

KARL MARX

The teachings of Karl Marx have become very influential in the contemporary world. The following descriptions of his terms might help you to understand his philosophy.

1. **Economic Determination:**

The belief that man and therefore all history is moved by economic condition.

2. **Class Struggle:**

In every society there exists a struggle between two groups of people, namely those who own and control all of the material wealth in a society and those who create it. History is a series of confrontations between these “haves” and “have nots.”

3. **Historical development of capitalism:**

Capitalism developed when the bourgeoisie triumphed in a class struggle against aristocracy. Capitalism was an inevitable stage in the development of mankind, and fosters revolt by the workers.

4. **Creation of Wealth Under Capitalism:**

It is labor which creates the wealth under capitalism. Labor received only a fraction of this wealth; the remainder goes to the capitalist as profit.

5. **The Inevitable Revolution:**

The unequal distribution of the economic goods between capitalists and the proletariat set the stage for class struggle. When depressions, poverty, and unemployment gathered momentum the proletariat would rise up in open revolution against the bourgeoisie.

6. **End Result of The Proletarian Revolution:**

The revolution would first lead to socialism and the control of the government by the proletariat. Through education people would work together to create a new society, namely communism. In this society according to Marx, the following rule would hold: From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs. In this society there would be no class struggle for economic goods.

“Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains”

THE GROWTH OF INDUSTRIALIZATION
(SCHWARTZ / O' CONNER / ALLSHOUSE)

Read the following excerpt from The Communist Manifesto and answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.

The history of every society is the history of class struggle.

Freedman and slave, lord and serf, oppressor and oppressed were in constant opposition to one another. They have always carried on a fight that ended with a revolutionary change of the whole society or with the ruin of the fighting classes.

In our time, the whole society is splitting up into two great hostile camps. These are two classes that are directly opposed to one another, the capitalists and the workers. The capitalists have, since the beginning of modern industry, gained control of the government. They have brought the country side under the rule of the cities. They have made barbarism and half-barbarian countries dependent on civilized ones.

But the capitalist class has created the weapons that will bring about its own death and also those who will use the weapons. It has called into existence the modern working class. The masses of laborers are crowded into factories. They are slaves of the machine and the manufacturer. Instead of rising as industry progresses, they sink deeper and deeper into poverty.

What is the solution? Communist theory is summed up in a single sentence: Abolish private property.

Bring all means of production into the hands of the state: that is the workers organized as the ruling class. When this happens, the class struggle will be over. In place of the capitalist society, with its opposing classes, we will have a classless society in which everyone will be equal.

The workers have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.

Workers of all countries unite.

On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions:

1. What is another name for the modern working class?
2. Marx says that the capitalists have created the weapons of their own death and those who will use the weapons. What weapons is he talking about?
3. What solution does Marx present?
4. What is the goal that Marx wants to ultimately reach?
5. Can you think of any ways Marx was wrong in what he says in the first two paragraphs?
6. Do you think that the solution that Marx presents was a good one? Why or why not?