



## Theory As History: Essays on Modes of Production and Exploitation (Historical Materialism Books (Haymarket Books))

*By Jairus Banaji*

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The essays collected herein deal with the Marxist notion of a "mode of production," the emergence of medieval relations of production, the origins of capitalism, the dichotomy between free and unfree labor, and essays in agrarian history. They demonstrate the importance of reintegrating theory with history and of bringing history back into historical materialism.

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- Sales Rank: #1122809 in Books
- Published on: 2011-12-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.90" h x 1.20" w x 5.90" l, 1.41 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 408 pages

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"*Theory as History* is a book written at the summit of a lifetime's engagement with issues of Marxist theory and practice ... Banaji's work demonstrates that no aspect of human history is irrelevant to the present. His scholarship shows immense skill, depth and range ... [proving] it is not the Marxist method that has been at fault, but the dominance of non-Marxist theory and method in the minds of Marxist."

—*Counterfire*

#### About the Author

**Jairus Banaji** spent most of his academic life at Oxford. He has been a Research Associate in the Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, for the past several years. He is the author of *Agrarian Change in Late Antiquity* (Oxford, 2007).

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