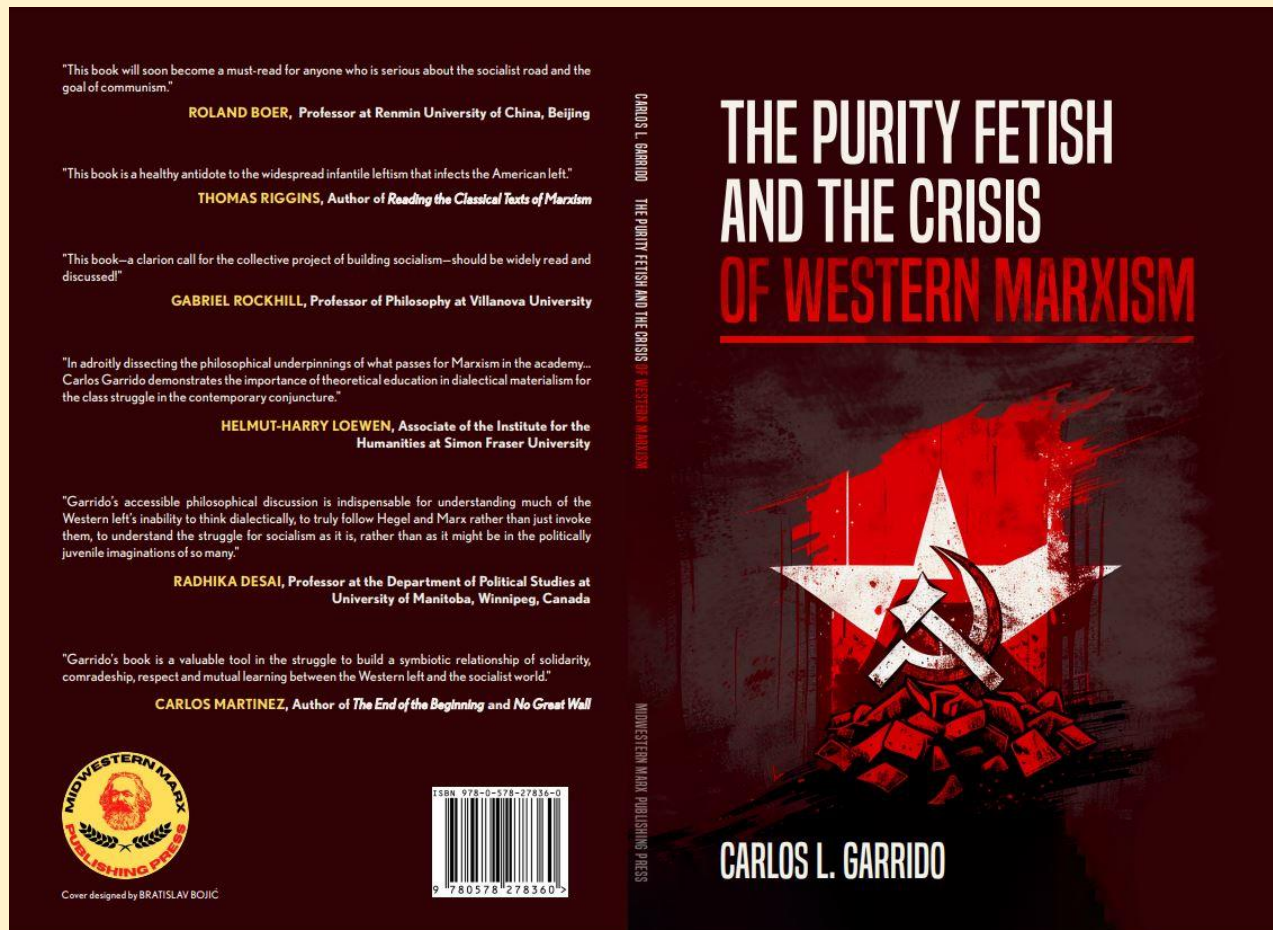


Endorsements for *The Purity Fetish and the Crisis of Western Marxism*



“This is a very important new work from Carlos Garrido. Here he explains in full detail the "purity fetish," which has afflicted and hobbled the Western left for too long. Not only does the purity fetish prevent the Western Left from understanding the century or more of actual socialist construction in many parts of the world, but it also prevents this very same Left from appreciating and drawing insight from the history of genuine socialist struggles in their own countries. This book will soon become a must-read for anyone who is serious about the socialist road and the goal of communism.”

- **Roland Boer**, professor at Renmin University of China, Beijing. Author of many books, including *Socialism with Chinese Characteristics: A Guide for Foreigners* (2021), *Friedrich Engels and the Foundations of Socialist Governance* (2021), and *Socialism in Power: On the History and Theory of Socialist Governance* (2023).

“This book is a healthy antidote to the widespread infantile leftism that infects the American left. As Lenin pointed out in *Left-Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder*, those so called Marxists who are so wrapped

up in their one sided views that they can't work with others, whether it's right-wing deviationism towards the bourgeois parties (the Democratic Party as an ally!) or complete ultra-left rejection of bourgeois coalitions (our way or the highway), such thinking retards the revolutionary movement to overthrow the capitalist system. This book will help such comrades to grow up and learn how to apply the dialectical method to these issues.”

- **Thomas Riggins**, retired philosophy teacher (NYU, The New School, and others), former associate editor at Political Affairs, Chief Editorial Counselor at the Midwestern Marx Institute and author of *Reading the Classical Texts of Marxism* (2022) and *Eurocommunism: A Critical Reading* (2022).

“Unlike Athena, socialism does not spring forth, fully formed from the head of a god or, by extension, the minds of people. It emerges in the here and now through a dialectical and contradictory process of real-world social transformation. This is precisely what Carlos Garrido astutely argues in this timely and provocative book: we need to embrace *the dialectics of socialism* as an antidote to the purity fetish that plagues the Western Left, pinning it into a position of controlled counter-hegemony. This book—a clarion call for the collective project of building socialism—should be widely read and discussed!”

- **Gabriel Rockhill**, Founding Director of the Critical Theory Workshop / Atelier de Théorie Critique & Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University. Author of many books, including *Counter-History of the Present: Untimely Interrogations into Globalization, Technology, and Democracy* (2017) and *Interventions in Contemporary Thought: History, Politics, Aesthetics* (2016).

“The Western Left has a sordid history of complicity with “fascist falsifiers,” as Georgi Dimitrov noted in 1935, who scurrilously distort the revolutionary gains achieved in the socialist states and mount counter-revolutionary attacks aimed at extinguishing the emancipatory sparks of actually existing socialism. In adroitly dissecting the philosophical underpinnings of what passes for Marxism in the academy – a pseudo-radical pedagogy that has misled generations of students and inhibited the development of revolutionary political praxis in Western societies – Carlos Garrido demonstrates the importance of theoretical education in dialectical materialism for the class struggle in the contemporary conjuncture.”

- **Helmut-Harry Loewen**, a veteran anti-apartheid and anti-fascist campaigner in Western Canada, is an associate of the Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University and a retired University of Winnipeg lecturer in sociology and criminological theory.

“In *The Purity Fetish and the Crisis of Western Marxism*, Carlos Garrido seriously examines the dogmatism and eurocentrism that have had such a toxic influence on the development of the Western left. Crucially, the book addresses the failure of so many Marxists to understand actually existing socialism; their seeming inability to understand movements with different cultural and philosophical roots to those of the European working class of the 19th century.

This is not simply an academic question. The socialist countries - most prominently China - are leading the way towards a new future for humanity; the type of future where we can prevent climate catastrophe, avert nuclear war, and build what Xi Jinping refers to as a community with a shared future for mankind. These countries are blazing the way to a life beyond capitalism, and for that exact reason they're being subjected to an escalating hybrid warfare by the US and its allies.

Carlos Garrido's book is a valuable tool in the struggle to build a symbiotic relationship of solidarity, comradeship, respect and mutual learning between the Western left and the socialist world.”

- **Carlos Martinez** is an independent researcher and political activist from London, Britain. He is the co-founder of No Cold War and Friends of Socialist China, and the author of *The End of the Beginning:*

Lessons of the Soviet Collapse (2019) and *No Great Wall: On the Continuities of the Chinese Revolution* (2022).

“As the gap between conditions that cry out for socialist transformation and the long-diminishing political capacities of the Western left grows ever more dangerous, Garrido’s brilliantly pithy and well-thought philosophical book argues that a good part of this gap is accounted for by the Western and US left’s ‘purity fetish.’

This fetish, Garrido argues, drawing from Hegel, Marx, Parenti and Losurdo, arises from an inability to think dialectically, an inability to realize that the abstract has no existence other than in necessarily compromised concrete instances that are always and everywhere ‘desecrated by the meanness of reality.’

Garrido’s accessible philosophical discussion is indispensable for understanding much of the Western left’s inability to think dialectically, to truly follow Hegel and Marx rather than just invoke them, to understand the struggle for socialism as it is, rather than as it might be in the politically juvenile imaginations of so many.

Garrido’s punchy discourse deals both with the reality of building socialism in China and with the difficulties of building socialism in the US. His demands that black liberation movements connect up with the US’s revolutionary traditions will inevitably arouse debate, but it is likely one that must be had.”

- **Radhika Desai**, Professor at the Department of Political Studies and Director of the Geopolitical Economy Research Group at University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. Some of her recent books include *Geopolitical Economy: After US Hegemony, Globalization and Empire* (2013), *Karl Polanyi and Twenty First Century Capitalism* (2020), *Revolutions* (2020), *Japan’s Secular Stagnation* (2022), and *Capitalism, Coronavirus and War: A Geopolitical Economy* (2022). With Alan Freeman, she co-edits the Geopolitical Economy book series with Manchester University Press and the Future of Capitalism book series with Pluto Press.

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