Saito Kohei** is an associate professor at the University of Tokyo. His book *Karl Marx's Ecosocialism: Capital, Nature and the Unfinished Critique of Political Economy* (2017) won the Deutscher Memorial Prize. His second book, *Hitoshinsei no Shihonron* [Capital in the Anthropocene] (2020), has sold over 500,000 copies in Japan and received the Asia Book Award, 2021.

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Towards the Idea of  
Degrowth Communism

Kohei Saito



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*For Teinosuke Otani*  
*My teacher, devoted friend*

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## Abbreviations

<i>Capital</i> I	Karl Marx, <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, trans. Ben Fowkes (London: Penguin, [1890] 1976).
<i>Capital</i> II	Karl Marx, <i>Capital</i> , vol. 2, trans. Ben Fowkes (London: Penguin, [1890] 1976).
<i>Capital</i> III	Karl Marx, <i>Capital</i> , vol. 3, trans. David Fernbach (London: Penguin, [1894] 1981).
<i>Grundrisse</i>	Karl Marx, <i>Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy (Rough Draft)</i> , trans. Martin Nicolaus (London: Penguin, [1857–8] 1973).
IISG Sig B 91	Internationaale Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Karl Marx – Friedrich Engels Papers, Teil B Exzerpte von Karl Marx, Nr. 91.
<i>MECW</i> 12	Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, <i>Collected Works</i> , vol. 12 (New York: International Publishers, 1975–2004).
<i>MEGA</i> II/10	Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, <i>Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe</i> , section II, volume 10 (Berlin: Dietz Verlag, Akademie Verlag, De Gruyter, 1975–).
<i>MEW</i> 1	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, <i>Werke</i> , vol. 1 (Berlin: Dietz Verlag, 1956–68).