I. Marx

A. Marx and America

1. America and class struggle

2. Cold War

3. Sociologists

B. Historical context

1. Industrialization

2. Urbanization

3. Capitalism

C. Intellectual Background

1. Reason

2. Science: laws of history

3. progress: utopian society (communism)

D. Philosophical critique of capitalism

1. Free market theory

a. natural laws of the market place

b. human beings as selfish

2. Two criticisms

a. capitalist system is

i. man made

ii. not governed by invisible hand

b.. selfish individualism

i. not human psychology

ii. product of capitalist system (social psychology)

3. Theory

a. essence of human beings (species being)

i. through labor they cooperatively produce the

shared world in which they live

ii. they freely produce this world according to

social (not individual) needs

b. history begins when human beings first transform the

natural world into society

“The whole of human history is nothing but the creation of man by human labor”

c. stages

i. primitive communism, or preclass systems

ii. Asian society

iii. ancient society

iv. capitalism

v. feudal society

vi. capitalist society

d. each stage

i. productive forces (labor power, means of production,

raw materials of production)

ii. relations of production

iii. class conflict

iv. class conflict generates movement from

stage to stage

e. the result of capitalism: alienation

i. reification

ii. estranged

f. alienation takes specific forms

i. alienated from product of work: capitalist

owns it

ii. alienated from production process: individual

ends not shared

iii. alienated from oneself

iv. alienated from one’s fellow man

II. Marx: Structural critique

A. Marx and the Enlightenment

1. rise of social theory: explain the modern world

a. why

b. how

c. where

2. Comte, Spencer:

a. social evolutionism

b. society: separate reality from individuals

c. laws (cause and effect) that are observable

3. Marx

a. explanation: capitalism

i. early: species being and alienation

ii. later: structural (class conflict)

b. stages (but not separate reality)

i. relations of production

ii. class conflict

iii. capitalism last stage before communism

iv. inevitable but not separate reality from

individuals

B. Class conflict

1. Definition of class: specific relation to the means of production.

2. Capitalism: Class conflict

a. two major classes

i. bourgeoisie or capitalist class

ii. proletariat or working class

b. conflicting interests: can’t be reconciled

c. unequal conflict

d. capitalism will self-destruct

e. communism

3. interest of capitalist

a. profit: increasing return on investment

b. expansion

i. new markets

ii. cheap resources

iii. cheap labor

c. control of productive forces

i. labor power

ii. means of production

iii. natural resources

d. limit costs

i. wages,benefits

ii. subsidies/externalities

2. interest of worker

a. life

b. control forces of production

C. Inequality of Conflict

1. power of capitalist

a. controls forces of production

i. owns natural resourcs

ii. owns means of production

iii. owns worker (labor power)

b. makes decisions

c. controls state

i. political system

ii. use of force

d. controls of the ideological institutions

(false consciousness)

2. power of worker

a. labor power (but) has to sell it

b. class consciousness(but) has false consciousness

3. Institutions reflect structural inequality of classes

a. judicial system

b. education

c. media

d. regulatory system

D. However: Capitalism will self-destruct ( declining rate of profit)

1. huge monopolies

2. competition to invest in more expensive technologies

3. competition to lower and lower prices-

4. declining rate of profit

5. workers lower and lower wages

6. system will implode

7. workers will recognize class consciousness

E. Marx was wrong, underestimated, anticipate

1. Didn’t self-destruct, almost Depression

2. Underestimated power of government to keep economy

going

3. Post WWII:

a. economic boom in America

b. rise of middle class with a consumer consciousness rather than class consciousness

4. Rise of mass media

a. size

b. control

5. Rise of shared monopolies with common interests

6. Deindustrialization and the rise of the service economy

D. Right

1. large corporations controlling economy- megacorporations

2. imperialism (neo-colonialism)

a. cheap resources

b. cheap labor

c. markets

3. Political system reflecting interests of capitalist class