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International Law on the Left: Re-examining Marxist Legacies

From Susan Marks

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Against expectations that the turn away from state socialism would likewise initiate a turn away from Marxist thought, recent years have seen a resurgence of interest in Marxism and its reassessment by a new generation of theorists. This book pursues that interest with specific reference to international law. It presents a sustained and fascinating exploration of the pertinence of Marxist ideas, concepts and analytical practices for international legal enquiry from a range of angles. Essays consider the relationship between Marxism and critical approaches to international law, the legacy of Soviet international legal theory, the bearing of Marxism for the analysis of international trade law and human rights, and the significance for international legal enquiry of such Marxist concepts as the commodity, praxis and exploitation.

"...The book can be recommended as readable and fairly well integrated, as collective volumes go. It should in particular be read by those who are most in the grip of the ideology that says that this is the best of all possible worlds, that resources are allocated around the globe by the abstract operations of the market, and that there is no need to worry about the north-south crevasse..." --Detlev F. Vagts, Of the Board of Editors, *The American Journal of International Law* [Vol. 103, 2009]"...an indispensable "must read" for law and political science professors. It is also a useful antidote for the false assumption that there is only one true legal system..." --ASIL Newsletter [ISSUE #39: May 2009]About the AuthorSusan Marks is Professor of Public International Law in the School of Law, Kings College London.