DISCUSSION II

THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY AS A SCIENCE,
IN THE FILOSOFSKAJA ENCIKLOPEDIJA

The article 'History of Philosophy' occurs on pp. 376–386 of Volume 2 of FE. The volume appeared in 1962. The article divides as follows:

(0) Definition of the object of the history of philosophy
(1) The origins of historical-philosophical knowledge and its development in the pre-Marxist period
(2) Marxist-Leninist history of philosophy
(3) Bourgeois historical-philosophical notions in the second half of the 19th century and in the 20th century
(4) Bibliography

In turn, (1) and (2) break down as follows:

(1)(a) General development
(b) Development in Russia

(2)(a) Formulations of the classics (Marx, Engels and Lenin) and of Plekhanov
(b) The methodological principles and the regularities (laws)
(c) The periodisation

With the exception of (1b), which was written by L. Skvorcov, (0) and (1) were done by C. Arzakanjan and M. Ovsjannikov. The rest was written by Skvorcov and M. T. Iovčuk.

Articles on the history of philosophy can be found in KO, IF, KFS, BSE and FS¹, but only KO and IF contain anything comparable to what we find in FE. Both the latter contain more information, while the article in KO is better constructed; and both have special chapters on the history of philosophy.² As compared with the 10½ pages of FE, KO has 16½. The structure is as follows:³

(1) Object of the history of philosophy
(2) Marxist principles as applied to the history of philosophy
(3) The Marxist method of knowledge in the history of philosophy and the laws of its development
(4) Basic periods in the development of philosophy

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(5) The importance of the history of philosophy as a science

The corresponding article (of twenty pages) in \textit{IF} is also at the beginning (cf. Vol. I, pp. 9–28). It has the following parts:

(1) Object of the history of philosophy
(2) Periodisation
(3) Comparison of the Marxist history of philosophy with the idealist version
(4) The principle of \textit{partijnost’} in the history of philosophy
(5) The significance of the history of philosophy

Getting back to \textit{KO}’s article, its treatment of laws and methodological principles is better than that of \textit{FE}. \textit{IF}, on the other hand, lays greatest emphasis on \textit{partijnost’}. \textit{KO} has a better structure than the other two and \textit{FE} lacks a section on the significance or importance of the history of philosophy. These differences could be at least in part due to the different publication dates: Volume 1 of \textit{IF} appeared in 1957, Volume 2 of \textit{FE} in 1962, and the second edition of \textit{KO} in 1967. This corresponds to the development of Soviet historiography of philosophy which was in its infancy in 1957.

The corresponding article in \textit{BSE} (Volume 45, pp. 127–139) is part of the article on ‘Philosophy’ and represents little more than an account of the history of philosophy. There is little systematic development -- which might be due to its date, 1956. However, there is more bibliographical data than one can find in \textit{FE}; mostly about works out of the history of philosophy.

The fourth edition of \textit{KFS} (1954) contains a little more than three pages (207–210) on the history of philosophy. The spirit is still that of 1947 and the following aspects can be distinguished:

(1) Historical development of the history of philosophy
(2) Contribution of the classics to the history of philosophy
(3) The discussion of 1947: Ždanov’s specification of the object of philosophy
(4) Bibliography (limited to works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin)

The nearly two pages of \textit{FS} (1968, pp. 142–143) devoted to the history of philosophy manage to name the essential problems.

\textit{FE}’s article begins with a short introduction and synopsis of the article.