

May 22, 1966

Dear Com. Yukiya:

I must have your immediate help on one element needed for my new book and therefore I am limiting myself to this (although I left word with Olga to write you of other matters). I need to know something of the output of works on the question of Hegel in Japan, postwar Japan. The introduction to my book deals with the fact that every time there is a major/^{world}crisis there is renewed interest in Hegel both by Marxists and anti-Marxists. Thus on the eve of World War II there was the work of Karl Lowith's FROM HEGEL TO NIETZSCHE, the revolution in 19th century thought. (In his Introduction, dated April 1939, Sendai, he mentions Takahashi as having aided him with works on Hegel since his own library was in Germany. Please tell me whether this is the Takashi I met at Tokyo University. If yes, please let me know his interest in philosophy and I will write him myself.) The same was true in France.

At the end of W W II, France and Italy not only had a new revival of Hegel studies by Marxists but by anti-Marxists, and to this day the French Catholics and Marxists (Maximilien Rubel) collaborate in a new edition of Marx's works as well. Indeed, both Wetter in Germany and Italy and Bochenski in Holland head whole Institutes devoted to that study.

The 20th century, directly after the Russian Revolution, when Lenin established a "Friends of Hegel" Society, began with new studies of Hegel, instead of just satisfying themselves with what Marx had written of him. Thus at Congresses in Russia itself the Hegelians of both Right and Left met.

What I want to know from you is: (1) What works in Japan, either on eve of World War II or at end of World War II, dealt with Hegel alone or with Marx and Hegel. How many were by non-Marxists? How many by Marxists. (2) What about now? Has Kakashi's work --when was it first published?--on the relationship of Logic to Capital, produced other works, or at least important articles in theoretical journals. (3) Are such works by Marxists really Stalinist works, or are there some independent studies? (4) Finally, have any of the parties (CP, Zenshin, Trotskyists, --the Left generally, both old and new) concerned themselves with this problem. As you know, I was quite disappointed at the level of philosophical discussions of those whom I met in Japan. For that matter, I was sorry that Com. Tsushima did not "create" time to have such a discussion with me. In any case, I must have all the facts, statistically at least, if not critically and conceptually as to what the state of Hegel studies are. I certainly do not again wish to write as if only Europe and America existed --and China by the back door. I want Japan to be in every section of the book, and not only in whatever part Com. Tsushima can contribute on the world stage of capitalism, state-capitalism as it exists in full or partially, and as it affects the underdeveloped countries. How is he progressing with his work?

Please answer as soon as possible.

Yours,

Bob

How is your book progressing? Will you push for a letter?

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