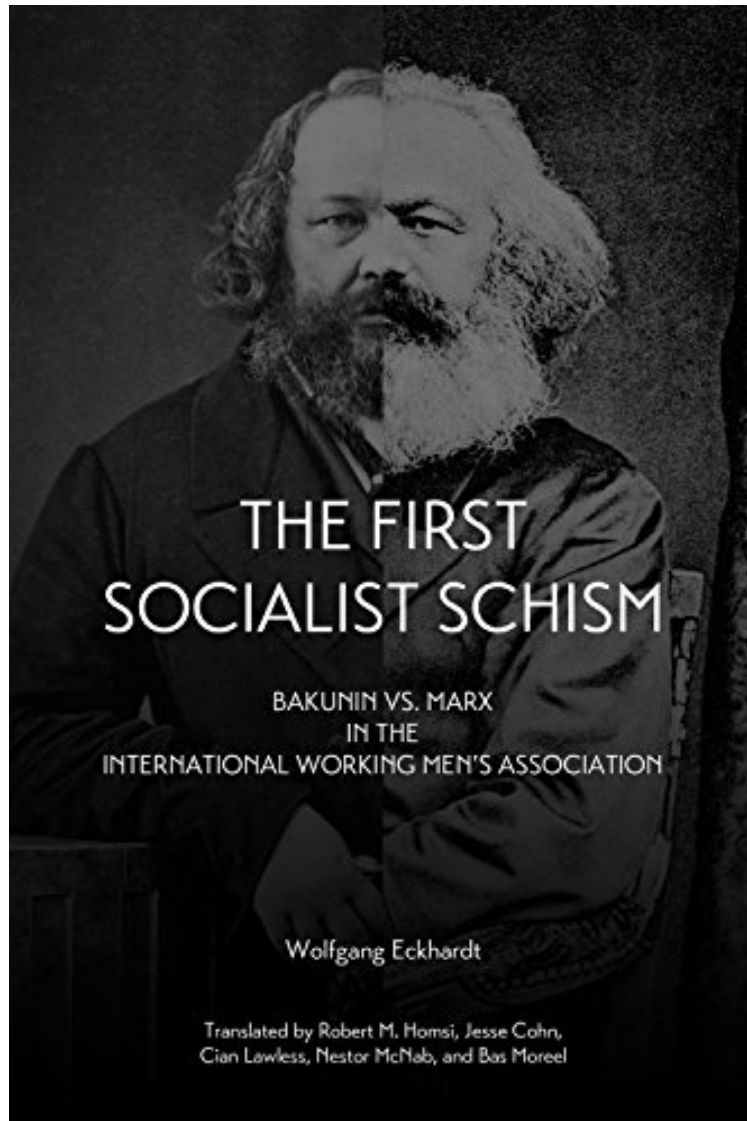


[Download free pdf] First Socialist Schism: Bakunin vs. Marx in the International Working Men's Association

## First Socialist Schism: Bakunin vs. Marx in the International Working Men's Association

Wolfgang Eckhardt

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**Wolfgang Eckhardt : First Socialist Schism: Bakunin vs. Marx in the International Working Men's Association** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First Socialist Schism: Bakunin vs. Marx in the International Working Men's Association:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great resource, could use more analysisBy CarlThe primary value of this book is as a convenient and detailed collection of excerpts from the letters, meeting minutes, pamphlets, and other

written material relevant to the rifts that arose in the First International. Commonly oversimplified as Marx vs. Bakunin, this book does an excellent job of presenting the voices of many other participants in the emergent conflict between socialism and anarchism. There is a substantial amount of material which has not previously appeared in any English-language works. To that extent, this book will be a valuable resource for anyone interested in the picking through the details of 19th-century socialism and anarchism. That said, I wish Eckhardt had done more to integrate this schism into the bigger picture. The book suffers from a lack of contextualization and insufficient analysis. How, for instance, does Marx's federalist goals of a stronger General Council and parliamentary action derive from, or feed into, his writing and thought outside of his activity in the International? Readers who are inadequately versed in Marx, Bakunin, or the First International might consequently find this work opaque. I would also say that the author demonstrates more favorable views of Bakunin than Marx, so if you have any personal political stakes in Marx vs. Bakunin, modulate your expectations accordingly. On the whole, if you are interested in the history of 19th-century labor movements, this would be a good addition to your library. On the other hand, if you are looking to the past primarily hoping to shed light on current events, the lack of context and analysis means this book might not have much to offer you.

0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Marx is correct. By Michael Pendergast  
This book though well written and researched is unapologetically pro-Bakunin, although Eckhardt's integrity allows for the backhanded recognition that Marx's suspicions regarding Bakunin were correct provided you read between the lines. However, only a well versed student of Socialism will be able to understand the political subtext that is frequently glossed over by Mr. Eckhardt.

The First Socialist Schism chronicles the conflicts in the International Working Men's Association (First International, 1864–1877), which represents an important milestone in the history of political ideas and socialist theory. The separate movements in the International—which would later develop into social democracy, communism, and anarchism—found their greatest advocates in Mikhail Bakunin and Karl Marx. What made the conflict between Bakunin and Marx so important was that it heralded the first socialist schism between parliamentary party politics aiming to conquer political power and social-revolutionary concepts. Instead of focusing exclusively on what Marx and Bakunin said, many other contributions to this debate are examined, making this the first reconstruction of a dispute that gripped the entire organization. This book also provides the first detailed account of the International's Congress of The Hague (September, 1872), famous for the expulsion of Bakunin; including the background, the sequence of events, and international reaction. The book sets new standards when it comes to source material, taking into account documents from numerous archives and libraries that have previously gone unnoticed or were completely unknown.

Wolfgang Eckhardt has been doing outstanding research on Mikhail Bakunin and the First International for years, unearthing precious materials in archives across Europe and documenting them in various German-language publications. His work now being available in English means a tremendous contribution to the international historiography of the anarchist movement and its origins. — Gabriel Kuhn, editor, *Gustav Landauer: Revolution and Other Writings*