

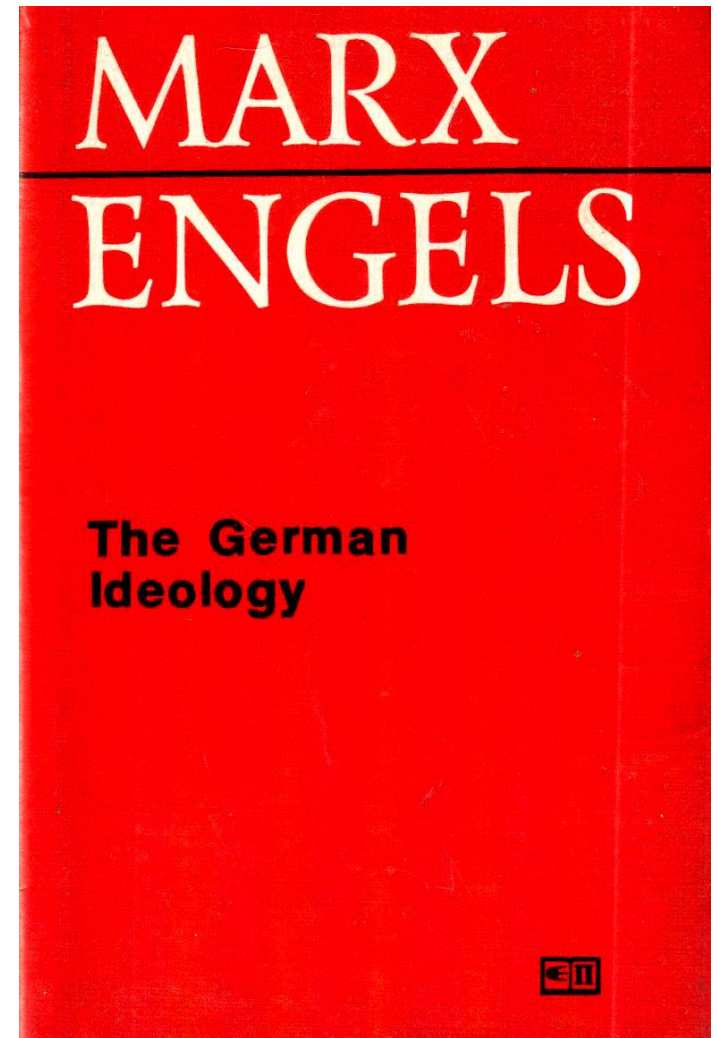
Modes of Reading

Week Three

Historical Materialism

Marx and Engels “The German Ideology” (1846)

Raymond Williams “Literature” (1978)



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- HISTORY AS MATERIAL FORCE
- MODE OF PRODUCTION
- DIVISION OF LABOUR
- CRITIQUE OF IDEOLOGY
- BASE AND SUPERSTRUCTURE
- LITERATURE AS 'HISTORICAL MATERIAL'.





PENGUIN CLASSICS

FRIEDRICH ENGELS
*The Origin of the Family,
Private Property and the State*

With a new introduction by TRISTRAM HUNT



PENGUIN CLASSICS

KARL MARX
Capital Volume II



PENGUIN CLASSICS

KARL MARX
Grundrisse



PENGUIN CLASSICS

FRIEDRICH ENGELS
The Condition of the Working Class in England

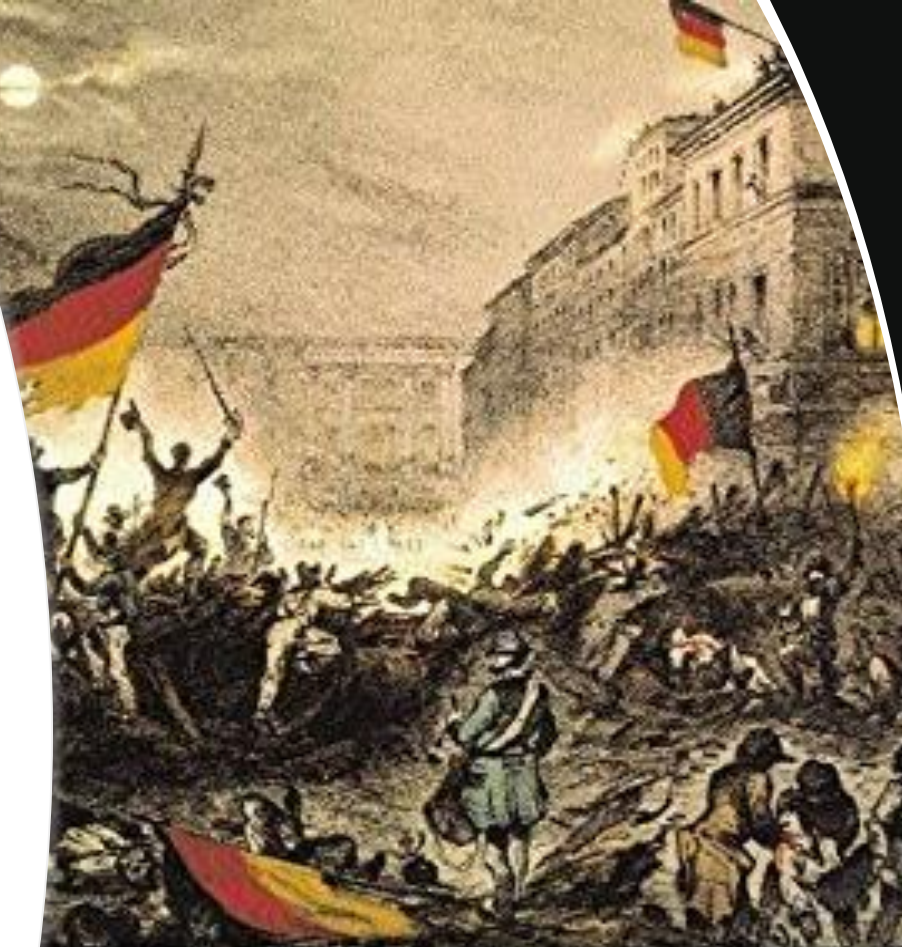


PENGUIN CLASSICS

KARL MARX

CAPITAL
VOLUME I

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.
(1848)



PENGUIN CLASSICS

KARL MARX AND
FRIEDRICH ENGELS
The Communist Manifesto

With an introduction by GARETH STEDMAN JONES

Karl Marx
Friedrich Engels
*El manifiesto
comunista*



MARX

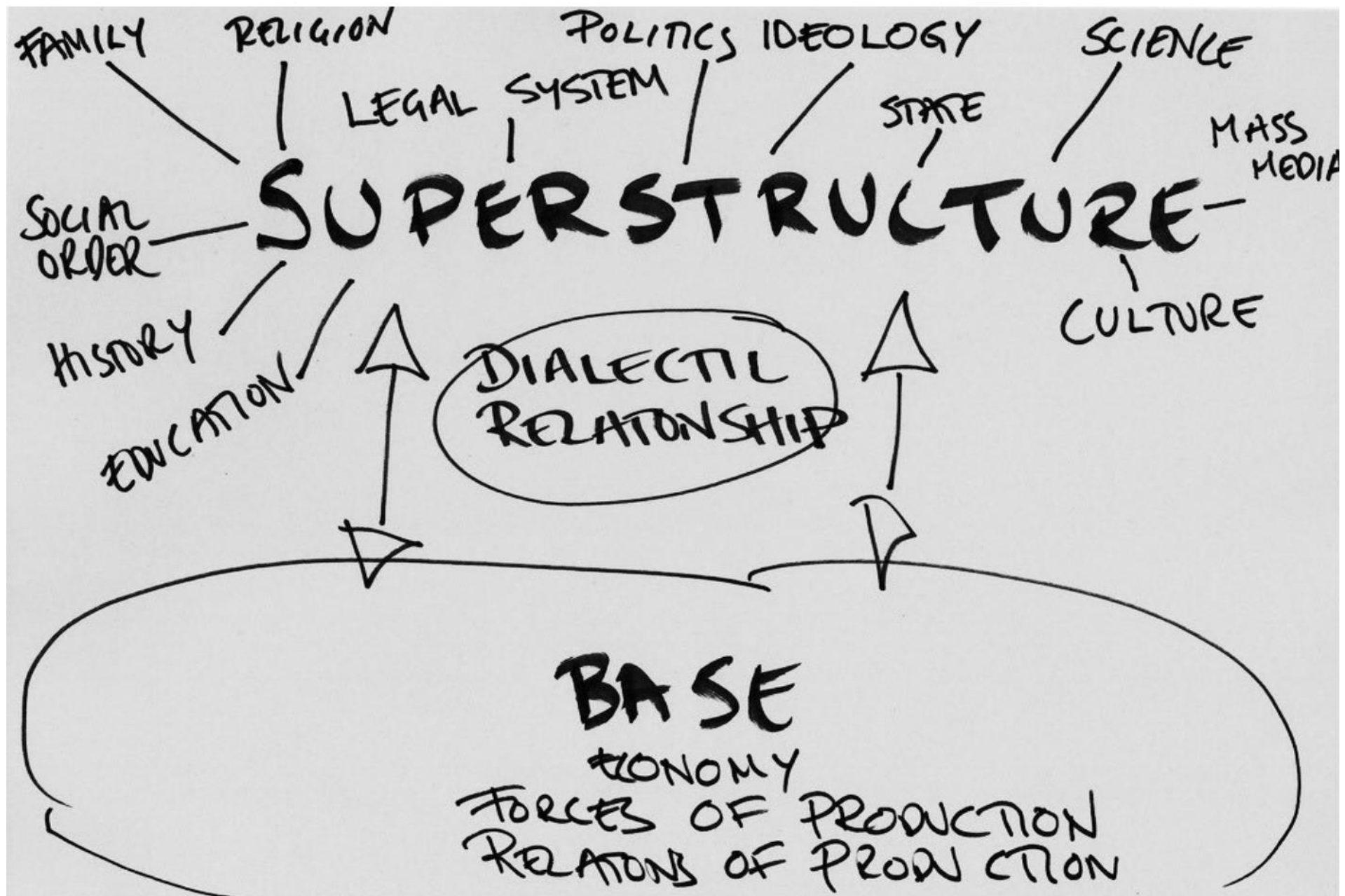
A Contribution
to the Critique
of Political Economy



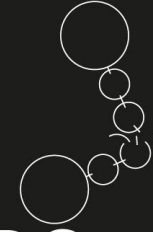
In the social production of their life, men enter into definite relations that are indispensable and independent of their will; these **relations of production** correspond to a definite stage of development of their material **forces of production**.

The sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society — the real foundation, on which rises a legal and political superstructure and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness.”

Marx, Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* (1859)



KARL



THESES ON FEUERBACH

THESES ON FEUERBACH

**THE
PHILOSOPHERS
HAVE ONLY
INTERPRETED
THE WORLD, IN
VARIOUS WAYS.
THE POINT,
HOWEVER, IS
TO CHANGE IT**



MARX

(Thesis XI)



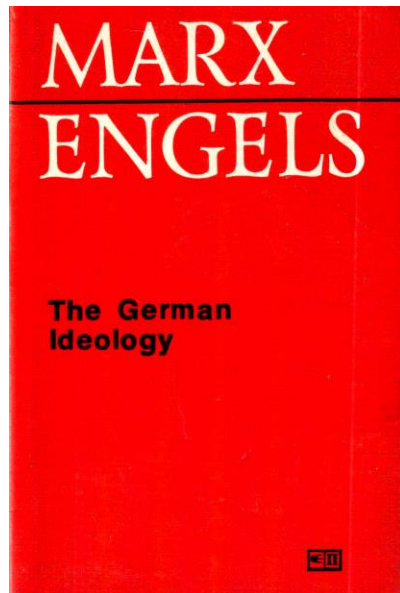
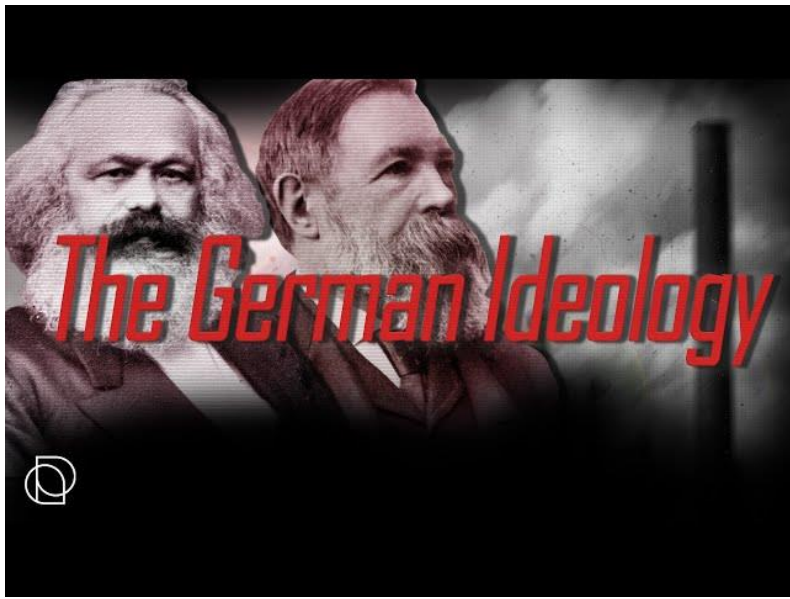




iphone factory

Foxconn's Longhua complex in Shenzhen, China (with dormitory)





Hitherto men have constantly made up for themselves **false conceptions** about themselves, about what they are and what they ought to be. They have arranged their relationships **according to their ideas of God**, of normal man, etc. The **phantoms of their brains** have got out of their hands. They, the creators, have bowed down before their creations. Let us liberate them from the **chimeras, the ideas, dogmas, imaginary beings under the yoke of which they are pining away**. Let us revolt against **the rule of thoughts**. Let us teach men, says one, to exchange these imaginations for thoughts which correspond to the essence of man; says the second, **to take up a critical attitude** to them; says the third, to knock them out of their heads; and – existing reality will collapse.

The German Ideology



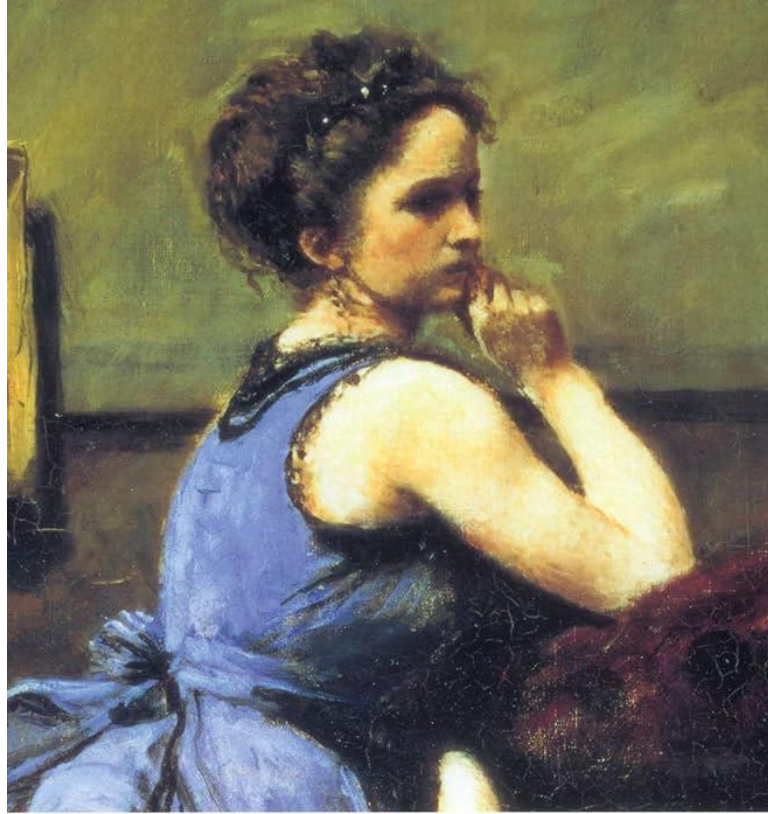
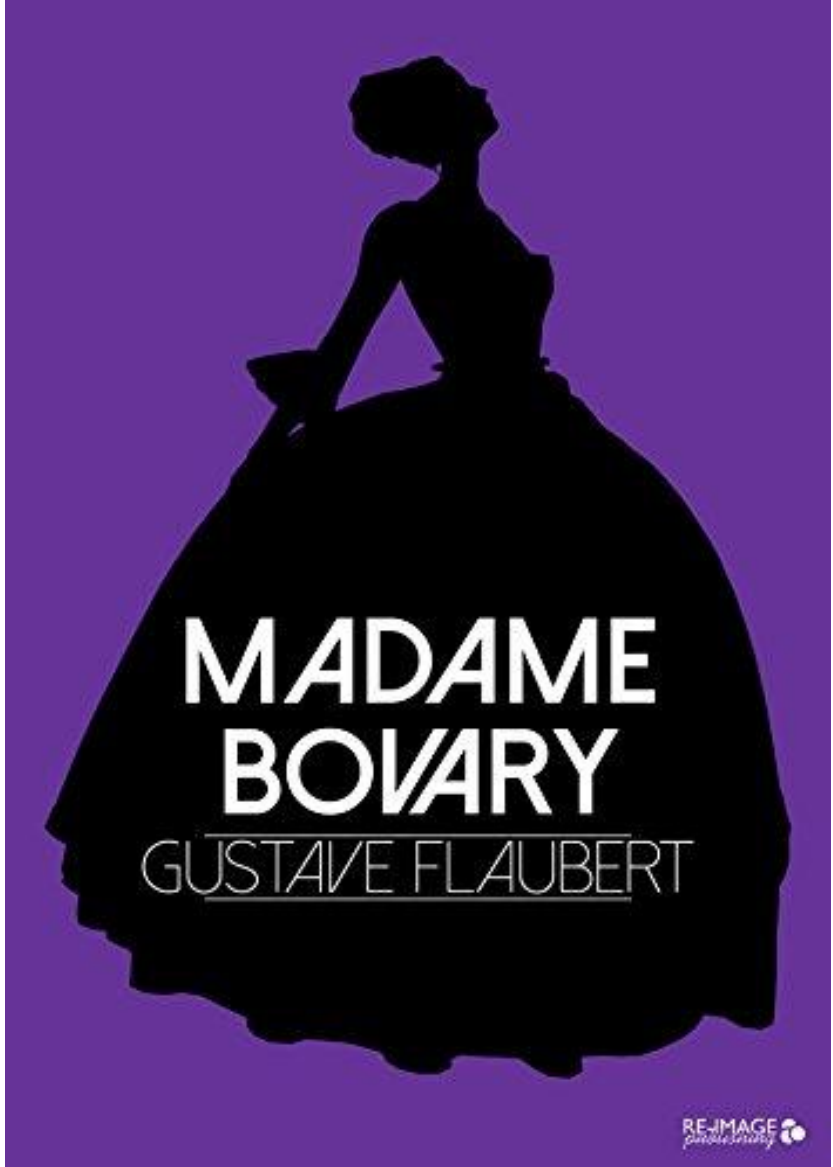
G. W. F. Hegel
(1770-1831)

MARX ENGELS

**The German
Ideology**

We do not set out from what men [*sic*] say, imagine, conceive ... We set out from real, active men, and on the basis of their real life-process we demonstrate the development of the ideological reflexes and echoes of this life-process. The phantoms formed in the human brain are also, necessarily, **sublimates of their material life-process.**

Life is not determined by consciousness, but consciousness by life.



PENGUIN CLASSICS

GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

Madame Bovary

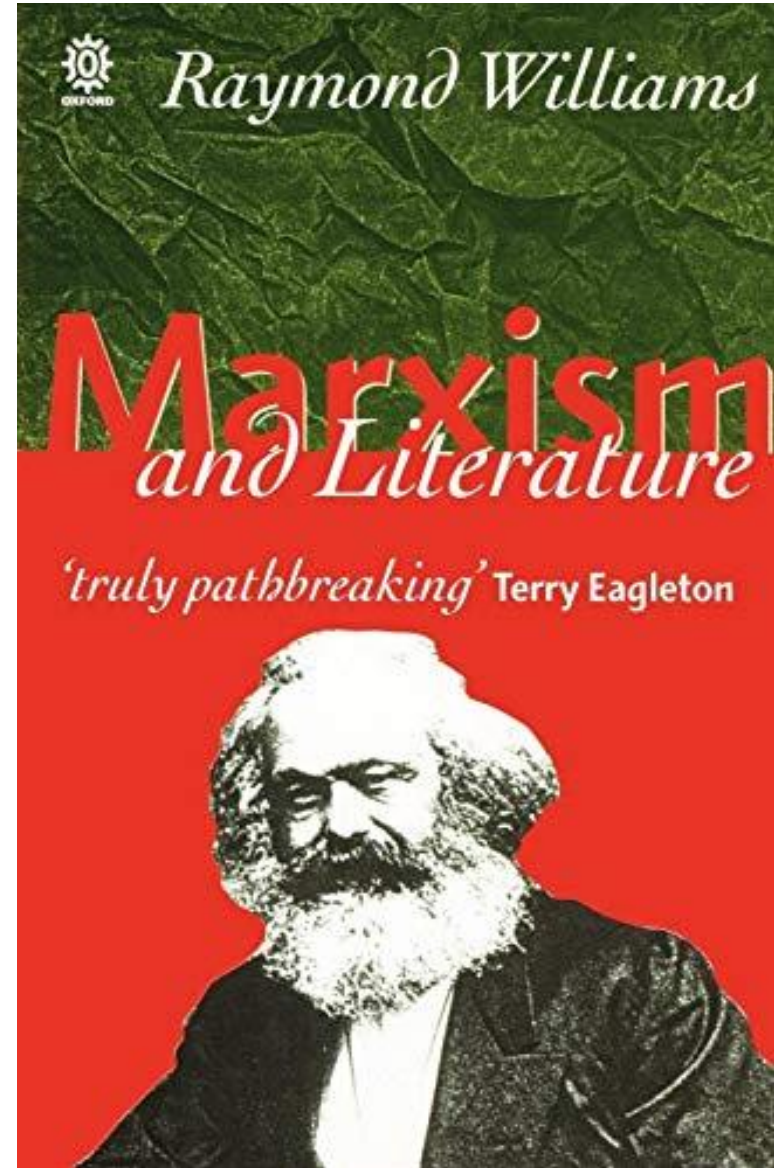
I LOVE DICK

CHRIS KRAUS

I still hadn't gotten round to explaining what Guatemalan genocide had to do with the 180 pages of love letters that I'd written with my husband and then given you, like a timebomb or a cesspool or a manuscript. But I would, I would. I felt like we were facing each other from the edges of a very dark and scary crater. Truth and difficulty.

Thurman, New York Thursday, January 5, 1995: 10:45 p.m.

Dear Dick, Tonight we went to the Thurman Town Court as plaintiffs against our former tenants, the O'Malley's, sandwiched in between the bad check writers and drunk drivers. This should pretty much evoke for you the world we live in. We can't imagine you in that position. Actually we can hardly imagine ourselves there. When it was all over and we won, we both agreed we couldn't care less about material possessions. We were just sick of being had all the time by everyone, even these stupid hicks who we sued for non-payment of rent, and who will eventually get the better of us. Oh Dick, I wish you were here to save us from life in the provinces. Signed, Charles and Emma Bovary.



RAYMOND WILLIAMS

MARXISM AND LITERATURE



There were always local disputes about who and what should be included, or as commonly excluded, in the definition of this 'tradition'. To have been an Englishman and to have written was by no means to belong to 'the English Literary Tradition', just as to be an Englishman and to speak was by no means to exemplify the 'greatness' of the language—indeed the practice of most English speakers was continually cited as 'ignorance' or 'betrayal' or 'debasement' of just this 'greatness'. Selectivity and self-definition, which were the evident processes of 'criticism' of this kind, were however projected as 'literature' itself, as 'literary values' and even finally an 'essential Englishness': the absolute ratification of a limited and specializing consensual process. To open the terms of this ratification was to be 'against Literature.'

Raymond Williams, "Literature", from *Marxism and Literature*

Poetry

the pee as in pulchritude

oh pronounced ough

as in bough

the ee rather poised

(pronounced ih as in wit)

then a languid high tea...

pause: then the coda—

ray pronounced rih

with the left eyebrow raised

—what a gracious bouquet!

Poetry.

Poughit. Rih.

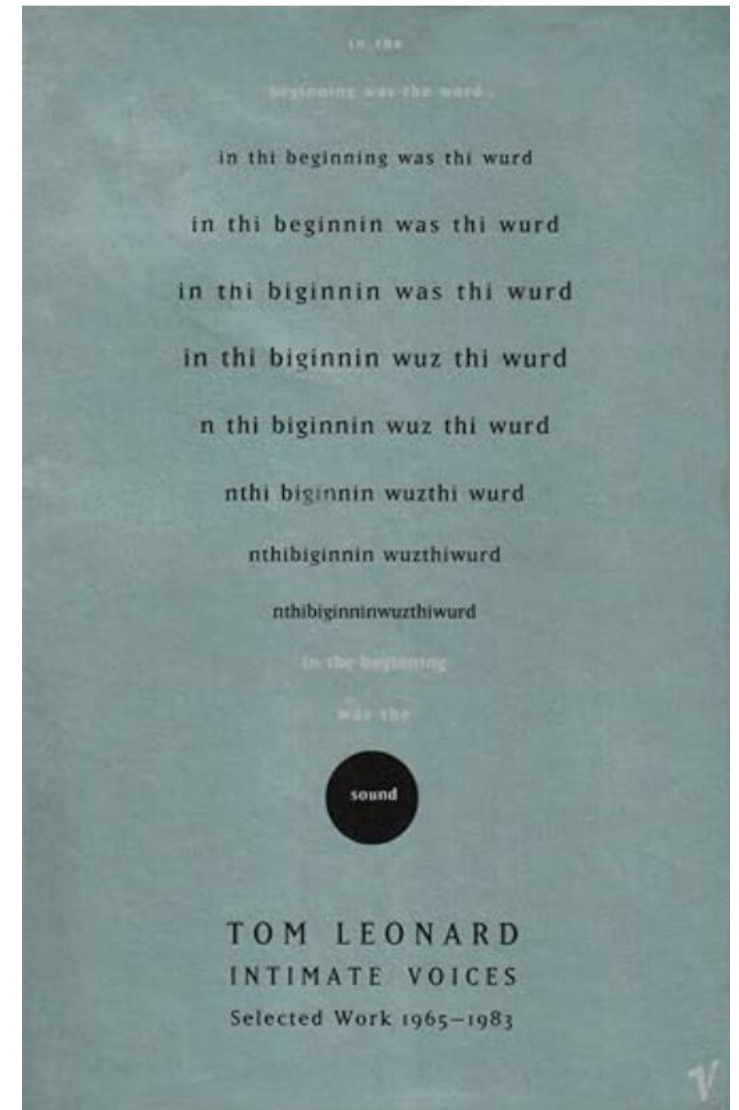
That was my education

—and nothing to do with me.

from outside the narrative: Poems 1965-2009 (Etruscan Books/Wordpower Press, 2011), Tom Leonard 2011, used by permission of the author.

Six O'Clock News – Tom Leonard

this is thi
six a clock
news thi
man said n
thi reason
a talk wia
BBC accent
iz coz yi
widny wahnt
mi ti talk
about thi
trooth wia
voice lik
wanna yoo
scruff. if
a toktaboot
thi trooth
lik wanna yoo
scruff yi
widny think
it wuz troo.
jist wanna yoo
scruff tokn.
thirza right
way ti spell
ana right way
to tok it. this
is me tokn yir
right way a
spellin. this
is ma trooth.
yooz doant no
thi trooth
yirsellz cawz
yi canny talk
right. this is
the six a clock
nyooz. belt up.



Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels

PENGUIN  CLASSICS

The Communist Manifesto

N° 20

The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage labourers.

