

Marx and the peasant

A man, Kriege, emigrated to Amer
& wrote that he was interested in the
idea of dividing the agric. land
of America into small pieces
& giving them to anyone who
wanted to become a small
farmer

for this heresy, on M.'s insistence
he was expelled from party

This proposition - wrote M. - is
inconsistent with communism,
for small farmers, too, are property
owners. (Marx-Engels Gesam.
Ausgabe, 1. Abteil. Band 6, pp 3-21)

The division of land among
peasants, might perhaps in some
countries be considered "initially"
(same - Ibid.) an effective
comm. platform - But the
"ultimate aim of the movement
is not to produce small farmers,
but, on the contrary, to expropri-
ate those who already exist

This was the first time Mr. [unclear] expressed hostility towards peasants, which soon became burning hatred (Marx letter to Engels - Aug 19/1851)

Quoted from
Schwarzchild: The Red
Prussian 1947
P. 142

Comm. Manifesto declared war to death not only on upper classes of Bourgeois but on the lower middle class, small manufacturer shopkeeper artisan peasant - all these are reactionary to the last degree

