

International Symposium "Marx in the 21<sup>st</sup> century", Tokyo, December 22./23., 2018

**Prof. Rolf Hecker (Berlin): Marx's Critique of Capitalism: On the Final of the Second Section of MEGA**

**Abstract:**

The Second Section of MEGA finished in 2012. At some distance the meaning of the edition becomes more and more clear. Only 150 years after the publication of the first volume of the "Capital" is the whole "Mont Blanc" of manuscripts, partial elaborations, plan drafts for the complete work completely in front of us. Generations were quarreled and puzzled whether Marx would not have left a manuscript on this or that question. Already after his death, Engels, as he sat down to the publication of the 2nd and 3rd volume of the work of his friend, was several times asked from somebody for it. The theme of the conference clarifies: Marx's theory of value, the famous formula G-W-G' is also discussed in the 21st century. That also seems to me a matter of course, because the Second Section shows an unfinished research process. At the same time Marx can now be better integrated into the historical background of the scholarly world of the 19th century. So should be clearly - Marx remains the classic of the critique of capitalism.

The Second Section of MEGA is increasingly living up to its role as the basis for new editions or translations of "Capital". In the last fifteen years new editions of the first volume have appeared on their basis, such as an Italian edition (Naples 2004), a Russian edition (Moscow 2015), a Greek edition (Athens 2016), the Chinese edition of the work (Bd. 42, 2016) and a German edition (Hamburg 2017). All this editions are characterized by the fact that the textual basis is based on the editorship of Marx and they are combined with various manuscripts (for example, Chapter 6, Manuscript of Modification the first edition). The French edition is used more in the edition (German edition) or even edited (Chinese edition, Vol 43, 2018). It should also be noted that the Chapter 6 was transferred to Polish (Warsaw 2013). Apparently, new translations will be necessary to accommodate language changes and theoretical discussions. Even the translations of the manuscripts are progressing, so the English translation of the manuscript to the 3rd book of 1864/65 (2017) appeared. The Japanese pioneering role in the translation of the Second Section is well known. In the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first volume in 1967 issues in 43 languages worldwide were counted. Over the next fifty years were be added more languages so that there are now an estimated 60 - a world bestseller.

The Second Section documents a part of Marx's research process. Another part is his study materials (excerpts and notebooks). Fortunately, a large number of them have already been published in the Fourth Section of MEGA. Most recently, the Books of Crisis of 1857/58 appeared (IV / 14, 2017). Further books are prepared. The entirety of the excerpts is an impressive documentation of contemporary knowledge and its historical development. Several hundreds of works and essays from almost every field, whether philosophy, economics, nature and society, history, politics, state and law, technology and mathematics, Arts and Culture, Language and Thinking etc. are evaluated here in concentrated form. This wealth formed the secure basis of the interdisciplinary synopsis characteristic of Marx's life's work, which provided many new, broader perspectives for modern social theory and assigned Marx a legitimate and lasting place in the history of science in several disciplines.

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