



Foucault with Marx

By Jacques Bidet



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With this timely commitment, Jacques Bidet unites the theories of arguably the world's two greatest emancipatory political thinkers. In this far-reaching and decisive text, Bidet examines Marxian and Foucauldian criticisms of capitalist modernity.

For Marx, the intersection between capital and the market is crucial, while for Foucault, the organizational aspects of capital are what really matter. According to Marx, the ruling class is identified with property; with Foucault, it is the managers who hold power and knowledge that rule. Bidet identifies these two sides of capitalist modernity as 'market' and 'organization', showing that each leads to specific forms of social conflict; against exploitation and austerity, over wages and pensions on the one hand, and against forms of 'medical' and work-based discipline, control of bodies and prisons on the other.

Bidet's impetus and clarity however serve a greater purpose: uniting two souls of critical social theory, in order to overcome what has become an age-long separation between the 'old left' and the 'new social movements'.

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Foucault with Marx By Jacques Bidet Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #944429 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-04-15
- Released on: 2016-04-15
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

“In this important work, Jacques Bidet shows with patient and piercing insight why it is necessary to think Foucault with Marx (and Marx with Foucault) in order to make sense of the contemporary world. It will undoubtedly become an essential work for anyone seeking to think through the productive relations between the two thinkers.”

(Nick Srnicek, co-author of *Inventing the Future: Postcapitalism and a World Without Work*)

“The ongoing confrontation between Marx and Foucault is a primary theoretical issue implicit in every political struggle today, whether domestic or international. Bidet’s careful and detailed staging of the intersections of these two quite different bodies of theory is an indispensable exercise.”

(Fredric Jameson, author of *The Political Unconscious and Marxism and Form*)

“In the growing literature confronting and combining the legacies of Marx and Foucault, Jacques Bidet’s contribution will stand out with exceptional relevance. It is both firmly anchored in the author’s doctrine of the ‘dual’ nature of capitalist domination (capital as property and capital as knowledge) and full of imaginative readings of the texts.”

(Etienne Balibar, coauthor of *Reading Capital*)

“Bidet creatively interrogates Marx’s critique of property and class relations and Foucault’s critique of knowledge-power relations to produce an original synthesis that informs a novel approach to resistance and struggles for counter-hegemony in the present neoliberal conjuncture.”

(Robert Jessop, author of *The Future of the Capitalist State*)

About the Author

Jacques Bidet is a French philosopher, social theorist, and professor emeritus in the philosophy department at the Université de Paris X—Nanterre.

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Tom Copper:

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