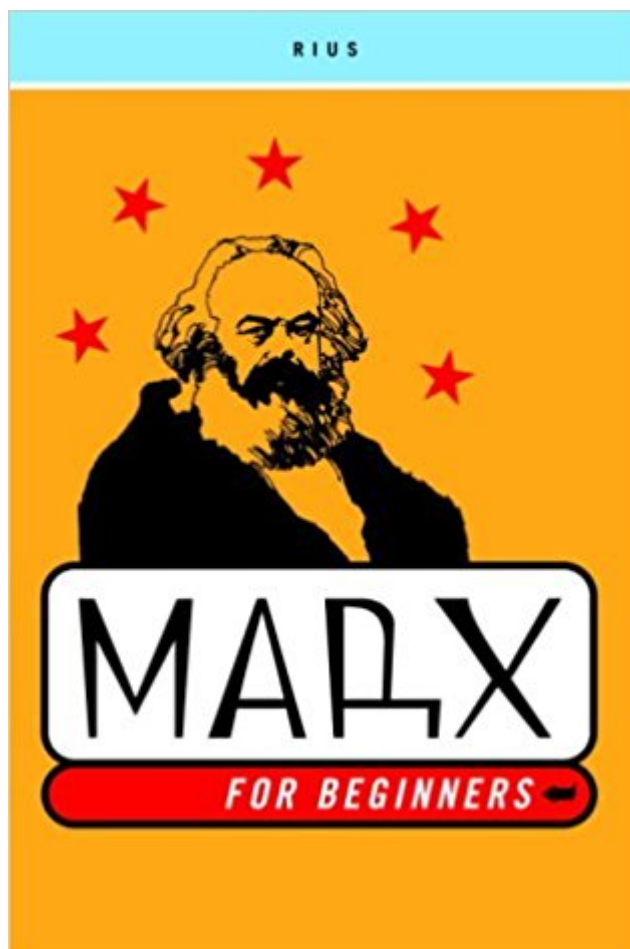


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Marx For Beginners



Synopsis

A cartoon book about Marx? Are you sure it's Karl, not Groucho? How can you summarize the work of Karl Marx in cartoons? It took Rius to do it. He's put it all in: the origins of Marxist philosophy, history, economics; of capital, labor, the class struggle, socialism. And there's a biography of "Charlie" Marx besides. Like the companion volumes in the series, Marx for Beginners is accurate, understandable, and very, very funny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A superb little book in a most improbable format....I recommend it unreservedly for anyone who wants the rudiments of Marx from an engaging mentor....Rius on Marx is magnificent. He shows that pictures can amplify ideas, and that simplicity need not forgo subtlety."New York Times Book Review

Text: English, Spanish (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I usually really like the "Beginners" series but this one felt way too simplistic about Marx. I felt as though the reader barely learned anything about Marx's actual philosophy from this book. Some of what the author said seemed to have their own interpretation as well, rather than straight-forward saying what Marx said.

I bought "Marx for Beginners", a cartoon introduction to Marx written by Mexican political cartoonist Eduardo del Rio ("Rius"), not so much because I needed an introduction to Marxism but to see how the theory can be summarized as pithily and shortly as possible. And indeed, Del Rio has done an admirable job on this. The reader is guided through all aspects of Marx' work as well as biography, even including an extraordinarily rapid overview of the history of philosophy and of the early socialists. Of the economic theories of Marx only the basics are explained, but nevertheless sufficient to get the point of what Marx tried to show in "Capital", if not how he proved it. As far as the political side goes, Del Rio usefully emphasizes the limitations of social-democracy and its inability to get beyond the exploitation of capitalism, as well as many quotations from Marx showing how he opposed this tendency. As criticisms, one could remark that Engels gets short shrift in this book - admittedly it is titled "Marx for beginners", but one wonders why not "Marx & Engels for beginners"? Also, Del Rio seems to take the connection between Marx and Lenin as a natural progression for granted, even including in the (otherwise very handy) vocabulary of terms under Marxism-Leninism: "theory of the proletarian liberation movement". Hardly something uncontested. The drawings are clear and funny, if a bit on the juvenile side compared to the content that he is trying to convey. This might have a good effect on younger people reading it though, making it possibly useful as a high school text on Marx, if there ever is a capitalist country brave enough to allow it. Due to the requirements of Del Rio's purpose, some of the summaries of earlier thinkers are so simple as to be simplistic, but this can't be helped. Overall, a practical and well-done introduction to Marx for the complete novice.

Breakdown was awesome for sociology theory course.

Nowadays, a lot of the versions of Marx's "Manifesto of the Communist Party" come with about 100 pages of analysis and attempts to decode Karl's thinking. What they should come with is this book. "Marx for Beginners" is a wonderful way for anyone who wishes to study Marx's writing to get their feet wet, and for the experienced Marxist reader, it provides a bit of humor to the writings and gives ways to explain Marx to other people. Even though it is a cartoon book, the illustrations are not pivotal to the writing. They seem to serve mostly as filler, just brackets to attach speech balloons to. But what is in the speech balloons is where the brilliance of the book comes through. Rius gives a brief history of Marx's life, a rundown of philosophy that helped form Marxist thought and then an analysis of the Manifesto. The best feature is when a complex item is discussed, Rius will state the

"academic" definition, but then give a practical real-world example of that concept. He also includes a useful glossary of many common terms that come up in discussions of Marxism. Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone studying Marx. The only downside is that Rius's writing is very pro-Marxist which may repel non-Marxists from seeing the book's utility. However, most people who purchase this are probably already pretty pro Marx .

Great and fun way to get some historical perspective about Charles Marx.

AWESOME book. Makes some of Marx's more complex ideas simple to understand.

I very much enjoyed this book, and was even more pleased with how quickly it arrived after ordering it. I encourage anyone who is interested in Karl Marx, in digestible and enjoyable form, to check out this awesome graphic novel!

Absolutely wonderful! An informative graphic novel (cartoon book) about history and politics that is accurate, understandable, and very funny.

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