

Contents

Foreword	xi
<i>Marcel van der Linden</i>	
Acknowledgements	xvii
Chapter One Introduction: Themes in Historical Materialism	1
1.1. Questions of theory	4
1.2. A Marxist characterisation of 'Asiatic' régimes	15
1.2.1. From the Asiatic to the tributary mode: Marx, Haldon and beyond	17
1.2.2. Ruler and ruling class: configurations of the tributary mode	23
1.3. Some general conclusions	41
Chapter Two Modes of Production in a Materialist Conception of History	45
2.1. The retreat into historical formalism	45
2.2. <i>Produktionsweise</i> as 'labour-process' and 'epoch of production'	50
2.3. Levels of abstraction in historical materialism	52
2.3.1. Wage-labour as abstract determination and determinate abstraction	52
2.3.2. Serf-owning capital	55
2.3.3. The defining role of the laws of motion	58
2.3.4. The failure of abstraction in vulgar Marxism	61
2.4. Reading history backwards	65
2.5. Slavery and the world-market	67
2.5.1. 'Slavery'	67
2.5.2. The nascent world-market	71

2.6. Feudal production	72
2.6.1. The estate	72
2.6.2. Peculiarities of the 'second serfdom'	79
2.6.3. Commodity-feudalism as the pure form	82
2.6.4. Modes of production as objects of long duration	87
2.6.5. Two brief conclusions	92
2.7. Simple-commodity production: a 'determination of form'	94
2.7.1. The peasant mode of production	94
2.7.2. The simple-commodity producer as wage-slave	95
 Chapter Three Historical Arguments for a 'Logic of Deployment' in 'Precapitalist' Agriculture	 103
3.1. Part I	104
3.2. Part II	107
3.3. Part III	111
 Chapter Four Workers Before Capitalism	 117
 Chapter Five The Fictions of Free Labour: Contract, Coercion and so-called Unfree Labour	 131
5.1. Premises: the elusive reality of consent	131
5.2. A Marxism of liberal mystifications?	134
5.3. Forms of exploitation based on wage-labour	143
5.4. 'Free contract' in Sartre's <i>Critique</i>	150
5.5. Summary	153
 Chapter Six Agrarian History and the Labour-Organisation of Byzantine Large Estates	 155
6.1. Introduction	155
6.2. A historiography of abstractions	157
6.3. Rural stratification: <i>geouchountes</i> , <i>ktetores</i> and <i>ergatai</i>	159
6.4. The case for permanent labour	161
6.5. Restructuring in the later empire	166
6.6. The new estates	168
6.7. The labour-organisation of sixth-century estates	173
6.8. Conclusion	177

Chapter Seven Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages: What Kind of Transition? (A Discussion of Chris Wickham's <i>magnum opus</i>)	181
7.1. Introduction: Marxist uncertainties	181
7.2. Background to the late empire	185
7.3. Unresolved issues	188
7.4. The reshaping of relations of production	190
7.4.1. The legacy of the colonate	191
7.4.2. Slavery and the post-Roman labour-force	198
7.4.3. The legacy of direct management	203
7.4.4. What happened to the aristocracy?	208
7.5. Final comments: Wickham and modes of production	210
 Chapter Eight Aristocracies, Peasantries and the Framing of the Early Middle Ages	 215
8.1. Introduction	215
8.2. Aristocracies	219
8.3. The agrarian watershed of the seventh century	224
8.4. Critique of Wickham	231
8.5. The East: vulnerability	240
 Chapter Nine Islam, the Mediterranean and the Rise of Capitalism	 251
9.1. Historiographies of capital	251
9.2. Towards a Marxist theory of commercial capitalism	255
9.3. From corporate capitalism to the earliest capitalist forms of association	258
9.4. The Arab trade-empire	262
9.5. From Genoa to Portugal	268
9.6. Company-capitalism and the advance system	270
9.7. Concluding note: merchant-capitalism and labour	273
 Chapter Ten Capitalist Domination and the Small Peasantry: The Deccan Districts in the Late Nineteenth Century	 277
10.1. The 'subordination of labour to capital'	277
10.2. Commodity-expansion in the Deccan districts, 1850–90	283
10.3. Structure of capital in the Deccan	292

10.4. 'Interest' as surplus-value: increasing formal subsumption of labour into capital	301
10.5. The big peasantry of the Deccan	310
10.6. Peasant-differentiation	317
10.7. The stage of evolution of capitalism in the nineteenth-century Deccan	324
 Chapter Eleven Trajectories of Accumulation or 'Transitions' to Capitalism?	 333
 Chapter Twelve Modes of Production: A Synthesis	 349
12.1. Marxists and feudalism	353
12.2. The tributary mode	354
12.3. Periodising capitalism	356
12.4. Articulation?	359
 Publications of Jairus Banaji	 361
 References	 365
 General Index	 393