

Contents

Acknowledgements — V

Common Abbreviations — VII

Note on Translations — IX

Note on Religion and “Religion” — XI

Overture

Left Out in the Cold War — 1

Part One **Putting Marx in His Place**

Chapter One

Carbuncles and All: The Difficult Life of a Difficult Man — 25

The Miseducation of a Prussian Gentleman: 1835–1842 — **25**

Slings and Arrows: 1843–1845 — **27**

Panic and Poverty: 1845–1847 — **30**

Sleeping on a Volcano: 1847–1849 — **32**

In the Midst of Debt: 1849–1852 — **36**

Toil and Trouble: 1853–1859 — **39**

Signs of Life: 1860–1867 — **44**

The Red Doctor: 1868–1871 — **47**

Pax Britannica: 1872–1883 — **49**

Postscript

***Unreading Marx in the Twenty-First Century* — 52**

The Political Economy of Wages: The Bourgeois View from above — **52**

The Political Economy of Wages: The Socialist View from below — **55**

Conclusion — **59**

Chapter Two

Age of the Living Dead: Marx and the Political Economy of an Upside-Down World — 61

The Allure of an Archival Mirage — **61**

Gods, Dreams, and Other Cognitive Puzzles — **64**

XIV — Contents

- No Feet, No Eyes, No Minds — **68**
- Intuition Pumps and Other Party Tricks — **71**
- Political Economy or Capitalist Theology? — **73**
- The Political Economy of an Upside-down World — **76**
- On Second Thought — **81**
- Conclusion — **85**

Postscript

Marx and the End of Marxist “Ideology” — 88

- Marx, Politics, and “Ideology” — **91**
- Marx, Economics, and “Ideology” — **92**
- On the Political Economy of Windbags — **95**
- Conclusion — **98**

Chapter Three

False Friends and True Comrades: Engels on the Limits of Christian Socialism — 100

- The View from Above: Religion, Revolution, and the Past — **103**
- The View from Below: Religion, Revolution, and the Future — **107**
- Local Gods and International Struggles — **114**
- Proletarian Politics and the Limits of Christian Charity — **121**
- Conclusion — **122**

Postscript

Marx *and* Engels? Marx *or* Engels? Marx *vs.* Engels? — 126

- A Star Is Born — **127**
- The Fine Art of Muddling Through — **130**

Chapter Four

Vanguard of the Revolution: Plekhanov, Russian Marxism, and the Peasant Question — 133

- Anarchism, Marxism, and Revolutionary Ambition — **136**
- Revolutionary Hope and Marxist Discipline — **142**
- Marx, Marxism, and a Sack of Potatoes — **145**
- Are the Peasants Revolting? — **149**
- Russian Gods and the Modes of Production — **155**
- Conclusion — **158**

Postscript

How Heavy is a Nightmare? — 161

Power without Control: 1917–1922 — **162**

Distant Early Warning: 1922–1928 — **166**

No Place to Hide: 1929–1941 — **167**

Interlude

Capital Red in Tooth and Claw — 171

Part Two Taking Marx to Work

Chapter Five

Which Side Are You On? Religion as Contentious Cosmopolitics — 177

Draft Records, Buddhist Monks, and Other Fiery Things — **179**

The Shirts and Skins of Geopolitics — **183**

Mundane Stakes and Cosmic Frames — **188**

Conclusion — **193**

Postscript

Interwar Fascists, Post-War Boomers, and the Study of Religion — 198

Anti-Communism and the *Ding an sich* — **198**

Conclusion — **200**

Chapter Six

Real Enough to Count: Critical Criticism and the Genealogy of

“Religion” — 203

From Something to Nothing: The Early-modern Politics of *Not-politics* — **204**

Puzzles of Production: Wage Labor, Slavery, and the Economy — **209**

Is There a Class in This Text? — **219**

Capitalist Logic and the Razor-sharp Edge of Class — **224**

Conclusion — **226**

Postscript

Class, Contention, and Capital in Eighteenth-Century England — 231

All Things Must Past — **231**

Competitive Constraint and Existential Demand — **234**

Conclusion — **238**

XVI — Contents

Coda

A World of Trouble — 241

Bibliography — 255

Index — 276