



## Ten Comments on ‘Eight Theses on Phantasmagoria’

*Dix commentaires sur ‘Huit thèses sur la fantasmagorie’*

*Diez comentarios sobre las « Ocho tesis sobre la fantasmagoría »*

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- 1 Phantasmagoria is the highest stage of capitalism, in the sense that it is the latest stage of false consciousness. As such, phantasmagoria is as abstract as concrete; it is a social relation and the mystification of that same relation in reified forms and structures.
- 2 Phantasmagoria produces society by providing an always already false synthesis of partial and conflicting social/class interests into a desire a harmonious society.
- 3 Phantasmagoria is not simply a fallen utopia, it is a utopian fall: it is the crowning of alienation as the destiny of humanity.
- 4 As such, phantasmagoria is a condition of demanding and sanctioning an immediate access to reality to the exclusion of the always mediated real.
- 5 This collective imaginary identification with existing reality as the only possible desire and at the same time as the only possible reality is constantly rewarded by a symbolic register of interlaced alibis.
- 6 Phantasmagoria not only collects and synthesises these alibis, it produces reality in their image, neutralising the delay of the real by means of a perpetual murmur with no semantic content. Hence its fear of the void.
- 7 Phantasmagoria conceives of the void to be averted at all costs as the consciousness of contradictions. For phantasmagoria there can only be synthesis and multiplicity, which is one and the same thing: a continuous chain of unmediated images.
- 8 The dream of social harmony, the fantasy of the end of history, the desire for non-mediation is the highest form of Thanatos. Exploiting and cultivating the death drive, phantasmagoria is the concrete expression of the collective unconscious of capitalist society.

- 9 As such, phantasmagoria is not only a dream; it is the dream of the dead. The dream that the dead will not live their second death and thus cease to exist. Phantasmagoria is the utopia of eternal life, for the dead.
  - 10 As the utopia of the dead, phantasmagoria seeks the eternal return of the same. No longer simply a narration of 'harmony with enjoyment', it takes the form of myth in that it demands the constant everyday ritual re-enactment of the impossibility of the real, of the inconceivability of the realisation of social antagonism.
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## ABSTRACTS

These ten comments on Marc Berdet's 'Eight Theses on Phantasmagoria' approach the problem from an anthropological perspective underlining the materialist and psychodynamic interrelation between mystification, reification and myth.

Ces dix commentaires sur les « Huit thèses sur la fantasmagorie » de Marc Berdet abordent le problème selon une perspective anthropologique, soulignant l'interrelation matérialiste et psychodynamique entre mystification, réification et mythe.

Estos diez comentarios sobre las « Ocho tesis sobre la fantasmagoría » de Marc Berdet, abordan el problema desde una perspectiva antropológica, subrayando la interrelación materialista y psicodinámica entre mistificación, reificación y mito.

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**Mots-clés:** fantasmagorie, mystification, réification, mythe

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