



# Marxist Thought and the City

HENRI LEFEBVRE

Translated by Robert Bononno

Foreword by Stuart Elden

**For the first time in English, Lefebvre's essential work on how Marx and Engels conceptualized the development of the city**

**Henri Lefebvre** (1901–1991) was a leading French philosopher, sociologist, and urban theorist. Many of his more than sixty books have appeared in English translation, including *The Critique of Everyday Life*, *The Production of Space*, and (all Minnesota) *Dialectical Materialism*; *State, Space, World*; and *The Urban Revolution*.

**Robert Bononno** has been a translator from French for more than twenty years.

**Stuart Elden** is professor of political theory and geography at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. He is author of *Terror and Territory* (Minnesota, 2009).

One of the most influential Marxist theorists of the twentieth century, Henri Lefebvre first published *Marxist Thought and the City* in French in 1972, marking a pivotal point in his evolution as a thinker and an important precursor to his groundbreaking work of urban sociology, *The Production of Space*. *Marxist Thought and the City*—in which he reviews the work of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels for commentary and analysis on the life and growth of the city—now appears in English for the first time.

Rooted in orthodox Marxism's analyses of capitalism and the capitalist mode of production, with extensive quotations from the works of Marx and Engels, this book describes the city's transition from life under feudalism to modern industrial capitalism. Providing vital supplementary material to Lefebvre's other books, *Marxist Thought and the City* is indispensable for students and scholars of urbanism, Marxism, social geography, early modern history, and the history of economic thought.

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"This pithy, provocative little book brings Marxist humanism to bear on urban problems as pressing today as they were nearly half-a-century ago. Dead for twenty-five years, old man Lefebvre lives on as our most visionary twenty-first-century urban thinker."

—ANDY MERRIFIELD, author of *Metromarxism*, *Magical Marxism*, and *The New Urban Question*

"Lefebvre's work remains of enduring importance."

—STUART ELDEN, from the Foreword

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