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International Institute of Information Technology

(Deemed University)

Hyderabad

Answer Book

Mid Examination

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Programme CLD Roll No. 2017076 Subject Introduction to Marxism

Seat No. C40 Date 19.9.2019 Invigilator's Signature

2. Marx and Engels were inspired greatly by Darwin and his discoveries, and ~~used~~ fit it into their own theory of ~~and~~ dialectical movement through labour. Particularly with the example of the evolution of ape to man, to highlight the importance of labour.

~~T~~ The key to evaluating evolution in the lens of Marxist thory is to

2. Marxist theory places labour as the primary driving force for advancement through dialectics. This view is applied to evolutionary theory as well. In particular, consider the evolution of ape to man.

Evolution happens as species attempt to adapt to changing conditions. ~~For a group of creatures~~ Most species are adaptive within certain conditions, and they do not attempt to conquer other ones - there is no labour ~~adopt~~ to live, so to speak. The only evolution happens with sudden, drastic change, which kills most to start off with, not allowing for progress ~~that has evolution~~. with the subsequent evolution. With species that do labour to ~~do~~ adapt to other conditions, however, we see progress. ~~Labour~~, ~~in~~ in short, labour drives development. A group of apes ~~were~~ attempting to use tools to kill animals for food get better nourishment than those content to live off of whatever is available for picking, and is

thus more ~~likely~~ likely to [illegible] and grow, and get better.

Marx considers the example of the human hand, with opposable thumbs. On the one hand, opposable thumbs are hailed as the key to evolution. On the other, there are many apes that have opposable thumbs, but lack a fraction of the dexterity humans have. Marx explains this through labour as well; ~~a human tries and harder to act~~ an ape that makes efforts to use their hand for more varied, specialised tasks is the one that will benefit from such, allowing it to work on it and keep getting better. The hand aids labour, and labour aids the hand.

Engels.

Thus extending this analogy, labour aided in the evolution from ape to man, particularly with regard to brain activity. ~~[illegible]~~ At one point, the labour begins to help less with physical change and more with the formation of social structures. Working together, groups of humans form a society — and here, accumulation of labour leads to a new idea — of surplus — that shapes entirely the rest of social structuring.

not explained

how? explain

Accumulation of dead labour is surplus. The reason surplus is so ~~important to~~ important to studying history is because surplus is the underpinning of all social structuring and inter-structural conflict, and conflict, ~~[illegible]~~ as said by many, is the dialectical struggle driving history forward? Surplus allows for the creation of class structures, through the lens of which (class struggles) we get the conception of Marxist historiography. ~~Surplus [illegible]~~ Wars are fought over surplus. Trade deals are made over surplus. An analysis of surplus should ~~be~~ always be a basic necessity to understand history.

how

who

insufficient discussion of the historical role of surplus.

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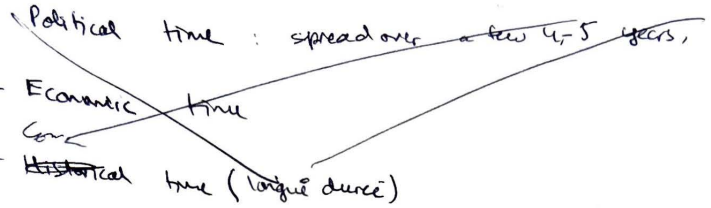
5. Time - when examined through a historical lens, presents within itself three "rhythms", or overarching periods within which change occurs; namely



- Political time: the time of events day-to-day events. Spread over upto a few years, changes within this are very obvious and identifiable as events. Within the scope of it we can describe political upheavals, wars, famines, ? revolutions, and multiple such day-to-day happenings: assassinations, signing of treaties, coalitions. However, a historian cannot understand history by just studying individual events, they need to frame it in a context- the circumstances surrounding said event. Which is where the idea of economic time comes in.

also months years.

Social -

- Economic time: Spread over a decade or a few, economic time is all about trends over years, changes that take several years to manifest, but have a crucial impact of all shorter events happening within this frame of economic time. It is the period in which we examine the context leading up to a war or a revolution, or study changes in local economy that have an effect on surplus distribution. Underpinnings to all daily events have a larger time of existence, which is covered by this slot. We have not yet, however accounted for a further underpinning: mental architecture.

at least a few decades but mostly a century and few 50-500 years.

CONJUNCTURE

- Geographic time: Spanning centuries, "longue durée" is the large time rhythm we consider in history - the time over which mental architectures of people remains largely unchanged. Within a span of Geographic time, different structures of economic time exhibit similar properties and similar structures, as people by and large perceive the world in the same way.

L.D is not a rhythm

around millennia

Why is longue durée so important to historians? While studying history, historians - particularly Annales historians - need to understand events that happened, and extrapolate the history of a place from various sources that may have nothing obviously to do with history. Without an understanding of the way people at a time perceived the world, it is impossible to judge or to try to understand them. Mental Architecture is of prime importance. ~~[illegible]~~ Longue durée is ~~[illegible]~~ a direct link to understanding the mentalities of a time, a historian thus wishing to study history properly must make the considerations of placing the ~~[illegible]~~ period they wish to study or examine in geographical ~~[illegible]~~ time.

mentalité is often visible only in the L.D. but the latter is more than this alone.

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... Annales historians [illegible]

- huge quantities of information.
- variances, all types of information
- analysis of data in comparison to other events
- Making inferences on history based on data from across all disciplines.

The similarities to modern data analytics are rather interesting. Big data analysts, too, strive for statistical, comparative study based on a lot of data.

When considering the statement proposed, I would largely agree. Let us examine why, in detail:

Quantity of data:

Modern "big data" strives to get a lot of information ~~from all sorts of places~~. A text corpus, for instance, may have data points numbering in the millions. A text corpus, for instance, may have a million news articles in it for analysis.

While not always matching scale, Annales methods call for a lot of data. A clear distinction from big data analytics would be the diversity of sources; annales historians ~~are far more~~ require far more sources that do not seemingly have any relation to the subject of study. Big data may be extended as far as that, but such is not practice; we do not usually collect information on geographical conditions, climate, walking speeds, traffic, social media, web activity to help us with a task, Google does, ~~where we~~ which is where the similarity is obvious.

The biggest similarity here (in quantity of data) would be apparent in just data collection. Just as there are a multitude of ways to mine information from varied sources, we can examine the methods for data collection put forward by a French historian, for climate conditions:

> primary records of the climate
> Study of tree-barks
> Examining records of flora
> Examining records of grape plant health, as recorded in vineyards
>

Comparative methods :

who

The same french historian in his essay makes several analyses on same data to show Annales methods in actions; and to most data scientists a lot of it is very familiar. From ~~charting~~ graphing data points to find correlation, to overlapping results and granulating observations so the arbitrary ~~units~~ division of a year can be moved around, all of these are part of the daily toolkit of the data analyst. Of course, without the advantage of scale and ~~comp~~ raw compute the results may seem less ~~impressive~~ impressive, but the methods ~~and results~~ no match. Human inference also allows for more specific "intelligence" in the process ~~nonetheless~~ nonetheless. It is, essentially, big data analysis in a pre-digital age.

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