

Essential readings to understand Socialism.

By Robert Montgomery

To discuss socialism coherently, after mastering the “basics” in Marx and Engels, we need to read the seminal documents of the Trotskyist movement. All of them. : The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the 4th international, The Permanent Revolution, The Revolution Betrayed, and In Defense of Marxism.

For starters.

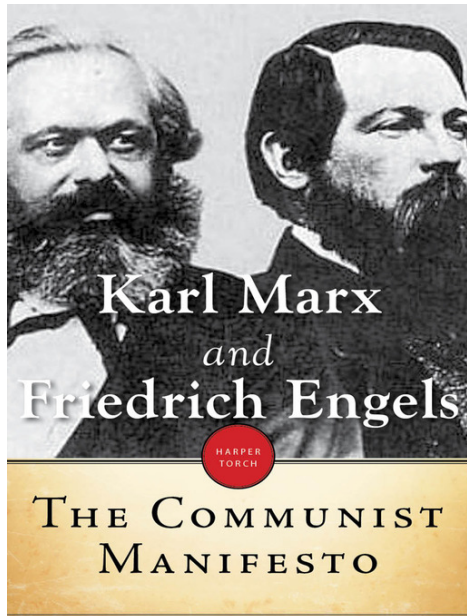
Only then will we have the theoretical and political clarity to intelligently discuss:

- what capitalism is
- what socialism is
- what communism is
- what a workers state is
- what a degenerated workers state is
- what a deformed workers state is
- what Stalinism is

I don't mean we become academics or reference librarians. It takes hard, disciplined work. If we fail to do it we risk talking impressionistically. The [World Socialist Website](#) is a great reference source. It has a link to the classics. The [Marxist Internet Archive](#) is essential also.

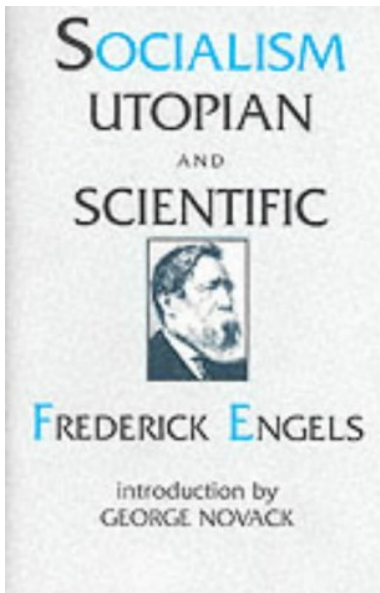
Marx and Engels – The basics

The Communist Manifesto



[Read the "The Communist Manifesto" here](#)

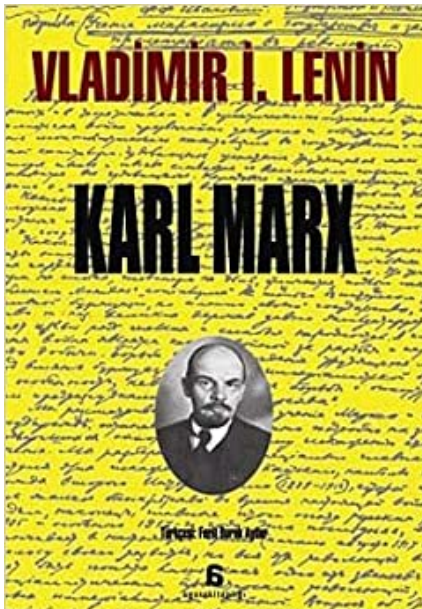
Socialism: Utopian and Scientific



[Read "Socialism – Utopian and Scientific" here](#)

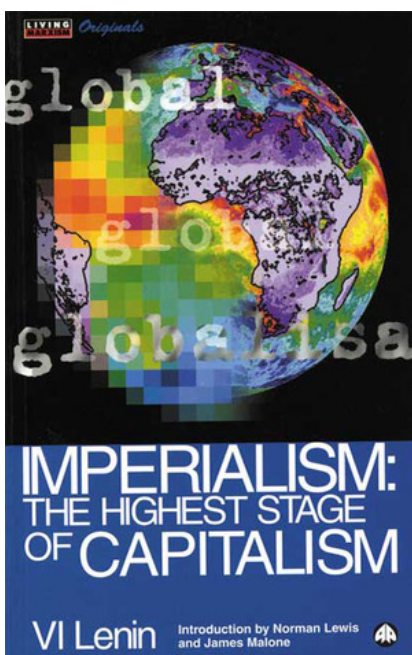
Lenin

**Karl Marx: A brief biographical sketch
with an exposition of Marxism**



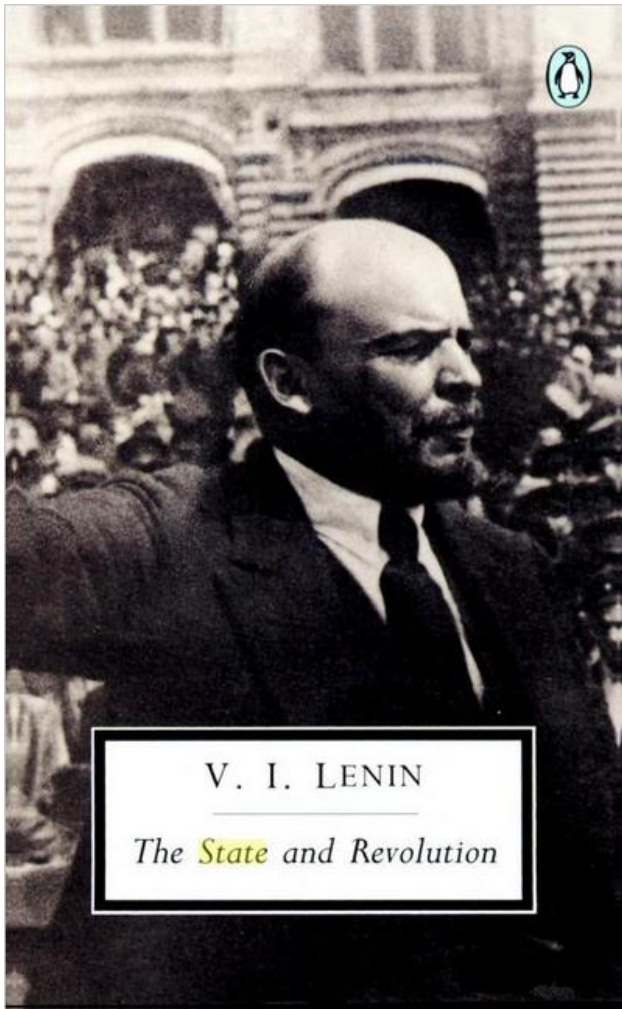
[Read “Karl Marx A Brief Biographical Sketch with an Exposition of Marxism – 1914” here](#)

Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism



[Read "Imperialism: The highest stage Capitalism" here.](#)

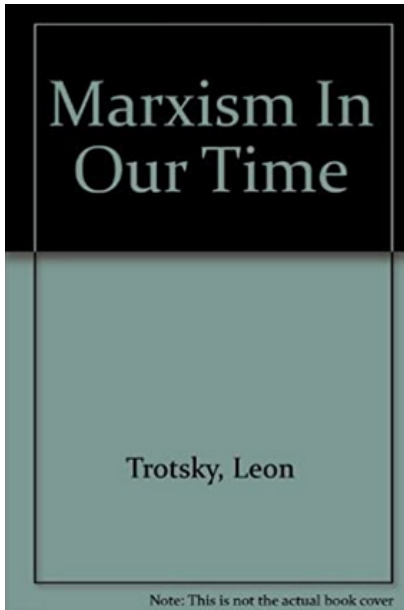
The State and Revolution



[Read "The State and Revolution" here.](#)

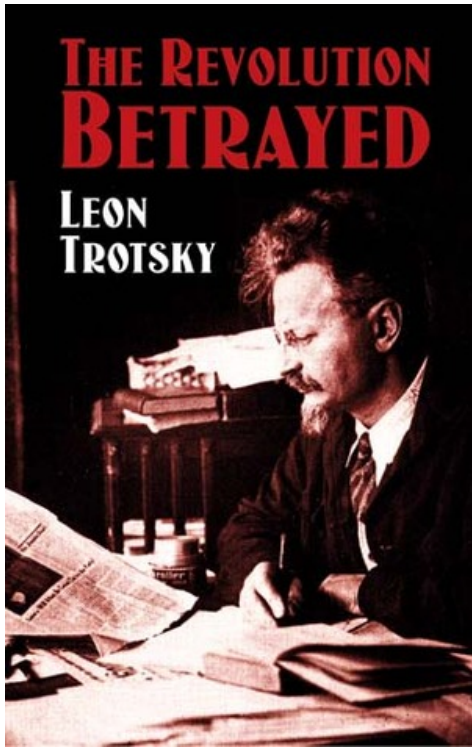
Trotsky

Marxism in Our Time



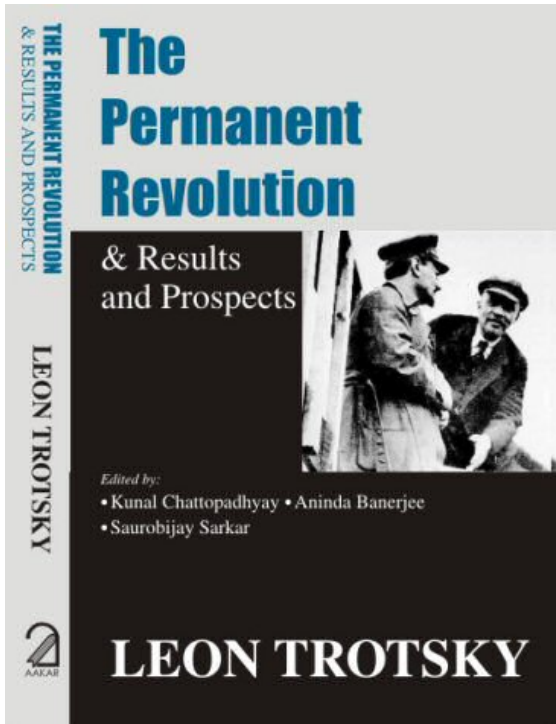
[Read "Marxism in our time " here.](#)

The Revolution Betrayed



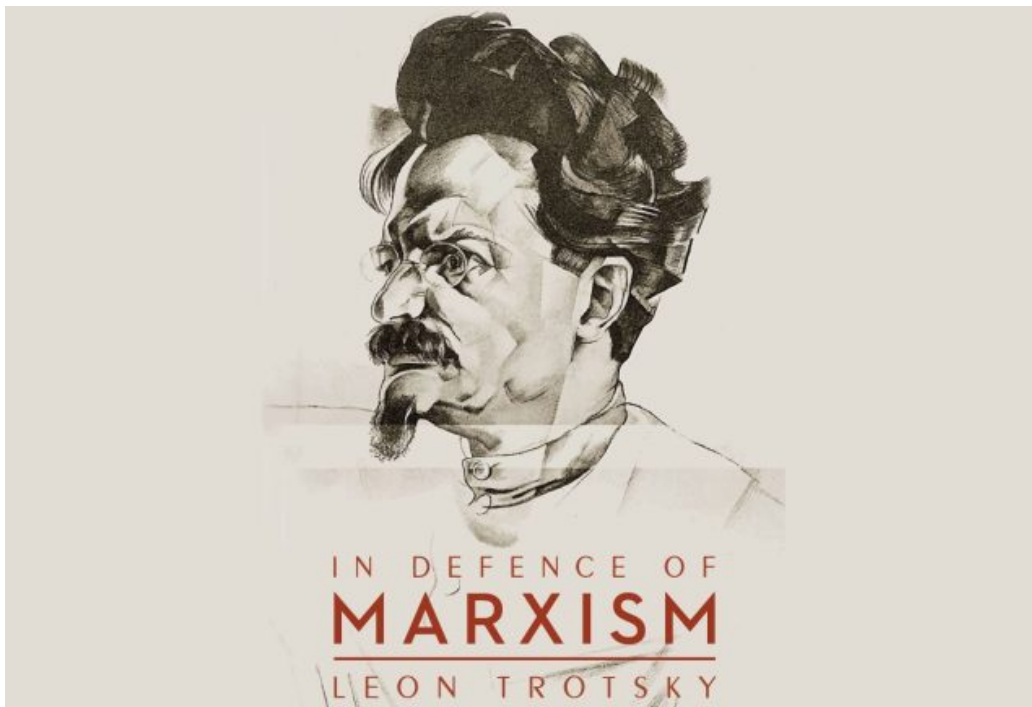
[Read "The Revolution Betrayed" here](#)

The Permanent Revolution, Basic Postulates



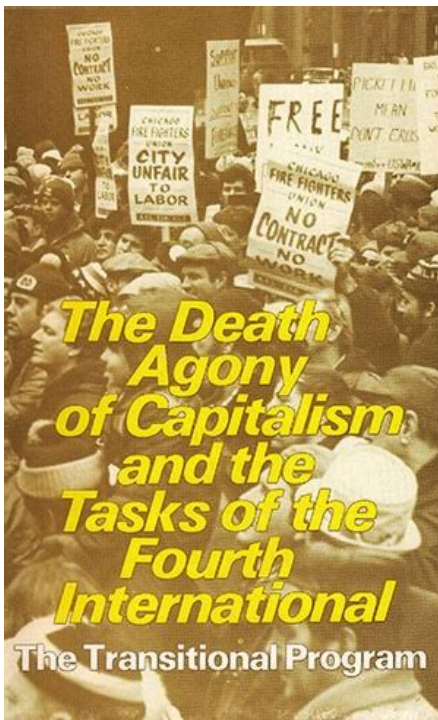
[Read "The Permanent Revolution, Basic Postulates"](#)

In Defense of Marxism



[Read "In defence of Marxism" here](#)

The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International (Also known as the "Transitional Program")



[Read the "The death agony of capitalism and the tasks of the 4th International" here.](#)