



*The Ideal in Human Activity*  
A Selection of Essays  
by Evald Vasilyevich Ilyenkov

Evald Vasilyevich Ilyenkov (1924-1979) was a renowned Soviet philosopher who did important original work on the materialist development of Hegel's dialectics. Ilyenkov developed a distinct solution to what he called "the problem of the ideal." This involves a resolute defense of the objectivity of ideal phenomena, which are said to exist as aspects of our spiritual culture, embodied in our environment. There are important continuities between Ilyenkov's ideas and controversies in Soviet philosophy and psychology in the 1920s and '30s, particularly with Vygotsky's socio-historical psychology. The work of Vygotsky and Leontyev can hardly be understood without a study of Ilyenkov.

Ilyenkov died in 1979, by his own hand.

This edition includes a short preface by Mike Cole, two of the three books by Ilyenkov which have been translated and published in English, and several essays on the key topics of activity and the ideal.



ISBN 978-0-9805428-7-5  
Published by the Marxists Internet Archive 2009