

Specters of Marx: The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, and the New International

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Specters of Marx

is a major new book from the renowned French philosopher Jacques Derrida. It represents his first important statement on Marx and his definitive entry into social and political philosophy.

"Specter" is the first noun one reads in The Manifesto of the Communist Party. But that's just the beginning. Once you start to notice them, there is no counting all the ghosts, spirits, specters and spooks that crowd Marx's text. If they are to count for something, however, one must question the spectropoetics that Marx allowed to invade his discourse. In

Specters of Marx,

Derrida undertakes this task within the context of a critique of the new dogmatism and "new world order" that have proclaimed the death of Marxism and of Marx.

Jacques Derrida

is Directeur d'Etudes, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. He is well known to English-language readers for such works as *Of Grammatology*, *Spurs*, *The Post Card*, and *Cinders*. *Acts of Literature*, a collection of his essays, is available from Routledge. Text: English (translation)

Original Language: French

Other Books

Understanding Derrida, Understanding Modernism. This volume makes a significant contribution to both the study of Derrida and of modernist studies. The contributors argue, first, that deconstruction is not "modern"; neither is it "postmodern" nor simply "modernist." They also posit that deconstruction is intimately connected with literature, not because deconstruction would be a literary way of doing philosophy, but because literature stands out as a "modern" notion. The contributors investigate the nature and depth of Derrida's affinities with writers such as Joyce, Kafka, Antonin Artaud, Georges Bataille, Paul Celan, Maurice Blanchot, Theodor Adorno, Samuel Beckett, and Walter Benjamin, among others. With its strong connection between philosophy and literary modernism, this highly original volume advances modernist literary study and the relationship of literature and philosophy.

26 Jacques Derrida, *Specters of Marx: The State of the Debt, the Work of Mourning, and the New International* (New York: Routledge, 1994), 33. 27 See also "Performative" in the Glossary. 28 Samuel Beckett, "Dante... Bruno. Vico."