

NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3, No. 3

Summer 1985

~~ROSA LUXEMBURG - WOMEN'S LIBERATION~~
~~MARX'S PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION~~

By Raya Dunayevskaya

Humanities Press 1982

This remarkable work's original contribution lets us see the heretofore unexplored and even denied feminist dimension within the great revolutionary theorist, Rosa Luxemburg; singles out what is new and revolutionary in today's Women's Liberation Movement as well as challenging the movement to work out its "unique and unfinished contributions"; and gives us a new view of Marx, developing his concept of women as dialectics of revolution from 1844 to 1883--especially his last decade which shows Marx to be worlds apart from Engels.

Raya Dunayevskaya's unique view of Luxemburg reveals her feminist dimension as a development out of her revolutionary perspectives. Thus we are enabled to see so right a relationship between the objective unfolding of the 1905 Russian Revolution and Rosa Luxemburg's self-development--as feminist, as theoretician, as revolutionary--that it helps us understand Luxemburg when she exclaims in a letter: "Being human means joyfully throwing your whole life 'on the scales of destiny' when need be, but all the while rejoicing in every sunny day and every beautiful cloud. Ach, I know of no formula to write you for being human."

In this work, Dunayevskaya aims to disentangle Marx's views on women and dialectics from those of Engels and demolishes the long held assumption that Engels' Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State represents Marx's position. She succeeds in this by taking us on a journey, through Marx's eyes, to primitive societies. There we see her emphasis that, unlike Engels' unilinear view of history (first matriarchy, then private property bringing with it wo-

men's oppression), Marx traces dialectical development from one stage to another and relates it to "epochs of social revolution."

The reassessment of Marx's concept of women, now current in women's studies, would benefit from Dunayevskaya's new view of women as revolutionary subjects as she traces it from Marx's 1844 Humanist Essays to his 1883 Ethnological Notebooks and right up to our age.

Reviewed by Terry Moon

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