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***Basic biographical data***

Name:	Max Shachtman
Other names (by-names, pseud. etc.):	Cousin John * Marty Dworkin * M.S. * Max Marsh * Max * Michaels * Pedro * S. * Max Schachtman * Sh * Maks Shakhtman * S-n * Tr * Trent * M.N. Trent
Date and place of birth:	September 10, 1904, Warsaw (Russia [Poland])
Date and place of death:	November 4, 1972, Floral Park, NY (USA)
Nationality:	Russian, American
Occupations, careers, etc.:	Editor, writer, party leader
Time of activity in Trotskyist movement:	1928 - ca. 1948

Biographical sketch

*Max Shachtman was a renowned writer, editor, polemicist and agitator who, together with James P. Cannon and Martin Abern, in 1928/29 founded the Trotskyist movement in the United States and for some 12 years functioned as one of its main leaders and chief theoreticians. He was a close collaborator of Leon Trotsky and translated some of his major works. Nicknamed 'Trotsky's commissar for foreign affairs', he held key positions in the leading bodies of Trotsky's international movement before, in 1940, he split from the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), founded the Workers Party (WP) and in 1948 definitively dissociated from the Fourth International. Shachtman's name was closely webbed with the theory of bureaucratic collectivism and with what was described as *Third Campism* ("Neither Washington nor Moscow"). His thought had some lasting influence on a considerable number of contemporaneous intellectuals, writers, and socialist youth, both American and abroad. Once a key figure in the history and struggles of the American and international Trotskyist movement, Shachtman, from the late 1940s to his death in 1972, made a remarkable journey from the left margin of American society to the right, thus having been an inspirer of both Anti-Stalinist Marxists and of neo-conservative hard-liners.*

Max Shachtman was born in Warsaw (Poland) – then part of the Czarist Russian Empire – on September 10, 1904 as a child of Benjamin (died in 1948) and Sarah Shachtman (died in 1941), socialists of Jewish origin who in 1905 emigrated to the United States settling in New York, where the boy grew up and lived until 1923. Shachtman had a younger sister, Tilly. The family became naturalized in 1921.

Although he dropped out from college at the age of 19, he should become a colourful man of remarkable literary style and talents, a bibliophile whose rich collections first were literary and then focused on the classics of socialist literature and history; furthermore, he came to be a brilliant orator, polemicist and debater, renowned for his wit, humour and irony. He was more or less fluent in English, German, French and Yiddish, with passing knowledge of Spanish, Russian and Hebrew. He was married three times: first with Billie Ramloff, second with Edith Harvey (formerly associated with Shachtman's friend Albert Glotzer; the couple got a son, Michael, in 1939), and eventually with Yetta Barsh (1925-1996), like himself successively a member of the *Communist League of America (CLA)*, the *Socialist Workers Party (SWP)*, the *Workers Party (WP)*, the *Independent Socialist League (ISL)* and eventually the *Social Democrats, USA*.

Being a sympathizer of the left wing of the *Socialist Party (SP)* and under the strong influence of the Russian revolution, Shachtman in 1922 became a member of the *Workers Party*, the legal arm of the then underground *Communist Party (CP)* of the United States where he got in close contact with Martin Abern, the leader of the *Young Workers League (YWL)*, the *CP's* youth arm, who persuaded him to take functions in the leadership of the youth organization and to become editor of the *Young Worker* (Chicago). Shachtman spent the next few years in Chicago as a communist full-time organizer, soon became a renowned and talented party journalist and made a career in the *CP* where he became the youngest alternate member of the *Central Committee* and later a delegate to the Moscow congresses of the *Young Communist International* and of the *International Red Aid*, respectively. At the same time he became – pushed by his mentor James P. Cannon – a leading member of the *International Labor Defense (ILD)* and in 1926 editor of its organ, *Labor Defender*. Within the *CP*, Shachtman associated himself with the faction grouped around William Z. Foster and James P. Cannon, until Cannon, Abern and Shachtman eventually broke with Foster in 1925.

In 1928, Shachtman, Cannon and Abern were expelled from the ranks of the *CP* after they had begun to challenge the Stalinist party majority faction by openly defending Trotsky's fundamental criticism of Stalin's rule in the USSR and of the adventurist and dangerous political line of the Stalinized *Comintern*. The three expellees, backed by some dozen other militants excluded from the party and endorsed by some other nuclei of a Trotskyist anti-Stalinist opposition soon founded an oppositional paper, *The Militant* (appearing in New York), and in Spring 1929 launched an external left oppositional faction, the *Communist League of America (CLA)* which soon should become the American affiliate of Trotsky's *International Left Opposition (ILO)* and in 1934 joined forces with another leftist group led by Abraham J. Muste to form the *Workers Party*. Shachtman functioned as contributing editor of the Trotskyists' weekly mouthpiece *The Militant* and of their theoretical journal *The New International* which was launched in 1934. In 1931, he founded *Pioneer Publishers* which for many decades – under changing names – should function as the most eminent Trotskyist publishing house.

From its very beginning in 1928 to 1940, Shachtman was, second only to James P. Cannon, the political and theoretical head of the American Trotskyist movement which eventually in 1938 was reconstituted as the *Socialist Workers Party (SWP)* under national secretary James P. Cannon. Shachtman during those years made innumerable oral contributions to party conventions and meetings as well as brilliantly written contributions to the American and international Trotskyist press and to a great variety of internal and discussion bulletins. Being in close contact with Leon Trotsky and his son, Lev Sedov, Shachtman travelled several European countries during the early 1930s (e.g. Germany, France, Britain, Spain) and functioned as international secretary of the *International Left Opposition*, which in 1933 was renamed *International Communist League (ICL)* and in 1936 *Movement for the Fourth International*. During the 1930s, Shachtman was undoubtedly the most renowned American within the international Trotskyist community, a very pillar of Trotsky and perhaps one of the most gifted thinkers and writers in the ranks of the movement.

In 1930, he had been the first American visiting Trotsky after the exiled leader of the Russian revolution had settled on Prinkipo Island (Turkey); Shachtman later met Trotsky again in his French and Norwegian exile, and he belonged to the American delegation which welcomed the Trotskys when they arrived in Mexico, the last station of their exile, in 1937. There was a very considerable letter exchange between Shachtman, Trotsky and his secretaries. In 1938, Shachtman participated as one of the American delegates in the founding congress of the *Fourth International*; the English-language version of the minutes of that meeting was from his pen. In 1939, Shachtman became one of four people constituting the New York *Resident International Executive Committee* of the *Fourth International*. Last not least, Shachtman came to be known as an outstanding translator of Trotsky's works¹ – thus deserving greatest thanks with regard to the dissemination of his writings in the English-speaking world² – and author of a valuable account of the early history of the Trotskyist movement and of an analysis of the monstrous Moscow show trials.

At the time of the outbreak of World War II, great tensions unfolded within the *SWP* which eventually should culminate in a devastating split: Max Shachtman and James Burnham became the main spokesmen of a (strong) minority faction which argued against Cannon's and Trotsky's assessment that the Soviet Union despite all Stalinist degeneration and even in view of the August 1939 Hitler-Stalin pact and the USSR's war against Poland and Finland (1939 and 1940) remained a "workers' state" which socialists and revolutionaries have to defend against any aggression. The Shachtman-Burnham faction got in fundamental disagreement with this genuine Trotskyist view. They began to challenge the validity of the Trotskyist position of unconditional defense of the USSR by developing a theory – originally sketched by an Italian ex-Trotskyist, Bruno Rizzi, and later developed by Milovan Djilas and others – which emphasized that the USSR had become a bureaucratic-collectivist state in which those who control the state-owned means of production are constituting a ruling class (not a caste or a stratum); thus Marxists consequently should side neither with the 'Moscow' nor with the 'Washington', neither with the Stalinist nor fascist nor capitalist camp, but rather fight against *all* ruling and exploiting classes and against *all* oppressive regimes. Shachtman and those Trotskyist dissidents championing such positions often have fittingly been designated as 'Third Campists' (or 'Third Camp Trotskyists', respectively)³.

Deeply involved into the *SWP's* internal struggles, Trotsky from the very beginning endorsed Cannon's views, sharply opposing Shachtman's and Burnham's revisions and deviations from traditional Trotskyist viewpoints. After several months of a quite unparalleled theoretical and factional struggle about the 'Russian question' (and about questions of internal party regime as well as about some philosophical questions, too), the adherents of Burnham and the 'Shachtmanites'⁴ left the *Socialist Workers Party* in the early summer of 1940, taking with them some 40 percent of the total party membership including a majority of its youth arm. The 'Shachtmanites' immediately founded a new party, the *Workers Party (WP)* while Burnham soon came to drop from Trotskyism and from radical politics. The 'Shachtmanites' took with them the theoretical journal *The New International* and at the same time began publishing a weekly paper called *Labor Action*.

In the 1940s, the *Workers Party* under Shachtman's leadership was the American branch of an interna-

1) For a list of major works by Leon Trotsky translated and/or edited and annotated by Shachtman see the respective paragraphs of our *Selective bibliography* below

2) He even translated and edited some of Trotsky's writings after his split from Trotsky's American followers (see below)

3) The best and most instructive discussions of 'Third Campism' probably are the long essay by Alan Johnson and chapter 5 of Peter Drucker's *Max Shachtman and his Left*, both listed in the paragraph *Books and articles about Shachtman* of our *Selective Bibliography* below. As a matter of fact, Shachtman's theories of the 1940s in one way or another maintained alive in many dissident ('non-orthodox') Trotskyist groups and tendencies, particularly in America and Britain

4) As Shachtman and his followers were called by the 'Cannonites', i.e. by the *SWP* majority led by James P. Cannon

tional current of dissident Trotskyists (or, semi-Trotskyists) rejecting both Western private capitalism and Eastern bureaucratic collectivism – views which were held by some European (ex-)Trotskyists, too, as for example by Yvan Craipeau. At the end of the 1940s and beyond, Shachtman's thought – chiefly developed in the columns of *The New International* and propagated on speaking tours and in public debates – in one way or another influenced all those theorists who came to coin different varieties of "bureaucratic collectivism" and "state capitalism" theories; thus some of Shachtman's essential ideas are to be found in various brands of the strictly anti-Stalinist (or, Stalinophobe) left, such for example in the theories of the American Joseph Carter (Friedman) or of the British Tony Cliff (Gluckstein), the latter being the creator of the *International Socialism* current ("Neither Washington nor Moscow"), or in the theories developed by the 'left Shachtmanite' Hal Draper ("Socialism from Below") who broke with Shachtman in 1961.

In the mid-1940s, Shachtman took part in discussions about the possibilities of a re-unification of the *SWP* and the *WP* – which of course failed – and could win over, at least for a short span of time, some further dissidents from the *SWP*. Although his *Workers Party* never became a considerable political factor, Shachtman's influence on some contemporary writers, labour activists and intellectuals of the younger generation – whether or not formally affiliated with his organizations – remained quite considerable, e.g. on Irving Howe, Sydney Hook, Irving Kristol, Hal Draper, Michael Harrington, James T. Farrell, Saul Bellow, Harvey Swados, Bayard Rustin, Stanley Plastrik, Emanuel Geltman, to mention only a few.

For many years, Shachtman maintained regular contact with Natalia Sedova, Trotsky's widow⁵, who under the influence of Grandizo Munis et al. had broken with Trotsky's *Fourth International* aligning instead with Shachtman who in 1948 definitively broke with the Trotskyist movement, too. At the time of the *SWP-WP* split, he still had regarded himself as a Trotskyist, or at least as a revolutionary Marxist, and still in Spring 1948 he attended – as a spokesman of the opposition – the second world congress of the *Fourth International*. However, by the end of the same year he came – strongly influenced by Carter (Friedman) – to the conclusion that the Stalinist Soviet Union was the greater evil and socio-economically more reactionary in comparison with Western/American capitalism; he and his supporters categorically objected to give whatever support to the Stalinists and to the Soviet Union – a position absolutely incompatible with traditional or official Trotskyism – and thus eventually came, as it soon should become evident, to side with 'the West'. His break with Trotskyism turned out to be irreversible. In the 1950s, in view of the post-war boom and the Cold War division of the world into rival hostile blocs, Shachtman successively approached to positions commonly described as 'democratic socialist' and eventually moved more and more decisively to the right.

In 1948, Shachtman's group, the *Workers Party*, was renamed *Independent Socialist League (ISL)*, which under his unchallenged leadership successively shifted from revolutionary Marxist Anti-Stalinism to reformist socialism and eventually merged in 1958 with the (social-democratic) *Socialist Party (SP)* of the old Norman Thomas. But that was not at all the end of Shachtman's political trajectory; his journey (or, odyssey)⁶ from socialism to liberalism and beyond continued and rather accelerated during the 1960s: he became the moving spirit of a so-called *realignment tendency* within the *SP* favouring engagement for and in the *Democratic Party*, regarding it as the appropriate means to move the nation towards social democracy. This realignment included for example the endorsing of the *Democrats'*

5) From 1952 to 1961, Shachtman together with his wife often visited Natalia Sedova in Mexico. Despite his 1940 break with Trotsky, Shachtman remained his literary representative in the U.S. acting in that capacity for Natalia Sedova and thus often corresponding with her on legal and financial matters.

6) *A socialist's odyssey through the "American century"* is the sub-title of Peter Drucker's magnum opus about Max Shachtman: *Max Shachtman and his Left* (Atlantic Highlands, NJ, 1994, based on author's doctoral thesis), an unsurpassed, comprehensive and meticulously researched first rate political biography thoroughly dealing with almost all aspects and facets of Shachtman's life and analysing in detail all steps in his moving from the left to the right

liberal "progressive" social policy and the backing of Lyndon B. Johnson and Hubert H. Humphrey, respectively, in the 1964 and 1968 presidential election campaigns. In the mid-1960s, *SP's* name was changed to *Social Democrats, USA*. Shachtman at the end of his life – as many of his followers – eventually became a veritable cold warrior (or, a cold war social democrat)⁷, abandoning most of the remnants of his earlier held political positions, endorsing Kennedy's Anti-Cuban Bay of Pigs endeavour and Johnson's backing of the South Vietnamese dictators against Ho Chi Minh's "expansionism"; short before his death, Shachtman came to give his support to a declared foreign policy hard-liner, Henry M. Jackson, in the 1972 presidential primaries. When instead of Jackson George McGovern won the *Democrat's* primaries, Shachtman refused to back the latter against *Republican* candidate Richard M. Nixon.

During the 1960s, Shachtman devoted much of his time to research work related to a great project which unfortunately he never should be able to finish by the time of his death: a history of the *Communist International (Comintern)*. In connection with this research work, he made oral history interviews with many surviving veterans and eye witnesses, searched the rich archival resources preserved at *Hoover Institute* (Stanford, Cal.) where he also gave lectures as he did at other universities and research centres, too. His booklet on *Comintern's splinter movements* reflects parts of his research work.

Max Shachtman died on November 4, 1972.

During Shachtman's long odyssey from the far left to the right, many of those people who in the 1940s to the 1960s had been 'Shachtmanites' or at least temporary fellow-travellers of Shachtman, dissociated from him and launched rival groups and sects in which, of course, certain elements of the old 'Shachtmanism' of the 1940s remained alive. A considerable number of former 'Shachtmanites', however, made remarkable careers in government, built lasting and influential networks in the *Democratic Party* machinery or in the AFL-CIO union bureaucracy closely associated with the *Democrats*. A typical pattern of those political actors was that they championed a fairly progressive interior policy, e.g. by advocating the civil rights movement and a pro-labour social policy, while at the same time endorsing an uncompromisingly anti-Soviet (or, anti-communist) world policy of the United States. Unpleasant with allegedly "too liberal" views of the Jimmy Carter administration, some ex-members of Shachtman's organizations or sympathizers even became prominent members of conservative think-tanks, contributors to trend-setting liberal-conservative papers and last not least renowned advocates and pillars of Ronald Reagan's and George H.W. Bush's international policy, such as for example Paul Wolfowitz and Jeane Kirkpatrick. Additionally, it has been stated that Irving Kristol, Irving Howe, Sidney Hook and other renowned intellectual forerunners of what should become known as American *neo-conservatism ('Neocons')* had a certain 'Shachtmanite' ideological background and were strongly shaped by Shachtman's specific brand of anti-Soviet Stalinophobia. Neo-conservatism as unfolding in the last quarter of the 20th century and gaining mainstream influence in American policy since Ronald Reagan, has been made subject of a veritable flood of analyses and comments in books, journals and particularly in the Internet; some of them are dealing *inter alia* with "Trotsky's ghost" in the State Department or in the White House, focusing on the '*Shachtmanite*' (or, allegedly 'Trotskyist') past of many of the now hard-liners at relevant government posts or in the media industry⁸. However, we would like to emphasize that any interpretation of American policy as being influenced by whatever brand of '*Trotskyist*' thought is lacking historical or political correctness.

7) The question whether or not this was a logical consequence of the theory of bureaucratic collectivism, has been critically and carefully discussed by various authors, thus by Alex Callinicos, Peter Drucker, Ernest Haberkern et al. [see our listing within the paragraph *Books and articles about Shachtman* within our *Selective bibliography* below]

8) See for example Klausen, Hans-Werner: *Vom kalten Krieg zum 'Vierten Weltkrieg'* : Ronald Reagan, Senator Jackson und das Netzwerk der Neocons, erweiterte Fassung [Electronic resource].

*Selective bibliography*⁹• *Selective bibliography: Books/pamphlets (co-)authored by Shachtman*

- 1871 - the Paris Commune. - Chicago : Daily Worker Publ. Co., [192?] . - 64 pp. - (The little red library ; 8)
- Behind the Moscow trial : the greatest frame-up in history. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1936. - 142 pp. [& later ed., publ. by New Park Publications, London]
- The bureaucratic revolution : the rise of the Stalinist state. - New York, NY : Donald Pr., 1962. - 360 pp.
- China in the World War : Marxism on the wars of colonies for independence and the wars of imperialism for colonies. - New York, NY : Workers Party, 1942. - pp. 162-172. [Repr. from *The New International*, June 1942]
- Comintern's splinter movements : (Trotskyism, Bukharinism). - Stanford, Cal., 1964. - 54 pp. [Prelim. working paper, submitted to the Conference on One Hundred Years of Revolutionary Internationals, Stanford, Cal., Oct. 5-7, 1964]
- Desiat' lit : istoriia i pryntsyvy livoï opozytsii / Maks Shakhtman. - Toronto, Ont. : Robitnychi Visti, 1934. - 89 pp.
- The fight for socialism : the principles and program of the Workers Party. - New York, NY : New International Publ. Co., 1946. - 182 pp.
- For a cost-plus wage. - New York, NY : The Workers Party, [1943]. - 25 pp.
- Genesis of Trotskyism : the first ten years of the Left Opposition / with an introd. by Tariq Ali. - London : IMG Publications, 1973. - 52 pp. [Earlier ed. publ. with title: 10 years. - Also publ. with title: *History and principles of the Left Opposition*]
- The history and principles of the Left Opposition. - London : New Park Publications, 1974. - 60 pp. [Earlier ed. publ. with title: 10 years. - Other ed. publ. with title: Genesis of Trotskyism. - Cover title: 1923-1933 - the first 10 years]
- Is Russia a socialist community? : the verbatim text of a debate [between Max Shachtman and Earl Browder, moderated by C. Wright Mills] [Electronic resource]. [The debate took place in March 1950 and was originally publ. in *The New International*, 16.1950 (3)]
- Lenin, Liebknecht, Luxemburg / introd. by Robert Minor. - Chicago, Ill. : Young Workers (Communist) League, [ca. 1925]. - 32 pp.
- Marxist politics or unprincipled combinationism? : internal Problems of the Workers Party. - Reprinted from Internal bulletin no. 3, February 1936, of the Workers Party of the United States. - New York, NY : Prometheus Research Library, 2000. - 84 pp. - (Prometheus research series ; 5)
- An open letter to Dean Acheson. - New York, NY : Socialist Youth League, 1952. - [16] pp.
- The people's front : the new panacea of Stalinism / Max Shachtman [i.e. Shachtman]. - [S.I.] : Workers' Party of Australia, 1935. - 15 pp.
- The price of recognition : an exposure of the Soviet agreement with the United States / Max Shachtman [i.e. Shachtman]. - [Sydney?] : Workers Party of Australia (Left Opposition), [ca. 1934]. - 10 pp.
- Race and revolution / ed. and introd. by Christopher Phelps. - London [u.a.] : Verso, 2003. - LXIII, 108 p.
- The reminiscences of Max Shachtman. - Glen Rock, NJ : Microfilming Corp. of America, 1972. - 7 cards, 105 x 147 mm - (New York Times oral history program) [Transcription of interviews by S. Chodes and T.F. Hogan in 1962 and 1963 and by B. Yorburg in 1965. Collation of the orig.: 5, 525, 77 leaves]
- Sacco and Vanzetti, labor's martyrs. - New York, NY : International Labor Defense, 1927. - 80 pp.
- Socialism - the hope of humanity : speech / Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Workers Party Election Campaign Committee, 1945. - 23 pp.
- Ten years : history and principles of the Left Opposition. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1933. - 79 pp. [& later ed., publ. also with titles: *10 years* ; *Genesis of Trotskyism* ; *History and principles of the Left Opposition*]
- To all members of the Workers Party, March 8, 1947. - Long Island City, NY : Workers Party, 1947. - 13 pp.
- Truth about the Moscow trials. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1937.
- Two views on the Cuban invasion / Max Shachtman ; Hal Draper. - Oakland, Cal. : H. Draper, 1961. - 16 pp.
- The Ziegler [i.e. Zeigler] frame-up / Max Shachtman. - Chicago, Ill. : International Labor Defense, 1926. - 32 pp.

9) TSB item numbers (e.g. <TSB 0716>) refer to Lubitz' *Trotskyist Serials Bibliography*, München [etc.] : Saur, 1993, which is out of print but [available as PDF file](#) within the framework of the *Lubitz' TrotskyanaNet* website. In *TSB* you can find detailed descriptions of the respective Trotskyist journals, newsletters, bulletins and the like.

Zrod trockismu : 1923-33 ; dejiny a zásady Levé opozice. - Praha : Socialistická Organizace Pracujících, 2000. - 24 pp.

• ***Selective bibliography: Books/pamphlets and journals (co-)edited by Shachtman***

Labor Defender (New York, NY)

The Militant (New York, NY) [ISSN 0026-3885] <TSB 1026>

The New International (New York, NY) <TSB 1089>

The Organizer (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Trotsky, Leon: The new course / transl. and annotated by Max Shachtman. - London : New Park Publications, 1972. - VII, 99 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: The Stalin school of falsification / introd. and explanatory notes by Max Shachtman. Transl. by John G. Wright. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1937. - 326 pp. [& later ed.]

Trotsky, Leon: The Stalin school of falsification / with an introd. by George Saunders. Transl. by John G. Wright. Annotated by Max Shachtman. - 3. ed. - New York, NY : Pathfinder Pr., 1972. - XXXVI, 338 pp.

Truth about the Moscow Trials (New York, NY) <TSB 1748>

Young Worker (Chicago, Ill., etc.)

• ***Selective bibliography: Books/pamphlets translated by Shachtman***

Mader, Friedrich Wilhelm: Distant worlds : the story of a voyage to the planets / Friedrich Wilhelm Mader. Transl. from the German by Max Shachtman. Ill. by Robert A. Graef. - New York, NY [etc.] : Scribner, 1932. - VI, 343 pp. [& later ed., publ. by Hyperion Pr., Westport, Conn.]

Serge, Victor: Destiny of a revolution / transl. by Max Shachtman. - London : Jarrods, 1937. - 326 pp. [& other ed.]

Serge, Victor: Russia twenty years after / transl. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Hillman-Curl, 1937. - XII, 298 pp. [& other ed., publ. by Pioneer Publ., New York, NY]

Serge, Victor: Russia twenty years after / transl. by Max Shachtman. - New ed. / prep. by Susan Weissman. - Atlantic Highlands, NJ : Humanities Pr., 1996. - LI, 345 pp. - (Revolutionary studies) [Containing also Serge's *Thirty years after the Russian revolution*]

Trotsky, Leon: Communism and syndicalism : on the trade union question / transl. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Communist League of America (Opposition), 1931. - 63 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: The new course / [transl. by Max Shachtman]. The struggle for the new course / Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : New International Publ. Co., 1943. - 265 pp. [& later ed., publ. by Univ. of Michigan Pr., Ann Arbor, Mich.]

Trotsky, Leon: The new course / transl. and ann. by Max Shachtman. - London : New Park Publications, 1972. - VII, 99 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: The only road / transl. from the German by Max Shachtman and B.J. Field. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1933. - 93 pp. [& later ed., publ. also with title *The only road for Germany*, publ. by various publishing houses]

Trotsky, Leon: The permanent revolution / transl. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1931. - XLVIII, 157 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: Problems of the Chinese revolution / with appendices by Zinoviev, Vuyovitch, Nassunov and others / transl. with an introd. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1932. - 432 pp. [& later ed., publ. by various publishing houses]

Trotsky, Leon: Problems of the Chinese revolution / with appendices by Zinoviev, Vuyovitch, Nassunov and others / transl. by Max Shachtman. [Introd.: Tom Kemp]. - London : New Park Publications, 1969. - XVI, 354 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: Problems of the development of the U.S.S.R. : draft of the thesis of the International Left Opposition on the Russian question / transl. by Morris Lewit and Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Communist League of America (Opposition), 1931. - 47 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: The strategy of the world revolution / transl. with an introd. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Communist League of America (Opposition), 1930. - X, 86 pp.

Trotsky, Leon: Terrorism and communism : a reply to Karl Kautsky / foreword by Max Shachtman. With France at a turning point / transl. by M. Shachtman. - Ann Arbor, Mich. : Univ. of Michigan Pr., 1961. - XLVII,

191 pp. - (Ann Arbor paperbacks ; 43)

• ***Selective bibliography: Books, collections, journals, bulletins to which Shachtman contributed***

- L'antistalinismo di sinistra e la natura sociale dell'URSS / a cura di Bruno Bongiovanni. - Milano : Feltrinelli, 1975. - 390 pp. - (I nuovi testi ; 75)
- As we saw the Thirties : essays on social and political movements of a decade / Max Shachtman [et al.] Ed. by Rita James Simon. - Urbana, Ill. [etc.] : Univ. of Illinois Pr., 1967. - 253 pp. [& later ed.]
- Benson, H.W.: The Communist Party at the crossroads : toward democratic socialism or back to Stalinism / introd. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : New International Publ. Co., 1957. - 40 pp.
- Breitman, George: The rocky road to the Fourth International, 1933-38. - New York, NY : Fourth Internationalist Tendency, [ca. 1988]. - 21 pp. [Reprint]
- Bulletin de la Ligue Communiste Internationaliste (Bolcheviks-Léninistes) (Bruxelles) <TSB 0176>
- Bulletin intérieur / Parti Ouvrier Internationaliste (Bolcheviks-Léninistes) (Paris) <TSB 1172>
- Bulletin international de l'Opposition Communiste de Gauche = Internationales Bulletin der Kommunistischen Links-Opposition (Paris) <TSB 0234>
- Bulletin of the Workers Party (New York, NY) <TSB 0255>
- The case for unity : new perspectives for American socialism ; resolution adopted by the July 1957 convention of the Independent Socialist League / introd. by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Independent Socialist League, 1957. - 15 pp.
- Il collettivismo burocratico : (polemica L. Trotzki, P. Naville, Bruno R.) - Imola : Galeati, 1967. - 307 pp. [At head of title: "La bureaucratisation du monde"]
- Communist (Chicago, Ill.)
- Dissent (New York, NY) [ISSN 0012-3846]
- Documents on the "proletarian military policy" / with introd. by the International Executive Committee of the International Spartacist Tendency. - New York, NY : Prometheus Research Library, 1989. - 101 pp. - (Prometheus research series ; 2)
- Dog days : James P. Cannon vs. Max Shachtman in the Communist League of America 1931-1933 / comp., introd. and ed. by the Prometheus Research Library. - New York, NY : Prometheus Research Library, 2002. - XX, 715 pp.
- Essential works of socialism / ed. by Irving Howe. - New Haven [etc.] : Yale Univ. Pr., 1976. - 850 pp.
- The fate of the Russian revolution / ed. by Sean Matgamna. - 1-2. - London, 1998-2015
- The founding conference of the Fourth International (World party of the Socialist Revolution) : program and resolutions. - New York, NY : Socialist workers Party of the United States (Section of the Fourth International), 1939. - 127 pp.
- Fourth International (New York, NY) <TSB 0532>
- The Fourth International : fifty years ; commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Fourth International - World Party of Socialist Revolution / ed. by Tom Barrett. Introd. by Steve Bloom and Paul LeBlanc. - New York, NY : Fourth Internationalist Tendency, 1990. - 199 pp.
- Goldman, Albert: The question of unity between the Workers Party and the socialist Workers Party / introd. by Max Shachtman. - Long Island City : Workers Party Publications, 1947. - 93 pp.
- Intercontinental Press (New York, NY) [ISSN 0020-5303 ; ISSN 0162-5594] <TSB 0657>
- Internal Bulletin / Communist League of America (Opposition) (New York, NY) <TSB 0358>
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- Trotsky, Leon: The Third International after Lenin / transl. by John G. Wright. With an introd. and explanatory notes by Max Shachtman. - New York, NY : Pioneer Publ., 1936. - LI, 357 pp. - (Selected works of Leon Trotsky ; 1) [& later ed.]
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- Whither Shachtman? / Workers' League for a Revolutionary Party. - New York, NY, 1940. - 9 pp.
- Wohlforth, Tim: Max Shachtman and American pragmatism : an obituary, in: *Trotskyism versus revisionism*, 7, Detroit, Mich., 1984, pp. 325-330. [Obituary, written in 1972]

Note: More informations about Shachtman are likely to be found in some of the books, pamphlets, university works, and articles listed in the relevant chapters of the *Lubitz' Leon Trotsky Bibliography [ISSN 2190-0183]*, particularly in chapters [7.5.18](#) and [9](#).

- **Books dedicated to Shachtman**

- Glotzer, Albert: Trotsky : memoir & critique / Albert Glotzer. - Buffalo, NY : Prometheus Books, 1989. - 343 pp.
- Wohlforth, Tim: The prophet's children : travels on the American Left / Tim Wohlforth. - Atlantic Highlands, NJ : Humanities Pr., 1994. - XVIII, 332 pp. - (Historical memories)

Notes on archives

— A considerable collection of archivalia related to Max Shachtman, the *Max Shachtman Papers 1917-1969*, is housed at *The Tamiment Library & Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives*, New York. The collection consists of 52 boxes (25 linear ft.) and has partially been microfilmed (some 70 reels). The call phrase of the original *Shachtman Papers* is *Tamiment 103*, the call phrase of the microfilms is *R3344 to R3414*. The entire collection was processed by Claudia Hommel in 1983 and since 2003 an excellent machine-readable finding aid, created by Brian Stevens, is online available while a printed guide, published in 1983, is available, too¹⁰.

"The Shachtman Papers, like the man himself, encompasses a multi-faceted and fascinating view of the 20th century socialist and communist movements. This extensive collection includes correspondence, manuscripts and notes, internal documents and bulletins, clippings and ephemera. Dozens of

¹⁰ [Guide to the Max Shachtman papers, 1917-1969] / Peter Filardo [et al.]. - New York, NY : Tamiment Institute/Ben Josephson Library, 1983. - 62 pp. - (Bulletin of the Tamiment Institute - Ben Josephson Library ; 50). This guide includes a biographical essay by Albert Glotzer.

countries and regions are covered and virtually the entire political spectrum on the Left is documented from 1917 to the late 1960's. The perspective is at once personal, organizational, and intellectual, reflecting the many roles which Shachtman was to play throughout his life: activist, advisor, historian, journalist, friend, comrade, and polemicist ..."¹¹

The *Shachtman Papers* are arranged in 6 series:

Series I (boxes 1-18), divided into 10 sub-series, chiefly documents Shachtman's odyssey through the various groups of the left to which he was affiliated, ranging from the *CP* to the *Social Democrats*. The series also contains documents related to the youth groups led or inspired by Shachtman and last not least to the leading bodies and to various national sections of the *International Left Opposition* and of the *Fourth International*, respectively. Furthermore it contains Russian typescripts of a considerable number of Leon Trotsky's writings in exile (many of which were translated by Shachtman into English) and copies of Max Shachtman's correspondence with Trotsky and his secretaries.

Series II (boxes 19-27) consists of Shachtman's research notes for *The history of the Communist International*, his scheduled magnum opus which, however, never was finished. Material in this section is organized in several sub-series, e.g. by country or region, by name of author. While most of his notes were derived from published sources, others are from personal accounts or data recollected by former participants in the communist movement. The series also contains clippings, translated abstracts and correspondence.

Series III (boxes 28-33) consists of Shachtman's personal correspondence, generally non-official, although often related to subjects treated in series I and II. The series is subdivided into 4 sections, of which the most exhaustive is the *Individuals* section, comprising his correspondence with Norman Thomas, Michael Harrington, Natalia Sedova, Farrell Dobbs, Erich Fromm, A.J. Muste, Max Eastman, Hal Draper, Raya Dunayevskaya, James T. Farrell, Albert Glotzer, Irving Howe, Julius Jacobson, Isaac Don Levine, Max Nomad, Boris Souvarine, Esteban Volkov, Karl Wittfogel, Bertram D. Wolfe, Alfred Rosmer, Pierre Naville, Lev Sedov and many others. Minor sub-series contain Shachtman's business correspondence with publishers, libraries and archives as well as his personal correspondence with family and friends

Series IV (boxes 34-40) consists of Shachtman's writings and topical files, covering a great variety of interests. It contains manuscripts and typescripts by himself as well as some manuscripts by others. Sub-series E contains some clippings and articles about himself

Series V (boxes 41-51) is particularly relevant with regard to research on Trotskyism, since it contains a considerable number of internal bulletins, international bulletins, periodicals, leaflets and other rare, hard-to-find and often fragile primary source material, chiefly published prior to 1948. Of special interest should be sub-series A (Left Opposition bulletins other than United States, 1930-62), sub-series B (Internal bulletins of U.S.A. groups, 1933-67), sub-series C (Periodicals of the Left Opposition, 1928-62), and sub-series D (Hitler's rise to power, 1931-33, statements and periodicals).

Series VI (box 52) is called *Addendum*, containing for example minutes of the *Communist League of America* (1929-33), and internal documents and correspondence of the *Young Socialist League* (1953-57).

As stated above, Shachtman was a devoted bibliophile and book collector, too. Some 3,000 books and more than 1,000 pamphlets once in his possession were removed from the collection and integrated into *Tamiment Library's* book shelves and vertical files.

With regard to personal aspects of his life, the *Shachtman Papers* are rather disappointing since there are only cursory biographical notes and virtually no memorabilia. Little or nothing is to be found about his childhood and youth and the same applies to his activities within the communist movement and its youth arm up to 1927.

The *Shachtman Papers* were purchased from his widow in 1978. An addendum was received from her estate in 2002.

The collection is open for research without restrictions at 70 Washington Square South, New York ,

¹¹) Cited from the 'scope and content note' in the above-mentioned machine-readable [guide](#).

NY 10012, USA.

— Another, quite smaller, Shachtman collection is housed at *Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library*, New Haven, Conn.: *Max Shachtman correspondence with Leon Trotsky*, consisting of 17 letters by Shachtman to Trotsky, 47 letters by Trotsky to Shachtman, 17 letters by Trotsky to third parties and a few letters by Joseph Hansen to Cannon and Shachtman.

— Some text archives, containing material by and about Shachtman, are to be found in the Internet, such as for example *Max Shachtman 1904-1971* [sic] within the framework of the *Marxists' Internet Archive (MIA)*.

— In view of Shachtman's outstanding role in the history of the American left in the 20th century and the remarkable number of people with whom he corresponded, it goes without saying that letters and other unpublished sources relating to him can be traced in almost all of those public archives preserving the written heritage of the leading figures of the American left, their organizations, etc.¹², as for example in the collections of the *SWP*, of James P. Cannon, John Dwyer, as well as in the famous *Leon Trotsky exile papers*, preserved at *Houghton Library*, Cambridge, Mass.

Note: The photograph on p. 1 was taken from the Marxists' Internet Archive

*Wolfgang and Petra Lubitz, 2006
last slightly rev. July 2024*

¹²⁾ A considerable number of such archival collections relevant to Trotsky and Trotskyism research are featured within the *Public Archives: America* chapter of our *Lubitz' TrotskyanaNet* website