



MARX, ENGELS, AND MARXISMS

Friedrich Engels for the 21st Century

Reflections and Revaluations



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Engels and the “*Dialectics of Nature*”

Kaan Kangal

Much has been said and written of Engels’s infamous “book” *Dialectics of Nature*. Typically there are those who charge Engels’s work with distorting Marx’s social theory by introducing a natural dialectics behind the “great master’s back”. And there are those who blame Engels’ critics for erecting a strawman based upon which one life-long friend and comrade is played off against the other.

Given various political commitments displayed in the backdrop of Engels scholarship, it is not very astonishing to see that the Engels debate stands and falls largely with a political battle rather than a philosophical or scientific debate. For those who are keen to know more about Engels’s own problems, tasks and issues that occupied his mind for a couple of decades, these debates do not offer much.

For instance, it is still curious as to what the title of Engels’ “book” is supposed to mean and where it originated from. Relatedly, one can ask whether the title is expressive of the philosophical heritage which Engels

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