



## For Favour of Publication

### International Conference on Karl Marx Day-3

**Patna, June 18.** Delivering the Jean Paul Sartre Memorial Lecture on the third day of the five-day International Conference on Marxism, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, University Professor, Columbia University, US, on Monday said “we have to re-imagine Marxism to make it relevant today by thinking flexibly. We should not only interpret Marxian philosophy but also try to change it.” The topic of Spivak’s lecture was ‘How Can We Use Marxism Today?’ She mentioned that Marx and Engels had said in 1872 itself that Communist Manifesto had become outdated.

Monday was the third day of the five day international conference being organised by the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI).

Taking potshots at corporate financing, she said the problem with development efforts aided by corporate funds is that they report good results, hide bad ones and the good results are often based on bad evidence.

Giving examples from rural West Bengal, she said some of the school buildings built by UNDP funds were never used for schools but for cowsheds. Students never went to those schools except during “advertised visits by officials”, who were responsible for using funds. There was no system to know that whether the students had the right background to receive education in the way it was provided to them.

She emphasised that we must understand that “to be equal is not to be the same”. “We can make Marxism relevant for us by developing ourselves into folks who not only know how to regulate capitalism but also to contain it,” she added.

Delivering the Rudolf Hilferding Memorial Lecture, Cynthia Lucas Hewitt, Associate Professor, Morehouse College, Atlanta US, said that China’s economic progress is a good example of synthesis of Marxism and centralisation of capital. She said that China’s capital, unlike that of some of the Western economies of today, is not a product of slavery but of socialisation. Also, unlike them, China’s capital has not been acquired through colonialism and rabid militarism. The topic of her lecture was ‘Karl Marx’s Prescient Theory of Centralization of Capital, Crisis and an Africentric Response’. Analysing International Monetary Fund’s Financial Access Survey (FAS) data, she tried to show how accurate was Marx’s projection of the global saturation of the capital, its relationship in expansionary cycles and the inevitability of contradictions. She looked at

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possibilities of African countries which can follow alternatives to Eurocentric revolutionary processes.

The M N Roy Memorial Lecture, which was scheduled to be delivered by Cherif Salif SY, Managing Director, Cherif Salif SY International Consulting Services, Dakar, was read by Jean Joseph Boillot who was the chair for this session. Cherif could not reach Patna due to some unavoidable circumstances. The lecture's title was 'Capitalism, Neoliberalism and Development in Africa: The response of the African Union'.

Other notable speakers on the third day of the conference included Andrew J Douglas, Associate Professor, Morehouse College, Atlanta, US, who delivered the Frantz Fanon Memorial Lecture on 'King, Marx and the Revolution of Worldwide value'; Julio Boltvinik, Professor, El Colegio de Mexico, who delivered the Gyorgy Markus Memorial Lecture on 'Developing Marx's Critical Theory: Two Lines of Thought'; Ajit Sinha, Professor, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, who delivered the Piero Sraffa Memorial Lecture on 'My Sraffa'.

While Miguel Vedda, Professor, the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, delivered the Bertolt Brecht Memorial Lecture on 'Heinrich Heine and Karl Marx as Essayists: On Genesis and the Function of the Critic Intellectuals', Riccardo Petrella, Professor Emeritus, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, delivered the Oskar Lange Memorial Lecture on 'Marxism and the Commons: The New Challenges for the Humanity'.

Four papers were also read by Navyug Gill, Babak Amini, C Saratchand and Spencer Leonard on the third day.

The end of the proceedings on the third day was marked by the release of the book 'Another Marx' authored by Marcello Musto. The book was released by Lord Meghnad Desai.

In earlier sessions, the Nikolay Bukharin Memorial Lecture was delivered by Eugenio Lo Sardo, General Director, National Archives, Rome on 'Karl Marx and the Opium Wars' and the S A Dange Memorial Lecture was delivered by Mikhail Yu Pavlov, Associate Professor, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia on 'Marx-XXI: The Reactualisation of the Philosophical Heritage'.

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