

The philosophical structure of the “Theses on Feuerbach” according to Althusser in his 1961 Seminar at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (from memory EB)

| These Nr | “Ancient materialism” | Idealism | “New Materialism” |
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| 1 | “object” = “intuition” | “activity” = “subject” | <i>Praxis</i> (<i>sinnlich-menschliche Tätigkeit</i> = sensuous human activity) |
| 2 | Truth as sensible (empirical) contemplation | “theoretical” truth (scholastical) | Practical Truth = “immanent” (<i>Diesseitigkeit</i>) and „effective” (<i>Wirklichkeit</i>) |
| 3 | The Human formed by the circumstances (“educated”) | | “education of the educator” or self-transformation of Humankind (<i>Selbstveränderung</i>) in the revolutionary praxis |
| 4 | Duplication of the world (profane/religious) | [implicitly: primacy of the transcendent world] | “self-contradicting” (= scission) (<i>Selbstzerrissenheit</i>) of the “secular basis” [= object of the theoretical and practical critique] |
| 5 | Thinking as sensuous intuition/contemplation (<i>Anschauung</i>) | Implicitly : abstract thinking as “activity” [of the mind or spirit] | Practical activity (human-sensible) |
| 6 | Human “essence” as “abstract” (a-historical) “generic” individuality = naturalistic universality | ? [implicitly : Human essence as idea or destination] | Human “essence” as “the ensemble of the social relations” |
| 7 | | | Religion [more generally : alienation] as historical production of a social form [formation] |
| 8 | | | Praxis rationally understood resolves the “mysteries” [religious/speculative] |
| 9 | Intuition/contemplation of the bourgeois individuality | | |
| 10 | Viewpoint of the civil-bourgeois [<i>bürgerliche</i>] society | | Viewpoint of the “human society” = the “social [socialized] humankind” |
| 11 | Interpreting the world | Interpreting the world | Transforming (changing) (<i>verändern</i>) the world |