

<http://communistleaguetampa.org/library/>

# /lit/ guide to Marxism

**TO THE MODS:**

You know Marxism has Marxist literary theory right? Seriously though this is still philosophy so don't put down the banhammer. Marxism may be political but it is the philosophy of Praxis [REDACTED].

This guide was moved from the main body to account for Marxist Historians, Sociologists, Economists etc

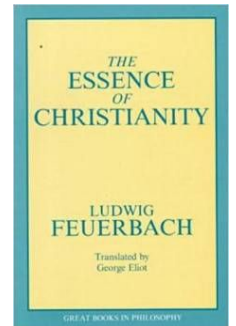
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y8\\_RRaZW5X3xwztjZ4p0XeRplqebYwpmuNNpaN\\_TkgM/edit?pli=1#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y8_RRaZW5X3xwztjZ4p0XeRplqebYwpmuNNpaN_TkgM/edit?pli=1#)

# Young Hegelians

## Feuerbach

**The Essence of Christianity (Great Books in Philosophy) ISBN: 0879755598**

Today Feuerbach is mostly remembered as a mere bridge from Hegel to Marx, but anyways you must read him to understand Marx!



# Marxism

**TRIGGER WARNING! CONSERVATIVES, RANDIANS, FASCISTS and STUPID LIBERALS BE WARNED!**

**A message to who want to learn about Marxism but do not have time:**

For whatever reason it may be (too busy being exploited, poor, or just plain disenfranchised), **skip everything above and just dive into Marx.** I'm quite well aware that some who want to learn about Marxism do not have the leisure time to read the whole philosophical canon preceding Marx. If so my sympathies. I suggest you start by reading the book below or if you really don't have time just start with Marx himself.

**ONLINE READING FOR FREE:**

A completely free website with tons and tons of free readings. Most of the stuff below can be read here for free but they only have older translations and translations by anonymous helpers. So use this website if you're on a budget.

<https://www.marxists.org/>

## History of Marxism:

OKAY so what's a good book to understand the history of Marxism you ask? A rather classic answer would be the book *Main Currents of Marxism!*

### Main Currents of Marxism: The Founders - The Golden Age - The Breakdown ISBN:

0393329437

Written by Leszek Kolakowski a one time communist in his youth turned **traitor** this gives a detailed analysis that gave rise to Marx and Marxism such as Plotinus, Johannes Scotus Eriugena, Meister Eckhart, Nicholas of Cusa, Jakob Böhme, Angelus Silesius, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Johann Gottlieb Fichte, and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. The book then covers Marx & Engels, Leon Trotsky, Antonio Gramsci, György Lukács, Karl Korsch, Lucien Goldmann, Herbert Marcuse, Ernst Bloch and much more. Of course this being written by a traitor there will be witty but ultimately failed attempts to attack these thinkers but it really is irrelevant, the reason this book is chosen is because of it's great historiography of Marxist intellectual history ironically achieved in an attempt to bring it down.

## Various Resources on Marxism:

<https://libcom.org/>

<https://www.radicalphilosophy.com/>

<https://www.marxists.org>

<http://www.mlwerke.de/index.shtml>

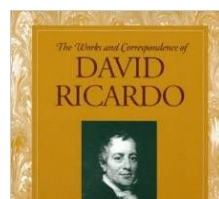
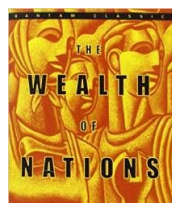
<http://www.marx2mao.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SkriptaTV>

A very basic reading list of various websites on the Left of the "Left". Includes resources, articles and news.

### Preliminary readings:

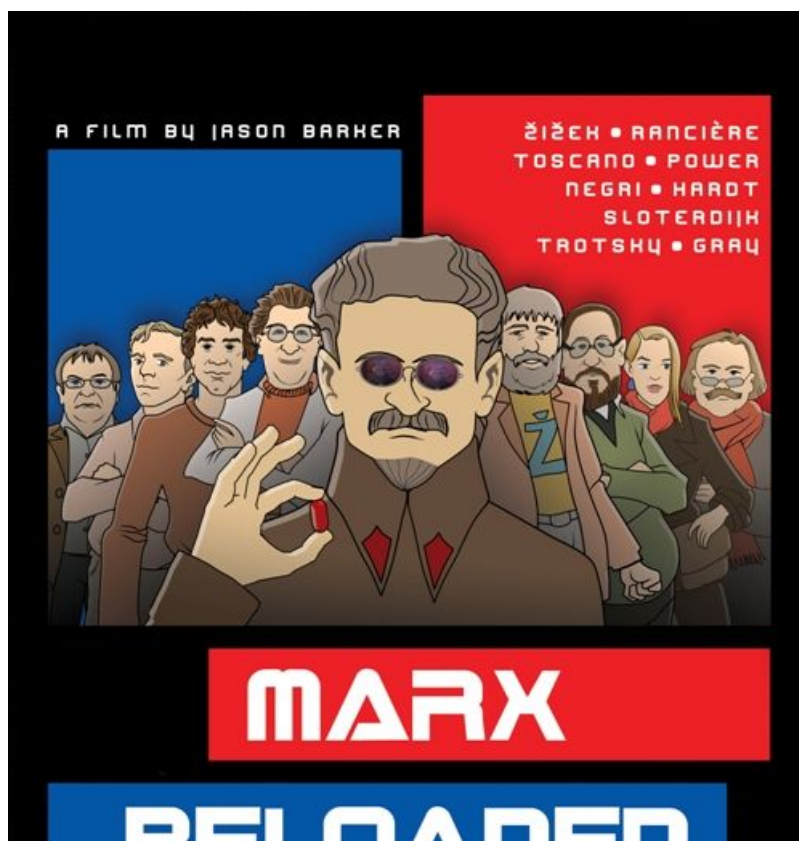
One has to remember that Marx has 3 main influences. Hegel, Utopian socialists and the old political economists. **Regarding Hegel and Hegelianism one must at the very least read goddamn *Philosophy of Right* and Feuerbach if one for whatever reason cannot read Hegel's other dense work.** Utopian socialists, pshh who reads them anymore? With the classical political economists I suggest reading mainly Adam Smith and David Ricardo, although Marx also had influences from Thomas Robert Malthus and others.



**The Wealth of Nations (Bantam Classics) ISBN:0553585975**

**On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation Volume 1 ISBN: 0865979650**

These books are used to understand Marx's economics and what his project is, that being a critique of the classical political economists description of how capital flows, wage-labor, taxation and so and so on.



**Marx Reloaded:**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4f90mK26ys](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4f90mK26ys)

An easy to understand 1 hour documentary about the relevance of Marxism today featuring many prominent thinkers in Critical Theory with Matrix-esque animation to go with it. A must watch for the uninformed!

**Marx and Engels**

**If you want to learn about Marxism but don't have much time start here INSTEAD!**

**Marx & Engels Works (READ IN ORDER!!!):**

**Regarding the reading of Marx & Engels works in paper:**

The authority on this would be the now out of print Marx Engels Collected Works (MECW) in 50 volumes. These volumes contain the best translation, for more information

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marx/Engels\\_Collected\\_Works](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marx/Engels_Collected_Works)

which can be bought on <http://www.lwbooks.co.uk/index.html> and on other websites.

**NOTE:**

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140426050538/http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/cw/index.htm>

<http://thecharnelhouse.org/2014/04/29/copyright-controversy-over-marx-engels-collected-works/>  
(PDF) version

I remembered that one can use wayback machine to read the MECW editions on marxists.org please use these translations instead of the ones below listed, I'm too lazy to edit them manually. Note that you still use the Das Kapital paperback edition as the MECW one is older.

A fair warning, they are sometimes overpriced!

**First readings kit:**

Basic works on what's Marxism is and IS NOT, note that you don't start with the Communist Manifesto.

Read in order!

[Theses on Feuerbach](#)

[Draft of a Communist Confession of Faith](#)

[The Principles of Communism](#)

[Wage Labour and Capital](#)

[Critique of the Gotha Program](#)

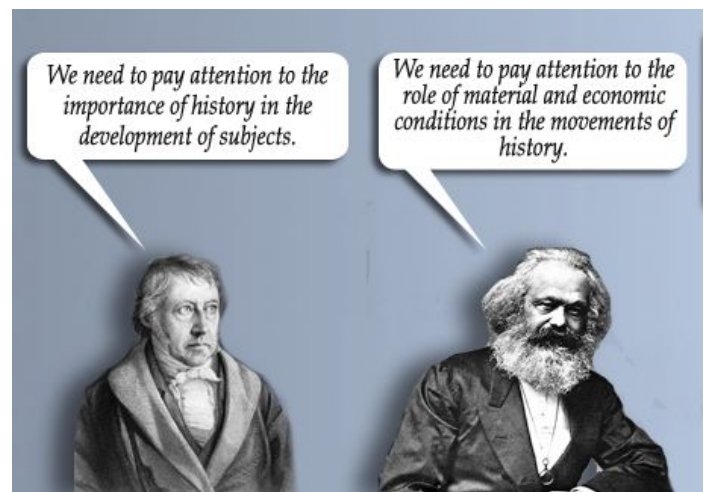
[Socialism: Utopian and Scientific](#)

[The Communist Manifesto](#)

[Ludwig Feuerbach](#)

[A Critique of the German Ideology](#)

[Anti-Duhring](#)



### **More reading:**

Here we have critical analysis by Marx and Engels.

[The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte](#)

[The Civil War in France](#)

[Condition of the English Working Class](#)

[German Peasants war](#)

[The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State](#)

### **Final readings:**

You should really really read Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* at least otherwise you are going to struggle here! Hegel!

[Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right](#)

[Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844](#)

[Preface to Contribution to critique of political economy](#)

## **Das Kapital**

Okay after reading all that stuff you can NOW read Capital, Volumes 1,2 and 3

Though I shall quote based Lenin here

*Aphorism: it is impossible completely to understand Marx's Capital, and especially its first chapter, without having thoroughly studied and understood the whole of Hegel's Logic.*

*Consequently, half a century later none of the Marxists understood Marx!!*

*Collected Works, Vol. 38, p. 180*

So if any dumb "Third world orthodox" Maoists Trots Leninists etc think Hegel is irrelevant to understanding Capital you're an idiot.

### **Preliminary readings and secondary literature:**

One should first read this short essay by Althusser [REDACTED]:

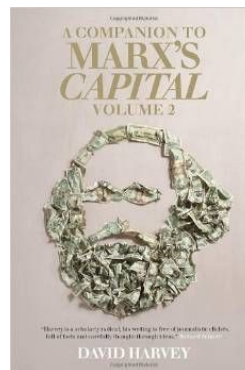
<http://www.generation-online.org/p/fpalthusser11.htm>

Short essay by Trotsky

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1939/04/marxism.htm>

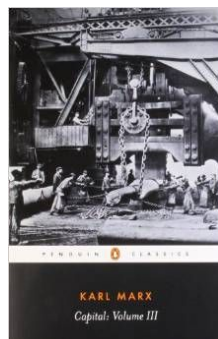
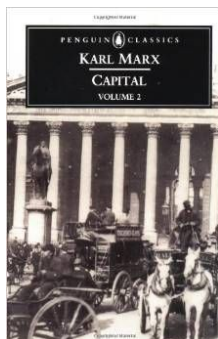
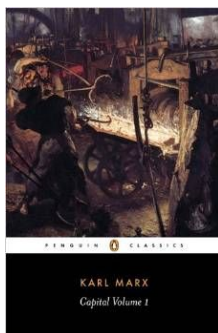
Marxist Geographer David Harvey lectures are top tier! I suggest you watch Class 01 before even opening Capital Vol 1 as Class 01 is basically a introductory lecture on what you will find in the whole of Volume 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0A7FFF28B99C1303>



**A Companion to Marx's Capital Vol 1 & 2 ISBN: 1844673596 & 178168121X**

Inspired by the lectures above based David Harvey goes even further in these two companion books!



**Capital Vol 1,2 and 3: 0140445684, 0140445692 & 0140445706**

Penguin has the latest translations (unfortunately). If you want to read online here the links below to older translations.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/index.htm>

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1885-c2/index.htm>

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1894-c3/index.htm>



Here is what remains of what would've been Capital Volume IV, edited by Karl Kautsky:  
[Theories Of Surplus Value](#)

Marx and Engels in German:

<http://telota.bbaw.de/mega/#>

Online edition of MEGA (Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe) Only contains some works though. Gotta find the rest in print.

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe>

## Lenin

**Regarding the reading of Lenin in paper:**

You should really just save money and read it online

Why? Well the best translation is the *Lenin Collected Works* which is available online for free (unlike Marx & Engels Collected works which got taken down from Marxists.org) but if you really want it on paper I suggest you go snooping around online for volumes of *Lenin Collected Works* (Seriously just save your shekels).

# Lenin's Works (READ IN ORDER!!!):

## Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/pref01.htm>

Derived from Das Kapital, Lenin describes the function of capital in generating profit from Colonialism in a 130 page pamphlet. Perfect introduction to Lenin.

## What Is to Be Done?

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1901/witbd/>

Lenin stresses the importance of forming a political party (Vanguard) to further Class Struggle

## The State and Revolution

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/>

Published just before the October Revolution Lenin argues against Social Democracy in achieving proletarian revolution.

## The Development of Capitalism in Russia

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1899/devel/index.htm#Chapter8>

Some consider this to be his best work, in *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*, Lenin studied and made a critical analysis of everything that had been written on Russian economics Marxist style.

### "Left-Wing" Communism: An Infantile Disorder

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1920/lwc/>

Here Lenin defends the need of an vanguard party and his own position against the so called "Left-Communists".

### Further Readings:

These below are Lenin's more Philosophically oriented works. Includes discussions on Marx, Hegel, the dialectic and more.

#### Materialism and Empirio-Criticism

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1908/mec/>

#### Philosophical Notebooks

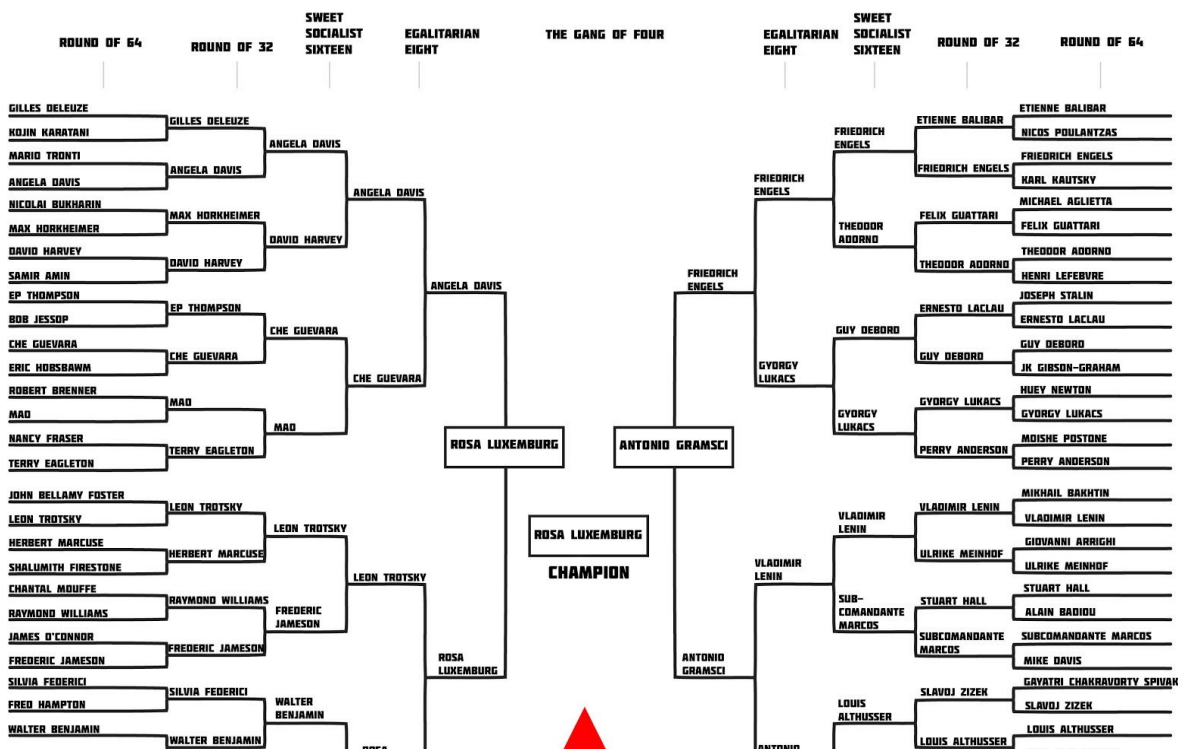
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/cw/volume38.htm>

And of course <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/index.htm>

### Luxemburg

"Who's Rosa Luxemburg?" you may ask.....

### THE CHAMPION OF MARX MADNESS 2014!!! (and hopefully 2015???)



# Luxemburg's Works (READ IN ORDER!!!):

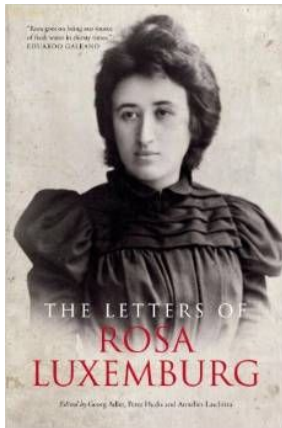
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/>

Like Lenin Luxemburg's corpus is available online and thus I shall link to her online library. But there are some works unavailable online for various reasons and I will present the appropriate works in print when needed. **One should read the ones in dark green!**

Something of large note is that there is an project to publish the Complete Works of Rosa Luxemburg with Volumes 1&2 already out (ISBN: 178168765X & 1781688524). For more information and to help with the project go here

<http://toledotranslationfund.org/project/the-complete-works-of-rosa-luxemburg/>

## Further reading:



**The Letters Of Rosa Luxemburg ISBN: 1781681074**

A huge 600 page book just full of her letters, you must buy it in print as it is not available on marxists.org at the time of writing

## Trotsky

### Trotsky's works

Start with this piece

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/1944/1944-fas.htm>

then go onto

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/index.htm>

Once again this will be short, one should mainly the ones highlighted as important but there are some glaring omissions which were not highlighted.

*Our Political Tasks*

*History of the Russian revolution to Brest-Litvosk*

*Hands off Rosa Luxemburg*

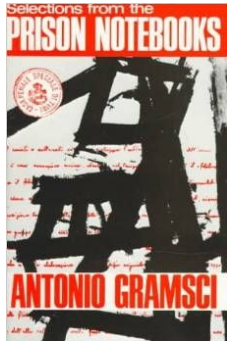
*Lenin*

*Literature and Revolution*

*Stalin - An appraisal of the man and his influence*

## Gramsci

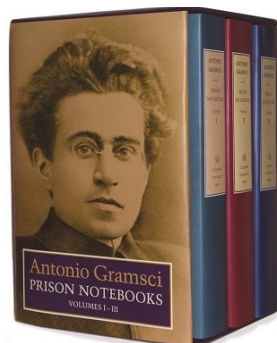
Highly influential in Academia! His theories also have been notably influenced members of Podemos and SYRIZA.



### **Selections from the Prison Notebooks ISBN: 071780397X**

first book that introduced Gramsci to the english language, this is mainly included for historical purposes. You should really really buy the edition below.

The



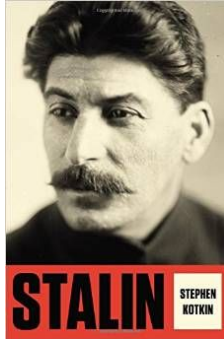
### **Prison Notebooks (Three volume set edition) ISBN: 9780231157551**

Published only in 2011 this has over 2000 pages spanning 3 volumes, this is the edition to get! This edition is basically better in everyway to the one above (most importantly this is around 40 years newer which affects the up-to date quality of the scholarship in the book) and is only around 60 bucks! You can also get this in Hardcover and individual volumes but it's much more expensive.

## Stalin

For historical purposes and analysis of the greatest horror of the 20th century (Worse than Hitler), you aren't actually a Stalinist are you? If you are a Tankie reading this go kill yourself.

### Secondary Literature:



### Stalin Volume I Paradoxes of Power, 1878-1928 ISBN: 1594203792

This book written by Stephen Kotkin is not a biography but an historical analysis of Stalin and his role in the Bolshevik era, be warned! But that is why I have chosen this book! At the time of writing only Volume I has been published.

Also here's some Lectures with Kotkin on his work (One contains a discussion of Zizek at NYPL)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9voDV\\_ZsB8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9voDV_ZsB8)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz1ROc0pTU4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwpaPYkSEqs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SceEB1Ws1gk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFcb50HUNvE>



### The fall of Berlin (1950)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-hZam8dXHU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-hZam8dXHU)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AHUQ1QRVn4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AHUQ1QRVn4)

If you like propaganda films (like Triumph of the Will) you will like this film too! This film was crucial to the formation of Stalin's cult of personality and is also mentioned in Zizek's *Pervert's Guide to Ideology*

# Stalin's Works (READ IN ORDER!!!)

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/stalin/works/decades-index.htm>

Same with the others

## Mao

May God (lol) help you if you're a crazy Maoist in a first world country, **God help Alain Badiou..** Mao also killed millions like Stalin, never forget.

## Frankfurters

One should also mention Wilhelm Reich who was an early Freudian-Marxist.

## Lukacs



# Marxist Geography:

## Henri Lefebvre

Basically a inverse mirror of Althusser. Henri Lefebvre subscribes to an humanist interpretation of Marx, was an existentialist, liked Hegelian-Marxism, a critic of structuralism [REDACTED]. Lefebvre wrote over 50 books but some are out of print due to the interest in Lefebvre being a rather recent one.

## David Harvey

[davidharvey.org](http://davidharvey.org)

## Neil Smith