

KARL MARX

Introduction:

Karl Heinrich Marx was a German Philosopher, economist, journalist, sociologist, political theorist and socialist revolutionary. He was born on 05 May 1818. Famous for his theories about communism and capitalism, he is famous figure in political science. Due to his efforts, Europe slowly transformed into a welfare state. He criticized Adam Smith's ideas of capitalism and raised voice for rights of Layperson (amateur) through his revolutionary theories. Communist revolutionists of Vienna, Vietnam, Cuba, Russia and elsewhere were inspired from him. He was exiled (ban) from his native Germany many times and during his studies, his family faced extreme poverty in England. He was best friends with Friedrich Engels also known as Fredrick Engels and got sparked (glowed) by his ideas.

Marx has been described as one of the most influential figures in human history and his work has been both lauded (praised) and criticized. His work in economics has the basis for some current theories about labors and its relation to capital. Many intellectuals (thinkers), labor unions, artists and political parties worldwide have been influenced by Marx's work, with many modifying (changing) or adapting his ideas.

Early Life:

Early life Born in Trier, he matriculated from university of Bonn. The courses he attended were in humanities. He got inspired from ideas of Hegel. He joined poets' club which included political activists. Many students were expelled in Marx time, then he enrolled in university of Berlin to study Law and Philosophy. Marx's crucial experience was his introduction to philosophy of Hegel.

After receiving his degree, Marx began writing for the liberal democratic newspaper (Rheinische Zeitung), and he became the paper's editor in 1842. With his new wife, **Jenny von Westphalen**, Marx moved to Paris in 1843. There Marx met fellow German **émigré Friedrich Engels**, who would become his lifelong collaborator (co-worker) and friend. In 1845.

By that time, the Prussian government intervened (negotiate) to get Marx expelled from France, and he and Engels had moved to Brussels, Belgium, where Marx renounced his Prussian citizenship. In 1847, the newly founded Communist League in London, England, drafted Marx and Engels to write "The Communist Manifesto," published the following year. In it, the two philosophers depicted (represent) all of history as a series of class struggles (historical materialism), and predicted that the upcoming popular revolution would sweep aside the capitalist system for good, making the workingmen the new ruling class of the world.

Conditions of people

During his age poor people were like laborers were living in Slums (poverty) and below standard living conditions. They were being broken and suffering in poorest living conditions. Pandemic of plague (torture) was ruining lives. There were three types of plague at that time namely: Bubonic plague, Pneumonic plague, Septicemic plague. Rights of people were being exploited (broken) and communism and capitalism were gaining ground. He potentially criticized them. He said "A specter is haunting Europe ---the specter of communism.

Ages

There are three ages to which we can divide Era of Karl Marx, which are as follows:

Primitive age.

Self-alienation

Self-realization Karl Marx studied history and gave analysis, mainly materialistic.

He said “**Nothing can have value without being object of utility**”

Primitive age

He studied history, Greek history and condemned (treat) poor living standard like poor sanitation (conditions relating to public wealth) and no health facilities. He studied social sciences. After getting his degree he started writing articles in magazine. Which were going to change conventional exploitation patterns of Elite class to workers' class.

Self-alienation

Alienation is concept especially but not uniquely attached to Karl's work, and intellectual (rational) tradition that he helped found. It identifies a distinct kind of social ill involving a subject that properly belong together. The subject an individual or group while object is entity (organization). He criticized Adam's smith on his book “the wealth of the Nation ”in which he talked about liberalism and capitalism. He argued that it is natural right to buy property and its legislation and then to gain profit from it. To this Karl Marx raised, “leave me alone”. Which got people's attention towards rights of laborers and farmers.

Marxism/Critical Theory

What is Marxism:

A body of doctrine developed by Karl Marx. Marxism is a theory of capitalism. These are some capitalist countries and regions. (North America, Central America, most of south America, Africa, Nigeria, Russia, Georgia, Japan etc.,)

Marxism is a social, political, and economic theory originated by Karl Marx, which focuses on the struggle between capitalists and the working class. He believed that this conflict would ultimately lead to a revolution in which the working class would overthrow the capitalist class and seize control of the economy.

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- Marx wrote that the power relationships between capitalists and workers were inherently unequal and would certainly create class conflict.
- He believed that this conflict would ultimately lead to a revolution in which the working class would overthrow the capitalist class and seize control of the economy.

A "critical theory" has a distinctive aim: to unmask the ideology falsely justifying some form of social or economic cruelty—to reveal it as ideology—and, in so doing, to contribute to the task of ending that oppression (unjust/cruelty). And so, a critical theory aims to provide a kind of enlightenment about social and economic life that is itself emancipatory (an effort towards liberty): persons come to recognize the oppression they are suffering as oppression and are thereby partly freed from it.

Marx's analysis of capitalist economic relations is arguably just this kind of critical theory. As participants in a capitalist market economy, we fall into thinking of the economy in terms of private property rights, free exchange, the laws of supply and demand, etc., and, in so doing, we fall into thinking of capitalist economic relations as justified, as how things should be. Marx argues that this way of thinking is nothing but ideology: it confuses, even from those persons who suffer them, the universal and destructive forms of alienation (a condition of worker in capitalist economy), powerlessness, and exploitation (corruption/abuse) that, in Marx's view, define capitalist economic relations. Any prospects for change, reform, or for Marx, revolution requires first that people come to see capitalism for what it is, for they must first see the ways in which they themselves are alienated, powerless and exploited (broken) before they can try to free themselves from it. Later social theorists in what came to be called the Frankfurt School—Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, and Habermas—develop and refine this Marxian project of providing a critical theory of capitalist economic and social relations. In particular, they argue that the forms of oppression distinctive of "late" capitalism are importantly different than the forms Marx found in the early capitalism of the Industrial Revolution, and so a critical theory about them must also be different.

Characteristics of Critical Theory

Contradiction:

A primary characteristic of critical theory is contradiction. Contradiction or tensions happen when the ideas of social systems change over time. It changes between how they are and how they could be.

The concept of critical theory works to show the relationship between ideas and theoretical positions and also their social environment in the society. Thus, due to the tensions or contradiction the social system has been changed and this change bring new ideas and process in the mind of the individual.

Dialectic:

Dialectics was the key ideas in Hegelian philosophy, it applied to the process, evolution and development of history. Hegel viewed history as the progressive manifestation of human reason, and the development of a historical spirit.

History, recorded increasing awareness and greater rationality as exhibited on human affairs, human consciousness and human freedom expanded as a result of conflicting intellectual forces, which were:

- The individual spirit.
- The world spirit.

The individual spirit which desired happiness and provided energy, and the world spirit which strived for higher freedom, that come with the knowledge of the self. For Marx, the key idea was not the history of philosophy, but the history of economic production.

Change:

Change is a universal phenomenon and it is a law of the nature. Critical theory playing a significant role for taking action to create social system change, which provides for greater human freedom and self-determination to human beings. The critical theory also gives importance to the subjects as well as inter-subjective aspects of the organization.

Therefore, no change is permanent, it is necessary to understand the changeable nature of society.

Involved:

The critical theory project initially involved attempts of individuals from various disciplines to work together collectively to develop a historical and systematic theory of contemporary society rather than just bringing individuals from separate disciplines together to chat, or assigning various specialists different topics for research and inquiry.

Theory of society:

Critical theory insists that one needs a theory of society grounded in a theory of capitalism to make sense of socio-historical processes and development because the dynamics of capitalism play such a constitutive role in social life.

Totality:

Frequently, critical theorists use the term “totality” in a synchronic sense to refer to the structure of society, defined by the Marxism critique of political economy, which provides the framework and context of inquiry, and which constitutes many social facts.

Utilizes Totality:

Critical theory utilizes totalizing concepts to describe a totalizing capitalist system which attempts to impose its values, structures, and practices throughout social life.

Systematic:

Critical Theory is thus systematic, totalizing, integrating, and global. Social theory therefore has mediating function for the critical theorists, integrating science and philosophy and mediating between research and theoretical construction and presentation.

Role of Philosophy:

Philosophy’s role in critical theory is to analyze the presuppositions (beliefs) of a critical social theory and to criticize the presuppositions and effects of competing theories.

Motivated:

Critical theory is thus motivated by an interest in emancipation (freedom) from capitalism and provides a philosophy of social practice engaged in “the struggle for the future” Critical theory, Horkheimer argued, must remain loyal to the “idea of future society as the community of free human beings, insofar as such a society is possible, given the present technical means.”

Conclusion