

Thursday 17 March 2016 at 7:00 p.m – A panel discussion
Andrew Kliman Anne Jaclard Michael Fitzpatrick Alan Hudson

Do we need Marx's humanism today?

In contrast to previous forms of humanism, Marx's revolutionary philosophy stressed the need for working people to overcome capitalist society in order to begin the development of human-centred life. This panel discussion will feature four veterans of very disparate attempts to develop ideas adequate to class-struggle politics.

Marx's view of wage workers as the subject of social change is often treated as outmoded. The panel will consider whether we need Marx's philosophy, which he termed a thoroughgoing humanism.

- Is Enlightenment humanism a more important alternative for our times?
- Do we need to make a choice between different types of humanism?
- What is the relationship between political philosophy and social movements?
- Can philosophy help mass movements to break from capitalism and create socialism?

The meeting will launch Marxist-Humanist Initiative (MHI) in the UK. MHI argues that Marx's philosophy is essential to the revolutionary process today. We see ideas about freedom being developed by youth, women, national minorities, and LGBTQ people, as well as workers, as bringing new dimensions to the process of social change.

- **Andrew Kliman** professor emeritus of economics at Pace University and author of 'Reclaiming Marx's "Capital": A Refutation of the Myth of Inconsistency and The Failure of Capitalist Production, Underlying Causes of the Great Recession'. He writes for Marxist-Humanist Initiative's web journal, *With Sober Senses*.

- **Anne Jaclard** organizational secretary of Marxist-Humanist Initiative, is a long-time activist in and writer about US social movements and grassroots women's and civil society movements around the world. Her current concentration is on the theoretical relationship of philosophy to organization and to revolution.

- **Michael Fitzpatrick** a doctor, writer, and former founding member of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

- **Alan Hudson** co-convenor of the Institute of Ideas' 'University in a Day'. He is a professor of sociology and contemporary history at Kellogg College, University of Oxford. His most recent work has been on the relationship between citizens and cities, with reference to urban planning and group and national identity.

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Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
235 Shaftesbury Avenue
London WC2H 8EP

Nearest tubes: Tottenham Court Road or Holborn
This meeting will encourage audience participation.
Suggested donation to cover room hire: £5.
No one will be turned away.

MHI was established in New York in 2009, following the breakup of older organizations. Building on the work of Raya Dunayevskaya, who developed Marxist-Humanism over much of the last century, MHI seeks to rescue and develop Marx's revolutionary humanist philosophy from the distorted interpretations spread by state-oriented marxism and recent leftism.

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