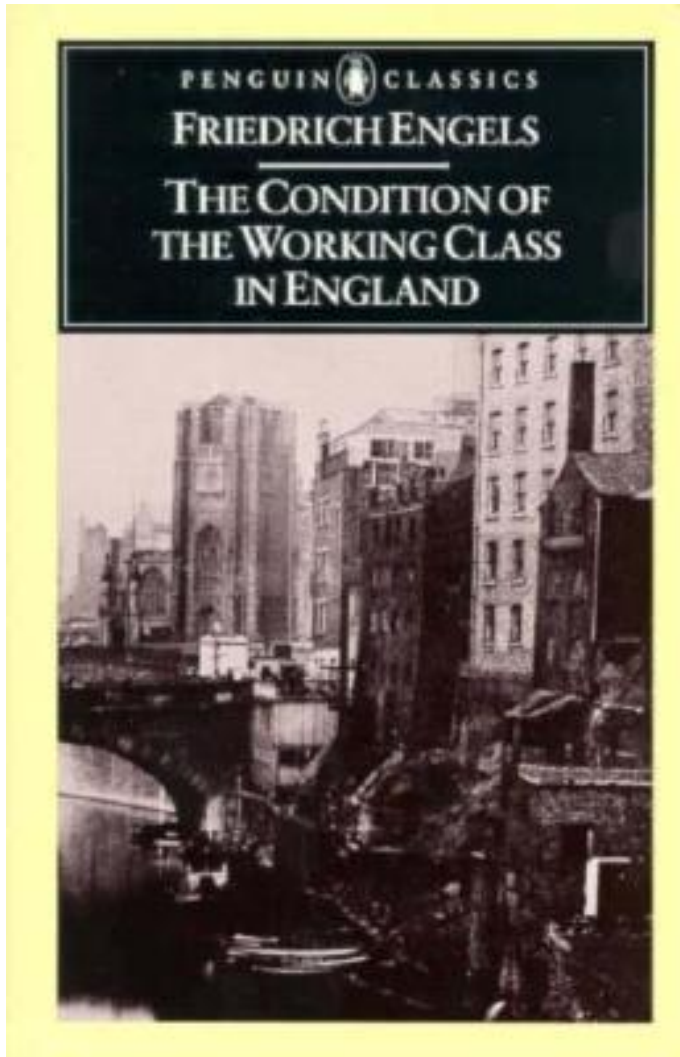

Friedrich Engels

The Condition of the Working Class in England



Title: The Condition of the Working Class in England

Author: Friedrich Engels

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Description

The Condition of the Working Class is the best-known work of Engels, and in many ways still the best study of the working class in Victorian England. It was also Engels's first book, written during his stay in Manchester from 1842 to 1844. Manchester was then at the very heart of the Industrial Revolution and Engels compiled his study from his own observations and detailed contemporary reports. The fluency of his writing, the personal nature of his insights, and his talent for mordant satire combine to make this account of the life of the victims of early industrial change into a classic - a historical study that parallels and complements the fictional works of the time by such writers as Gaskell and Dickens. What Cobbett had done for agricultural poverty in his Rural Rides, Engels did - and more - in this work on the plight of the industrial workers in the England of the early 1840s. This edition includes the prefaces to the English and American editions, and a map of Manchester c.1845.

Insightful reviews

Stephen Mahon: Engels detailed study of the working class in Victorian England is remarkable when you consider (a) He was German and (b) he was only 25 when he completed it. He out does the anti Semitism in some of his other tomes with a fair smattering of anti Irishness in this one. But no matter. We can put that down to age. o.O Reads like a detailed and thorough report in parts, but isn't without humour. And it is a thoroughly fascinating stroll around English cities of that era.

Random quotes:

"In Birmingham," says Commissioner Grainger, "the children examined by me are, as a whole, utterly wanting in all that could be in the remotest degree called a useful education. Although in almost all the schools religious instruction alone is furnished, the profoundest ignorance even upon that subject prevailed."—"In Wolverhampton," says Commissioner Horne, "I found, among others, the following example: A girl of eleven years had attended both day and Sunday school, 'had never heard of another world, of Heaven, or another life.' A boy, seventeen years old, did not know that twice two are four, nor how many farthings in two pence even when the money was placed in his hand. Several boys had never heard of London nor of Willenhall, though the latter was but an hour's walk from their homes, and in the closest relations with Wolverhampton. Several had never heard the name of the Queen nor other names, such as Nelson, Wellington, Bonaparte; but it was noteworthy that those who had never heard even of St. Paul, Moses, or Solomon, were very well instructed as to the life, deeds, and character of Dick Turpin, and especially of Jack Sheppard. A youth of sixteen did not know how many twice two are, nor how much four farthings make. A youth of seventeen asserted that four farthings are four half pence; a third, seventeen years old, answered several very simple questions with the brief statement, that he 'was ne jedge o' nothin'.'"

Comrade Mohd Aliff : This book paints a VERY shocking picture of 19th century England during Industrial Revolution and also of Capitalism in general. It's not a theoretical work unlike many of Engels' other works but rather a SOCIAL REPORT on how the workers being exploited while denying them the most basic principles of human rights and dignity. A must-read classic; readable and informative.

Claire: I have read this - Engels is as fun of a person as Marx!
It is not very happy of a book, but in my History of Communism class, I am positive I saw this before.

Scott Goddard: This anthropological, ethnographic examine examines the English operating Class, with specific emphasis and inquiry into the "North", that's to say, Manchester, Scotland, and different cities and towns that lie above Birmingham. In fact Engels lucidly describes cities and towns of the South, yet to a lesser extent. From a short cursory learn over the opposite reviews, one feedback of the booklet is a recurrent new release of an identical point; for me, this aspect doesn't hold, and that I felt there to be a considerable variety and eclecticism within the writing, by way of locational and vocational circumstances, in addition to and de facto category stratum. Engels is intensely descriptive in his writing and is, as a result, very evocative let alone provocative. Right down to the minutiae, he succeeds in featuring a transparent and illustrative photo of the kind of stipulations the operating type frequently needed to endure. Content wise, Engels chronologically spells out the periodical development within the operating class's latent potential, and the way they develop into extra expressive of militancy and insurrectionary, insofar as being sanguinary and committing common and useful acts of incendiarism opposed to the bourgeoisie. I couldn't aid yet exhibit sympathy to the plight of the operating class; they were, in effect, incorrigibly subordinated to their enterprise via a type of de facto, bordering on de jure, enslavement and utter servitude. Kids at a tender age have been quick lured into the "satanical mills" and mines, to paintings exhaustively until they do themselves irrevocable damage. This used to be an avoidable yet worthwhile eventuality for the capitalist, as there delirious fixation with revenue overrode all different concerns - and plus, as one worker perishes into infirmity, there have been regularly thousands extra in the huge "surplus population". In sum, it demonstratively exhibits how capitalism in line with se, that's to say, the unadulterated, laissez faire modality, turns empathetic, being concerned people into voracious, avaricious, totally unscrupulous people who express no emotion in the direction of their fellowman.

Anthony Zupancic: It definitely identifies the terrible social results of the commercial revolution. While you're uncertain the place the Communist Manifesto got here from, or why, learn this.

Stuart: I registered a booklet at [BookCrossing.com!http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12417437](http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/12417437)

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