Robert Kurz

THE SUBSTANCE OF CAPITAL

Translated from German by Robin Halpin

The Life and Death of Capitalism

CHRONOS PUBLICATIONS
Contents

Part I
The negative sociohistorical quality of the abstraction 'labour'

1. Abstract labour as the real metaphysics of society and the absolute intrinsic limits to valorisation .......................... 8

2. The philosophical concept of substance and the real metaphysics of capitalism .......................................................... 14

3. The negative substance concept of abstract labour in Marx's critique of political economy ........................................... 23

4. The positive concept of abstract labour in Marxist labour ontology ................................................................. 33

5. Critique of Moishe Postone's concept of labour ......................... 60

6. Abstract labour and value as social a priori ......................... 70

7. What is really abstract about abstract labour? ....................... 84

8. The concrete-historical time of capitalism .......................... 112

Part II
The failure of labour-ontological Marxist theory of crisis and the ideological barriers against the further development of the radical critique of capitalism

9. 'Breakdown theory' as loaded term and counterfeit concept in the history of Marxist theory ........................................ 120
Contents

{10} Reductive breakdown theories as Marxist minority position in the era of the world wars, part one: Rosa Luxemburg ............ 126

{11} Reductive breakdown theories as Marxist minority position in the era of the world wars, part two: Henryk Grossman .......... 137

{13} From Grossman's demonisation to the passing away of the Marxist debate on crisis and breakdown theory ..................... 147

{14} Subject and object in crisis theory. The apparent solution to the problem in mere relations of will and force .................. 158

{15} Crisis and critique, political illusion and the relation of gender-dissociation ............................................................ 173

{16} The quantitative concept of abstract labour and the accusation of 'naturalism' ......................................................... 190

Bibliography ................................................................. 215

Index ................................................................................ 221