

# Contents

Foreword	xiii
<b>1 A Review of Ontological, Epistemological and Methodological Problems</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 <i>Summary</i>	1
1.2 <i>Ontological Problems</i>	6
1.2.1 A short note on metaphysics	7
1.2.2 Dualism and its alternative	9
1.2.3 The historical background	12
1.2.4 About materialism	13
1.3 <i>Epistemological problems</i>	17
1.3.1 Some problems connected with a realist position	19
1.3.2 Some problems connected with an idealist position	21
1.3.3 About knowing and language	23
1.3.4 Language and knowledge: some further deliberations	28
1.3.5 A short excursion into problems of linguistic relativity	33
1.3.6 Knowledge as relation	35
1.4 <i>Methodological problems</i>	38
1.4.1 Methodological idealism and materialism	39
1.4.2 The meaning of the expression "process of material production"	41
1.4.3 Are there ontological assumptions implied in talking about "methodological materialism"?	43
1.4.4 Some additional methodological problems	45
<b>2 On Dialectics</b>	<b>55</b>
2.1 <i>Summary</i>	55
2.2 <i>Basic assumptions of dialectics</i>	59
2.3 <i>Totality</i>	62
2.3.1 Totality and concreteness	62
2.3.2 On appearance and essence	67

2.3.3 Concrete totality	72
2.3.4 What the notion of totality negates	73
2.3.5 The developing concrete totality	75
2.3.6 The historicity of basic concepts	77
2.4 <i>Intrinsic and extrinsic relations</i>	78
2.4.1 Negation and transcendence	78
2.4.2 Intrinsic and extrinsic relations analyzed	82
2.4.3 On conceptual matters	84
2.4.4 Other contexts in which we speak about intrinsic relations	91
2.4.5 On language and reality	93
2.4.6 On identity	98
2.4.6.1 On the law of identity	99
2.4.6.2 On the meaning of "to identify something"	101
2.4.6.3 Are the two meanings of "to identify" exhaustive?	103
2.4.6.4 On temporal identity and the meaning of individuality	103
2.4.6.5 Some conclusions to be drawn	107
2.4.7 On dialectical relations	111
2.5 <i>On processes</i>	115
2.5.1 Is everything process?	115
2.5.2 On praxis	118
2.5.3 The process of inversion (Umkehrung und Umdrehung)	120
2.5.4 The Marxian use of the process of inversion	123
2.6 <i>Relatedness</i>	125
2.6.1 Relations of relations	128
2.6.2 An exemplification of relatedness	129
2.6.3 Things and relations	133
2.6.4 The relational approach to man and society	138
3 Persons, Actions, Interactions: Overcoming Dualism	152
3.1 <i>Summary</i>	152
3.2 <i>Overcoming dualism</i>	154
3.2.1 On body-mind dualism	156
3.2.2 Can dualism be saved empirically through experiments?	158
3.2.3 The concept "person"	160
3.2.4 Epistemological consequences of this analysis	163
3.3 <i>The analysis of common-sense language as a means for overcoming dualism</i>	168
3.3.1 Conditions for description	169
3.3.2 Formal logic and conditions for description	171
3.3.3 Some consequences of this analysis	174
3.3.4 About statements and concepts	175

3.4 <i>Acting and interacting</i>	177
3.4.1 On actions	181
3.4.2 Possibilities of actions	184
3.4.3 On language games	187
3.4.4 Is it a logical necessity to have rules?	189
3.4.5 The dialectics of intentions and conventions	193
3.4.6 On intersubjectivity	199
3.4.7 A short note on false consciousness	202
3.4.8 Some concluding remarks	203
4 Some Epistemological Problems	211
4.1 <i>Summary</i>	211
4.2 <i>About knowledge and knowing</i>	213
4.2.1 Knowing and producing knowledge	213
4.2.2 On competence and transcendence	217
4.2.3 Psychological aspects of transcendence	219
4.2.4 Acquaintance with language	223
4.2.5 On the use of the expressions "negative" and "negative fact"	224
4.2.6 On negations of negations	226
4.2.7 Some problems of correctness	228
4.2.8 How to find out whether something is true	231
4.3 <i>Problems of Marxist epistemology</i>	233
4.3.1 Praxis as an epistemological category	233
4.3.2 The mirror-image thesis	238
4.3.3 The mirror-image thesis and perception	241
4.4 <i>On genetic epistemology</i>	244
4.4.1 A short presentation of Piaget's genetic epistemology	245
4.4.2 Some conclusions to be drawn	249
Epilogue	255
General index	257
Author index	261