

**In defense of Marxism; against the petty-bourgeois
opposition in the Socialist workers party, 4th ed.
(reprint, 1995)**

Trotsky, Leon.

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This volume collects materials written by Leon Trotsky in 1939-1940 on ideological and political debates that were then raging within the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. As the introduction to the volume's 1973 second edition, written by SWP leaders George Novack and Joseph Hansen explains, Trotsky wrote against what he termed "an attempt to reject, disqualify, and overthrow the theoretical foundations, the political principles and organizational methods of our movement." The issues were sparked by the 1939 Soviet-German pact and attempts by groups associated with party leaders James Burnham, Martin Abern, and Max Shachtman (the "petty-bourgeois opposition," in Trotsky's view) to reject the party's evaluation of the class nature of the Soviet state. This led to a major split in the SWP that involved political disagreements about the Soviet Union, the Marxist theory of dialectical materialism, and liberal democracy, among other issues. Also available from Pathfinder in Spanish as *En defensa la marxismo*. (Annotation ©2010 Book News Inc. Portland, OR)