

## Press release

# Marx-Engels papers completely available online now

Amsterdam, 11 August 2015 **As from today, the papers of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels can be viewed free of charge and in their entirety through the IISH's catalogue website.**

The writings of Marx and Engels are among the most influential in world history. In the twentieth century much of the world was ruled by regimes claiming to be Marxist, and the writings of Marx and Engels continue to play an important role in thinking on capitalism, labour, economic crises and revolutions. The *Manifest der kommunistischen Partei* has been translated into almost every language.

Many people would regard it as a historical sensation to be able to see the original documents, though you have to be particularly determined if you really want to read them: Marx's handwriting in particular is virtually illegible.

The digitized documents can be browsed and each item viewed in full-screen mode. All the documents can be downloaded as a PDF file and printed. Go to [socialhistory.org](http://socialhistory.org) for more information.

### About the Marx-Engels archive

The Marx-Engels archive has been kept at the IISH since 1938. Alongside manuscripts and personal documents – including letters from Marx's wife Jenny von Westphalen and correspondence with the Dutch Philips family – the 5.6-metre archive contains the sole remaining hand-written page from the *Manifest der kommunistischen Partei* (1848) and a first edition of *Das Kapital* (vol. 1, 1867) with marginalia by Marx himself. In June 2013 these documents were included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.

This archive was digitized as part of a large-scale project to digitize the archives acquired by the IISH in the 1930s. Earlier, the archives of *inter alia* Mikhail Bakunin, Lev Trotsky, and Louise Michel were made available online.

### About the International Institute of Social History

Work and labour relations deeply influence the lives of millions of people. The International Institute of Social History (IISH) examines how these relations have developed globally over time. To conduct this historical research and support other researchers, it collects archives and data from all over the world.

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Established in 1935, the IISH has been an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) since 1979. The collections, some of which contain politically sensitive material, are owned by or have been placed on permanent loan to Stichting IISG, an independent foundation.

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**Not for publication:**

For more information go to [socialhistory.org](http://socialhistory.org) or contact the communications department of the Institute via + 31 (0) 20-6685866 or [ale@iisg.nl](mailto:ale@iisg.nl)