

Karl Marx is seen as one of the most influential people in human history and is also regarded as one of the founders of modern social science. This in itself makes him a very interesting person worth studying. Furthermore, his ideas have shaped the 20th century like few others and contributed much to politics and economy; or as the study of their interaction is sometimes called: political economy.

In his book *Das Kapital* (Capital), Marx analyses the capitalist mode of production and its functioning. As a basis for this he sees primitive accumulation, which creates the preconditions for capitalist production. This process which leads to capitalism continues on and leads to the end of capitalism. The reason for this is that capitalists strive for more and more. After the expropriation of the proletariat they turn to try and exploit and expropriate themselves, which leads to monopolization and centralization. This also threatens capitalist production itself. Another big factor is the proletariat, which is increasingly exploited as capitalism progresses. This will agitate them and lead to a revolution which, combined with the aforementioned factor, spells the end of capitalism.

Even though there have been numerous socialist revolutions since Marx wrote the *Capital* over 150 years ago, the end of capitalism has not manifested itself. The most successful of those revolutions, the Soviet Union, ceased to exist after about 73 years in 1990-91 and there was no comparable revolution since. Considering that other aspects of Marx' analysis are accurate, such as the centralization of wealth and monopolizations, it is surprising that his final prognosis has not become reality yet.

Marx' prediction is relatively accurate, but for some reason it has not become reality yet. What exactly did Marx suggest will happen? How accurate is his prediction from today's standpoint? Why hasn't it come true yet?

References

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