CRITICAL SOCIAL STUDIES

EDITORS: JOCK YOUNG AND PAUL WALTON

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THE TWO MARXISMS

*Contradictions and Anomalies
in the Development of Theory*

ALVIN W. GOULDNER

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First published in the United States 1980 by
THE SEABURY PRESS

First published in Great Britain 1980 by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-28880-1 ISBN 978-1-349-16296-3 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-16296-3

Reprinted 1993

Dedicated to
the editorial collegium of
Theory and Society

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PREFACE

This first section of my study of Marxism begins to redeem a number of promises: first, the promise to contribute to the study of the origins of western social theory outlined and begun in my *Enter Plato* (1965); secondly, the promise made in *The Coming Crisis of Western Sociology* (1970) to conduct a study of Marxism as critically probing as my study of western sociology; and thirdly, the promise made in *The Dialectic of Ideology and Technology* (1976) to develop its analysis as a trilogy. This is that third volume.

Or at least part of it, which is why I remarked that this study *begins* to redeem these several promises. This *first* part of my study of Marxism focuses on its evolution, as generated by its own internal contradictions and emerging anomalies, for the most part during the lives of Marx and Engels. Another volume deals with the effects of these contradictions and anomalies in the work of post-Marxists such as Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky, and Lukács, Gramsci, Althusser, and others. A third part of my study of Marxism will devote itself to its origins, including its technical origins in other social theories, along with an analysis of the problem of theoretical creativity, as well as Marxism's social and historical origins, its *class* basis. The fourth, and hopefully final part, will address the problem of the rationality and the limits of Marxism in terms of its position in the historical evolution of modes of discourse.

Mary Grove has managed our office—three-ring circus that it is—with saintly patience and humor, at once fearless and talented. Vicki Ibera who, along with Mary did much of the typing, was superb. Very importantly, however, I want to acknowledge and thank another kind of “being”—the ancient and yeasty city of Amsterdam, where I began and indeed got quite far into the present work, as well as those students at the University of Amsterdam who listened to this alien American in supportive and stimulating ways. The work on Marxism is basically a product of Amsterdam.

Alvin W. Gouldner