

Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction — 1

- 1 Purpose and Main Themes — 1
- 2 Political Marxism Versus the California School and World-Systems Analysis — 2
- 3 Political Marxism and “Orthodox” Historical Materialism — 4
- 4 Some Remarks on Understanding and Assessing Explanations — 7

Part I: Explaining Divergence: Defending Political Marxism Against the California School

Chapter 2

Eurocentrism — 15

- 1 The New World History – A Post-Eurocentric Field? — 15
- 2 Samir Amin, Eurocentrism and Capitalism — 17
- 3 Why Marxism? — 21
- 4 The California School — 25
- 5 Crucial Questions Left Unanswered — 36
- 6 What Is Capitalism? — 41
- 7 Historical Argument of the Political Marxists: The “Origin Thesis” — 45

Chapter 3

The California School and the “Similarities Thesis” — 47

- 1 The “Similarities Thesis”: A Three-Step Approach — 47
- 2 The “Rejection” Argument — 50
- 3 R. B. Wong — 52
- 4 Wong’s “Similarities” Argument — 57
- 5 Wong on Productivity, Income and Wages — 66
- 6 Andre Gunder Frank’s “Anti-Eurocentric” Thesis — 73
- 7 Californians Explain the Divergence — 80

Chapter 4

The California School and India — 90

- 1 Prasannan Partha Sarathi’s Account of India in the Great Divergence Debate — 90
- 2 Rejection of “Differences” and Capitalism — 91

3	Some Differences and “Failures” — 97
4	Parthasarathi on the Role of the State — 100

Part II: World-Systems Analysis

Chapter 5

Wallerstein’s World System — 107

1	Immanuel Wallerstein — 107
2	Wallerstein’s Origins Thesis — 111

Chapter 6

Arrighi’s World System — 117

1	Giovanni Arrighi’s Conception of Capitalism and Its “Top Layer” — 117
2	Self-Expansion of Capital, Economic Growth and Explaining Divergence: Marx Versus Arrighi — 122

Part III: Political Marxism and Historical Materialism: Rivals or Allies?

Chapter 7

Political Marxism and Historical Materialism: Part 1 — 141

1	Stage-Setting: Political Marxism, Analytical Marxism and Some Thoughts on the Politics of Academic Turf-Wars — 141
2	Cohen Versus Wood: An Outline — 148
3	The Development of Productive Forces and the Question of Agency — 152
4	Wood’s Paradoxical Critique of Cohen’s “Material-Social” Distinction — 154
5	Historical Materialism and Human Nature — 159
6	The Development Thesis and Wood’s Critique of Cohen’s “Form/Content” Distinction — 163
7	“Mechanical” Materialism? — 167
8	Autonomy of Forces — 172

Chapter 8

Political Marxism and Historical Materialism: Part 2 — 179

- 1 Cohen’s “Form/Content” Distinction Versus Wood’s “Inseparability” Thesis — 179
- 2 Useful Abstractions and Metaphors — 180
- 3 Does Cohen’s Formulation Run Contrary to Marx’s, as Wood Contends? — 183
- 4 More Clarifications Regarding Economic Structure and Economic/Technological “Determinism” — 191
- 5 Wood Versus Cohen on “Material” and “Social” — 196
- 6 Structure or Process? — 200

Chapter 9

Conclusion — 208

Bibliography — 213

Index — 223