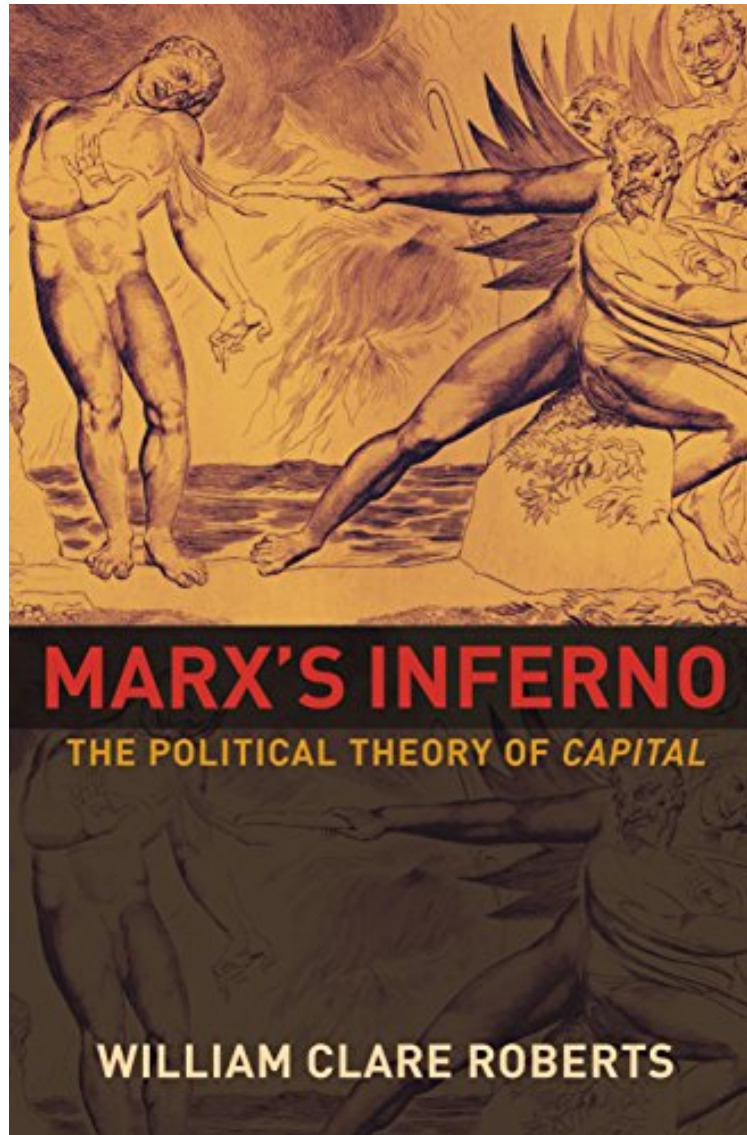


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Marx's Inferno: The Political Theory of Capital

William Clare Roberts

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William Clare Roberts : Marx's Inferno: The Political Theory of Capital before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marx's Inferno: The Political Theory of Capital:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Exposition By Mary Burdge Rather than develop a simple literary oddity (Marx's knowledge and use of Dante in his analysis), Roberts motivates the connection within the context of Marx's socialist milieu to construct a novel reading of Capital that is incredibly illuminating and will contribute to the understanding of Marx's theories well into the future.

Marx's *Inferno* reconstructs the major arguments of Karl Marx's *Capital* and inaugurates a completely new reading of a seminal classic. Rather than simply a critique of classical political economy, William Roberts argues that *Capital* was primarily a careful engagement with the motives and aims of the workers' movement. Understood in this light, *Capital* emerges as a profound work of political theory. Placing Marx against the background of nineteenth-century socialism, Roberts shows how *Capital* was ingeniously modeled on Dante's *Inferno*, and how Marx, playing the role of Virgil for the proletariat, introduced partisans of workers' emancipation to the secret depths of the modern "social Hell." In this manner, Marx revised republican ideas of freedom in response to the rise of capitalism. Combining research on Marx's interlocutors, textual scholarship, and forays into recent debates, Roberts traces the continuities linking Marx's theory of capitalism to the tradition of republican political thought. He immerses the reader in socialist debates about the nature of commerce, the experience of labor, the power of bosses and managers, and the possibilities of political organization. Roberts rescues those debates from the past, and shows how they speak to ever-renewed concerns about political life in today's world.

"Well-researched and clearly written. . . . Imaginative and refreshingly enjoyable."--David Harvey, *Jacobin*
"Marx's *Inferno* is highly original and informative. . . . Regardless of whether Marx even thought about Dante in writing his masterwork, Roberts' insights open up a much broader and deeper reading of Marx. This is an excellent book, highly recommended."--Choice
From the Back Cover "Marx's *Inferno* is the best book of political theory I've read that has been written in the last five years. Interpreting *Capital* as an integrated whole, it takes a canonical text we all thought we knew and makes us realize we never knew it at all. This is reading on a grand scale, reading as it was meant to be."--Corey Robin, Brooklyn College and CUNY Graduate Center
"Marx's *Inferno* provides an innovative reading of Karl Marx's *Capital* as a work of political theory. The unifying thread of this book is the author's conviction that Marx's work is heavily indebted to a set of broadly republican commitments about the nature of freedom. This original idea not only illuminates Marx's writings, but also contributes to an important area of contemporary research in intellectual history."--David Leopold, University of Oxford
About the Author William Clare Roberts is assistant professor of political science at McGill University.