

# YOUNG MARX—FROM ALIENATION TO PRACTICE

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*"Die Waffen der Kritik kann allerdings die Kritik der Waffen nicht ersetzen, die materielle Gewalt muss gestürzt werden durch materielle Gewalt"—Marx; Zur Kritik der Hegelschen Rechtsphilosophie : Einleitung.*<sup>1</sup>

The interest in young Marx is quite recent in India. It can be said that the discussion about young Marx began in Europe almost immediately after the publication of Marx's *Manuscripts* of 1844.<sup>2</sup> In our country it started after the English translation of the Manuscripts had reached here from Moscow in the late fifties. The discussion in India, however, has not been satisfactory, first, because it has been carried on within a very limited circle of "Marxologists", and secondly, because the discussion practically took no account of the other writings of young Marx.

We have followed G. Lukacs<sup>3</sup> and L. Althusser,<sup>4</sup> as regards the periodization of young Marx. This refers to the period before Marx reached full maturity, that is the period which saw Marx's evolution from a Hegelian and Feuerbachian to a Marxist.<sup>5</sup> This period witnessed the rise and fall of the concept of "alienation" and its gradual replacement by the concept of "practice" as the focal point of Marx's world outlook. More specifically, the period referred to is the period between 1840 and 1844 comprising Marx's writings between his doctoral dissertation, *Differenz der demokritischen und epikureischen Naturphilosophie* and the *Heilige Familie*. We have taken the most important of these writings for the purposes of this article.

All our references, except in the case of the *Manuscripts*, are to

<sup>1</sup> The arm of criticism can never replace the criticism by arms, material power must be overthrown by material power.

<sup>2</sup> In 1932 in Marx, Engels — *Historisch-Kritische Gesamtausgabe*, Vol. III.

<sup>3</sup> LUKACS, G., "Zur Philosophischen Entwicklung des jungen Marx" in *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Philosophie*, 1954.

<sup>4</sup> ALTHUSSER, L., "Sur le jeune Marx" in *La Pensée*, 1961.

<sup>5</sup> Marx was never a full-fledged Hegelian or Feuerbachian.