

Nietzsche and Marx

PHIL 375, UBC

Philosophy and Literature

June 5, 2018

Some Terms

dialectical materialism materialism: explanation in terms of material things (not ideas) – the explanatory primacy of economic production; dialectic: explanation always depends on history (note Engels' "doubt as to the eternal validity of that which exists")

realism contrasted with dramatizations, idealizations, class distortions (Engels insists that realism is sufficient and pedagogy unnecessary); Manifesto: "man is at last compelled to face with sober senses his real conditions of life and his relations with his kind" (2)

bourgeoisie the class between the aristocracy and the proletariat

iClicker Question

Choose from the following options. This item will be graded.

iClicker Question

Which of these phrases occurs in the Manifesto?

- A ▶ Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.
- B ▶ Let us wage a moral and political war against the billionaires and corporate leaders, whose policies and greed are destroying the middle class.
- C ▶ Two great hostile camps facing each other: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.
- D ▶ Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.

Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis. (10)

*Law, morality, religion, are to [the proletarian] so many bourgeois prejudices, behind which lurk in ambush just as many bourgeois interests. (6) (Compare Bernard Mandeville's *The Fable of the Bees*.)*

And your education! Is not that also social, and determined by social conditions under which you educate, by the intervention, direct or indirect, of society, by means of schools? (9)

The bourgeois claptrap about the family and education, about the hallowed co-relation of parent and child, becomes all the more disgusting, the more, by the action of modern industry, all family ties among the proletarians are torn asunder, and their children transformed into simple articles of commerce and instruments of labour.
(9)

A Trump Prophecy in the Manifesto

They direct their attacks not against the bourgeois conditions of production, but against the instruments of production themselves; they destroy imported wares that compete with their labour, they smash to pieces machinery, they set factories ablaze, they seek to restore by force the vanished status of the workman of the Middle Ages. (5)

Themes from Manifesto of the Communist Party

- freedom vs. free trade; “in bourgeois society capital is independent and has individuality, while the living person is dependent and has no individuality” (8); “the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all” (11)
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