

Postcolonial Marxism

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Apart from a few exceptions such as Cedric Robinson's classic *Black Marxism* (1983), most discussions of Marxist theory present Marxism as an overwhelmingly Western or European-oriented body of thought. This has marginalised what might be termed an alternative tradition within Marxism that developed from Marx's own writings on colonialism and Lenin's on imperialism, in the context of the anti-colonial struggles of the twentieth century. Postcolonial theory has been one product of this dissident tradition, but its relation to Marxism 'proper' has remained the subject of much debate and critique. In this course, we will be reconsidering this question by bringing a postcolonial perspective to bear on Marxism, emphasising the development of forms of Marxism outside Europe that were developed specifically to engage with the problems of the political and social realities of the non-Western world. Writers to be studied will include Marx, Lenin, Gramsci, Mao, Roy, Mariátegui, James, Fanon and Cabral.