

At first sight it may seem that the republication of the *Communist Manifesto* requires an explanation. How can one justify a new edition of a book written almost 150 years ago? Yet in reality the *Manifesto* is the most modern of books. The truth of this affirmation can be easily demonstrated. If we examine any bourgeois book written one and a half century ago about the same subjects, it will rapidly become clear that such a work will be merely of historical interest, with no the slightest practical application. However, the present work provides us with a profound analysis which, in an amazingly small amount of words, provides a brilliant explanation of the most fundamental phenomena which occupy our attention on a world scale at the present time.

In point of fact, the *Communist Manifesto* is even more true today than when it first appeared in 1848. Let us consider one example. At the time when Marx and Engels were writing, the world of the big multinational companies was still the music of a very distant future. Despite this, they explained how “free enterprise” and competition would inevitably lead to the concentration of capital and the monopolization of the productive forces. It is frankly comical to read the statements made by the defenders of capitalism concerning Marx’s alleged mistake on this question, when in reality it was precisely one of his most brilliant and unquestionable predictions. It is an absolutely indisputable fact that the process of concentration of capital foreseen by Marx has occurred, is occurring, and indeed has reached unprecedented levels in the course of the last ten years.

Despite all the efforts of its detractors, Marxism today retains its full validity, both as an accurate analysis of present-day society and as a fighting program to change it. There can be this or that detail that has changed, but in all the fundamentals, the ideas of the *Communist Manifesto* are as relevant and true today as when they were first written. Indeed, in some respects, they are even more true. The revolution of 1848 swept across Europe, but had only a small echo outside. The great wave of revolutions that emanated from the October Revolution in 1917 affected not only Europe but China, India, Persia and Turkey. But now, the knitting together of the entire globe by world capitalism is preparing for a much more dramatic development. Such is the degree of interrelation that we can predict with confidence that the victory of the working class in any country will rapidly lead to the overthrow of capitalism in one country after another, laying the basis for the establishment of a Socialist Federation of the entire world.

“In Defense of Marxism” is a new series of theoretical booklets produced by the Workers International League and Wellred Books. For more information, and to get involved in the fight for socialism, please contact us at the address below.



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The Communist Manifesto



**By Karl Marx
& Frederick Engels**

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