

Marx's Ecology or Ecological Marxism?

The present rhubarb came about thusly: In the June issue of CNS we published a Symposium on John B. Foster's book Marx's Ecology. The New York group got interested Marx's Ecology (and I encouraged this interest) and after an evening or two of discussion, four group members decided to write short critiques of different aspects of the book. Some of these critiques contained words of praise for Foster's effort. One of the authors had already published an excellent review of Marx's Ecology in CNS, pointing out what he regarded as the strengths and weaknesses of the work, as reviewers are wont to do. CNS editor Alan Rudy reviewed the book for another publication, and I asked Rudy to join the symposium and develop one of the ideas he introduced in his review a little better. In short, this was a New York group project, encouraged by myself, with a more or less last minute additional essay, which took up one aspect of Foster's work no one else had considered.

We sent Foster the symposium materials with an invitation to write up to 3000 words in defense of his work, which he declined. Foster did suggest that we invite Paul Burkett, an ex-editor of CNS, and Jason Moore to pinch hit. We were disappointed that CNS readers would be unable to hear what Foster had to say for himself in person (as it were) but willingly acceded to Foster's alternative. Invitations to Burkett and Moore were duly issued and accepted. No one else was asked to comment on the original symposium. Then invites were sent to the symposiasts to write short rejoinders. All accepted. In the June issue, we also invited readers to join the rhubarb. The invitation remains open. — J. O'C