

Marx and Engels, *The German Ideology* (1845)
Seminar of the NYC Marxist Studies Collective
Spring 2018 / Conducted by Russell Dale

This semester we start our study of what is considered the first work to state the fundamental doctrines of Marx and Engels philosophy, the *German Ideology*.

Both Marx and Engels were working on a new conception of political life and philosophy through 1843 and 1844. Their first statement of the view that later became known as *Marxism* came in 1845 with the *German Ideology*. In this work they discuss the fundamental role of productive labor in society and how the system of productive processes is fundamental to all other aspects of society. This relationship between production and other elements of society is fundamental to Marxism and to the view of history known as *historical materialism*, which is also first outlined in this work. Study of the *German Ideology* is super-important for anybody who wants to understand what Marxism is all about.

We will also be reading Marx's *Theses on Feuerbach*, which were written in association with his work with Engels on the *German Ideology*. Although the *Theses on Feuerbach* is only a few pages in length, its importance for Marxian studies is also of the highest order.

The course will run for 15 weeks on Friday evenings from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM starting on Friday, February 9, 2018 and continuing until Friday, May 18, 2017. Write to Russell Dale at russelleliotdale (at) gmail (dot) com for more information.

We will be reading the edition of Marx and Engel's *German Ideology* found in volume 5 of the Marx-Engels Collected Works. Arrangements will be made for students who cannot buy a copy of the book.

The course is free of charge.