

ABOUT THIS BOOK:

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNIST PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION is the classic exposition of the economics of Communism - and, indeed, apart from the first outline sketches given by Marx in his *CRITIQUE OF THE GOtha PROGRAMME*, upon which the book is based, the only one ever to have been produced. The first working draft was the work of the well-known German proletarian revolutionary and veteran member of the KAPD, JAN APPEL, alias MAX HEMPEL. This draft was subsequently revised and completed in Dutch by a collective composed of members of the GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISTS of Holland (GIK) and published in German by the ALLGEMEINE ARBEITERUNION DEUTSCHLANDS (GENERAL WORKERS' UNION OF GERMANY) in 1930. It is here offered for the first time in an English-language version. It does for Communist society what Marx's *CAPITAL* did for capitalism and is perhaps the most advanced intellectual achievement of the German Revolution.

The economic preconditions for Communism are shown to reside in the abolition of wage-labour, money and all value-determined production and distribution, and their replacement by a system of use-value production regulated through the Average Social Hour of Labour. One of the most remarkable features of the work is the clear and dialectically profound treatment given to the process through which the Lower Stage of Communism progressively "abolishes" itself in achieving the transition from the Lower to the Higher Stage of Communism.

The collapse of State Socialism in the USSR and Eastern Europe lends a very considerable topical significance to this historic document of the German and Dutch revolutionary movement. In its pages, Communists and Socialists today may discover the basic flaw in the economic system laid down for the USSR by Lenin and the Bolshevik Party. Thanks to this work, attention is focused on the apparently so simple but so easily overlooked fact that the Bolshevik system of State Socialism *rests upon no objective mode of social regulation whatsoever*, and consequently is dependent upon the subjective dictat of an army of major and minor bureaucrats which, as the ruling élite organised in an all-powerful party dictatorship fused in with the State, effectively deprives the mass of the working population of all control over the economic process. It is this which forms the economic foundation for the horrendous tyranny with which the world has for so long been familiar, just as it also reveals the Bolshevik system to be a false model of Socialism or Communism which has misled the world for over 70 years!

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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNIST PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

by JAN Appel

~~party membership~~

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FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
OF
COMMUNIST PRODUCTION
AND DISTRIBUTION

COLLECTIVE WORK
OF THE
GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISTS
OF HOLLAND (G.I.K.)
1930

Translated and Edited
with a Foreword and Postscript
by
MIKE HARRIS

Published by
MOVEMENT FOR WORKERS' COUNCILS
London, 1993

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The estate of Mike Baker would be glad to hear from any publisher interested in future publication of this book in order to reach a wider audience. Any group, organisation or tendency of the autonomous revolutionary left who wishes to reproduce it in whole or in part should apply to the publishers.

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Grundprinzipien kommunistischer Produktion und Verteilung

**KOLLEKTIVARBEIT
DER
GRUPPE
INTERNATIONALER
KOMMUNISTEN
(HOLLAND)
1930**

**NEUER ARBEITER-VERLAG
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ALLGEMEINE ARBEITER - UNION DEUTSCHLANDS

IN MEMORIAM

JOE THOMAS 1914 - 1990

A life-long worker who understood that, under capitalism, the workers have no control over either the labour process or the product of their own labour; a life-long trades-unionist who understood that, under capitalism, the trades unions, however otherwise necessary, can do no more than regulate the price of labour-power within the wages system.

Transcending both of these, Joe was a life-long advocate of Workers' Councils who understood that only through independent organisation for autonomous struggle could his class achieve its emancipation from the squalor and degradation of wage-slavery and attain to the full material and spiritual freedom of Communism. He died eight months before the publication of the book which gave theoretical expression to his life work.

MIKE BAKER 1927 - 1990

The final page of the book was completed two days before Mike died of a heart attack on 15th May 1990.

TRANSLATOR'S FOREWORD

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