

From the chapter:

An Explorer, a Critical Thinker, a Follower of BA: Understanding the World, And Changing It For the Better, in the Interests of Humanity

Speaking for myself, I guess I'd say that I'll always be a critical thinker. I just don't know any other way to be! [laughs] I'm sure I'll always be curious about just about everything, both in the natural world and in human society. I am both challenged, and sustained, by the diversity and complexity of the natural world and the social world. I think I am, at heart, an explorer. Exploring the unknown, discovering what has not previously been understood, breaking new ground: In my own view, this is a lot of what makes life worth living.

But I also don't want to *just* understand the world. I want to help *change* it, for the better and in the interests of all of humanity. And that's where BA's new synthesis of communism comes in for me. Because thanks to BA's new synthesis of communism, and especially as it is concentrated in his application of scientific methods and approaches, I feel that I have gained, over the years, a much deeper appreciation, not only of the great complexities of the overall process of revolutionary transformation, but also of the very real *possibilities* for such transformation. How you could actually

do it. How you could actually win. How you could actually bring into being a new society that would be worth living in....

Again, more than anything else, it is **the method and approach** concentrated in the new synthesis, and in particular its epistemological dimensions: its rigorous pursuit of the patterns that reveal material reality as it really is, regardless of how unexpected and how uncomfortable those discoveries might be; and its scientific grasp that it is always the contradictions that exist within a thing or process that provide the material basis for change; and that therefore you will find that the **material basis** for the radical, revolutionary transformation of society and the world resides primarily **right within the handful of the key underlying contradictions**, the ones that constitute the core underpinnings and defining characteristics of the prevailing system, which today is the system of capitalism-imperialism that currently dominates the world. All this has not only provided the framework within which I feel one can "ask the right questions," increasingly, but also pursue those questions to their resolution. It has, in a very real sense, provided me personal sustenance and air to breathe.

SCIENCE AND REVOLUTION

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Distributed by Independent Publishers Group

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