

MARX
ENGELS

KARL MARX FREDERICK ENGELS

Volume
35

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*Note: Pages 1–6 of CAPITAL (frontmatter) have been consolidated
into 4 pages to meet U.S. production requirements.*

Preface

Volume 35 of the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels contains Volume I of *Capital*, Marx's principal economic work. Volume I deals with the process of production of capital.

The present publication of Volume I is based on the first English edition (including the preface to the first and the afterword to the second German editions), prepared by Frederick Engels and published in 1887. The present volume further includes the preface and the afterword to the first French edition (1872-75) of Volume I, and also the prefaces to the third (1883) and the fourth (1890) German editions.

Significant textual divergences between the English translation and the German editions are indicated in this volume by editorial footnotes, which are marked with index letters. Editorial footnotes also point out inadequate translations of German economic terms (except for *Fabrik*, *Fabrikant* and *große Industrie*, translated in Engels' English edition as "manufacture", "manufacturer" and "modern industry").

Engels' addenda to the fourth German edition are given in this volume in double oblique lines (they replace the square brackets used in the first English edition). His footnotes, likewise placed in oblique lines, are marked with the initials "F. E."

The title page is given in accordance with the German editions.

In preparing this publication of Volume I, obvious slips of the pen and printer's errors in the first English edition have been corrected by the Editors without comment; bibliographical data, figures and facts

have been checked. Editorial elucidations are supplied in square brackets. Foreign words and phrases are given as used by Marx and Engels, with the translations supplied in footnotes where necessary. Some of the English words used are now antiquated or have undergone changes in usage. For example, Marx uses the word “nigger”, which has acquired generally — but especially in the USA — a more profane and unacceptable status than it had in Europe in the 19th century.

Quotations from English authors are given as they occur in the 1887 edition. Quotations from French, Italian, Latin and Greek sources (except for those from fiction and the Bible) have been translated into English. Here the Editors have drawn on Ben Fowkes' translation of Volume I of *Capital* (Penguin Books, London, 1976). The translations of passages from earlier works of Marx and Engels quoted in the 1887 English edition may differ from those in the corresponding volumes of these *Collected Works*.

In compiling the bibliographical notes the Editors used, where necessary, Marx's excerpt notebooks and preparatory manuscripts.

The editorial notes at the end of the volume are indicated by superior numbers; the author's footnotes are marked by superior numbers with a round bracket.

The text of the volume was prepared and the notes to it written by Yelena Vashchenko and Lyubov Zalunina, and edited by Alexander Chepurenko (Russian Independent Institute of Social and National Problems). The Index of Quoted and Mentioned Literature and the Name Index were prepared by Svetlana Kiseleva.

The volume was prepared for the press by Lydia Belyakova, Yelena Kalinina and Mzia Pitskhelauri (Progress Publishing Group Corporation).

KARL MARX

CAPITAL

A CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY¹

VOLUME I

BOOK ONE

THE PROCESS OF PRODUCTION OF CAPITAL

*Translated from the third German edition
by Samuel Moore and Edward Aveling
and edited by Frederick Engels*

Das Kapital.

Kritik der politischen Oekonomie.

Von

Karl Marx.

Erster Band.

Buch I: Der Produktionsprocess des Kapitals.

1867

Hamburg

Verlag von Otto Meissner.

1867.

DEDICATED
TO MY UNFORGETTABLE FRIEND

Wilhelm Wolff

INTREPID, FAITHFUL,
NOBLE PROTAGONIST OF THE PROLETARIAT

*Born in Tarnau on June 21, 1809
Died in exile in Manchester on May 9, 1864*

PREFACE TO THE FIRST GERMAN EDITION

The work, the first volume of which I now submit to the public, forms the continuation of my *Zur Kritik der Politischen Oekonomie* (*A Contribution to the Criticism of Political Economy*) published in 1859. The long pause between the first part and the continuation is due to an illness of many years' duration that again and again interrupted my work.

The substance of that earlier work is summarised in the first three chapters of this volume.^a This is done not merely for the sake of connection and completeness. The presentation of the subject-matter is improved. As far as circumstances in any way permit, many points only hinted at in the earlier book are here worked out more fully, whilst, conversely, points worked out fully there are only touched upon in this volume. The sections on the history of the theories of value and of money are now, of course, left out altogether.² The reader of the earlier work will find, however, in the notes to the first chapter additional sources of reference relative to the history of those theories.

Every beginning is difficult, holds in all sciences. To understand the first chapter, especially the section that contains the analysis of commodities, will, therefore, present the greatest difficulty. That which concerns more especially the analysis of the substance of value and the magnitude of value, I have, as much as it was possible, popu-

^a The German original has here "in the first chapter", i. e., the first chapter of the first edition. In subsequent editions this was expanded to three chapters, as in the present edition.