

# 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
<i>Pax Britannica</i> : 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

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**

<b>Marx and the End of Marxist “Ideology” — 88</b>
Marx, Politics, and “Ideology” — 91
Marx, Economics, and “Ideology” — 92
On the Political Economy of Windbags — 95
Conclusion — 98

### **Chapter Three**

<b>False Friends and True Comrades: Engels on the Limits of Christian Socialism — 100</b>
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**

<b>Marx and Engels? Marx or Engels? Marx vs. Engels? — 126</b>
A Star Is Born — 127
The Fine Art of Muddling Through — 130

### **Chapter Four**

<b>Vanguard of the Revolution: Plekhanov, Russian Marxism, and the Peasant Question — 133</b>
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 Pass — 231

Competitive Constraint and Existential Demand — 234

Conclusion — 238

**XVI — Contents**

**Coda**

**A World of Trouble — 241**

**Bibliography — 255**

**Index — 276**