

Preface

This book is the final part of a trilogy on the making of Marx's *Capital*. The first volume appeared in 2008, with the title *Karl Marx's Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy 150 Years Later*, in a hardback edition that quickly sold out and was reprinted in 2009, with a paperback edition the next year. The first translations followed soon afterwards: a Farsi edition came out in 2010 at the Nika Publishing House in Tehran, Iran; and a Chinese one in 2011 at the prestigious China Renmin University Press of Beijing, with a print run of 5,000 and a reprint with the same number of copies in 2016. In 2013, Manohar in New Delhi, part of the Routledge – Taylor & Francis Group, brought out a much lower-priced English edition for the Indian and South-East Asian market, which would be reprinted in 2020. The turn of Italian came in 2015, with a print run of 1,000 copies published by Edizioni ETS and reprinted in a further thousand in 2021. Finally, in 2018 the Fondo de Cultura Económica brought out a Spanish translation that would be distributed in 4,000 copies throughout Hispanic America. In less than 15 years since the original edition appeared, and despite its character as a collective work, this book has been a significant international success, coming close in sales and number of translations to the best-known texts in the critical literature on the *Grundrisse*: Roman Rosdolsky's *Genesis and Structure of Marx's "Capital"* (1968) and Toni Negri's *Marx beyond Marx* (1979).

The second volume saw the light of day in 2019: *Marx's Capital after 150 Years: Critique and Alternative to Capitalism*. It was based on the proceedings of the largest international conference anywhere on this occasion – held at York University, Toronto, from 24 to 26 May 2017, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Capital*. This work too has been translated into other languages; the Italian version is currently being printed for Edizioni Alegre, and a Chinese edition is in preparation.

This third volume brings the project to completion and, like the first two, is being published in the Routledge Frontiers of Political Economy series. To mark another anniversary – 150 years since the completed printing of the French translation of *Capital* – 15 authors have helped to shed light on its history and main features, as well as analysing its later fortunes in France and the rest of the world. A final section contains an interesting selection of letters – between Karl

Marx, Maurice Lachâtre, Just Vernouillet and Friedrich Engels – on the making of *Le Capital*, including ten letters by Marx that were only recently rediscovered and published in French in 2019.

Last but not least, next year Routledge will publish a 400,000-word volume, titled *The Routledge Handbook of Marx's 'Capital': A Global History of Translation, Dissemination and Reception*, that I am editing with Babak Amini.

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