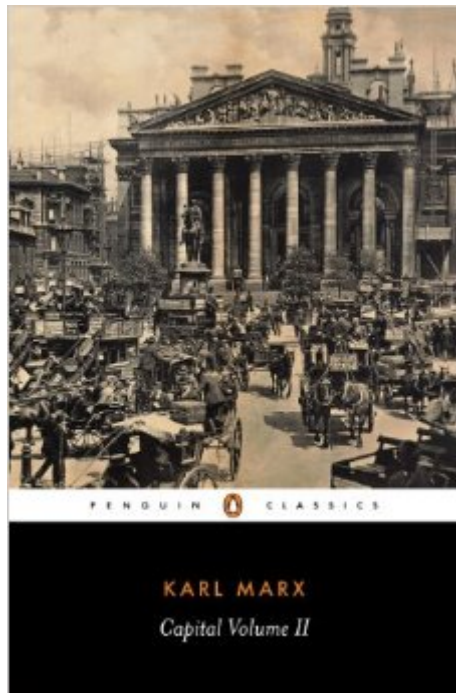


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Capital : A Critique Of Political Economy (Penguin Classics) (Volume 2)



Synopsis

The second volume of a political treatise that changed the worldA vital cornerstone to Marx's overall theory of economics, the second volume of Capital considers in depth the nature of commodity and the market-place bourgeois society. This immensely powerful work argues that prosperity in a capitalist society inevitably holds within itself the seeds of its own destruction. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

Capital I, this is not. Although, it's difficult being tough on this book, as Marx never finished it, and it's mostly a compilation of manuscripts in the order Engels thought most prudent. Overall, Vol II lacks the literary, political, and polemical flare of Vol I. Therefore, it's not as engaging as Vol I. But, there are still pockets of ingenuity, like Vol I, found within it. Although the book is 300 pages less than Vol I, it takes longer to read, and the algebra is frequent, repetitive, and seemingly unnecessary at times. But, Ernest Mandel in the introduction (which, like most Mandel's writing, is laudable), forewarns the reader that he/she must read Vol II to fully understand Vol III. But, the

translator warns the reader that Vol II has little bits of oasis, in between lots of arid desert. Reading this book then proves difficult, as we need the oasis to grasp Vol III, but trekking through the arid desert, as I just did, leaves one seeing mirages, and gasping for a drink. I may have even killed a man along the way, but that's another story....In Vol I, Marx left us with his famous formula M-C-M'. The Capitalist, as Capital personified, enters the world as M (money), buys a commodity, and sells it dearer (M'). We find out in Vol I, that for overall economic growth, this commodity must be labor power. In Vol II Marx expands upon the circulation of capital, and gives us a better definition of what Capital is. The Formula now expands to: $MP \rightarrow M-C \dots P \dots C'-M' \leftarrow LP$ (I will not let me properly show this formula, so pretend the slashes connecting MP and LP to M are really connecting LP and MP to C). The capitalist shows up with money, buys means of production and labor power, then the act of production occurs (P), and the "....

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