Pragmatism and Prophecy: H. G. Wells and the Metaphysics of Socialism

Abstract
Read throughout the world, H. G. Wells was one of the most famous political thinkers in the early twentieth century. During the early 1900s he elaborated a bold, idiosyncratic, and controversial cosmopolitan socialist vision. In this article I offer a new reading of Wells’s political thought. I argue that he developed a distinctive pragmatist philosophical orientation, which he synthesised with his commitments to evolutionary theory. His pragmatism had four main components: a nominalist metaphysics; a verificationist theory of truth; a Jamesian “will to believe”; and a vision of philosophy as an exercise oriented to improving practice. His political thought was shaped by this philosophical orientation. Wells, I contend, was the most high-profile pragmatist political thinker in the opening decades of the twentieth century. Such an understanding requires a re-evaluation of both Wells and the history of pragmatism.
In recent years, social work scholars have drawn on the epistemology of pragmatism to present a case for its value in the creation of knowledge for social work and other social justice-oriented professions. The primary focus of this essay is on providing a critical review and synthesis of the literature regarding pragmatism as a research paradigm. In this essay, we analyze the major philosophical underpinnings and methodological challenges associated with pragmatism, synthesize the works of scholars who have contributed to the understanding of pragmatism as a research paradigm, articulate our misperception and reality. Can Socialism Learn from Its Mistakes? Hypotheses or Metaphysics. December 6, 2015. 0 comments. And the success of the Bolsheviks in Russia helps account for the fact that Lenin's revision of Marx's theory has come to be identified by many with socialism, itself. That there has so far always been conflict among individuals and tension between the individual and society is obvious and uncontroversial. philosophy with the pragmatic tradition in American philosophy. The philosopher whom I most admire, and of whom I should most. like to think of myself as a disciple, is John Dewey. Dewey was one of. the founders of American pragmatism. He was a thinker who spent 60. years trying to get us out from under the thrall of Plato and Kant. philosophy and the rest of culture is in danger. Another way of exhibiting the difference between the two traditions. is to say that the Europeans have typically put forward a distinctive Pragmatism and the remaking of social thought. Pragmatism: An Old Name for Some New Ways of Thinking? James T. Kloppenberg 83 Pragmatism and Democracy: Reconstructing the Logic of John Dewey's Faith, Robert B. Westbrook 128 Community in the Pragmatic Tradition, Richard J. Bernstein 141. Another Pragmatism: Alain Locke, Critical "Race" Theory, and the Politics of Culture, Nancy Fraser 157. Going Astray, Going Forward: Du Boisian Pragmatism and Its Lineage, Ross Posnock 176. The Inspiration of Pragmatism: Some Personal Remarks Hans Joas 190. When Mind Is a Verb: Thomas Eakins and the Work of Doing Ray Carney 377 Religion and the Recent Revival of Pragmatism Giles Gunn 404. AFTERWORD. Contents vii.