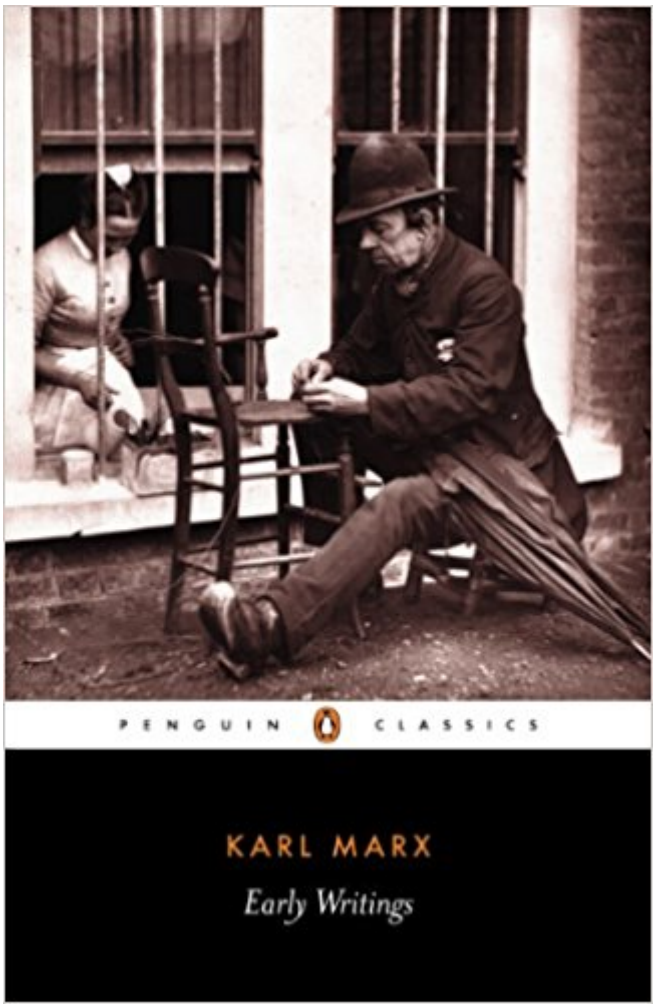
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Early Writings (Penguin Classics)



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Synopsis

Written in 1833-4, when Marx was barely twenty-five, this astonishingly rich body of works formed the cornerstone for his later political philosophy. In the Critique of Hegel's Doctrine of the State, he dissects Hegel's thought and develops his own views on civil society, while his Letters reveal a furious intellect struggling to develop the egalitarian theory of state. Equally challenging are his controversial essay On the Jewish Question and the Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, where Marx first made clear his views on alienation, the state, democracy and human nature. Brilliantly insightful, Marx's Early Writings reveal a mind on the brink of one of the most revolutionary ideas in human history - the theory of Communism. This translation fully conveys the vigour of the original works. The introduction, by Lucio Colletti, considers the beliefs of the young Marx and explores these writings in the light of the later development of Marxism.For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, German (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The astonishingly rich body of works produced in 1833-1834, when Marx was hardly twenty-five, formed the basis for his subsequent development.It is here that Marx first made clear his views on alienation, the state, representative government, democracy and human nature, here that Marx first laid the foundations of 'historical materialism'.

This is a collection of writings from Karl Marx (1818-1883) from the period of 1833-1834, when he had gotten married, and worked for a series of radical newspapers. The works include "Critique of Hegel's Doctrine of the State

This collection of Karl Marx's early writing represents, in my opinion, some of the best material Marx ever wrote. This is a wonderful collection that includes translations of the early Paris Manuscripts from 1844 and Marx's notorious essay "On the Jewish Question." Since the latter essay is frequently misunderstood, I'll focus this review on the subject of the Jewish question.In "On the Jewish Question," Marx takes issue with Bruno Bauer's assertion that the Jews in Germany during the 19th Century should seek political emancipation and equal rights in Germany by renouncing Judaism. Because Germany was a Christian state during this time, it was Bauer's contention that the Jews could not receive civic and political emancipation as Jews within a Christian state due to two mitigating factors: one, the natural egoism of the Jew, that is, the notion of the Jews as the "chosen people

As someone who thought he had a relatively good grasp of what Marxist philsophy is comprised of, it came as something of a surprise that this text was so incomprehensible. This was the first actual Marx I have ever set out to read. I believed that _Early Writings_ might a good place to start (you know: start at the beginning, as they say). At any rate, I would encourage someone who is a novice at this sort of thing to start with another book. From the very start I had a difficult time determing exactly what Marx was getting at. The first 200 pages are a refutation to a Hegelian concept of the state. If you are not familiar with the writings and ideas of Hegel, you will not want to read that particular work. The second half of the book is more approachable, but not what I would term "accessible" by any means. I would recommend this only to people that already have extensive knowledge of Marx's terminology and belief systems. Without this prerequisite, you might as well be

reading Latin.

These are early writings compiled together. They are written like personal notes, truly outpourings of thought, not pruned and edited for mass consumption. As such, they are dry and drawn-out in some sections and a bit barren in others. There is a mix of argument, stating opinion as fact, solutions without backup and problems without solutions, that really just point to how this is not a polished work but a.. what's the description? It's worth looking at but not the most fulfilling philosophical journey to take on as a reader.

Basically brand new, for pennies. Good selection of Marx's early stuff.

Indispensable for a correct reading of Karl Marx. To fully understand his point of view and critics you need to cover the early writings first, so that you won't form a wrong idea what Marxism is about, like most people usually do.

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