

Contents

Preface	ix
Introduction to the Second Edition	xiii
Introduction	xlv
Chapter 1 Subjects and Agents	1
1.1 Three concepts of agency	1
1.2 The orthodox conception of agents	5
1.3 Human nature: the need for a philosophical anthropology	17
1.4 Human nature: morality, justice and virtue	25
1.5 Practical reason and social structures	33
Chapter 2 Structure and Action	38
2.1 The concept of social structure	38
2.2 The basic concepts of historical materialism	40
2.3 Orthodox historical materialism	54
2.4 Rational-choice marxism	69
2.5 Structural capacities and human action	85
2.6 What's left of historical materialism?	102
Chapter 3 Reasons and Interests	107
3.1 Expressivism and the hermeneutic tradition	107
3.2 Interpretation and social theory	111
3.3 Charity, truth and community	119
3.4 The utilitarian theory of action	129
3.5 Interests and powers	139

Chapter 4 Ideology and Power	152
4.1 Collective agents	152
4.2 Falsehood and ideology, I	156
4.3 Falsehood and ideology, II	168
4.4 Nation, state and military power	179
4.5 A note on base and superstructure	199
Chapter 5 Tradition and Revolution	206
5.1 Revolution as redemption: Benjamin and Sartre	206
5.2 Marxism and the proletariat	213
5.3 The rationality of revolution	225
5.4 Revolution and repetition	239
5.5 The tradition of the oppressed	254
Conclusion	273
Index	279