Marxism notes  
Class 1

Paris commune => Communism

“More acute than usual” conditions causes revolt

He says 20-25 years no Marxism at universities …I thought that’s what critical theory was all about

String theory or black holes aren’t based on experience

Praxis

Poststructuralism – only agency, no structure

Agency without structure nope -> ?

Hegel is a German philosopher

This survey about 51% wanting socialism….

“absorbs, neutralizes and co-opts”

radical = get to the roots of

Reading Communist Manifesto

Pg 15 – “superseded by that of women”?

Because the notion of communism clashes fundamentally with human nature

Ends justify means kinda guy

Vast majority would fall in conservative or bourgeois socialism

“They are compelled to appeal to the feelings and purses of the bourgeois” (58)

Reading State and Revolution

When does marx talk about the state as an organ that imposes class differences and proves the “irreconcilability of class contradictions” (9).

Doesn’t a communist nation req a state to manage it

“opportunists” logical fallacies: ad hominem and no true scotsman, non sequitur, ad ignorantiam, argument from authority, argument from final consequences, argument from personal incredulity, circular arguments

What’s the difference between Marxism and Leninism

How Marxism is different from anarchists

Class 3

Two stage approach to revolution

Capitalism THEN socialism

Bolsheviks:

Serfs -> socialism

Lenin -> Leninism?

**Big question**: If it is so common to have peasant revolutions, why do we still talk about capitalism as a necessary precondition for a socialist revolution? *answered*

How do you know what the use value of something is – computer/internet

Basic needs vs others? *Answered*

Socialism – exchange value -> use value

War communism == martial law?

**Big idea:** Not spontaneous (on its own) – need a party

Spontaneous revolution + revolutionary theory = success

Linked with white supremacy is capital supremacy

State = instrumental and economy

State:

* Take it over
* Smash it
* Ignore it and go for grassroots

Self determination is at the center

Socialism = Exchange value -> use value +

Socializing means of production

Socializing social reproduction

You get what you put in (vs you get out what capital you can produce)

Luxemberg

Nonprofits critique as “saving the system from ruin, enabling capitalism to maintain itself” (172)

Where did Kuxemberg and Lenin diverge? They’re both saying inevitability is a fiction and you have to seize power, take over

Bernstein – inevitability vs capitalism suppresses contradictions -> suppresses -> stop reforms and institutions that try to help or band aid..who does this in politics today? We see those people in dem as extremists and hurting..which they are – sacrifice how many lives for dreamed of utopia? This is why even if AI risk was reall, I can’t do this utilitarianism

Class 4

Reification, Fetishism, Mystification, Alienation

State is a social relation; Property is a social relation; Commodity is a reflection of social relation

Should explore environmental-red/capital alliances for brief 4

United Front failure (different from Popular Front that capitulated to the bourgeoisie)

Also explore history of Ortiz, P, Nicaragua

Trotsky: Forceful/violent revolution

Trotsky: permanent revolution instead of two-stage revolution

Trotsky: International socialism

Luxemburg: “socialism or barbarism”

Decadent bourgeouis

**Big question**: is it true that Luxemburg hated/should hate reforms because they would lessen the chance for revolution?

* Seeing a failed revolution (reform) radicalizes you <- nah – pride and ownership over your effort
* More dollars gives you more time and freedom to becomes politically active
* Ethics, strategy and tactical

Burning questions to bring up next class:

How do you address the people who say socialism has always failed and hurts people, and so shouldn’t pursue?

I’m still unclear about the specific theoretical differences between the revolutionaries. I need a table.

And relatedly, what were the differences between each of their theories and their practice? And which are we critiquing and should be critiquing?