

Reading guide for *Capital (vol. 1)*
Liberation School
Chapters 26-33

Chapter 26: The secret of primitive accumulation

- 1) What's the origin story of capitalism?
- 2) What story does Marx present instead?
- 3) What are the *presuppositions* of capitalism?
- 4) How were these produced?

Chapter 27: Expropriation of the agricultural population from the land

- 1) How did the expropriation of peasants take place in England?
- 2) How did the state try to halt this?
- 3) What role did the reformation of the Church play?
- 4) What role did William of Orange play?
- 5) How did the privatization of common land happen throughout the 15th-18th centuries?
- 6) How does all of this disprove the "sacred rights of property"?

Chapter 28: Bloody legislation against the expropriated

- 1) How were the expropriated peasants criminalized?
- 2) What kinds of legislation disciplined wage-laborers?
- 3) Why was this discipline necessary for capitalism?
- 4) How does capitalism (try to) erase these origins from memory?
- 5) What do these chapters say about the relationship between capital and the state?

Chapter 29: Genesis of the capitalist farmer

- 1) In England, how did the capitalist farmer originate?
- 2) What role did they play in the "agricultural revolution" described in the last two chapters?

Chapter 30: Reaction of the agricultural revolution on industry

- 1) In what ways did driving peasants off the land impact capital?

Chapter 31: Genesis of the industrial capitalist

- 1) What two forms of capital did industrial capital come from?
- 2) What does it mean that "revolutions are not made by laws"?
- 3) How does public credit (national debt) play a role in primary accumulation?
- 4) Can you think of recent or current examples of this?
- 5) What other institutions, systems, and acts produced the "eternal laws" of capitalism?

Chapter 32: Historical tendency of capitalist accumulation

- 1) In this chapter, Marx weaves together the historical and economic arguments outlined in the book. In your own words, what is the narrative?
- 2) In what ways is this narrative dialectical?
- 3) Why does Marx think the socialist revolution will be less bloody than the capitalist revolution?
- 4) Given what you've read in this chapter and the rest of the book, what's the relationship between reform and revolution Marx presents?

Chapter 33: The modern theory of colonisation

- 1) What was Wakefield's theory of colonialism?
- 2) How are the presuppositions of capitalism created in the colonies?
- 3) Why do you think Marx ends the book with this chapter?