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Georg Hegel v Karl Marx

Many philosophers through history have debated on questions about the best moral systems and the equality of man. Georg Hegel and Karl Marx specifically have created their own views about equality. Hegel’s theoretical philosophy was created by a group of German Idealists which set the basis for universal equality, while Marx furthered philosophy by practically implementing his views of equality into society.

German Idealism was a movement and a philosophical view point created by Friedrich Jacobi, Karl Reinhold, Gottlob Schulze, Johann Fichte, Friedrich Schelling, Friedrich Schleiermacher, Salomon Maimon, and Georg Hegel. The German Ideology was revised by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in 1845 where they “contrast their new materialist method of idealism that had characterized previous German thought” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Karl Marx”). Because there was only Marx and Engels reworking the German Ideology, Marx had more ideas applied than Hegel.

Hegel’s perception on the nature of philosophy is revealed in the Preface to his Elements of the Philosophy of Right, stating that “Philosophy is its own time comprehended in thoughts” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel”). Hegel’s idea that philosophy could only be understood by a higher level of cognitive function shows his basis for creating theoretical ideas that are only heard by his peers in philosophy, while Marx originated a practical application of his theoretical views to simplify the understanding and improve the reach of his philosophic views into society.

In the Preface to his Elements of the Philosophy of Right, Hegel explains that “philosophy is its own time comprehended in thoughts” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel”) meaning that philosophy is only exists in the mind. Although Hegel believed that philosophy was only understood by highly educated humans, Marx believed that philosophy could be simplified and integrated into society. Marx wrote his university thesis on the subject of philosophy which stated that, “the philosophers have only interpreted the world, the point is to change it” (Karl Marx, “Thesis 11”).

Hegel and Marx brought a variety of changes to the perspective on philosophy. Although Marx implemented philosophy into society, he would not have his own materialistic views without influence from studying Hegel’s philosophy.