

Notes on post-Marxism, 8/30/22 - Postliterate - Medium

By Postliterate

Source: <https://medium.com/@postliterate/notes-on-post-marxism-8-30-22-a82213ba3dad>

On the one side are traditional Marxists, with the view that 1 adds 1 to make 2; on the other side are post-Marxists, with the view that 2 divides into 1 and 1. Same principle, thoroughly oppositional perspectives.

The value-form, the commodity, labor, capital, class struggle, etc. all abide by this principle. In the case of labor, for example, the traditional Marxian view holds that concrete labor is estranged via the introduction of the idea of abstract labor to create the capitalist mode of production; the post-Marxist view holds that the capitalist mode of production constructs concrete labor itself for abstraction. In the case of capital, the traditional view is that labor is appropriated by capital for exploitation; the post-Marxist view is that labor is constructed by capital's need for exploitation.

The implications of this are that the traditional view understands capitalism on the whole as sitting atop and regressing some innate human quality, generating the contradiction. The post-Marxian view understands capitalism as constructing of the whole contradiction itself, and that even if certain aspects of it were appropriated from earlier modes of productions (i.e. concrete labor, use-value, etc.), they have been denatured beyond recognition and fused into the contradiction.

At the level of revolution, the traditionalist view regards it as an act of overcoming the contradiction via the contradiction itself; the post-Marxian view regards revolution as the disintegration of all categories of the contra-

diction.

The post-Marxian view is the true amoralist position, functioning effectively outside of any class consciousness in particular.