



MARX, ENGELS, AND MARXISMS

Reexamining Engels's Legacy in the 21st Century

Edited by
Kohei Saito

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Engels's Conception of Dialectics in the *Plan 1878* of *Dialectics of Nature*

Kaan Kangal

What follows is an attempt to question the ways of how Engels coined the term “dialectics” in his *Dialectics in Nature*. My focus is directed by an interest in re-reading Engels's undertaking from the perspective of his much-celebrated *and* downplayed *Plan 1878*. I would like to make clear from the outset that, by Engels's dialectics, the *Plan 1878* and *Dialectics of Nature*, I refer neither to a complete and compact account of dialectics nor to *the* list of contents of Engels's work nor to a “book.” Rather, I occupy myself with a “work in progress” that reached some stage of maturity at the end of 1870s (documented in *a* plan), and a work *before* it posthumously became a “book.” In this regard, a couple of remarks seem to be in order.

Written between 1873 and 1882, *Dialectics of Nature* was first published in 1925 posthumously under the title *Nature-dialectics*. In a second edition (1927), the title was changed to *Dialectics and Nature*. Until the Adoratskii edition (1935), we have had the 1929 and 1931

K. Kangal (✉)
Nanjing University, Nanjing, China