Early Life and Education: Karl Marx was born on May 5, 1818, in Trier, Prussia (now Germany). He came from a middle-class family and pursued higher education at the University of Bonn and later at the University of Berlin, where he studied law, history, and philosophy.

The Communist Manifesto: In 1848, Marx and his collaborator Friedrich Engels published the influential pamphlet "The Communist Manifesto." This groundbreaking work outlined their vision of history as a class struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, advocating for the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a classless society.

Das Kapital: Marx's most significant work, "Das Kapital," was published in three volumes between 1867 and 1894. It remains a fundamental critique of capitalism, analyzing its inherent contradictions, exploitation of labor, and the dynamics of economic crises.

Historical Materialism: Marx developed the theory of historical materialism, which posits that the driving force of historical change is the material conditions and economic relationships within a society. He argued that changes in the mode of production lead to corresponding changes in social, political, and cultural institutions.

Class Struggle: At the core of Marx's theory was the concept of class struggle. He believed that history progressed through a series of class conflicts, where the oppressed working class (proletariat) would eventually rise up against the ruling capitalist class (bourgeoisie) and create a communist society.

Influence on Social Movements: Marx's ideas inspired various social and political movements worldwide, particularly the socialist and communist movements. His work became the theoretical basis for revolutionary movements seeking to challenge capitalist systems and establish socialist societies.

Stateless Society: Marx envisioned a future communist society as a stateless and classless society, where social and economic inequality would be eradicated. In this society, the means of production would be collectively owned, and each individual's contribution would be based on the principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

Personal Life and Struggles: Throughout his life, Marx faced financial difficulties and struggled to support his family. Despite his intellectual contributions, he lived in poverty and relied on financial support from his friend Engels to sustain his research and writing.

International Influence: Marx's ideas transcended national boundaries and had a profound impact on intellectual and political movements worldwide. His theories heavily influenced the development of socialist and communist parties in different countries, shaping the course of revolutions and social reforms.

Legacy and Criticisms: Karl Marx's legacy is complex and multifaceted. While many view him as a visionary thinker whose ideas shed light on social and economic inequality, others criticize his theories for leading to authoritarian regimes in the 20th century. The implementation of his ideas in countries like the Soviet Union and China has been a subject of ongoing debate and analysis.