

# Analytical Marxism

## 3.1. Karl Marx - Wage, Labor and Capital

### 3.1.1 Thoughts to the text

A friend of mine recently told me, that he dislikes the anti-utopian notion of the movie *Harry Potter*: despite a world of magic, which could satisfy all basic material needs and even more, people still live in a capitalist economy and an unjust society.

At first I was convinced, however, after some time, I realised: this is not true, since, in a way, we already *have* magic. So in contrary I would argue, that *Harry Potter* shows (in a very limited sense) correctly, that not the state of production is the problem, but the way production is organized: magic alone will not change anything. As Marx and Engels point out, labour-power is a commodity and more specifically a „value-creating“ commodity. So the capitalist *needs* the actual labour power to create value and the capitalist must create value due the interests of capital and capitalist competition. Consequently, only *after* the capitalist way of production is overthrown, can the utopian power of magic truly belong to the people, only then will there be „the means of life, of the enjoyment of life, and of the development and activity of all bodily and mental faculties“ etc. However, in one way *Harry Potter* actually *is* anti-utopian: „the splitting up of society into a small class, immoderately rich, and a large class of wage-labourers devoid of all property“, did not lead to a revolution.

I do of course not consider *Harry Potter* a serious piece of material for discussing Marxist ideas, however I thought that this case illustrates quite nicely a false conception of how capitalism works: „a new social order is possible“, is already possible.