



# Karl Marx: His Life and Environment

*By Isaiah Berlin*

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First published over fifty years ago, Isaiah Berlin's compelling portrait of the father of socialism has long been considered a classic of modern scholarship and the best short account written of Marx's life and thought. It provides a penetrating, lucid, and comprehensive introduction to Marx as theorist of the socialist revolution, illuminating his personality and ideas, and concentrating on those which have historically formed the central core of Marxism as a theory and practice. Berlin goes on to present an account of Marx's life as one of the most influential and incendiary social philosophers of the twentieth century and depicts the social and political atmosphere in which Marx wrote.

This edition includes a new introduction by Alan Ryan which traces the place of Berlin's Marx from its pre-World War II publication to the present, and elucidates why Berlin's portrait, in the midst of voluminous writings about Marx, remains the classic account of the personal and political side of this monumental figure.

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### From the Back Cover

First published over fifty years ago, Isaiah Berlin's compelling portrait of the father of modern Communism has long been considered the best short account written of Marx's life and thought. It provides a penetrating, lucid and comprehensive introduction to Marx as theorist of the socialist revolution, illuminating his personality and ideas, concentrating on those which have historically formed the central core of Marxism. In turn, Berlin presents an account of Marx's life as one of the most influential and incendiary social philosophers of the nineteenth century and brilliantly depicts the social and political atmosphere in which Marx wrote. This edition includes a new introduction by Alan Ryan which traces the place of Berlin's Karl

Marx from its pre-World War II publication to the present, and shows why Berlin's portrait, in the midst of voluminous writings about Marx, remains a classic account of the personal and political side of this monumental figure.

#### About the Author

Isaiah Berlin is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford University, and past President of the British Academy. He is the author of *The Age of Enlightenment*, *Four Essays on Liberty*, *Personal Impressions*, *The Crooked Timber*, *Vico and Herder* and *Russian Thinkers*.

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