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»What is special about this beetle is the power with which it flies toward its target, propelled forward like a torpedo. The source of this power is not to be found in the body itself, but perhaps in the coordinating nervous system, in the secretion of heat droplets in the joints. The beetle lifts itself off the ground, seemingly clumsy and awkward, and almost, one might say, with some reluctance. And then the driving force kicks in. The beetle picks up speed, shoots forward, constantly accelerating toward its target.«/Franz Jung

# Alex Gruber Uncritical Theory The Impossibility of a Post-Structuralist Critique of Society

March 2026, ca. 300 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-200-5



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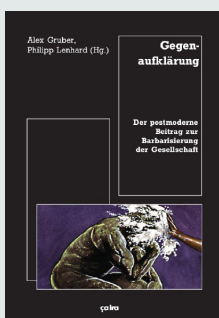
In the aftermath of the Hamas massacre of 7 October 2023, it has become abundantly evident that postmodern thought functions as a ideological complement to the violence and propaganda utilised by Islamic rackets against both Israel and the West. In the wake of Judith Butler's endeavours to portray the terror as »armed resistance« and to interrogate the alleged sexual assaults by Hamas, it became evident that these actions were merely the proverbial tip of the iceberg. This provocation elicited a response from even long-time supporters, leading to calls for the global Left to disassociate itself from this postmodern icon. However, these efforts ultimately proved unsuccessful.

The reactionary character of postmodern philosophy is now being widely recognised, and a number of cultural commentators are seeking to confront postmodern »irrationalism« with appeals to »rationality« and »scientific rigour«, dismissing postmodern theory as non-scientific. Nevertheless, this positivist response has the effect of hindering critical understanding of poststructuralist philosophy and also creating a divide between postmodern thought and society. The irrational element embedded in prevailing social rationalities cannot be grasped through naïve appeals to science; it can only be confronted dialectically, reflecting the distortions inherent in both society and theory.

The volume's essays offer a critical examination of the ideological and philosophical underpinnings of postmodern thought, delving into its political ramifications. Thematic explorations span a range of subjects, including the examination of homophobia and the denial of nature within the context of Queer Theory, the ontologization of difference in anti-racist discourse, the absolutization of the political in discourse theory and deconstruction, and the challenges to Holocaust memory and universalism in postcolonial criticism.

*The author Alex Gruber is editor-in-chief of the Vienna-based Middle East think tank *Mena-Watch* and editor of the ideology-critical magazine *sans phrase*. Gruber focuses on the critique of poststructuralist and postcolonial theorists such as Jacques Derrida, Judith Butler, Alain Badiou, and Achille Mbembe. He received his doctorate from the University of Vienna with a dissertation on »Différance, Discourse, and Non-Identity. The Deconstruction of Jacques Derrida and Judith Butler in Relation to Theodor W. Adorno's Critical Theory«.*

## More from this author



### Counter-enlightenment Postmodernism and the Barbarization of Society

Ed. by Philipp Lenhard  
and Alex Gruber

2011, 312 pages,  
ISBN 978-3-86259-101-5



# Friedrich Pollock Writings on National Socialism and Anti-Semitism

Collected Writings III  
Edited by Philipp Lenhard

February 2026, 272 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-134-3



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The third volume of Friedrich Pollock's *Collected Writings* comprises texts on National Socialism, antisemitism, and Europe's postwar order. Pollock's dual identity as both a Jew and a Marxist made him a target of persecution. This forced him to emigrate to Geneva in 1933, where he took up the position of head of the Institute for Social Research's branch office. In 1934, he relocated to New York, where he and Max Horkheimer undertook the reconstruction of the Institute at Columbia University in a wholly new context.

Pollock's role as co-director and administrative head left him with limited time to engage in research activities. His essay, entitled *Authority and Economics*, remained at the conceptual stage, never having been published. With the exception of a small number of reviews, he remained academically inactive until the outbreak of World War II. Commencing with an essay on war production, the author published two seminal texts on critical theory in 1941 – on state capitalism and National Socialism as a new order – and developed notes on class theory that led towards his unfinished theory of the racket society. This constellation of writings, drafts, and sketches constitutes the first part of the present volume.

The second section of this volume presents Pollock's pioneering sociological work on antisemitism, including his contribution to the Institute's study *Anti-Semitism among American Labour*.

The third part of the publication comprises essays on strategies for the postwar German and European order, with some of these essays having been presented to U.S. officials at the White House.



## More from this author



**Marxist Writings**  
Collected Writings I

Ed. by Philipp Lenhard

2018, 362 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-132-9



**Writings on Planned Economies  
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Ed. by Johannes Gleixner  
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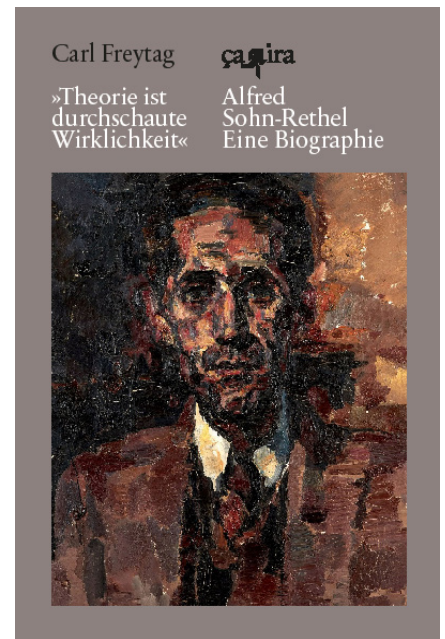
2021, 640 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-133-6

# Carl Freytag »Theory is Reality Understood« Alfred Sohn-Rethel A Biography

June 2026, ca. 596 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-130-5



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Alfred Sohn-Rethel was born on 4 January 1899 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, the son of a prominent Düsseldorf artist and a Jewish merchant from Braunschweig. The parents of the subject had hoped that their offspring would pursue a "respectable" career; however, this hope was not to be fulfilled. In 1915, the young man requested the three volumes of Marx's *Capital*, which would subsequently form the foundation of his lifelong intellectual engagement.

From 1917, he pursued his studies in economics at Heidelberg University under the renowned Austro-Marxist economist Emil Lederer, and in philosophy at Berlin University with the Neo-Kantian philosopher Ernst Cassirer. During his academic studies, Sohn-Rethel engaged with marginal utility theory and Kantian transcendentalism in a critical manner, thereby developing a materialist critique that led him to his central insight, the »hidden identity of commodity form and thought form«.

In 1924, he crossed paths with Theodor W. Adorno on the island of Capri; the two maintained a correspondence that persisted until Adorno's death in 1969, during which time Sohn-Rethel exerted a subtle yet significant influence on the evolution of Critical Theory from a peripheral position. Following his forced exile in 1936 due to his Jewish heritage and antifascist activities, he continued his work under difficult conditions in Switzerland, France, London, and Birmingham.

The 1970s proved to be a particularly prolific decade for Sohn-Rethel. The publication of *Intellectual and Manual Labour* (1970) and *Economy and Class Structure of German Fascism* (1973) consolidated his late reputation. He returned to Germany in the late 1970s, where he pursued an academic career as a teacher and published extensively until his death in Bremen on April 6, 1990. Carl Freytag's biography constitutes the first comprehensive account of his life.

*The author* Carl Freytag is co-editor of Sohn-Rethel's writings, editor of his literary works, and has explored Sohn-Rethel's life and work in essays and radio broadcasts. In his monograph *Deutschlands »Drang nach Südosten«*, Carl Freytag sheds light on Sohn-Rethel's role in the years 1931 to 1936 in the context of the *Mitteleuropäische Wirtschaftstag* (MWT).



»For me, Theory is reality understood.  
... I am not a theoretical person per se.  
I have far too much of an interest in  
the rest of life, the other aspects of life«  
/ Alfred Sohn-Rethel in conversation  
with Klaus Binder

# Alfred Sohn-Rethel Exposés on the Materialist Critique of Knowledge Positano – Luzern – Paris – Birmingham 1926–1951

Collected Writings III

Edited by Daniel Burnfin, Carl Freytag,  
Agnès Grivaux and Oliver Schlaudt

June 2026, 1246 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-131-2



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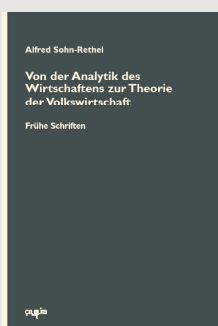


The third volume of Alfred Sohn-Rethel's collected works presents the so-called Exposés, from the early Positano Exposé written on Capri in 1926 to the first English draft of Intellectual and Manual Labour in 1951. In this distinctive genre, Sohn-Rethel seeks a critical standpoint in philosophy and social theory.

Sohn-Rethel positions natural science and economics, the cornerstones of industrial modernity, at the core of his analytical framework. His work engages with major intellectual and political currents of his time: Neo-Kantianism and logical positivism; the marginal utility school in economics; debates over socialist planning; and the formalism-substantivism discussion in economic theory. From a political standpoint, he reflects on the »objective possibility« of socialism and the stark reality of Nazi fascism.

A large corpus of these exposés is published here for the first time. This volume demonstrates that the oeuvre of Sohn-Rethel encompasses more than the tracing of the origins of his later, better-known works; rather, they reveal his larger ambition to synthesise critical epistemology, critique of political economy and theory of fascism, even under the extreme conditions of exile. When considered from this perspective, his published books appear as fragments of a far more extensive project, one curtailed by historical circumstances but which reveals the full scope of his intellectual effort.

## More from this author



**From the Analytics  
of Economic Behavior to  
National Economic Theory**  
Collected Writings I

Ed. by Carl Freytag and  
Oliver Schlaudt

2012, 300 pages,  
ISBN 978-3-86259-109-1



**Intellectual and Manual Labour**  
Collected Writings IV

Ed. by Carl Freytag, Oliver Schlaudt  
and Françoise Willmann

2018, 1018 Seiten,  
ISBN 978-3-86259-121-3



**The German Economic Policy  
in the Transition to Nazi Fascism**  
Collected Writings II

Ed. by Carl Freytag and  
Oliver Schlaudt

2015, 512 pages,  
ISBN 978-3-86259-120-6

# Kaveh Nassirin Heidegger Charlatan and Thinker

June 2026, ca. 776 Seiten  
ISBN 978-3-86259-199-2



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The edition of Martin Heidegger's writings, which was initiated in 1975 and now comprises more than one hundred volumes, is nearing completion. It is only now, half a century after his death, that a comprehensive assessment of his thought is possible.

Until recently, external interpretations – which were often shaped by error, apologetics, or mythmaking – maintained the self-presentation of the enigmatic thinker whose work appeared accessible only to an initiated circle. Heidegger himself contributed to this by means of a language that was deliberately opaque, the purpose of which was to appear dark, profound, or mystical.

Kaveh Nassirin employs a methodological approach that involves a careful examination of Heidegger's philosophical concepts through a phenomenological lens. This enables the re-emergence of these concepts in a clearer and more transparent form, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of their underlying guiding intentions and conceptual structures. It becomes evident that established scholarly dogmas, particularly Bollnow's concept of the »turn«, are revealed as distortions and are largely untenable or in need of revision.

Nassirin demonstrates that the aporias and supposed breakthroughs in Heidegger originate in his early desire to secure a subjective authority over an »authentic« truth: the immediate self-utterability of the verum, first in phenomenological, then in ontological terms. Heidegger's philosophy is predicated on a foundation of assertions, which necessitate a subtle process of liquefaction and transformation of philosophical concepts. Gadamer erroneously defended this process as »productive misuse«. Critics ranging from Arendt to Anders, in addition to the Freiburg Senate, have denounced Heidegger as a »liar« and a »charlatan«. Nassirin's introspective analysis unveils the pervasive nature of this charlatanism, which serves as a fundamental underpinning of both Heidegger's philosophical mystification and his political allegiance to National Socialism.

*The author* Kaveh Nassirin, born in Hamburg in 1965, studied philosophy there from 1988 and initially pursued a literary interest. Nassirin worked as a reporter from 1992 onwards and wrote more than 200 reports. Since 2004 Nassirin devoted himself once again to semiotics, epistemology, and ontology.

»Who is he trying to fool? What boundless contempt for humanity lies in such deception? Philosophically, this is ultimately completely opaque: Does he assume that no one is capable of comparing the quotes? Are we not worthy of a better lie? A more clever deception? Does he believe he can do such things and at the same time act as a prophet of the age? Is one credible as a prophet with such a clear lie?«

/ Günther Anders, *On Heidegger*



Édouard Pignon, *Le charlatan*, 1966, Lithography

# Jörg Finkenberger State or Revolution II On the Constitution of Modern Society

June 2026, ca. 500 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-198-5



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Jörg  
Finkenberger

capira

Staat oder  
Revolution II

Zur Konstitution  
der modernen  
Gesellschaft

The materialist investigation of state and law attempted in the first volume of *State or Revolution I* (2015) remained incomplete in several respects. The concept of the state as a distinct form separate from society was the focal point of the study, and it was concluded that the state is not a secondary form derived from the movement of capital. Instead, the political form possesses its own dynamic, analogous to that of capital itself. The hypothesis that the state and capital represent two sides of the same relation, driven by a shared cause lying beyond the scope of the first volume, could only be assumed, not demonstrated.

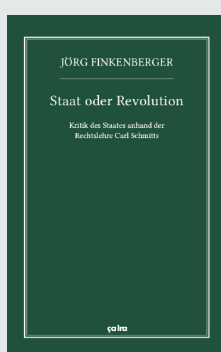
The initial volume was confined to continental European constitutional thought in the period following the French Revolution. *State or Revolution II* examines two key areas. Firstly, it explores the development of the British state constitution – within which the capitalist mode of production first became dominant – and secondly, the evolution of the state on its economic side. This includes the relationship between monetary taxation, unified fiscal administration, and permanent public debt, as well as the modern concept of the state.

It is imperative to demonstrate the distinct characteristics that modern social forms exhibit in comparison to their agrarian predecessors. In order to comprehend the dynamics of agrarian societies, it is first necessary to establish a general concept of the phenomenon. This, in turn, necessitates the resolution of the question of why human activity assumed the forms of domination and exploitation. This prompts a re-examination of the origins of sociality, human nature, and gender relations.

The final sections of the text examine the modern state within the history of modern revolutions and the rise of capital, from British India and imperial Japan to the Soviet Union. The aim of this examination is to develop a concept of revolutionary history adequate to the present.

*The author* Jörg Finkenberger, born in 1976, is co-editor of the journal *Das Grosse Thier* and the *Magazin für auf-rührerische Dichtung*.

## More from this author



### **State or Revolution I** Critique of Carl Schmitt's Legal Theory

2015, 246 pages,  
ISBN 978-3-86259-125-1

# Manfred Dahlmann The Mystery of Power Michel Foucault's Concept of Power and the Crisis of Revolutionary Theory

Collected Writings vol. 2  
Edited by David Hellbrück and Gerhard Scheit

March 2026, 328 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-175-6t



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Manfred Dahlmann's work demonstrates that, despite Foucault's insistence that he does not adhere to an overarching theory, he employs a totalising framework that effectively organises reality. Dahlmann treats Foucault as a representative case – *pars pro toto* – for broader trends.

This volume comprises Dahlmann's 1980 thesis, submitted to Johannes Agnoli and prepared for posthumous publication in 2017. The work emerged from an extensive engagement with Foucault's philosophy, which was imperative in late-1970s West Berlin, a period characterised by endeavours to progress beyond Marxist theories, including the critical theory of Adorno and Horkheimer, amidst a crisis in revolutionary theory in West Germany.

The thesis documents the vibrant Marxist debate of the era and underscores the enduring significance of a critical epistemological approach to Marx's critique of political economy. The enduring popularity of Foucault's concept of power demonstrates how Dahlmann's call for a rigorous, form- and knowledge-critical approach was largely ignored in the Marxist discussion.

The seven-volume edition of Manfred Dahlmann's collected Writings sets out to demonstrate the significance of his philosophical and ideology-critical works. The collection encompasses nearly the entirety of the author's extant published journal and newspaper articles and books, with the inclusion of numerous unpublished works from a period exceeding four decades. Each of the individual publications is framed by the editors with an afterword, and the texts themselves receive sporadic and judicious commentary, where deemed necessary.



»The fundamental premise of my work is to demonstrate on Foucault that, despite his insistence that he possesses no theoretical framework with which to categorise his perceptions, in reality he holds precisely such a theory. This theory, in its totalising nature, provides a comprehensive framework for organising reality. The core of this accusation is that I interpret Foucault, albeit not explicitly, as a representative example.« / Manfred Dahlmann on Foucault

# Manfred Dahlmann Logic of Being and Capital A Critique of the Ontologization of Marx's Critique of Political Economy

Collected Writings vol. 4  
Edited by David Hellbrück and Gerhard Scheit

March 2026, 238 pages  
ISBN 978-3-86259-169-5

For some, the focus is on a divine entity; for others, it is on the state; and for proponents of Historical Materialism, it is on labour. The concept of work was elevated to a universal principle, akin to a philosopher-god, from which all things flow and to which all things return. The individual subject was not wholly eradicated, but rather diminished to a mere appendage of work, a bearer of a higher force. The *Neue Marx Lektüre* elucidates, at the very least from a philological perspective, that not labour occupies a central position in Marx's critique of political economy, but rather capital as an »automatic subject« (Marx).

However, the question of how such an »automatic subject« forms was largely ignored. Engaging with Marx through the lens of Hegel coincided with the rise of postmodernism and a gradual logicalisation of Marx's texts. This logicalisation correctly rejected simplistic historical readings but overlooked the role of the individuated subject in producing collective reality.

Dahlmann's work thus constitutes a bridge between critiques of the *Neue Marx Lektüre*, postmodernism, and contemporary capital theory, emphasising freedom and the constitutive role of the subject.



Learn more

Manfred Dahlmann  
Seinslogik und Kapital  
Kritik der Ontologisierung  
der Marxschen  
Kritik der politischen  
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4



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