



A Defence of History and Class Consciousness: Tailism and the Dialectic

By Georg Lukács, Georg Lukacs, Slovoj Zizek



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In the mid 1920s Lukács wrote a sustained and passionate response to Stalin's onslaught on his earlier seminal work *History and Class Consciousness*. Unpublished at the time, Lukács himself thought that the text had been destroyed. However, a group of researchers recently found the manuscript gathering dust in the newly opened archives of the CPSU in Moscow. Now for the first time, this fascinating, polemical and intense text is available in English. It is a crucial part of a hidden intellectual history and will transform interpretations of Lukács's oeuvre.



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Editorial Review

Review

“Lukács’s polemic tells of a dogmatic, corrupt, ultimately murderous period in the transition from Stalinism ... it tells also of the passion, so vividly Judaic and Central European, for the life and clash of ideas.”—George Steiner, *Times Literary Supplement*

“We almost hear Lenin himself murmuring, it happens that for eighty years no Marxist has ever properly understood *History and Class Consciousness*! Splendidly translated here by Esther Leslie and contextualized by an introduction by John Rees and a conclusion by Slavoj Žižek (both of them stimulating and suggestive).”—Fredric Jameson, *Radical Philosophy*

About the Author

Georg Lukács (1885–1971) was a Hungarian Marxist philosopher and literary critic. Most scholars consider him to be the founder of the tradition of Western Marxism. He contributed the ideas of reification and class consciousness to Marxist philosophy and theory, and his literary criticism was influential in thinking about realism and about the novel as a literary genre. He served briefly as Hungary’s Minister of Culture following the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Esther Leslie is a lecturer in English and Humanities at Birkbeck College, London. She is the author of *Walter Benjamin: Overpowering Conformism* and sits on the editorial boards of *Historical Materialism*, *Radical Philosophy* and *Revolutionary History*.

Slavoj Žižek is a Slovenian philosopher and cultural critic. He is a professor at the European Graduate School, International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, Birkbeck College, University of London, and a senior researcher at the Institute of Sociology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His books include *Living in the End Times*, *First as Tragedy, Then as Farce*, *In Defense of Lost Causes*, four volumes of the Essential Žižek, and many more.

John Rees is a writer, broadcaster and activist. His books include *The Algebra of Revolution* and *Imperialism and Resistance*. He is the writer and presenter of the Timeline TV series, a member of the editorial board of the online magazine *Counterfire*, and co-founder of the Stop the War Coalition.

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