

**MARX AND THE MISSING LINK:
“HUMAN NATURE”**

Also by W. Peter Archibald

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY AS POLITICAL ECONOMY

Marx and the Missing Link: ‘Human Nature’

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For Marx, Lindsey, and Emma

Acknowledgments

Perhaps no one was more adamant than Marx that any human project, no matter how individual and esoteric it might seem, is the product of much collective effort, and this one is clearly no exception.

Thus it was a comment by Martin Silverman on an earlier work of mine, where I had compared the actions of individuals in different cultures, which led me to explore what, for me, was a whole new side of Marx's theorizing. The comment was, "Yes, but what is an '*individual*'?"; the other side was the theories of 'individuation' and 'agency'. Similarly, my attempts to rectify the apparent absence of a 'general human nature' in Marx floundered until my students – especially Sara Erskine – asked me when I was going to stop simply reviewing Freudian, existential, and symbolic interactionist neo-Marxisms and tell them what *I* thought Marx and contemporary human beings were up to.

Since taking that fateful step I have benefitted from the encouragement and constructive criticism of more friends, colleagues, and students than I could ever hope to acknowledge here. However, special thanks should go to Jim Rinehart, who set me straight after a vague first draft, and to Jim Peterson, that Renaissance man who, while jogging with me on the Niagara escarpment, gave me instantaneous feedback on most of the arguments set out in the book. (If only my knees had lasted as long as his have!) Others who have criticized various parts of the book and/or suggested references include Roy Broadbent, Tom Langford, Bhula Bhadra, Michael Michie, Bob Storey, and Richard Bourhis.

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