

Rosa Luxemburgo



Rozalia Luksenburg (Zamość, Congress Poland 1871 – murdered 1919 in Berlin). Polish-Jewish origin but she was atheist. She became German citizen in 1898. She graduated from the Faculty of Law and Economics in Zurich, and received her PhD in Economics in 1897. Between 1907-1914 she taught economics at the SPD's Berlin training centre.

In her economic writings polemicized with F. Quesnay, A. Smith, D. Ricardo, R. Malthus, B. Say or K. Marx. She was an orthodox marxist, but critical with K. Marx and some bolshevik policies. She demanded mass disobedience to fight in World War I. She theorized and fought against imperialism.

Rosa's economic thinking is contained at “Die Akkumulation des Kapitals” (1913)*: argued that capitalism needs to constantly expand into non capitalist areas.

*“The more ruthlessly capital sets about the destruction of non-capitalist strata at home and in the outside world, the more it lowers the standard of living for the workers as a whole, the greater also is the change in the day-to-day history of capital. It becomes a string of political and social disasters and convulsions, and under these conditions, punctuated by periodical economic catastrophes or crises, accumulation can go on no longer. But even before this natural economic impasse of capital's own creating is properly reached it becomes a necessity for the international working class to revolt against the rule of capital” **

*The Accumulation of Capital, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, English edition first published 1951 (introduction by Joan Robinson).