This makes Marx's theory of ideology merely another "idea" and Marx merely another ideologue. Crude versions of Marx's views on ideology purport to see immediately identifiable sociological biases in social analyses. Parekh does well to derail these, but it is a mistake to displace the centrality of social context altogether in Marx's position on ideology.

The material of Parekh's study is scattered all over Marx's writings. He has patiently and cogently categorized it with sophistication and an impeccable knowledge of Marx's texts. In the process he has provided an outstanding synthesis of Marx's ideas, which are perhaps as useful as they are complex. But there are, at the same time, pitfalls in such a "theoreticist" approach to Marx's writings. Parekh correctly maintains that Marx's theory of ideology "lacks a precise and unambiguous formulation" and can be confused with "several other related but essentially distinct concepts." What he has overlooked is the possibility that Marx may have used the term with no intention of formalizing it in a "theory." We cannot assume that Marx saw the need to articulate a self-contained, parsimonious "theory" of ideology. Parekh's masterly exposition reveals that there is enough for us to think about in Marx's writings on ideology without getting stuck on their less than precise articulation.

Correspondence

FURTHER CLARIFICATION

To the Editors: Interpretations of a complex poll will necessarily differ, and so I am glad to have the reasons supplied by Charles Austin in his August Excursus for his interpretation of the Roper poll on the beliefs of theologians that he had earlier published in the *New York Times* (June 11). There are, however, some errors of fact in Mr. Austin's Excursus. Setting aside those errors which result from mistakes in reporting the data (concerning Episcopalians and concerning the difference in profile between academic faculties in general and social science and humanities faculties in particular), let me stick closely to institutional matters. All the funding for the Roper poll was raised by the Institute for Educational Affairs.

Finally, permit me to mention that four of the editors of *This World* have been close to *Worldview* for some years: James Finn, Richard Neuhaus, Seymour Siegel, and myself.

If readers of *Worldview* would like to receive a copy of the issue in which the Roper survey appears, together with the six-page press release mentioned by Mr. Austin, the editors would be happy to supply them (210 East 86th Street, 6th Floor, New York, New York 10028).

Michael Novak
Editorial Board, *This World*

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