

# Review of: "Some face posthumous justice too: Lefebvre, Marxism and a debt to Nietzsche"

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While Henri Lefebvre has certainly become an important figure in Marxist thought, referring to him as one of the most influential French Marxists might be a bit hyperbolic—although I guess this would depend on whom you ask.

I am not sure Lefebvre's engagement with Nietzsche really places his Marxism in question, particularly if the label Marxism is employed in the sense that Lefebvre used it (see his comments on Marxism in *Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche*, for instance). The question of what is or is not genuine Marxism is not one with a simple answer, nor is it entirely clear what we stand to gain from resolving it one way or another in Lefebvre's case. Rather, the more substantive issue is what Lefebvre drew from Nietzsche, and how it relates to what he drew from Marx.

With the help of secondary literature, the author posits three concepts that Lefebvre drew from Nietzsche: agency and the human subject, alienation and ethics, and language. Evidence can be found in Lefebvre's corpus that he drew on Nietzsche regarding these topics, but the discussion here is somewhat abbreviated. The mention of Marxist alternatives that Lefebvre could have drawn on is interesting, but there is no real explanation of these alternatives, nor is there much in the way of possible explanations for why Lefebvre chose not to pursue these alternatives. Thus, while I am inclined to agree with the author that Lefebvre could have developed his ideas without needing to engage with Nietzsche, I did not find the explanation offered for why he did not do so particularly convincing. An equally plausible explanation is that Nietzsche was the first thinker that Lefebvre encountered who took up these issues, and therefore an important source of inspiration for Lefebvre. In any case, the fact that Lefebvre continued to insist on the importance of Nietzsche to grasping the modern world should prompt further critical reflection, on Nietzsche as much as on Lefebvre.

In that sense, this article could serve as a point of departure for a project that examines more closely what Lefebvre drew from Nietzsche, and how it relates to Marx and Hegel. Such an undertaking would be useful to evaluating not only Lefebvre's appropriation of Nietzsche, but the numerous other attempts that have been made to recuperate Nietzsche for the Left.