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Class Struggle in the Age of Globalization: Marxian Perspectives on Contemporary Inequalities

Ankita Das

Independent Research Scholar, Post Graduate in Political Science, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, Pin Code: 110068, New Delhi, India, Email- ankyta2021@gmail.com

ABSTRACT:

By making a big contribution to the foundations of thought, Marx changed the way people think. By looking at how societies made and kept themselves going, he showed that it was possible to study human history in a scientific way. This turned history from a story about royal intrigues, wars, dynasties, and their many achievements into a science. His study of human history focused on people and the work they did on purpose—human labor. Marx said that what makes people different from other animals is that they are aware of their work and change nature to get the things they need to live. People also changed over time as they did this. They learned new things, got better at things, learned more about how nature works, and used this knowledge to make society more productive. This is why the steady growth of productive forces has always been a part of human history. This essay talks about how the growing gap in living conditions between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, as well as the growing sameness within each class, make people go from fighting for their own rights to joining movements across factories. In this view, the conflict between classes is what makes things happen.

Keywords: Industrial Revolution, Surplus Value, Bourgeoisie & Proprietors, Structural Change, Modern Capitalism

INTRODUCTION

Karl Marx was a German philosopher and social theorist who came up with the idea of communism. Marx was born in Germany, but he spent most of the 19th century living in England. There, he looked closely at the country's social and political systems before and after the Industrial Revolution. His research into the social hierarchy and its history led him to come up with his "economic interpretation of history." Marx saw a basic unfairness in society. He said that the main thing that happens in history is the fight between the rich and the poor. Marx, who was both an economist and a political and social philosopher, said that all wars in history were fought between different social classes to get things. Marx backed up his claim by saying that society was made up of different classes and that the rich always took advantage of the poor and working classes. Marx hated the rich, especially the capitalist bourgeoisie system that was common in England in the 1800s. He did this because he felt bad for the poor.

RELIABILITY OF HISTORY

When you read Marx's ideas about how to understand history, you should think about how reliable it is. Is history a good way to learn about the past? Who is responsible for keeping track of the past? What kinds of events do stories about history talk about? Napoleon Bonaparte famously said, "The winners write history." Historians use the sources they have to build history, but everyone knows that they can choose which ones to use and only use those that support their arguments and points of view. People with money or royal support wrote the history of Europe during the feudal period. These people were educated and were nobles. These historians are part of the bourgeois class, according to Marxism. They wrote history to make their bosses happy or to fit in with what people thought they should do. Marx's view of history as materialistic doesn't include people like Buddha and Christ, who gave up their wealth and gained a lot of followers. The changes in the historical figures and the thoughts of their followers of Buddhas, Jainas, and Christ didn't happen because of proletarian revolutions; they happened because they were selfless.

MARX'S THEORY OF REVOLUTION

Marx thought that "Revolution" was a good way for workers who were poor and oppressed to talk about their problems. His books "Das Kapital" and "Communist Manifesto" explained how a new society would work. There were a number of reasons why other social and political thinkers, especially those from capitalist countries, disagreed with him. People who study history, economics, and sociology today doubt Marx's theory because of how he talked about these subjects. Marx's questions and the answer he gave, which is known as the political ideology of Communism, are very interesting and

should be looked into more. Karl Marx said, "The history of all existing society is the history of class struggle." This study will look at Karl Marx's works and a lot of other well-known scholars' works, like books, articles, journals, and websites, to do a full analysis and come to conclusions.

MARX'S THEORY OF CLASS STRUGGLE

Karl Marx's idea of class struggle says that when resources and power are not shared equally, different social classes will fight with each other. Marx said that the bourgeoisie and the proletariat are the two main classes in society that are always fighting with each other. The bourgeoisie are the people who own businesses and hire people to work for them. The working class, or proletariat, makes a living by selling its labor. Marx said that the bourgeoisie oppress and take advantage of the proletariat by taking the extra value that their work creates. The working class creates value through their work, but they only get enough to stay alive. To make money, the bourgeoisie keeps the extra value. Using workers' labor to make money creates a conflict of interest between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Marx thought that as capitalism grew, this class inequality would get worse, which would make the proletariat even poorer. In the end, this would lead to a revolution by the working class, who would overthrow the capitalist system and create a society without classes.

In summary, Marx's perspective on class conflict consists of six elements:

1. Classes are authority relationships based on property ownership.
2. A class is composed of groups of individuals with similar life situations and, consequently, shared interests.
3. Classes are inherently antagonistic due to their conflicting interests.
4. Modern society is characterized by the emergence of two opposing classes and their struggle, which eventually influences all social relations.
5. Political organization and power serve as instruments of class struggle, with dominant ideas reflecting this struggle.
6. Structural change arises from class struggle.

STAGES OF EVOLUTION

First, Marx said that throughout history, people had to work with nature to get what they needed and with each other to make things. People are seen as "individuals" in today's bourgeois society. People have always been social beings, though, and production has always happened within and through society at every stage of history.

Secondly, Marx said that as a society's productive forces, or "productive forces," grew, they would inevitably clash with the way social production and reproduction were set up at the time, which he called "the social relations of production."

Thirdly, he said that as productive forces got better, there would be more production than was needed for social reproduction. Working-class people would have to work hard to get this extra money. In short, having too much would make it easier to set up a class society, where most people work and are taken advantage of, and a small number of people benefit from the work of the majority. This kind of class division could only happen if the small group of exploiters controlled social production, which they did because they owned all the tools and machines needed to make things. To keep this unfair social order going and make sure that the exploited majority worked for the exploiting minority, both force and "persuasion" would be needed. The State is the one who makes sure that the small group of people who own things stays in charge of production and private property. But in the long run, state power alone wouldn't be enough to keep this unfair social structure going. So, they also use ideology and other things that make things seem real, like religion, culture, and literature. People might have used Marx's work to support class exploitation and dominance if he had only written about how class society was going to happen in history and how productive forces would grow. But Marx did more than that. He showed that class societies have not always been natural or permanent and that they can break down and be replaced by a new, better stage of human development through class struggle. This was his most important contribution. Marx's unique insight was to find the key class—the key historical actor—that would bring down an existing class society and create a new one. Marx understood the part that the bourgeoisie played in the rise of capitalism, which he summed up in the famous lines of the Communist Manifesto. He made a strong case that capitalism's rise in the 1600s and its quick spread around the world by the 1800s did not mean that it would last forever. He said that as capitalism grew, the working class would become the organized force that could move humanity to a higher level of social existence, first to a socialist society and then to a communist society, which is a society with plenty of goods and peaceful social relations. The current crisis in this modern capitalist age shows that Marxist ideas are still very important. He said that as capitalists compete more with each other, capital will naturally become more centralized and concentrated, which will lead to more monopolization. Competition between capitalists and the fight between labor and capital would lead to more mechanization, which would keep creating and replenishing a reserve army of labor—a growing pool of workers who are always coming and going from jobs. They would lose their jobs for good more and more often. These capitalist accumulation processes would give more wealth and income to fewer people, making the gap between rich and poor much bigger. Marx said that the general rule of capitalist absorption of capital was that the rich got richer and the poor got poorer. This made people fight over class differences.

EMANATING MARX'S CONTRIBUTION:

One big thing that comes out of this is that demand is always a problem in capitalism. The capitalist system speeds up the growth of productive forces, but its focus on making money slows down the growth of society's buying power. In other words, capitalism is a system that is limited by what people want. Also, there will always be "overproduction" in some areas and "underproduction" in others because it doesn't plan ahead. Also, as capitalists use machines more and more to stay competitive and fight against workers' power, production relies more and more on machines instead of people, which is where surplus value and capitalist profit really come from. When you think about all of this, it's clear that capitalism can grow quickly at times, but it can also break down, which leads to a lot of job loss and market crashes. *Das Kapital*, a book by Marx that had a big impact, came out in the 1800s. Since then, the way capitalism has changed has always backed up his ideas about how the capitalist system is likely to have problems. Between 1989 and 1991, ten years before the new millennium, a lot of people thought the fight for a society without exploitation and not driven by private profit had been lost. This belief was fueled by the US's rise to global power, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the return of capitalism to Eastern European and former Soviet Union countries that had been trying to become socialist. Some people who strongly supported global capitalism even said that "the end of history" had come. But for people who thought capitalism had won the battle for global public opinion and that history had come to an end, the world is very different now. The US economy officially went into a recession in the last three months of 2007, just a few months before Lehman Brothers went bankrupt and the "global financial crisis" was officially recognized. Since then, the developed capitalist world has been going through a long period of slow growth and economic decline. Years, decades, or even centuries are not long enough to measure history and its time periods. Capitalism is naturally expansionist, unlike other historical modes of production, but it took hundreds of years for it to spread around the world and become the most powerful way to make things. It's not a big deal that early humans' efforts to build a society that was organized and free of class exploitation didn't work out completely. This is especially true when you think about how these efforts took place in poor parts of the world that were surrounded by an imperialist world that wanted to stop them by any means necessary, including war, arms races, and denying them access to technology, markets, and other resources for development. There has never been a fully socialist society anywhere in the world, and there has never been a communist one. Even though the world is against socialism, we have seen and continue to see brave efforts to build it. These efforts take lessons from the past and use the analytical framework that Marx, Lenin, and others have given us. These people have added lessons from real life to this point of view.

CONCLUSION

The fact that capitalism always has problems shows how important Marx's criticism of it and the view of historical materialism are even now. But Marx saw a lot more, like many of the problems with the environment that we have today. In the first volume of *Capital*, Marx makes a strong case that capitalism hurts farming by taking away the things that make it rich, like the workers and the soil. His thoughts on gender equality, colonial exploitation, and how it helped capitalism grow in the Western world are still important today. This is especially true now that we have to deal with the problems of modern imperialist globalization, which wants to re-enslave developing countries and does a lot of damage to the environment and our planet that can't be fixed. We need solutions to the climate crisis that everyone can agree on, but capitalism makes it hard to find them because businesses are free to do whatever it takes to make money. There is a lot of hunger and malnutrition in the world, even though science has advanced to the point where it promises "immortality." This shows that capitalism has not been a good economic system for a long time.

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