

Session 4:

Capitalism and Globalisation Ben Fine

1

World Economy In *Capital?* Volume I

- Commodities and Commodity Fetishism
 - Not just relations between labours brought into equivalence but also economic and social reproduction more generally, such as fair trade and product degradation (horse meat?) as relations that constitute but are not revealed by the commodity and commodity form. Same applies to world economy

2

- Money

- Money functions and monetary relations are incorporated into globally distributed monetary cascade that are globally distributed with world money as maximal, socially recognised form of these condensed together.

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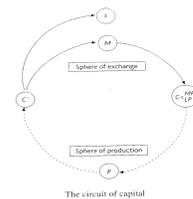
- Absolute Surplus Value
- Relative Surplus Value
- And corresponding laws of development
 - Are all incorporated into, interact and are distributed across world economy

4

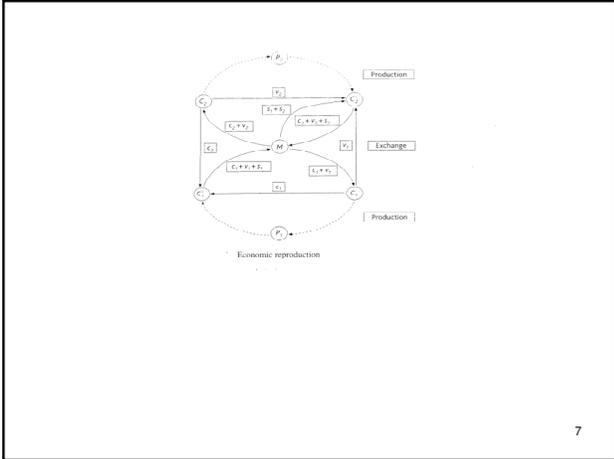
Volume II

- Economic Reproduction
- Based on Industrial Circuits of Industrial Capital and ...
- Total Circulation of Value and Surplus Value
- See Figures

5



6



- Reproduction not as equilibrium but as momentary balances across use values (quantities), exchange values (prices and money) and **values**
- Hence logical possibility of unproductive and non-productive labours that, waged or otherwise, respectively, interact with economic reproduction.
- And also social reproduction interacting through state and civil society in conformity and contradiction with economic reproduction.

- Social Reproduction closely tied to value of labour power
- As a value magnitude or...
- As a "morally and historically" determined standard of living?
- Tension resolved by distinguishing
 - commodity-specific standards, food and health systems for example
 - each of these differentially determined
 - each with differential standards across the working class

- ### Volume III
- Transformation Problem (as price formation as sectoral productivity increases diverge)
 - LTRPF and CTs
 - Merchant and Interest Bearing Capital
 - Landed Property
 - THESE AND ALL PREVIOUS ELEMENTS VARIOUS CONSTITUTING AND DISTRIBUTED ACROSS WORLD ECONOMY

- ### Periodisation
1. How and why do we periodise into Modes of Production
 2. Why should we periodise within MoPs.
 3. How should we periodise within MoPs. Do we use same criteria as for between MoPs
 4. How do we relate this to movement from abstract to concrete, the logical and the historical and avoid reductionism and determinism

- Does Marx offer any guidance for periodisation
- For other MoPs as with feudalism and movement through forms taken by rent – labour, in kind, and in money
- For capitalism
- Do we periodise on basis of economic and/or non-economic relations.

- Before proceeding, let's discuss informally and in advance, how we understand contemporary capitalism through terms such as globalisation, new world order, (the new) imperialism, neoliberalism
- Will we be able to give them more content and meaning by end of the course and decide whether they are legitimate or useful or not.

13

- Periodising by the Capitalist Mode of Production – increasing socialisation of economic relations, etc, on basis of private property and appropriation
- Laissez-Faire Capitalism based on production of absolute surplus value with corresponding implications for forms taken by class struggle and intra-capitalist competition and for the role of the state

14

- Monopoly Capitalism based on Relative Surplus Value with corresponding implications for forms taken by class struggle and intra-capitalist competition and for the role of the state – in reducing the value of labour power socially.

15

- State Monopoly Capitalism with corresponding implications for forms taken by class struggle and intra-capitalist competition and for the role of the state in the production, distribution and circulation of (surplus) value and the economic and social reproduction of the workforce.

16

- Periodising World Economy by forms taken by internationalisation of capital through commodity capital; money capital; and productive capital
- Need notion of world economy as a system of nation-states

17

- Lenin's *Imperialism* as key defining text for periodising capitalism: written as a popular text with an eye to the censor amidst the turmoils of 1917 but a deeply theoretical text

18

- Lenin's five features – comprising monopoly capital and internationalisation of money capital?:
- Concentration of capital
- Merging of industrial and financial capital
- Export of capital and not just commodities
- International cartels
- Territorial Redivision of world amongst imperial powers

19

- Theories of Imperialism/World Economy
- Luxemburg and Underconsumptionism (but capitalism can reproduce itself, reproduction schema are for temporary balance and not basis for dynamics, and capitalism expands scope of non-capitalist production rather than simply absorbing it)

20

- Unequal Exchange and Dependency as theories of surplus transfer whether through lower wages in periphery or debt or technological dependence
- But unable to explain why this would not lead to development in periphery and ...
- Why development does take place there

21

- Other approaches include:
- Regulation theory and putative shift from Fordism to post-fordism
- Social structures of accumulation
- Immaterial Labour

22

- Globalisation as historically specific internationalisation of capital(ism) and not just ahistorical notions of faster speed of communication, transport and (false) parallels with homogenising by finance and culture
- Continuing and increasing salience of nation-state (and international forms) as opposed to neoliberal notions as reflected in "glocalisation"?

23

- Neoliberalism as underpinned, but not reducible to, financialisation
- Two phases across shock therapy followed by accommodating and sustaining as demonstrated by response to global crisis
- Need to distinguish between scholarship, ideology and policy in practice of NL
- All reflected in roles of World Bank/IMF, etc, and putative shift from Washington to Post Washington Consensus

24

- Reconstruct and Reconsider Contemporary Capitalism
- Post-war boom as reflecting state monopoly capitalism (properly understood) and internationalisation of productive capital under hegemony of USA, with predominance of inter-imperialist cooperation over rivalry for Cold War

25

- Current period marked by financialisation and its contradiction of appropriating but not producing surplus value
- Reconstruct our understanding of this in light of world economy as comprising combined and uneven development of capital(ism) across all of its abstract elements as previously delineated.

26

- Does financialisation shatter classic “teleology” of socialisation of production leading to socialisation of (economic) reproduction as the basis of socialism given socialisation through finance has come to the fore?

27