

Jose Porfirio Miranda

Marx against the Marxists

(Translated from the Spanish by John Drury)

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This book has attempted a positive exposition of Marx's thought. The most important aspects of Marx's teaching have been brought out in a clear and simple way. But it is no more anthology of Marxian themes. In many instances, he has tried to contrast Marx's thesis with directly opposed theses – theses that involve differing interpretations of the term ‘materialism’. Even Marxists themselves differ from Marx in their interpretation of his themes. For example, some equate materialism with self-seeking will and claim that the best way to achieve one's own interests is to be concerned about the welfare of others. Unfortunately that is the view of Jeremy Bentham and not of Karl Marx. According to Miranda, many Marxists support the capitalist campaign against Marxism. For they are confused in their understanding of the doctrine of Marx's economic message and his incomparable contribution to the consciousness of uplifting humanity (Chapter 1).

Marx's fundamental and thorough-going criticism of capitalism centers around the fact that capitalism does not respect human beings as persons, as real subjects and agents. Miranda observes that respect of human person is more substantial and important than just an explicit profession of faith, and as such it turns out to be eminently a Christian vision (Chapter 2). Christianity cannot reconcile itself with a deterministic conception, of the human being. Marx too expressly rejects such a conception. He recognizes the primacy of the economic factor, and thus differing from the usually offered materialism. Miranda sees it as far more Christian than is ordinarily pre-