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Karl Marx, *[England, Metropolis of Capital]*⁷⁷

[...] Although the revolutionary *initiative* will probably start from France, only England can act as a *lever* in any seriously *economic* revolution. It is the only country where there are no longer any peasants, and where land ownership is concentrated in very few hands. It is the only country where almost all production has been taken over by the *capitalist form*, in other words with work combined on a vast scale under capitalist bosses. It is the only country where the large majority of the population consists of *wage-labourers*. It is the only country where the class struggle and the organization of the working class into *trade unions* have actually reached a considerable degree of maturity and universality. Because of its domination of the world market, it is the only country where any revolution in the economic system will have immediate repercussions on the rest of the world. Though landlordism and capitalism are most traditionally established in this country, on the other hand the *material conditions* for *getting rid of them* are also most ripe here. [...] England can not be considered simply as one country among many others. It must be treated as the metropolis of capital. [...]

⁷⁷ This is an excerpt from a confidential circular sent by Karl Marx (see note 1) to his friend, and IWMA member, Ludwig Kugelmann, on 28 March 1870, to be forwarded to the Brunswick Committee of the German Social Democratic Workers' Party. The letter included the resolution *The General Council to the Federal Council of Romance Switzerland*, written by Karl Marx and adopted at a meeting of the GC on 1 January 1870. It was published in 1872, in the brochure *Fictitious Splits in the International* (see note 105). The full version may be found in GC, III: 399–407.