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to lead the working class in a successful revolution a mass proletarian party is needed whose cadres well beforehand have absorbed a world communist program are proletarian in life and work derive deep satisfaction from doing politics and have forged a leadership with an acute sense of what to do next this book is about building such a party notes index

leon trotsky fought to build a movement to advance the revolutionary political course defended by v i lenin against the counterrevolution eventually headed by joseph stalin how do trotsky s ideas and actions fit into the continuity of the movement for communism from marx and engels s time to our own

although trotsky was dramatically assassinated just over eighty years ago he remains a controversial figure he has had many biographers over the decades ranging from the overly sympathetic to the extremely hostile robert service his most recent biographer expressed the hope that his book

would finish off trotsky a job he believed the ice axe had failed to do in 1940 this biography as expected deals with those aspects for which trotsky is noted his passionate and fiery oratory which captivated and inspired huge crowds organising the bolshevik revolution of november 1917 masterminding the creation of the red army and ensuring its victory during the civil war becoming the most determined opponent of stalin's creation of a monolithic party and state being a marxist theoretician of socialist revolution and combatting fascism and of course being the originator of the very specific brand of revolutionary socialism that as early as 1906 became known as trotskyism however this biography also explores other aspects of trotsky's life which are not so well known in particular from a very early age his love of writing the world of books and publishing became his first passion it remained his first love and if revolutionary politics had not taken over his life would have been a very literary one immediately after the november revolution he hoped to return to his literary work believing his main practical work as a revolutionary was over his writings on art and literature when compared to the stultifying strictures of the socialist realism associated with stalinism are remarkably sympathetic and open while he also wrote many perceptive articles as a war correspondent covering both the balkan wars and the early stages of the first world war other aspects covered by this biography concern his family life and his relationships with his children also explored is his love life while it is known he had a brief affair with the mexican artist frida kahlo there are also suggestions he may have had other affairs whatever the truth of such allegations he certainly maintained a passionate relationship with his long term companion natalya sedova and readers should be aware that one proof of that provided towards the end of this book contains very explicit language

this book examines the legacy of antonio gramsci and leon trotsky in the shadow of stalinism in order to reassess the very different and distorted academic reception of the two figures as well as to contribute to the revitalization of marxism for our time while gramsci and trotsky lived and died in a similar fashion as revolutionary marxist leaders and theoreticians their reception in academia could not be more different gramsci has become tremendously popular becoming a central figure in many disciplines while trotsky remains largely ignored saccarelli argues that not only is gramsci popular for the wrong reasons being routinely distorted and depoliticized even when rescued from his contemporary users gramsci remains inadequate conversely the fact that trotsky remains beyond the pale of theory is a terrible indictment of the current state of academic thinking

short of the founder of the red army later out manoeuvred by stalin

mexico 1940 leon trotsky a key charismatic figure in the 1917 russian revolution lives in exile in mexico after losing power to josef stalin in 1924 he resides in a comfortable fortified villa in coyoac in relative peace until an agent of stalin assassinates him los angeles 1990 fifty years later trotsky's memory remains alive for six americans who lived with him at the time of his death now they've gathered together to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his assassination though they have aged and their bodies no longer have the energy they once possessed they still passionately believe in trotsky's cause for former lovers byron lerner and verna swartz the past collides with the present as long dormant emotions erupt between them leading them down a road of painful memories and for the entire group their brief reunion will uncover betrayal lies and secrets so

devastating that their perception of history will forever be altered rich with historic detail the ghost of leon trotsky is a brilliant examination of how six people come to terms with their individual and collective pasts and presents

written from a critical socialist standpoint this book provides an analysis of trotskyism which argues that it is increasingly irrelevant as a means of achieving socialism

bryan d palmer reinterprets the history of labour and the left in the united states during the 1930s through a discussion of the emergence of trotskyism in the most advanced capitalist country in the world focussing on james p cannon the founder of american trotskyism palmer builds on his previously published and award winning book james p cannon and the origins of the american revolutionary left 1890 1928 2007 with a deeply researched and elegantly written study of cannon and the trotskyist movement in the united states from 1928 38 situating this dissident communist movement within the history of class struggle both national and international palmer examines how cannon and others fought to revive a combative trade unionism thwart fascism and the drift to war refuse stalinism s many degenerations and build a new party and a new international both of which would be dedicating to reviving and realizing the possibilities of revolutionary socialism the result is a study that provides a definitive account of the largest and most influential trotskyist movement in the world in the 1930s a mobilization whose history recasts understandings of the more extensively studied experience of united states working class militancy and the place of the comintern affiliated communist party within it

in trotsky s challenge the literary discussion of 1924 and the fight for the bolshevik revolution frederick c corney examines the political polemic surrounding the publication of trotsky s the lessons of october trotsky s analysis ran counter to the efforts of bolshevik leaders to fashion the narrative of october as a foundation event in which the bolshevik party under the clear sighted leadership of lenin played a major role in bringing about a radical socialist revolution in russia corney has translated into english the major contributions to this polemic annotated them and written an extensive contextualising introduction examining the polemic for its impact not only on the figure of trotsky but also on the changing political culture of the 1920s and 1930s

born lev davidovich bronstein in southern ukraine trotsky was both a world class intellectual and a man capable of the most narrow minded ideological dogmatism he was an effective military strategist and an adept diplomat who staked the fate of the bolshevik revolution on the meager foundation of a europe wide communist upheaval he was a master politician who played his cards badly in the momentous struggle for power against stalin in the 1920s and he was an assimilated indifferent jew who was among the first to foresee that hitler s triumph would mean disaster for his fellow european jews and that stalin would attempt to forge an alliance with hitler if soviet overtures to the western democracies failed here trotsky emerges as a brilliant and brilliantly flawed man rubenstein offers us a trotsky who is mentally acute and impatient with others one of the finest students of contemporary politics who refused to engage in the nitty gritty of party organization in the 1920s when stalin was

maneuvering inexorably toward trotsky's own political oblivion as joshua rubenstein writes in his preface leon trotsky haunts our historical memory a preeminent revolutionary figure and a masterful writer trotsky led an upheaval that helped to define the contours of twentieth century politics in this lucid and judicious evocation of trotsky's life joshua rubenstein gives us an interpretation for the twenty first century

this is a guide to the vast amount of literature on the history of political thought which has appeared in english since 1945 the editors provide an annotation of the content of many entries and where appropriate indicate their significance controversial nature and readability

this work highlights key areas of common ground between the ethical aesthetic and political content of works from sartre's early period and classic marxist philosophy taking account of both the specificity of early sartrean thought and the heterogeneity of marxist theories it affirms their lasting importance to the radical left critique

george orwell is watching you and you're watching him britain pays its respects in the form of the orwell prize the orwell lecture and more recently orwell day a statue of orwell now stands outside broadcasting house in london and he continues to tower over broadsheet journalism his ghost is repeatedly summoned in the houses of parliament and in schools across britain in europe and the us citizens confront the perennial question what would orwell say orwell is part of the political vocabulary of our times yet partly due to this popularity what he stands for remains opaque his writing confirms deep and widely shared intuitions about political justice but much of its enduring fascination derives from the fact that these intuitions don't quite add up david dwan accounts for these inconsistencies by exploring the broader moral conflict at the centre of orwell's work and the troubled idealism it yields examining the whole sweep of orwell's writings this book shows how literature can be a rich source of political wisdom

leon trotsky and victor serge represent the great and tragic oppositional figures to stalin's dictatorial grip on the soviet union in the late 1920s and 1930s written during this period the letters exchanged between these two friends published here in translation for the first time together with other material from both the trotsky archive at harvard and the serge archive in mexico present a unique first hand account of the alternatives and arguments of the trotskyist opposition in exile the correspondence chronicles trotsky's attempts to found a new fourth international and casts new light on the trajectory of the russian revolution from lenin to stalin and the long term effects of stalinism for the revolutionary movements in the west a remarkable insight into the lives of two prominent thinkers of the twentieth century these letters also help us to understand an important relationship during a critical period in european politics each section is prefaced by a clear introduction that contextualises and clarifies the documents

this new biography provides a full account of leon trotsky's political life based upon a wealth of primary sources including previously unpublished material ian d thatcher paints a new picture of trotsky's standing in russian and world history key myths about trotsky's heroic work

as a revolutionary especially in russia s first revolution of 1905 and the russian civil war are thrown into question although trotsky had a limited understanding of crucial contemporary events such as hitler s rise to power he was an important thinker and politician not least as a trenchant critic of stalin s version of communism

policing is a highly pragmatic occupation it is designed to achieve the important social ends of peacekeeping and public safety and is empowered to do so using means that are ordinarily seen as problematic that is the use of force deception and invasions of privacy along with considerable discretion it is often suggested that the ends of policing justify the use of otherwise problematic means but do they this book explores this question from a philosophical perspective the relationship between ends and means has a long and contested history both in moral practical reasoning and public policy looking at this history through the lens of policing criminal justice philosopher john kleinig explores the dialectic of ends and means whether the ends justify the means or whether the ends never justify the means and offers a new sharpened perspective on police ethics after tracing the various ways in which ends and means may be construed the book surveys a series of increasingly concrete issues focusing especially on those that arise in policing contexts the competing moral demands made by ends and means culminate in considerations of noble cause corruption dirty hands theory lesser degradations such as tear gas tasers chokeholds and so on and finally those means deemed impermissible by the majority in western culture such as torture

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