



Marxism– What do Marx and Engels Propose?

Marx argued that workers create value through their work, yet are not compensated properly. The labour is exploited by the ruling class, the bourgeoisie, who generate profits by selling the products at a higher price than what is given to the workers in return for their labour.

Within the Communist Manifesto, it is said that: "The entire theory of the communists can be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property."

The Market

A command economy which early Marxism/communism (in other terms possibly considered socialism) is an example of, refers to one where the central government plans, organises and controls all economic activities in order to maximise social welfare, for example, the government will decide the food produced and consumed for every single person within the economy, and a set price will be maintained for all. Unlike free markets, like we have in the UK today, where supply and demand mainly determine what is produced and the prices, through the price

mechanism, and the incentives of the producer and consumer. The 'government' referred to is said to be the revolting proletariat or working class. Since there are multiple stages to communism developing, we shall say in this case, we can infer a newly revolted proletariat, would have a state which would take control of all property and redistribute it evenly. This would occur until the point is achieved, typically once an advanced society has been formed, where common people could do this themselves without being 'greedy'. Then meaning that the state would dissolve and thus communism is achieved. Would the incentives to work and therefore produce goods and services not dissipate when people have no personal gain?

Production and distribution of goods essentially can be said as 'You contribute to the common pot what you can, you get out of the pot what you need.' In communism, the concept of income is not the same as what we have now under capitalism. In fact, money itself will become redundant under communism, with

people simply working due to the cultural quality of their upbringing and sense of collective gain. "In communist society, where nobody has one exclusive sphere of activity but each can become accomplished in any branch he wishes, society regulates the general production and thus makes it possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticise after dinner, just as I have a mind, without ever becoming hunter, fisherman, herdsman or critic." - Karl Marx, The German Ideology – In this way, the economy will always supposedly be at (or very close to) full employment.

income tax." This would allow money to be distributed much more evenly until money is no longer required, essentially helping the transformation from capitalism into communism by decreasing the inequality of wealth until there is none.

This is suggested hand in hand with "centralization of credit in the hands of the state, by means of a national bank with state capital and an exclusive monopoly." This means that there will be one singular bank, controlled by the state that will be the sole producer within banking. As well as this, the "Abolition of all rights of inheritance" ensures even redistribution of possessions.

"The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every operation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe"

⑩ "The Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes."

What about production and the work force?

The abolition of private property comes hand in hand with the abolition of the private sector. All private capital/ productive resources moves to state ownership, and goods and services become public. For example, Free education for all children in public schools. With this comes accessible education equally for all of society, so the labour supply is equally skilled and, assuming there is motivation for it (not given by wages), they will be productive. Inequalities of opportunity are resolved. In the example of just anything privatised in general, as Marx referred to as "bourgeoisie property", such as private land or capital, there first will be equal distribution and then once final communism is achieved there is common ownership of the factors of production, with free access to the articles of consumption, and society will be classless, stateless and moneyless. This implies the end of the exploitation of labour.

How is money redistributed within the stages before true communism?

Before true communism is achieved, and there is a command economy where the state allocates resources, Marx proposed some of the measures that will generally be taken for the society to move forward in terms of money. It was said that there will be a "Heavy progressive or graduated

On the production and work force side of this pre-pure-communism/ socialism/post-revolution society or whatever you might call it; Marx proposed an increase in government-run factories and the idea that all land should be used to its potential, particularly in agriculture. Essentially the proposition being: if the land is bad then run factories there, if it is farmable, then do it. To fuel this, the creation of industrial armies intended to create a huge labour force for these farms and factories, as well as the common and equal obligation for everyone to work. Regional inequalities, like we might see in the North-South divide in the UK, were sought to be resolved, by a more "equable distribution of the population over the country." Essentially, the populous should be rearranged so that there is an equal concentration of factories and farms and workers across the country. Supposedly, this all converges to form an extremely productive and equal society.

