The World as a Game in Sraffa and Wittgenstein: A Case Study in Modern Bourgeois Ideology

Jørgen Sandemose

Abstract

This article makes a comparative analysis of the works of Ludwig Wittgenstein and Piero Sraffa, notably Philosophical Investigations and Production of Commodities by Means of Commodities respectively. In the process, the authors' method and its underlying philosophical assumptions are criticized. While Sraffa's text is taken to represent a view of society that fits in with Wittgenstein's conception of the structure of language games, it is also implied that Sraffa's thinking about economic relations might very well have inspired the development of Wittgenstein's philosophy. The article argues that their common methodological effort must be considered distinctively bourgeois.

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