Twitter Thread by William Clare Roberts



William Clare Roberts
@MarxinHell

I wasn't planning to do the year-end collection of writings thread, but I would like to bury all the rather unpleasant notifications coming in from my critique of Stock, so...

I did not *write* much this year, but I was lucky to have a few things published anyway:

1. My essay "What *was* primitive accumulation?" — which has been online since 2017 — got its permanent published form in @EJPTheory vol. 19, issue 4: https://t.co/KA4riXBU7q

The article argues against the recent revisionist accounts of primitive accumulation.

2. My highly critical review of Gareth Stedman Jones's biography of Marx was published in Historical Materialism: https://t.co/tTh3FUaW1s An excerpt:

3. My engagement with @martinhaegglund's This Life: Secular Faith and Spiritual Freedom appeared in @LAReviewofBooks, as part of a symposium on Hägglund's book. https://t.co/ubTmdjBpmr

In it, I make two major arguments. The first is more Marxological:

The second is more independent of Marx, and applies broadly, I think, to attempts to reconstruct a socialist politics today:

Finally, the pandemic was a time for being way too online, so I'm going to append some of my big threaded arguments from this year. Tempted to put them on my CV given how this year has gone:

4. On Adorno and exploitation https://t.co/cejOfqx4Hs

> Thoughts on Adorno, exploitation, the bounds of agency, and control vs. domination.
>
> I think this bit in Adorno is of a peice with the Frankfurt School's anti-positivism, even if it is an extreme pole within the

school. 1/ https://t.co/T02vqKLFDd

— William Clare Roberts (@MarxinHell) May 19, 2020

5. On Althusser https://t.co/jSe4OKG3Y6

Been meaning to get back to this \u2014 here is a thread on the value of Althusser\u2019s reading of Marx: 1/15 https://t.co/j8vLXMP3hc

— William Clare Roberts (@MarxinHell) September 4, 2020

6. On “cancelling” https://t.co/0ruvrN4kXW

In defense of cancel culture, a thread:

One of the markers of canceling is that it is crowd action. Being canceled is not being fired, being jailed, being excommunicated. It can lead to these things, but they are separate acts, carried out by agents with official power. 1/10

— William Clare Roberts (@MarxinHell) July 8, 2020

7. More on cancelling, in response to @tmbejan https://t.co/T8EJoG2Fuv

Last week I gave a qualified defense of canceling on democratic grounds. Today I want to say something about this thread by Teresa Bejan.

(Prof. Bejan is going to be a colleague for a while this next year, so, COVID permitting, we\u2019ll be able to discuss this IRL.) 1/20 https://t.co/lHFbJIVUPa

— William Clare Roberts (@MarxinHell) July 17, 2020

8. On @owasow’s important paper on “Agenda Seeding” https://t.co/OUWySSfRxy

I just had a very fruitful discussion (with some of the McGill poli sci grad students and my colleague @KrzPelc) of @owasow's much discussed APSR paper, "Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protest Moved Elites, Public Opinion, and Voting."

And I have questions!
1/20

— William Clare Roberts (@MarxinHell) July 2, 2020

I have a couple things in the pipeline for early next year:
1. An essay on Lissagaray and the Commune, forthcoming in @NCFS_journal
2. An essay on CLR James in The CLR James Journal
3. A small provocation on Rawls

I wish everyone a better year in 2021. See you on the flipside!