

Marx: "Theses on Feuerbach"

in *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, L. Simon, ed. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Key:

M = Marx

[] = my comment

() = parenthetical argument made by the author

Editor:

Those who claim a break in M's thought see this text as the breaking point with Hegelian/Feuerbachian humanism. Those who think M is one consistent thinker see this text as an integration of Hegel's idealism and Feuerbach's materialism 98
M wants to infuse materialism with H's insight that human history is a process of active self-making through labor [this appreciation of H is clear in the EPM] 98

Marx:

sensuous human activity is to be comprehended as objective 99

not a question of objective truth, rather man must prove the truth, man must make things true through his labor, man must change himself into what he wants to be 99

the essence of man is not an abstraction that inheres in each individual; it is the ensemble of social relationships [and presumably takes on whatever character man gives it through his self-making through labor] 100

Feuerbach still presupposes an isolated abstract individual 100

social life is not an *a priori* idea, it is the ensemble of what is actually practiced 100

the standpoint of Feuerbachian materialism was civil society; the standpoint of the new materialism is socialized humanity 101