# Karl Marx's Grundrisse

Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy 150 Years Later

# **Edited by Marcello Musto**

Hardback 2008. Price: € 82.00, £70.00, \$ 130.00, CAD\$ 135.00 Paperback 2010. Price: € 27.00, £ 22.50, \$ 32.95, CAD\$ 35.00

Written between 1857 and 1858, the *Grundrisse* is the first draft of Marx's critique of political economy and, thus, also the initial preparatory work on *Capital*. Despite its editorial vicissitudes and late publication, *Grundrisse* contains numerous reflections on matters that Marx did not develop elsewhere in his oeuvre and is therefore extremely important for an overall interpretation of his thought. In this collection, various international experts in the field, analysing the *Grundrisse* on the 150th anniversary of its composition, present a Marx in many ways radically different from the one who figures in the

dominant currents of twentieth-century Marxism. The book demonstrates the relevance of the *Grundrisse* to an understanding of *Capital* and of Marx's theoretical project as a whole, which, as is well known, remained uncompleted. It also highlights the continuing explanatory power of Marxian categories for contemporary society and its present contradictions.

With contributions from such scholars as Eric Hobsbawm, Moishe Postone, Ellen Meiksins Wood, Terrell Carver, John Bellamy Foster, Enrique Dussel and Iring Fetscher, and covering subject areas such as political economy, philosophy and Marxism, this book is likely to become required reading for serious scholars of Marx across the world.

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### **Author Biography**

Marcello Musto teaches at the Department of Political Science at York University, Toronto - Canada.

#### Reviews:

Nothing Marx wrote has better illustrated the complexity of his thought and the enormous array of the world's appreciation of it than the *Grundrisse*. This collection of essays gives one an indispensable entry into understanding better what Marx has to offer the world today and the social bases of the multiple Marxisms.

# Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University

In this edited collection of essays by international scholars, Marcello Musto has helped to chart the recognition and influence of one of Marx's most important, methodologically rich – and most neglected – texts: the *Grundrisse*. The volume is the fruit of many years of sustained and devoted scholarship, his chapter on the '1857 Introduction' is one of the finest in the collection.

# **Stuart Hall**, Open University

Karl Marx's Grundrisse is a magnificent volume, which also serves as a global map of world Marxist theory.

# Fredric Jameson, Duke University

Over the last two decades, Marx's *Grundrisse* has increasingly been seen as the key text to the understanding his work. An up-to-date discussion of the *Grundrisse* is therefore much to be welcomed. And when it is of the consistently high quality that Marcello Musto has here put together, scholars of Marx can only rejoice.

### **David Mclellan**, Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Karl Marx's Grundrisse represents a major resource for studies on Marx. It is a key text for understanding his critique of political economy; but also – and no less importantly – it makes visible the questions that Marx did not develop later in *Capital*, such as capitalism as a global system, ecology, and the contours of a post-capitalistic society. This volume is required reading for all serious students of Marx.

### Samir Amin, Third World Forum

At a time when Marx's writings are once again attracting ever-wider circles of readers seeking to understand yet another global capitalist crisis, Marcello Musto has produced an edited volume devoted to Marx's *Grundrisse*. The essays of interpretation as well as the studies of both the production of this great work and its reception across many different societies and social contexts make this book an especially timely and valuable contribution to Marx's current ascendancy.

Richard D. Wolff, New School University, New York