

In Chile, the results from PISA in 2018 showed little improvement compared to previous results as well as performance below expectations. To meet these results, the organisation and strategies of the education system have been changed to target the diverse student populations. Moreover, the PISA results have given Chile the opportunity to explore other learning areas, such as digital competences.

Estonia's high ranking in the PISA 2018 results was a surprise for many. They placed Estonia in the spotlight, as people from across the world were curious about what was being done so successfully in the education system. One of the factors that the author highlights is the strength of preschool education in Estonia and the degree of autonomy that different schools have.

In the chapter about Finland, the authors highlight how the country is a role model in education and generates students with high performance. However, the authors also focus on the substantial decline Finland has experienced in recent PISA waves. They suggest that the increase in the number of low performers in all areas could be the reason for this.

In contrast, Poland has moved from being below the OECD average to being a high-performing country in PISA tests. Polish politicians have increased school autonomy, provided broader access to preschool and higher education, and introduced external examinations, as policymakers have found that PISA is not the only source for determining the areas in which students' skills and competences can be improved.

In the chapter about Spain, the author questions the reliability and accountability of PISA, as the results for PISA 2018 in reading were withdrawn for Spain due to changes in the methodology. This chapter highlights how the Spanish education system does not include any evaluations, so teachers have difficulty in providing essen-

tial support for students who perform at a lower level than their classmates.

The US results highlight how essential money is for the country's education system. The most remarkable aspect is how the more resources a student has, the better their access to better programmes and therefore the greater their academic performance.

What is notable about this book is how much power PISA has. Although the OECD has no formal power in its member countries, this book reveals that it has strong informal power. PISA highlights both the weak and strong aspects of different education systems as well as their entire viewpoint on whether or not education is essential. The book shows the complexity of implementing changes in education systems and offers a clear perspective on how and what PISA has influenced as well as the importance placed on education by the policymakers in each country. Hence, it highlights an important facet of education, namely, how many other aspects also influence changes in the education system in a country.

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Bertel Nygaard: *History and the Formation of Marxism*

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Marxism must be reexamined critically whenever critiques of capitalism reemerge on an intellectual or political level. The Marx, Engels, and Marxisms series published by Palgrave Macmillan introduce peer-reviewed works present such reexaminations in the form of monographs, edited volumes, critical editions, and translations of previously published books. Several series have addressed Marx and Marxisms from a variety of perspectives, geographical locations, academic disciplines, and subject

matter areas. In so doing, they have debunked many misconceptions about the potential and limitations of Marxist thought. This book is a new addition to the series. Nygaard recasts the connection between Marxism and history. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, Marxists believed that history was a tool for transforming society and shaping the future; however, Nygaard argues that history was integral to the formation of Marxist theory.

This book explores the relationship between Marxism and history by describing the ways in which the French Revolution of 1789 was significant to early Marxists. According to Nygaard, Marxists have a model for understanding the dynamics of social and political transformation during the French Revolution. Additionally, he underlines how crucial the French Revolution was in forming the Marxist understanding of the class struggle and how important figures like Marx, Engels, and Plekhanov were in the development of historical materialism as an analytical framework.

This book contributes to the double historicisation of Marxism by fusing empirical research with broad reflections. It further treats Marxism not as a fixed theory but as a phenomenon of intellectual history studied in particular, concrete contexts and approaches Marxism's intellectual history through its new interpretations of history. According to the author, Marx, Engels, and the early Marxists both legitimised strategic concerns and applied preconceived concepts to history. History was its own field of reflection, not just theory or politics. History, theory, and strategy form a triangular relationship in 'traditional' Marxism. History interacts with the other two but has always had more meaning than theory and tactics. History has tested thought and tactics, not just mediated between them.

Marx, Engels, and the Marxists were able to experiment with broad categories

of analysis and particular social situations through historical interpretation. These works, which frequently resembled historiographical speech actions rather than academic history, enabled numerous linkages between the past, present, and future; between tangible substance and abstract conceptions; and between understanding and altering the world. Beyond this context and Marxism, studying these gatherings and performative acts of history-writing introduces significant issues of structure, agency, and time. This book specifically focuses on Europe because European labour movements dominated Marxist theory throughout these decades. Rather than solely researching the most notable personalities and geographical hubs of Marxist thought, Nygaard presents examples of marginal Marxism in Europe, mostly in Scandinavia, where the pertinent source material was easily accessible to him.

In this book, the author emphasises that Marxists interpret history and utopian impulses differently. The old, intangible utopian socialism projected arbitrary aspirations from the present into the future, whereas the current socialism merely strives to comprehend and follow the major lines of existing developments are. Marxism eliminates fantasy and creative projects by protecting what is and what is not. The 'classic' labour movement is discussed in later analyses of the link between Marxism and utopianism in this chapter. Marxists have been attacked for linking any vision of a better society to historical projections that comprise moral notions with connexions to future designs. This approach made Marxists disavow their own investment in anticipations of what had not yet developed and did not follow immediately from already recognised movements, which restricted their imaginative possibilities.

Marxists were not the only ones who used historical changes to inform their political strategies in the 19th and 20th centu-

ries. It is crucial for politics to keep in mind the past. The 'futurist regime of historicity' is the name given to this method of thought. Marxism offers a very precise and ambitious method for predicting the future.

The book's concluding section focuses on the current applicability of Marxist historiography. According to Nygaard, Marxist historiography can contribute significant new knowledge to current discussions concerning capitalism, imperialism, and globalisation. The argument that a historical understanding of Marxism is required to establish a nuanced and critical perspective of current social and political challenges further emphasises the significance of historicising Marxist philosophy.

In his book, Nygaard urges readers to move beyond the classic conception of Marxism as a collection of predetermined social ideas combined with tactics for the here and now. He offers new insights on the interaction between the past, present, and future as well as the function of states, social classes, socioeconomic determination, and political organisation in history. Nygaard's analysis is meticulous and rigorous; it engages with a variety of theoretical topics and draws from a wide range of

sources. His emphasis on the idea of historical formation enables a more nuanced comprehension of the impact of historical contingency and context on Marxist theory. This book is thus an essential read for anyone who is curious about the development of Marxist philosophy, the connection between theory and practice, and the broader implications of Marxist historical perspectives for comprehending current social and political challenges.

This book constitutes a significant resource for students of Marxism, the labour movement, and the French Revolution alike. It demonstrates the multiplicity of intellectual and political traditions that have influenced how Marx and Engels have been viewed in various situations. The book has the potential to open up new avenues of research and understanding and provide a platform for an honest and critical dialogue about Marx's intellectual legacy. It will also challenge readers to consider Marx's ideas and writings in a broader, global context.

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