**Title Page**

THE RELEVANCE OF KARL MARX’S DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM TO THE UNDERSTANDNG OF SOCIAL CONFLICT

**Dedication**

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God for his mercies and to my dearest mother for her love and support.

**Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge my fellow colleagues for their contributions to this work.

**Preface**

What is the relationship between dialectics and materialism, terms that have been joined together as “dialectical materialism” for more than a century now? As is well-known to most students of Marxism, grasping this relationship has been one of the major problems in the history of Marxist-Leninist thought. An important pedagogical tradition in the exposition of dialectical materialism has sought a middle path of balancing the two, but has often appeared to end up in merely asserting a certain mechanical unity. A long tradition of popularizing Marxist thought has tended to follow this third attitude.

One of the most powerful sociological explanations of social conflict is that of Karl Marx, who posited a class struggle between proletariat and bourgeoisie intrinsic to capitalist, industrial society. This notion is powerful in being dynamic, intuitively persuasive, and appearing to fit well with history. It is powerful in providing in one package a description, an explanation, and a prediction of contemporary problems, and a remedy.

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