

Jeremy Maniago

Modern Europe

Assignment #2 – From Socialism to Fascism

Spring 2024 – J Lewis, Instructor

Instructions: Questions 1 thru 9 and 11 thru 14 are 6 points each; question #10 is worth ten points. Each question should be answered in several complete sentences; sentence fragments, bullet points or very short responses will not earn full credit. The assignment is due by end of day by Wednesday, May 1st on Blackboard.

Answer the four questions below on Etienne Cabet's "Voyage in Icarie" of 1842 available at this link:
<https://www.marxists.org/subject/utopian/cabet/icarus.htm>

1. Identify two examples of Etienne Cabet's urban planning for his ideal city as described in *Voyage in Icarie*.

One example of Etienne Cabet's urban planning for his ideal city as described in *Voyage in Icarie* is the specific placements of streets. "50 principal streets which cross the city parallel to the river and 50 which cross perpendicularly...". This grid system, similar to Manhattan, is a way to organized different quarters in which represent different "principal cities of the ancient and modern world". Another example is how public buildings on each quarter is laid out – colored spots represent different types of buildings, and all of these public buildings are located in all streets, and that all streets contains the same number of houses.

2. Identify an example of the provisions for public health and hygiene described by Cabet in his ideal community.

Cabet mentions that in order to promote good health, the circulation of pure air must be assured through means of constant and thorough decontamination. In addition to decontamination, the ideal community will have "no cemeteries, no noxious products manufactured, no hospitals". This is to keep any type of harmful disease out from the general population. These institutions will instead be established outside the community in open places, outskirts, the country, or "swift-flowing streams".

3. Identify an example of the provisions for public art and items of beauty described by Cabet in his ideal community.

Cabet describes having all public art and items of beauty in one shop/store. It would, instead of spreading out the exploration of different goods, centralize them and treat them as if generally shopping, or as if walking through a museum. Multiple super shops like this would be spread through the city for maximum convenience.

4. According to Cabet's ideal community, how would good morals be promoted by the community?

Good morals, according to Cabet's ideal community, would be promoted by the community through the utility of the entire community. The lack of bad influences from paintings or pleasures would discipline the children, and essentially train them to appreciate everything around them. Everyone would have equal things and so the lack of inequality would promote good social relationships and no one person would conflict with another's possessions – everyone would strive toward the same goal.

The following questions are based on Karl Marx's analysis of the U.S. Civil War at this website:

https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_Engels_Writings_on_the_North_American_Civil_War.pdf ***(Article of October 20, 1861 in the PDF file only)***

5. Briefly identify why according to Marx's analysis, attempts to spread slavery into new territories resulted in the formation of the Republican Party in the 1850s.

Marx highlights how efforts to expand slave territory in the North resulted in legislation removing restrictions on slavery expansion. To further extend their territory, Southern states dispatched individuals with slaves to other states to bolster the representation of slaveholders. Additionally, the Supreme Court's decisions bolstered the influence of slaveowners over free states.

6. Why according to Marx's analysis of the ***economics*** of slave-based production was it essential that slavery expand into new territories?

The slave economy is based on persuading the underprivileged that owning slaves will improve their lot in life, which calls for the continuous extension of controlled territory. Marx notes attempts to turn settlers into slave owners, such as providing incentives in the form of free land, which in turn encourages slavery. Marx also mentions incidents in which foreign governments were bribed by politicians and slave owners to increase the slave trade, which in turn calls for additional land to be used as a labor force.

7. Why according to Marx's analysis of the ***politics*** of the U.S. before the Civil War was it essential that the slave states maintain an equal number of slave and free states.

Maintaining an equal balance between slave and free states ensured that power distribution remained unchanged. Marx highlights how the South employed diverse strategies to increase its influence in the North, aiming to achieve parity in political power with the North. This parity would ensure that the South's efforts to expand its influence in all branches of government would be successful.

8. Why according to Marx's analysis was it ***essential for the internal social stability of the Southern states*** that slavery expand into new territories?

Slave-dependent agriculture impoverished the free population by concentrating land ownership among oligarchs. To accommodate the newly impoverished white population, the state needed to acquire more land to distribute among them. Moreover, enticing poor whites with the prospect of economic advancement through slave ownership offered them a means to escape poverty while perpetuating the institution of slavery.

9. Why according to Marx was the Republican Party's platform of ***merely limiting slavery to where it already existed rather than abolishing*** it was nonetheless a fundamental threat to Southern slavery and the slave economy?

The Republicans' platform of just limiting slavery rather than abolishing it showed many consequences of not letting slave-raising states to spread out. Marx describes how acquisition of new territory is vital in that slaveholders may occupy the new fertile land and spread their slave-raising market. However, if slavery is merely limited in existing states, slave-raising will eventually overflow, and the fertility of the land will eventually diminish. Marx brings up that without the acquisition of Louisiana, slavery in Virginia and Maryland would have been long gone.

10. Both Cabet and Marx were both identified as early socialists beginning in the 1840s; but Cabet presents a detailed alternative to the capitalism of his day while Marx critiques the realities of the existing system of American slavery. Which in your view your view ***if either*** is a more persuasive argument for radical social change and why or why not? (10 points)

Marx's criticism of the realities of the existing system of American Slavery is more persuasive than Cabet's ideal community. Cabet describes an idealized community, which has an enormous set of requirements. Cabet wishes to get the best of all cities and remove the worst from each as well. Cabet lives in a dream and fantasizes about a perfect society, whereby controlling and organizing, society will flourish. It sounds awfully similar to a repressive government, where instead of directly oppressing the free will of the population, you repress or restrict whatever creativity may arise through brutal grid-like town systems, repeated building patterns, and a suddenly large removal of day-to-day experiences. Marx on the other hand works with reality, and something that isn't perfect. He describes the background of the North American Civil War and criticizes the system of American Slavery and provides the consequences of the North's and South's actions which stemmed from the system the Union was built upon. He also provides solutions to avoid violence and to attempt to please both sides. Marx's radical social change is not as radical and impossible as Cabet's. Marx sees the issue with an existing society and seeks solutions, while Cabet wants to rid of all "bad influences", hoping that it will lead to a more disciplined population with good morals.

The questions related to Mussolini's Fascism is based on the followed assigned reading:

<https://sites.nd.edu/world-politics-2021/the-doctrine-of-fascism/>

11. Identify some of the positive moral benefits that war brings to a society according to Benito Mussolini in *The Social and Political Doctrines of Fascism*.

Mussolini describes how war expresses a spiritual personality and force to the people. In war and the imperialistic spirit, by conquering and facing the challenges of man do the population's spirit prevail. War brings out a certain spirit within the people of a Fascist state and fuels their faith that pushes the Fascist idea.

12. Explain why Mussolini had such contempt for democratic politics, socialism and democracy in his theory of Fascism.

To Mussolini, democratic politics, socialism, and democracy all avoid the importance of the State. He describes how democracy lowers the nation to the majority rather than its whole. He also describes how Fascism extracts only the essentials of socialism, liberalism, and democracy. In this, he deems that these three ideas are built upon each other and thus all stem from the same idea, while Fascism is the most original doctrine of all.

13. What is the role of the State and of State authority in Mussolini's Fascism?

The role of the State in Mussolini's Fascism is to drive forward the faith of the people. The population of Mussolini's Fascism only serve for the State only, for the State controls the collected will of the people. The State controls most of the economy, and more importantly the spiritual faith of the nation as a whole. The State thus imposes a moral code more important than religion, because without a State, there is no individual, no progress.

14. Name three reasons why some people might be attracted to an ideology glorifying war, condemning democracy and celebrating authoritarian leadership.

One reason why some might be attracted to an ideology glorifying war, condemning democracy, and celebrating authoritarian leadership is because it may be an outlet for absolute order. In a "peaceful" ideology, there are too many loopholes and politics, and thus many answers to many conflicts and questions – war only has two answers and is decided by the existence of life itself. In this ideology, people might be attracted to bravery and commit to their fighting spirit, for they have been oppressed for too long. Another reason for this attraction may be because of security. War means militarism, and so many may feel more comfortable relying on a military to protect them rather than foreign and politic policies. They may feel safer with a physical military rather than pieces of papers signed with ink. Lastly, glorifying war may excite individuals and help them identify with others. The idea of fighting for your nation, especially since it has such a strong spiritual faith, will only fuel people's fighting spirit.