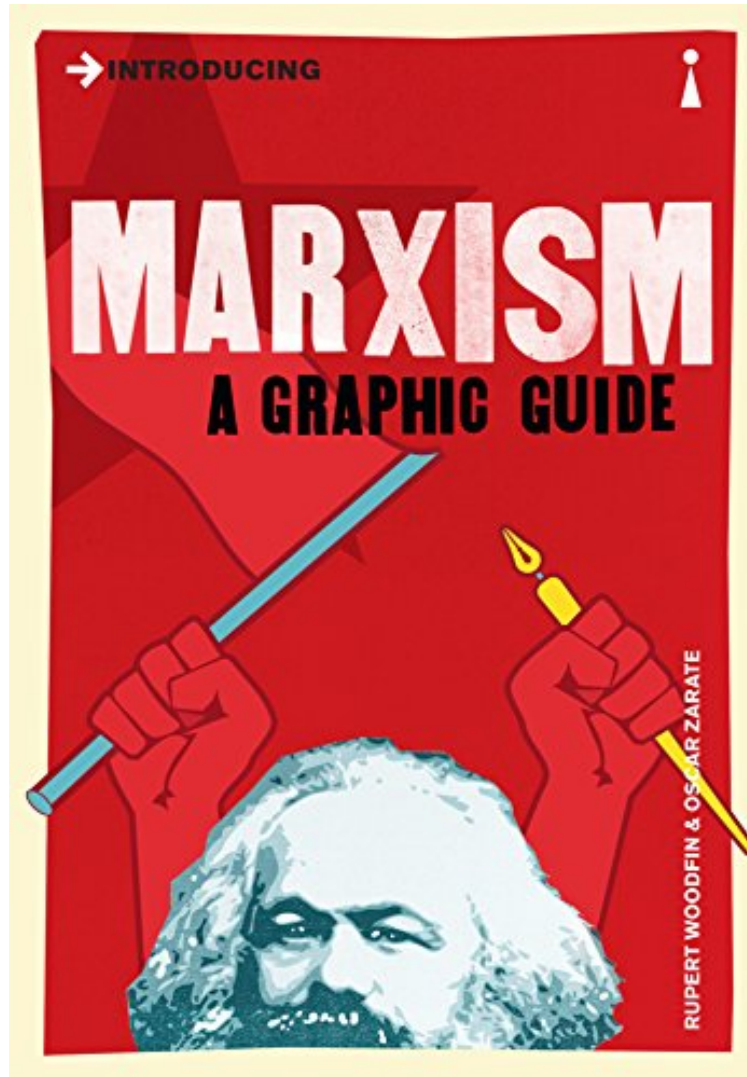


(Ebook pdf) Introducing Marxism: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...)

## Introducing Marxism: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...)

*Rupert Woodfin*

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**Rupert Woodfin : Introducing Marxism: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Introducing Marxism: A Graphic Guide (Introducing...):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. 5 Stars for Situating Both Marx and MarxismBy The Masked ReviewerRequired reading for those who want to wrap their heads around Marx in a provisional yet complete way, yet who wisely distrust going on the wild goose chase of Marxist theory. Good view of all relative critiques and all previously and currently crowned responses.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy readBy BelleFun and fact filled overview.36 of 36 people found the following review helpful. This should be called Introducing Post-MarxismBy G0VDon't get me wrong, there is some good information in the book about Gramsci, Althusser and the Frankfurt School (but it leaves out the equally important Debord, Lukacs and Raymond Williams) but all throughout

the book declares Marxism invalid rather than presenting Marxism as an ideology. The book consistently imposes postmodern views onto Marxism and does not actually explore schools of Marxist thought themselves aside from flippantly dismissing the few like Maoism and Marxism-Leninism it mentions. And its not even consistent within its poor analysis of Leninism. On the one hand, it declares that Lenin truly was a Marxist and that Stalin was truly a Leninist and his policies were in line with Lenin's thought, but on the other hand it declares Stalin perverted Marxism. I'm sorry but you cannot have both. It then goes on to declare post-Marxism as the legitimate ideology. There are many different strains of Marxism diametrically opposed to Leninism anyway like Council Communism (developed by Antonie Pannekoek and Herman Gorter), Marxism-Deleonism (developed by Daniel DeLeon), Autonomous Marxism, LeftCommunism, Bordigaism, Trotskyism, Luxemburgism, Orthodox Marxism, Revisionist Marxism, Titoism, Hoxhaism, Eurocommunism (it is briefly mentioned) and Austromarxism. In a text supposedly about Marxism, it would be nice if actual Marxist schools were examined. Post Marxism abandons the very core of Marxism, the idea that things can be better for the workers, is in favor of the exploitation of workers (because antagonisms like thief and victim are apparently necessary) and seeks to base itself on feelings rather than fact. But regardless, this book was about the development of Post-Marxism, not Marxism as it exists today or its theoretical underpinnings. Further, the book makes many assertions about history that do not match up to empirical evidence. It declares that revolution necessarily ends in despotism, when Republican Catalonia, the Zapatista ruled portions of Mexico, Mahknovist Ukraine and the Paris Commune prove otherwise (admittedly the last two were short experiments). It also claims that Marx did not properly predict social developments, when this is completely untrue. While earlier Marx did believe revolution was going to happen soon, in his more mature years he conceded that reforms could and would be pushed through by electoral parties. Those reforms were hard won with the blood and sweat of the working class. Now, with Thatcherism and Reaganism the ruling ideology, those reforms are being gutted and the world is becoming increasingly more like Marx predicted. Wealth disparity is rapidly growing, real wages have stagnated, unemployment is rising due to increased technological innovations, and deeper crises recur. The book also posits that Marx was wrong about the so called "middle class", which is a fundamental misreading of Marx. For Marx there is no middle class, there are workers and owners. Does the "middle class" have to work for a wage? Yes it does. Do they appropriate the value produced by others in sufficient quantities so they themselves no longer have to work? No they do not. The middle class is a fiction. For Marx class has nothing at all to do with income but rather one's relations to the means of production. The fact that the author thinks themselves an authority on Marxism when they do not even understand that most basic precept is just shameful. Oh and also it claims that only Lenin has ever had his name added alongside Marx's which is a lie. Marxism-Deleonism is an American variant of Marxism which is even older than Leninism and Maoism is also called Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. The book *Introducing Marx: A Graphic Guide* (discontinued but it was actually the first in the series) is much better although it is extremely biased towards Leninism (which I have strong reservations about) for an introduction to Marxist theory and its development.

Was Marx himself a 'Marxist'? Was his visionary promise of socialism betrayed by Marxist dictatorship? Is Marxism inevitably totalitarian? What did Marx really say? "Introducing Marxism" provides a fundamental account of Karl Marx's original philosophy, its roots in 19th century European ideology, his radical economic and social criticism of capitalism that inspired vast 20th century revolutions. It assesses Marxism's Russian disciples, Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin who forged a ruthless dogmatic Communism. The book examines the alternative Marxist approaches of Gramsci, the Frankfurt School of critical theory and the structuralist Marxism of Althusser in the 1960s. It marshals postmodern interpretations of Marxism and raises the spectre of 'post-Marxism' in Derrida's confrontation with Fukuyama's 'end of history' doctrine.

About the Author Oscar Zarate is one of the UK's leading graphic artists. He has illustrated numerous *Introducing* titles. His graphic novel *A Small Killing* won the Will Eisner Prize.