

Wolfgang and Petra Lubitz, eds., *Trotsky Bibliography: An International Classified List of Publications about Leon Trotsky and Trotskyism 1905–1998*. Third completely revised and enlarged edition. Vols. 1–2. Munich: K. G. Saur, 1999. 840 pp. DM 368 cloth.

This bibliography is quite an impressive effort. It is extensive, thorough, structurally sound, and contains excellent indexes. In short, it is a truly useful tool for anyone who, for scholarly or political reasons, takes an interest in Trotsky and Trotskyism. Of course, the definition of Trotskyism is somewhat blurred; too many people have used the concept subjectively, either with positive or negative connotations, for it to signify anything unambiguous. The Lubitzes have done their utmost to remedy this state of affairs by disregarding sectarian restraints and by choosing a broad approach to the subject; they have even gone to the extreme of including some anti-Trotskyist effusions of no real scholarly or current political value.

This, the third edition, has been enlarged considerably in comparison with the first edition: from 3,227 entries to 9,534, including an annex of texts, most of which date from 1998. It could probably grow even further since Latin America in particular seems to be sparsely covered, especially considering the relatively strong Trotskyist groups that have had a presence in several Latin American countries, something that is not reflected by the bibliography. This does not, however, detract from the value of the material registered; we have been provided with an extensive and useful tool.

The bibliography strives to cover all aspects of Trotsky's biography, his theoretical oeuvres, and political endeavours and assessments, including Trotsky's legacy, which is what Trotskyism largely represents. Trotskyism originated as a line of thought within the SUCP and the Comintern, later growing into an independent grouping which, even before the founding of the Fourth International in 1938, had split into several mutually antagonistic organizations. The bibliography includes entries in twenty-five European languages, many of which are, of course, also spoken outside Europe. Approximately forty percent of the entries are in English, though most of the non-English language titles have been translated into English in a note. Russian, German, and French represent seventeen, fifteen, and fourteen percent respectively. In terms of geographical distribution, the United States leads the field with twenty-one percent of the en-

tries, followed by the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy. Other countries account for about one percent or less.

There is a clear time factor involved; the period between 1920–29 covers ten percent of all entries, whereas each of the three decades from 1970 to 1998 cover twenty-three, twenty-one, and twenty-four percent respectively. A few Trotskyist organisations have, in fact, achieved a degree of influence in recent years, most notably in France, but this will not suffice to explain the renewed surge in interest. In the introduction the compilers point to a possible explanation: Trotsky and Trotskyism have become suitable subjects for academic theses (p.x).

It is essential that a bibliography have a sound structure and good indexes that enable users to find the articles they are looking for. Here these requirements are amply fulfilled. There are nine main chapters and over one hundred sub-chapters and references to titles found under other headings. The six indexes cover authors, titles, sources (periodicals, anthologies, etc.), series, dissertations, and conferences; there are many ways of finding the information one is looking for. Finally, there is a list of abbreviations used in the bibliography. Each entry contains all the requisite bibliographical information. In some cases an additional note provides a list of contents, the original title, references to any translations, other publications of the same text, and finally, in chapter eight, a reference to reviews.

Chapters eight and nine deserve special mention. Chapter eight registers reviews of individual publications of the many different essays by Trotsky, on Trotskyism, and the writings of individual authors, so that it is, for instance, possible to compare the different assessments of Robert J. Alexander's *International Trotskyism* (Durham, NC, 1991) or Isaac Deutscher's Trotsky biography. In addition to allowing interesting publications to be found, it is fair to say that this chapter demonstrably digs deep to include relevant reviews, despite the fact that not all of them have been included.

Chapter nine contains biographical material, often obituaries, on approximately one hundred deceased Trotskyists, some of whom were no longer Trotskyists at the time of their death. C.L.R. James and Ernest Mandel take up a great deal of space, although others may for good reasons be more interesting. Hal Draper, for example, whose scholarly work and political analysis deserve a degree of attention beyond what is devoted to him as yet, is one of these. What we do get is, therefore, all the more important. Again, it is fair to say that the bibliography does not impose upon itself any inappropriate restraints.

The editors deserve considerable recognition for having prepared this work, in a similar fashion to the recognition they received for their formidable editorial survey of the Trotskyist press (*Trotskyist Serials Bibliography, 1927–1991* [Munich, 1993]). Recriminations are sure to be voiced by some of the Trotskyist sects, which might seem only fair from a narrow, sectarian position, but in this case the point of the exercise as far as the editors are concerned has been precisely that of transgressing sectarianism.

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Source: *International Labor and Working Class History* (New York, NY), 2001 (60) : pp. 232-233