

## Marx And Human Nature Refutation Of A Legend

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### Marx And Human Nature Refutation

Marx and Human Nature: Refutation of a Legend is a 1983 book by the political theorist Norman Geras, in which the author discusses the philosopher Karl Marx's theory of human nature with reference to Marx's Sixth Thesis on Feuerbach. Geras argues that Marx did not deny the existence of a universal human nature, and maintains that the concept of human nature is compatible with historical materialism. The book received positive reviews and is considered a classic.

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To wit, that while Marx has a conception of 'human nature', he does not (explicitly) offer an account by which people have different, individual human natures. That is, he could be taken to claim that while we are not all absolutely malleable; if one of us can be nurtured to a certain condition, so can another.

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His later writings are formed by an idea of a specifically human nature that fulfils both explanatory and normative functions. The belief that Marx's historical materialism entailed a denial of the conception of human nature is, Geras writes, 'an old fixation, which the Althusserian influence in this matter has fed upon...Because this fixation still exists and is misguided, it is still necessary to challenge it.'

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In fact, as the earlier quote suggests, Marx's concept of human nature, arises out of his understanding of how all human societies rest upon the natural world. We, in a myriad of different ways, have always laboured to change nature in order to satisfy our needs - most important of all, food, water and shelter.

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special manner in the case of human nature. Marx argues: He that would criticise all human acts, movements, relations etc .. , by :the principle of utility, must first deal with human nature in general, and then with human nature as modified in each historical epoch. 3 Marx's ...

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Marx and Human Nature: Refutation of a Legend by Norman Geras (1983) is a concise argument against the view that Marx did not believe there was something such as human nature, in particular the confusion surrounding the sixth of the Theses on Feuerbach.

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Freud describes human nature in terms of universal, instinctive drives, the fulfillment of which constitutes happiness in its most basic form; Marx believes humans to be the only creatures capable of expressing themselves through labor, and posits that this distinctly human self-expression is fundamental to true human happiness.

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~ Free PDF Marx And Human Nature Refutation Of A Legend ~ Uploaded By Seiichi Morimura, marx and human nature refutation of a legend is a 1983 book by the political theorist norman geras in which the author discusses the philosopher karl marxs theory of human nature with reference to marxs sixth thesis on feuerbach geras

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Geras makes a painstaking case that Marx's rejection of theories of human behavior that relied on an ahistorical notion of human nature IS NOT a rejection of 'human nature' tout court. Marx had a notion of human nature, just one highly inflected and mediated by 'the ensemble of human social relations.'

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He argues that this ambiguous statement—widely cited as evidence that Marx broke with all conceptions of human nature in 1845—must be read in the context of Marx's work as a whole. His

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later writings are informed by an idea of a specifically human nature that fulfills both explanatory and normative functions.

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Geras provides a relatively thin account of human nature, which he finds in Marx. It is based not on the idea of alienated man but on a series of basic human needs, of which the most obvious are food and shelter. Cowling accepts that Geras made his point well and goes on to discuss Geras's ideas from the three main points of view.

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Marx, while also a materialist, pointed out in his Theses on Feuerbach that a problem with Feuerbach's conception of human nature was that he saw it only in terms of static objects. For Marx, in contrast, of key importance were human social relations; rather than on the abstract, isolated human individual, the focus should be on human activity.

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Marx's insights into actors and structures must be understood in the context of his views on human nature, which is the basis for his critical analysis of the contradictions of capitalism. Marx viewed human nature as historically contingent, shaped by many of the same relations that affect society.

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