

To Richard Huett, Editor-in-Chief

November 17, 1972

Dear Richard:

Thank you very much for your rigorous commentary. Like your critique, back on September 1, of Part I of my work, your letter of November 2 of Parts II and III has helped me greatly in reworking formulations and clarifying my thoughts. Since I assume my corrections will be taken care of by your secretary I am addressing the letter on that matter directly to her. You will note that attached to it are 11 pages either totally or partially retyped, this time in blue "ink". Those that I myself inserted in September were on black pica as against the black elite type of the original text. In all cases, however, the pagination remains the same.

This letter to you limits itself to those suggestions and questions that I may have appeared not to have taken note of it in either or both of your letters devoted to a critical commentary of Philosophy and Revolution. In truth, I pay very close attention to each and all of your comments. But since that is not always apparent because sometimes I make no direct response, let us work out together a new level on which to face the problems confronting an author working simultaneously in the different fields of philosophy, economics, politics as well as interviewing of refugees from mainland China in Hong Kong, French students "on the barricades, Spring, 1968", Women Liberation activists on demonstrations anywhere, and Black workers and intellectuals who agree on but a single demand: the word, Black, must be capitalized.

In your letter of Sep. 1, you asked, in an aside, "Why 'white' and 'Black'?" Would you write "man" and "woman"? Being a woman, I would have the right to disagree if a request for capitalizing the word, woman, had been made. Not being Black, I have no such right, especially not when I know from history that it took Negroes centuries to get the word, Negro, capitalized, and they finally achieved that right only when a nationalist like Garvey organized no less than 6 million Blacks who scared the ruling class stiff, at which point the New York Board of Education finally passed such a motion. Whatever is that whites will now "vote" for on the question of capitalizing the word, Black, I know a great number of Blacks who will not bother to read a book that has not been sensitive to their practice. Moreover I agree with them not only because they will constitute a good part of my readership, but because the decade of the 1960's has marked a turning point in American history.

To avoid your thinking that there needs to be "a second time round" before I react to the question of language where it concerns the serious matter of philosophic categories, let me explain why it is impossible to create a glossary of Hegelian jawbreakers like absolute negativity, Moment, concrete universal, absolute idea. There aren't two Hegelians (much less non-Hegelians who constitute the overwhelming majority) who would agree with any definition of any term. However, I do heartily agree with you that something has to be done to make those categories come to life. Their viability demands "popularization." The place to do is the text itself, but I also felt that another way of doing it briefly and simply would be to have the Index reflect ideas. Thus, where a definition is not acceptable, there is objection, for example, to list "moment" as "moment, or stage". No doubt you noted that as soon as I received your first letter on that question, I at once added to Ch. I, "Absolute Negativity As New Beginning" a colon followed by "The Ceaseless Movement of Ideas and of History." On the whole I believe the most serious way is to rework a whole paragraph or page; in one case I reworked 3 full pages on the final syllogisms.

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Letter to Richard Huett, 11/17/72, p.2

To continue on the question of language, but this time on those miserable wooden terms in the field of economics, especially the word that so annoys you: statification. It certainly is not a "felicitous" expression. Indeed, it bears all the marks of the soured revolution that sent it into the vocabulary of "factionalists" --and oppressive reality bearing down on the workers who thought they changed all that they suffered from under capitalistic production. Your suggestion of "nationalization" can be used in some places. Or I can sometimes use "state control" of production or the economy. But the truth is that it has entered the economic vocabulary in a way where every nuance becomes cause for another dispute. Trotsky, for example, insisted that the French word really meant only "state intervention" and not "state-capitalism". The French, on the other hand, went one step further and not only refused to be moved from statification, but also elongated planned to planification. Rather than create still newer ground for fights over vocabulary, I felt that, where I am sure to be challenged in my analysis, I must stick to the word, statification, as the acceptable "norm" for discussion.

It isn't only the dismal science of economics but the more treacherous path of politics that is forever producing truly inhuman expressions even from those who, in other fields, are great poets. Take Mao Tse-tung. He is absolutely adamant on the question of not "degrading" classic languages not only in the old poetry, but in his poems that must be studied by all, the very ones who are punished if they dare write other than simply "for the masses." So this sensitive, classic, Mandarin poet invents such nightmarish phrases as "capitalist roader." From Pravda to the NYT, all had daily --for the 3 long years of the Cultural Revolution --to make lengthy reports about "capitalist roaders." It is true that, after your letter of Nov. 2, I allowed myself a "that is, those who, Mao alleged, were taking the road back to capitalism". But I could not eliminate the expression, "capitalist roader", because that is what, unfortunately, went into history.

On a happier note of what goes into history. I surely cannot tamper with what has become history, famous and important and dialectic history--Marx's expression, "Every beginning is difficult, holds in all sciences" which I happen to quote on p.120. All I can tell you is that not only was this copied from the standard translation; not only did I check with the Russian and French who are so proud of the music of their language, but this is what Marx wrote and the original German is no more mellifluous: "Aller Anfang ist schwer, gilt in jeder Wissenschaft."

Finally, on the question of updating. I agree with you fully and if ever I see later data, even would it be known first when I am already reading galley proofs, I would update. The trouble is that the 1960's which was supposed to be "The Development Decade" for Africa moved backward at such a pace that the UN didn't bother to this day to bring out a full documentary. An individual figure appears here and there, in journals or those struggling for disarmament, but to view it as a whole the latest figures I was able to pick up were mid-1960's. But I shall be on the lookout and update where I can.

And to prepare one more paper on the Dialectic Today for the next conference at SUNY in Buffalo.

Yours,

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Naya Dunsyevskaya
8146 Ward
Detroit, Michigan 48228
November 17, 1972

Dear Mrs. Menkel,

I am enclosing three different types of corrections for my manuscript, Philosophy and Revolution. One consists of new pages which please just insert into the manuscript in place of the same numbered pages there. The second type of correction consists of a those pages where only a new paragraph needs to be inserted. In that case, I tried typing the new correction in such a way that you could merely paste it on to the original. The third follows, and I would appreciate your inserting these corrections directly into the manuscript:

- P. ii: Please insert a period in the last line of that page after the word "negativity", and erase the last two words, "is the".
- P. 117: New page attached.
- P. 136: Please erase the last two lines: "Russian Communism... production, it" (the matter is dealt with in a new page 137 attached).
- P. 142: second quotation: please change the word moment in the first line to the plural, moments.
- P. 177: New page attached.
- P. 198: New last paragraph attached.
- P. 213: Please erase the last sentence which begins: "One thing they... intuitionism." In its place, please type in the following: The period crucial to our topic covers the three tumultuous years of "The
- P. 242: What was the last 11 lines of the quotation has been re-typed as nine lines. Please paste onto the page after the sentence which begins with "After the liberation, as
- P. 246: Though only a footnote needed to be added, I am enclosing a whole new xeroxed page.
- P. 248: Please erase the last two lines: "We cannot know.... model of the".
- P. 249: New page attached.
- P. 251: Line 2: please put a period after: "Proletarian Cultural Revolution". Eliminate the rest of the line. Instead please insert: It was duly hypostatized in the 1969 Constitution.

- more-

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- F. 276: Line 5: Please eliminate the closing parenthesis.
- P. 281: Footnote 71: line 6: Please insert the word, day, between the word, other, and the word, I.
- P. 299: Please eliminate the handwritten words at the end of the second paragraph, and put a period after the phrase: the rate of profit.
- P. 306: Footnote 19: Please erase the reference and instead let it read: This article is included in the volume, Disarmament and the Economy, by Emile Bencit and Kenneth E. Scoulding, Harper and Rowe, New York, 1963, page 89.
- P. 307: Seventh line from bottom: Please eliminate and restate as follows: the problem: they told the workers to work "hard and harder". This is the only reason "why the worker in the U.S. gets more wages than the Polish worker." (20)
- P. 308: New page attached.
- P. 312: New page attached.
- P. 337: Last line of text: please change the period to a comma.
- P. 358: (Wrongly listed in Mr. Huett's letter of Nov. 2, 1972, as page 357) Final paragraph retyped and attached.
- P. 366: The sentence in line 5 that begins: "It is taken" and ends with "to live" is to be eliminated. Also please erase the first 7 words in line 7. Please capitalize the 8th word Not.
- P. 378: New page attached.

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Thank you ever so much, I am beholden to you.

Sincerely,

P.S. In typing a new last par. for p.308, line 1 of p.308, rephrased was included. Therefore please erase line 1, "the young...ques-" from p.308.

RD:bmc

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