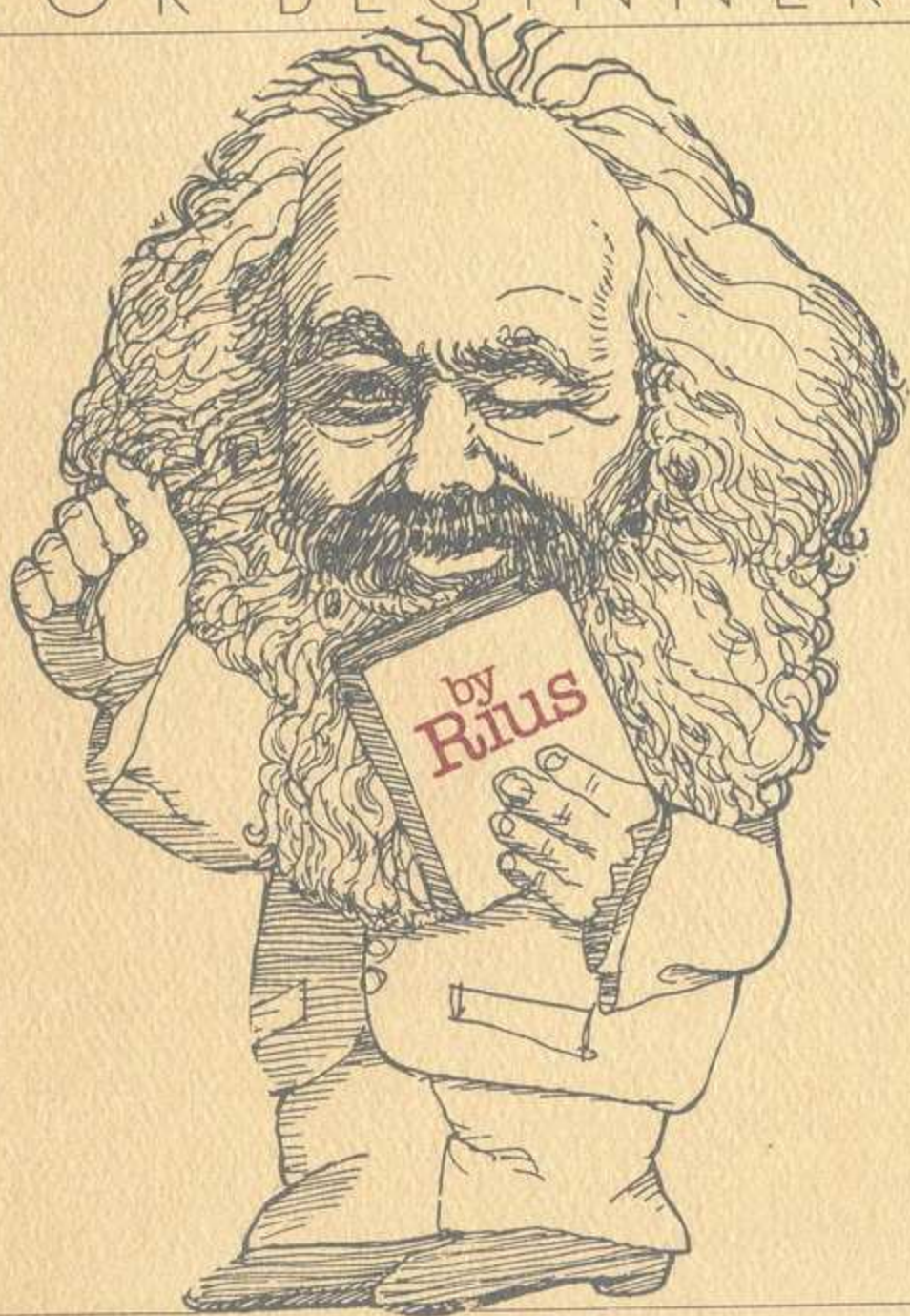


Marx

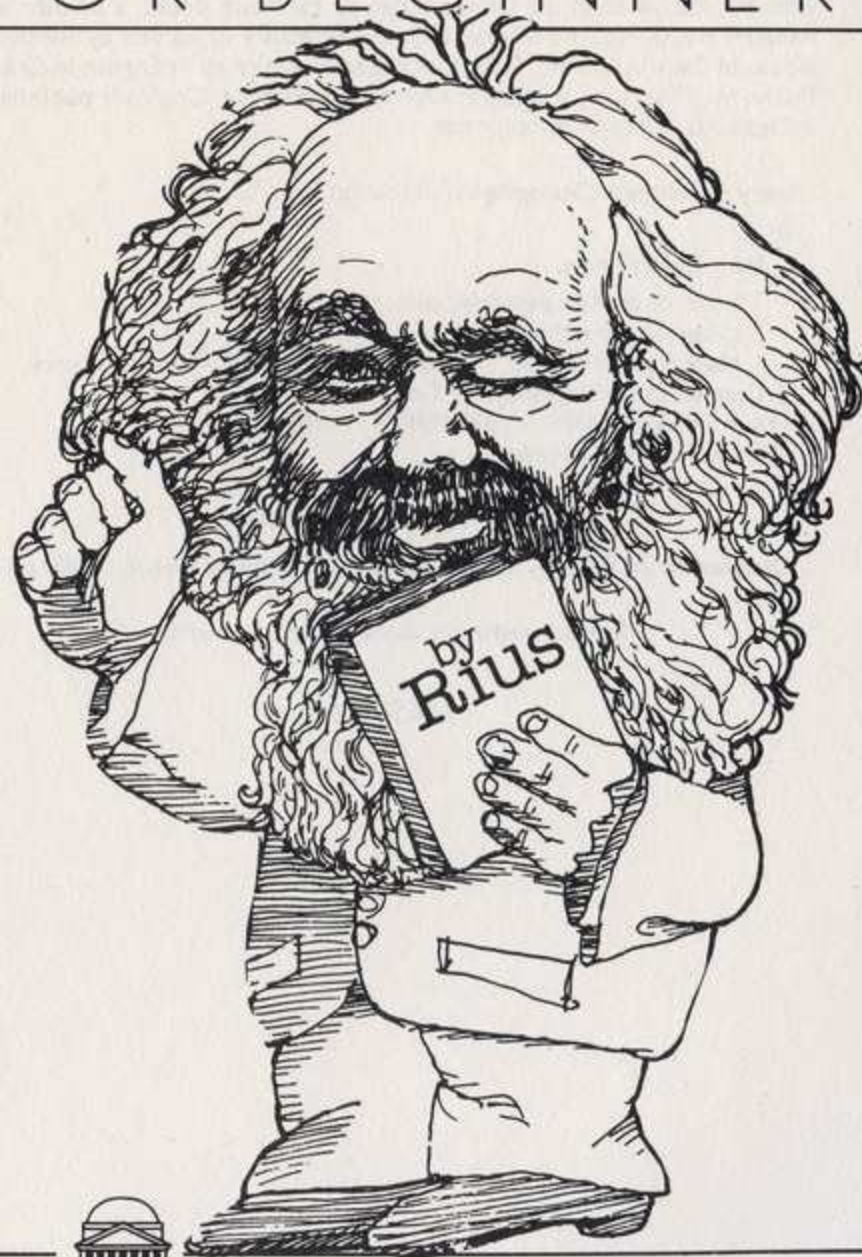
FOR BEGINNERS



Marx for Beginners

Marx

FOR BEGINNERS



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New York

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Marx for Beginners

PREFACE...

WHAT? TRY TO SUMMARIZE MARX? THAT'S NOT ONLY A SACRILEGE (AS MOST "ACADEMIC" MARXISTS WILL SAY), BUT A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME - BECAUSE COMRADE KARL IS SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETELY BEYOND THE RANGE OF SIMPLE MINDS.

MAYBE SO, MAYBE NOT. BUT I'VE WRITTEN THIS BOOK ANYWAY, ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE WORST KIND OF BATTLE IS THE ONE NOT CONFRONTED.

ANOTHER REASON FOR TRYING TO TAKE ON CHARUE WAS MY WISH TO UNDERSTAND HIM - AN AMBITION WHICH I HAVEN'T SATISFIED.

MARX - LADIES AND GENTS - WAS TRULY A "TOUGH GUY", A "TEUTONIC GENIUS" TOWERING OVER MUCH OF THE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF HIS DAY. HE JUST WENT ON PRODUCING PHILOSOPHY ON PHILOSOPHY, WITHOUT WORRYING HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND HIM. RESULT? A WHOLE SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL WORKS. REALLY HEAVY STUFF AND MUCH TOO DENSE FOR THE ORDINARY READER. MARX IS HARD TO DIGEST!

THIS BOOK TRIES TO PROVIDE A "DIGEST" - AN EXTRACT OF MARX'S IDEAS. SOMETHING EASIER TO GET DOWN, BEING AWARE OF MY LIMITS (5TH. GRADE ELEMENTARY!), I AM HAPPY IF THE THING ISN'T COMPLETELY INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

MARX HIMSELF HASN'T MADE MY JOB ANY EASIER BY FORGETTING TO PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF HIS WORKS. I GOT EVEN LESS HELP FROM ALL THOSE SCHOLARLY VOLUMES WHICH PRETEND TO CLARIFY MARX, BUT END UP BEING MORE DIFFICULT THAN CHARLIE HIMSELF.

AN ATTEMPT TO "POPULARIZE" MARX RAISES ANOTHER PROBLEM - THE DIFFICULTY OF PUTTING INTO EVERYDAY LANGUAGE THE PHILOSOPHIC AND ECONOMIC TERMS HE USES. BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ONLY 20 OR 30, BUT 200 OR 300! TO TRY TRANSLATING THIS NUMBER WITHOUT LOSING THEIR MEANING IS REALLY DOG WORK. I HOPE THE AVERAGE READER WHO GETS THROUGH THIS BOOK WILL HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFRONT THE COMPLETE WORKS OF MARX AND COME OUT OF IT BETTER THAN I DID.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE ILLUSTRIOUS MARXIST THEORETICIANS WHO, WHEN I ASKED THEM FOR A HAND, REPLIED POLITELY THAT I MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND TO START SUCH A WORK. I REALLY APPRECIATE THEIR "SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION" AND REGRET NOT HEEDING THEIR ADVICE BEFORE SETTLING DOWN WITH HERR DOKTOR KARL MARX.

AFTER THIS INTRODUCTION, IF YOU STILL WANT TO GO ON READING - BE WARNED! YOU DO SO AT YOUR OWN RISK. I CANNOT ANSWER FOR THE DAMAGES.

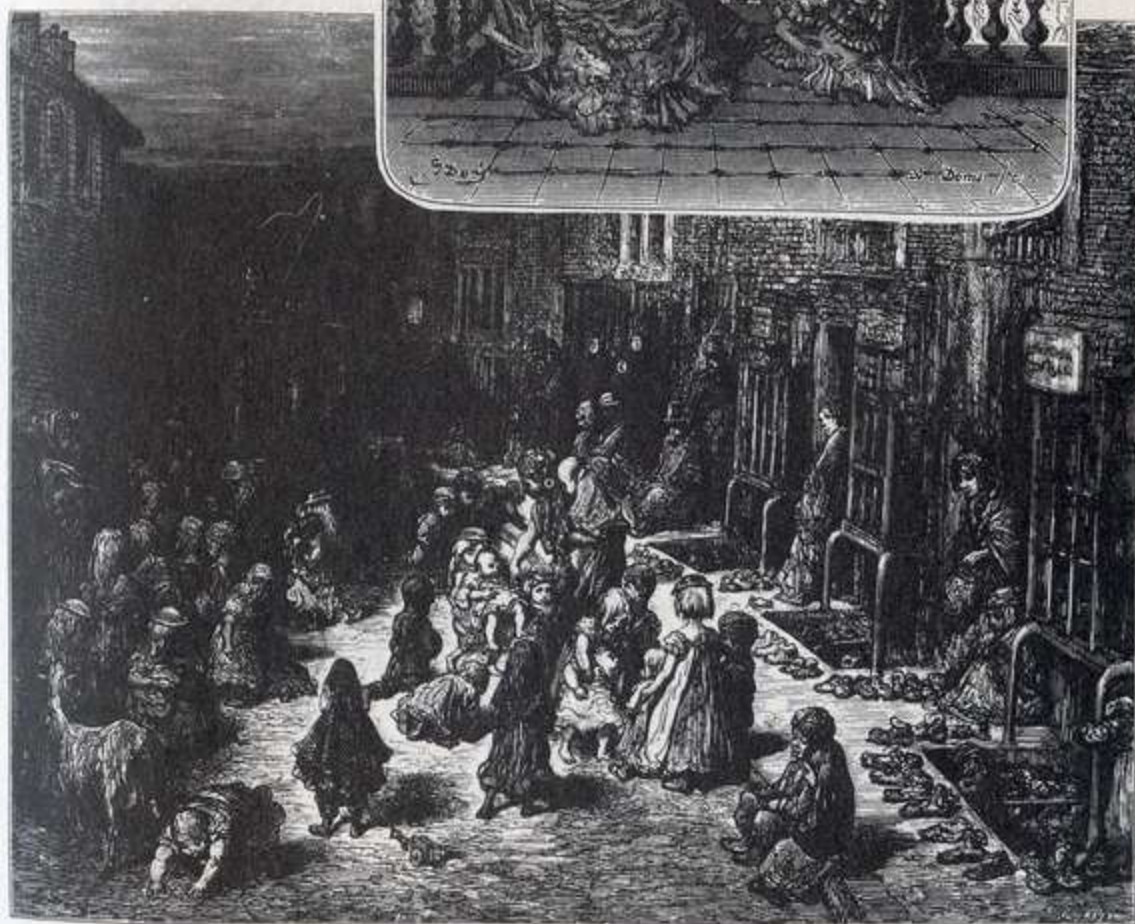
ONE LAST EXCUSE FOR THIS LIGHT-WEIGHT BOOK (BESIDE MY OWN IGNORANCE): THE STUBBORN AND INSISTENT PRESSURE OF MY PUBLISHER WHO LEFT ME HARDLY ANY TIME TO WRITE IT. I'M SORRY TO SEE MY EFFORTS HAVEN'T "JELLED" AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED.

IT'S INCREDIBLE THAT MARX, WORKING UNDER FAR WORSE CONDITIONS AND PRESSURES THAN MINE, COULD WRITE ALL THOSE THOUSANDS OF PAGES WITHOUT EVER LOSING HIS WAY OR MAKING A BOTCH OF IT.

BUT THAT JUST GOES TO PROVE IN THE END THAT MARX IS MARX, AND RIUS IS... WELL, JUST A POOR GUY!



LONDON IN
KARL MARX'S DAY...



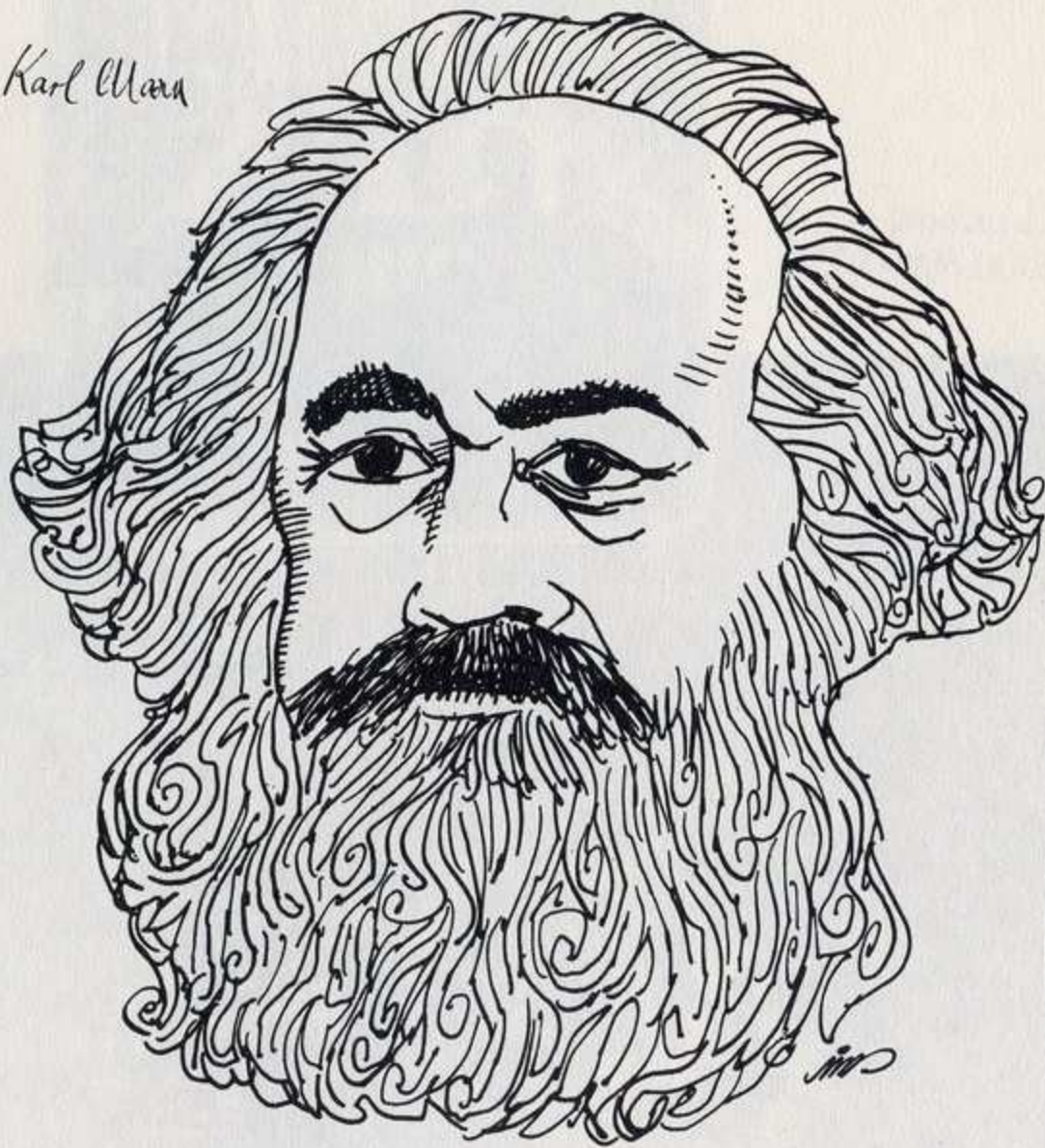
FIRST THINGS FIRST—
THE READER WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW WHO
THIS
CHARACTER

MARX WAS!!



Wasn't he one
of the MARX
Brothers?

Karl Marx



Hmm... well... not exactly...

CHARLES MARX ('KARL'
AS HE'S CALLED IN GERMAN)
WAS A JEWISH-GERMAN
PHILOSOPHER WHO LIVED
AND STRUGGLED FROM
1818 TO 1883.

EVERYWHERE IN THE
WORLD HE'S BLAMED
FOR HAVING INVENTED

COMMUNISM.....



Holy Jesus!
The Anti-Christ!

BASED ON HIS WRITINGS AND IDEAS, ONE THIRD OF HUMANITY
PRACTISES COMMUNISM, WHILE THE OTHER TWO THIRDS KEEP
ARGUING ABOUT THEM...



ANYWHERE YOU GO, WORDS LIKE BOLSHEVIK, MARXIST, SOCIALISM,
LENINISM, RED, FIDELISTS, MADIST, MATERIALIST, COMMUNIST AND SO ON
RUB LOTS OF PEOPLE UP THE WRONG WAY...



ACTUALLY, MARXISM TODAY DIVIDES THE WORLD INTO TWO CAMPS; THOSE WHO HATE HIM AND THOSE WHO PLACE ALL THEIR HOPES IN HIM...

and I'd mention a third group: those who don't know him...

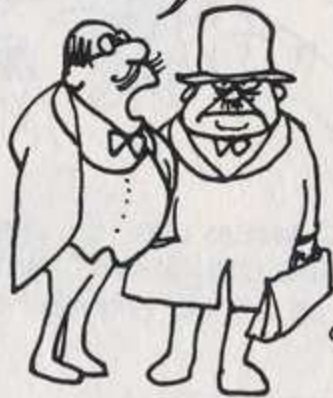


BECAUSE CHARLIE MARX IS JUST LIKE THE BIBLE OR THE KORAN: MANY QUOTE HIM, BUT VERY FEW KNOW HIM, AND EVEN FEWER UNDERSTAND HIM... (OR BETTER... MAKE HIM OUT...)

MARX HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO EVERYBODY: THERE'S NOT A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS WHICH DOESN'T OWE SOMETHING TO COMRADE CHARLIE'S INFLUENCE...

ECONOMY, LITERATURE, SPACE TRAVEL, THE ARTS, HISTORY, HUMAN RELATIONS, THE VATICAN, THE UNIONS, REVOLUTIONS, SOCIAL CHANGES, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, JOURNALISM... EVERYWHERE YOU'LL FIND A HAIR OR TWO OF CHARLIE'S!!

Boy! He sure had lots of interests, the hairy old guy!



And he wasn't short of hair...!



KNOWLEDGE - AND PRACTICE - OF HIS IDEAS NOW MAKES POSSIBLE WHAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR TWENTY CENTURIES: FREEDOM FROM THE EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN...

IN SHORT: IF IN EVERY SENSE WE'RE BETTER OFF TODAY, WE OWE THAT TO MARX ESPECIALLY...



(SOCIAL SECURITY, PENSIONS, PAID HOLIDAYS, UNIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND MANY OTHER VICTORIES ARE INDIRECTLY DUE TO MARX!)

ALL REVOLUTIONS, EVEN THOSE WHICH CLAIM TO BE SPONTANEOUS AND WITHOUT "PUTATIVE" FATHERS, HAVE A MARXIST ORIGIN...

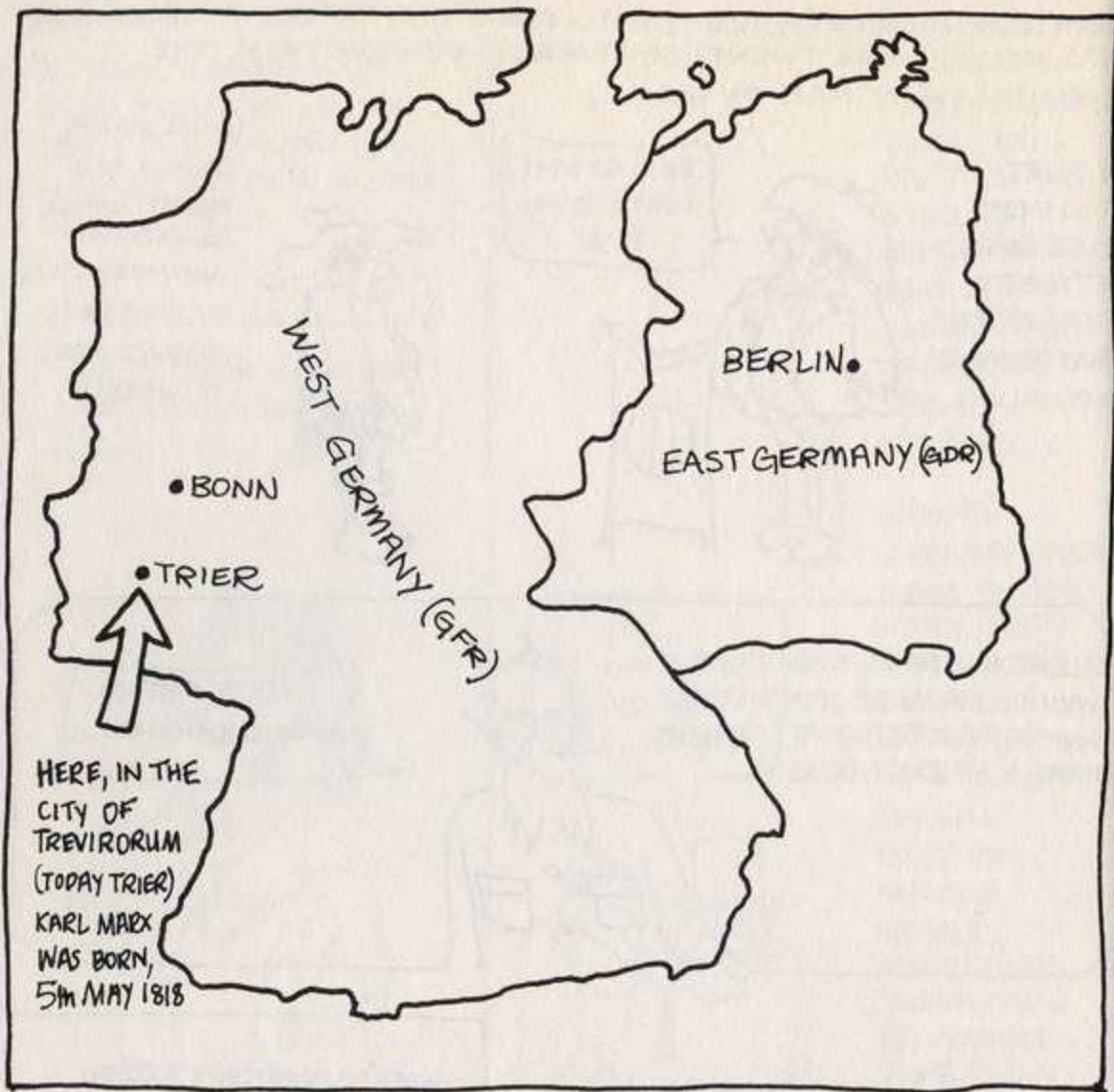
Not to mention some constitutions...



You hear talk of that **** Marx even in the Vatican Council!!!



WORKER PRIESTS ARE ACCUSED OF BEING MARXISTS, SOUTH AMERICAN GENERALS TALK ABOUT HIM. HE'S STUDIED IN JESUIT SCHOOLS. OTHERS HAVE FLED CUBA WHEN IT DECLARED ITSELF THE FIRST MARXIST COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA... BUT STILL YOU HEAR IT SAID THERE'S NO INTEREST IN MARX...



HIS FATHER WAS A WELL-TO-DO LAWYER, WHICH ALLOWED THE YOUNG MARX TO STUDY WHAT WAS IN FASHION THEN!

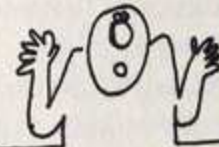
LAW.



BRIEFLY:
 MARX WENT TO BONN UNIVERSITY TO STUDY LAW. BUT HE WORKED HARDER AT RAISING HELL AND (SO HIS TEACHERS SAY) PURSUING WINE, WOMEN AND SONG... TO SUCH A POINT THAT HE ENDED UP FIGHTING A DUEL FOR A LADY'S FAVOURS, WHICH EARNED HIM A WOUND ON THE EYEBROW! YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT HE KEPT HIS NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE...



Well, what do you expect of a 19-year-old?



FROM BONN HE WENT TO BERLIN WHERE HE FINISHED HIS STUDIES. THEN HE RETURNED TO BONN TO TRY TEACHING, BUT HIS BAD NAME DIDN'T OPEN ANY DOORS: IN BERLIN HE'D TURNED ATHEIST AND SUBVERSIVE...



THAT WAS TOO MUCH! HIS SOCIETY BARELY TOLERATED ARTISTS, SO JUST IMAGINE WHAT THEY MADE OF SUBVERSIVES!!!

IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS POINT TO CLEAR UP A DETAIL ABOUT MARX'S LIFE: ALTHOUGH HIS ORIGINS WERE JEWISH, HE DIDN'T CONSIDER HIMSELF JEWISH, OR EVER PRACTISE THAT RELIGION. HIS FATHER HAD BECOME A LUTHERAN AND MARX HIMSELF WAS ONE, BUT ONLY IN HIS YOUTH...



How true! Youngsters today don't believe a damn thing!

Blame the ideologies, your lordship, the ideologies...

THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN WAS IN A TERRIFIC TURMOIL OF NEW IDEAS. RELIGIOUS EXPLANATIONS OF MAN AND THE UNIVERSE HAD BEEN CHALLENGED AND THINKERS WERE LOOKING ROUND FOR OTHER ANSWERS TO THE ETERNAL QUESTIONS OF MANKIND...



Who's God?

Life is a Riddle

What's Man?

Why do we live?

What is Life?

The same old eternal questions



What's to be done?

THE YOUNG MARX DIDN'T ASK HIMSELF "WHAT TO DO?" IN THE SENSE OF "HOW CAN I EARN A LIVING?" BUT "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF MY LIFE AND WHAT PURPOSE SHOULD IT SERVE....?"



TO ANSWER THIS THORNY QUESTION, MARX DECIDED TO STUDY PHILOSOPHY...

Is he crazy, Mum??



HIS FATHER GROWS ANGRY WORRYING ABOUT HIS SON'S FUTURE...

SOMEONE CALLED FREDERICK HEGEL SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND THE ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS. GERMAN PHILOSOPHERS GRAVITATE ROUND HIM, SOME TO OPPOSE AND OTHERS TO SUPPORT HIS THEORIES... MARX BEGINS STUDYING HEGEL'S IDEAS. TOO BAD THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER HAD ALREADY DIED, ALAS!...



1770-1831

IMMANUEL KANT (HEGEL'S GREAT PREDECESSOR) ARGUED THAT YOU COULD SUPPOSE GOD'S EXISTENCE, BUT NO SYSTEM COULD PROVE IT. HEGEL INSTEAD SEEKS TO JUSTIFY THE IDEA OF GOD... HOW? HEGEL PROPOSES A SYSTEM OF PANLOGISM (FROM THE GREEK PAN, ALL, AND LOGOS, REASON).

(Note: a little dictionary at the back of this book explains some of these terms)

KANT separates science from religion...

HEGEL wants to make religion into a kind of science...

REASON IS CONSTANTLY EVOLVING IN HISTORY TOWARDS AN ABSOLUTE GOAL.

"WORLD HISTORY IS THE PROGRESS IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF LIBERTY."

GOD EXISTS ONLY AS WORLD-SPIRIT, WHICH IS REAL BECAUSE RATIONAL (AND VICE VERSA).

God is restless, according to Hegel!



marx's student friend Köppen (by Engels)

"It is in the organisation of the state that the divine enters into the real."

MAYBE THIS JUSTIFIES HEGEL'S GOD. BUT IT DOESN'T JUSTIFY ANY PARTICULAR ESTABLISHED RELIGION OR STATE...

Am I making myself clear? No?



WELL, HEINRICH HEINE, A POET AND DISCIPLE OF HEGEL'S, EXPLAINS IT MORE CLEARLY:

"Thanks to Hegel I learned that the 'good' God doesn't dwell in Heaven, as my Grandma believed, but instead that I myself, here on earth, might be God..."



OR - GOD DIDN'T CREATE MAN, BUT THE OTHER WAY ROUND...

BESIDES WHICH, HEGEL DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL. BUT PERSECUTED BY THE CHURCH AND STATE (IN THOSE DAYS ALLIED), HE WAS FORCED TO GIVE IN A BIT AND NOT ALLOW HIS IDEAS TO BE SPREAD AMONG THE PEOPLE. HIS IDEAS WERE - SO HE SAID - "NOTHING MORE THAN PHILOSOPHY" AND IT WAS NECESSARY THAT PEOPLE SHOULD STILL FOLLOW THEIR CUSTOMARY RELIGION...



Remember: He was a respected civil servant of the Prussian State...

BUT IT WAS REALLY HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY WHICH ATTRACTED MARX. ACCORDING TO HEGEL, HUMANITY ADVANCES AND PROGRESSES ONLY BECAUSE OF CONFLICTS, WARS, REVOLUTIONS; THAT IS, THROUGH THE STRUGGLE OF THE OPPRESSED AGAINST OPPRESSORS. PEACE AND HARMONY - HE USED TO SAY - DON'T MAKE FOR PROGRESS...

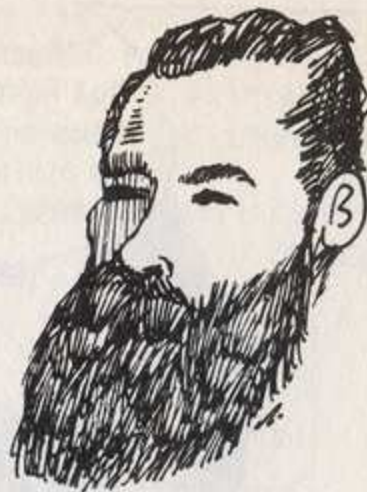
HEGEL WASN'T TALKING ABOUT SOCIAL STRUGGLE, BUT ONLY ABOUT RELIGIOUS STRUGGLE. HE WASN'T THINKING OF THE STRUGGLES BETWEEN WORKERS AND BOSSES, BETWEEN OPPRESSED PEOPLES AND OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS... ONLY OF A PURELY "SPIRITUAL" CONFLICT, A STRUGGLE BETWEEN IDEAS...



WHEN HEGEL DIED, CONTRADICTIONS LIKE THESE DIVIDED HIS FOLLOWERS INTO "HEGELIANS OF THE RIGHT" AND "LEFT". THE LEFT DEFENDED THEIR TEACHERS MOST PROGRESSIVE IDEAS, THE RIGHT STUCK TO HEGEL'S SPIRITUAL AND CONSERVATIVE SIDE...



That's when (1820) the terms 'left' and 'right' came into use...



LUDWIG FEUERBACH, A SUPPORTER OF THE HEGELIAN LEFT, WANTS TO PUT HEGEL'S THEORY INTO PRACTICE. HE DENIES THE "SACRED" ORIGIN OF ROYAL AUTHORITY. MARX IS 100% WITH HIM...

Looks like Feuerbach's a man after my own heart...



THE PUPIL RAPIDLY SURPASSES THE TEACHER: MARX IS MORE RADICAL, MORE CLEAR-HEADED AND MORE PRACTICAL THAN THE HEGELIAN LEFTISTS. MARX IS THE ACTIVE TYPE AND NOT ONE FOR BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH...

THE HEGELIANS GOT LOST IN ENDLESS PHILOSOPHICAL AND THEOLOGICAL DEBATES: THEIR MEETINGS ALWAYS FINISHED WITH MORE SMOKE THAN FIRE... TO AVOID ENDING UP NEUROTIC, MARX ACCEPTED A JOB ON THE "RHENISH GAZETTE"... THAT WAS IN 1842

A philosopher and honest journalist? Does he plan to die of hunger?



MARX MADE SUCH AN IMPACT ON THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE THAT HE WAS SOON MADE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF. UNDER HIS DIRECTION THE NEWSPAPER GAINED REAL PRESTIGE... SO MUCH SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SHUT IT DOWN...

Liberty is fine, so long as it's not used to show me up as a crook (even if I am one)...



POLITICAL JOURNALISM CAME TO LIFE WITH MARX: THE USE OF THE PRESS TO SPREAD IDEAS, TO CRITICISE BAD GOVERNMENT AND TO LET PUBLIC OPINION IN ON THE AWFUL MISERY OF THE PEOPLE...



MARX WAS TRYING TO PUT INTO PRACTICE (AND INTO THE HEADS OF HUMBLE FOLK) THE IDEAS WHICH CAFÉ PHILOSOPHERS ONLY TALKED ABOUT. MARX INVENTED DOCUMENTARY REPORTING WITH HIS ARTICLES ON THE PEASANTS OF THE MOSELLE DISTRICT...

YES, EVEN CHARLIE HAD FEELINGS...

AT THE TENDER AGE OF 18 HE WAS COURTING A CHILDHOOD FRIEND, JENNY VON WESTPHALEN. SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL, RICH AND CAME FROM AN ARISTOCRATIC PRUSSIAN FAMILY. (HER ELDER BROTHER WAS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR DURING THE VERY REACTIONARY PERIOD, 1850-58.) HER FATHER, A STATE COUNCILLOR, HAD ENCOURAGED THE YOUNG MARX TO READ THE GREEK POETS AND SHAKESPEARE...

MARX HAD NO MONEY OR WORK. HOW WAS HE GOING TO SUPPORT HIS CHARMING JENNY? HER FATHER IS SERIOUSLY WORRIED ABOUT HER FUTURE...



IN 1843, MARX TOOK HIS JENNY TO PARIS. HE ACCEPTED A JOB AS CO-EDITOR OF A RADICAL MAGAZINE WITH ARNOLD RUGE ('LEFT'HEGELIAN, IMPRISONED 1825-30, BISMARCKIAN AFTER 1866.)

... MARRIED 12 JUNE 1843...



Let's see if it's true that two can live as cheaply as one...

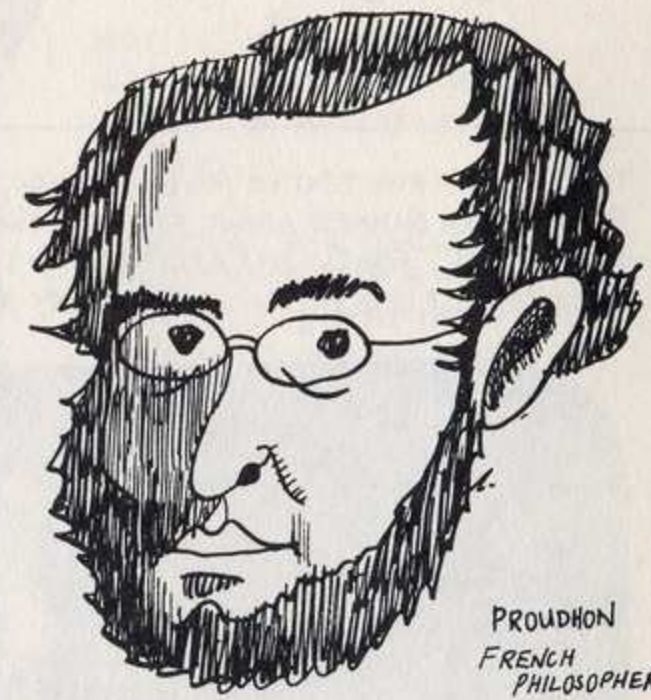
IN PARIS, MARX WORKED ON ALL THE ISSUES PUBLISHED BY THE MAGAZINE "FRANCO-GERMAN ANNALS"...

There was one issue...



WORSE, THIS MAGAZINE WHICH WAS MEANT FOR UNDERGROUND DISTRIBUTION IN GERMANY CAUSED HIM LOTS OF PROBLEMS... BESIDES, HE DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH THE DIRECTOR, RUGE, WHOSE VIEWS MARX DIDN'T SHARE, AND WHO CALLED MARX "REALLY MULE-HEADED"...

WHY? BECAUSE IN PARIS, MARX HAD GROWN EVEN MORE RADICAL AS A DIRECT RESULT OF HIS CONTACT WITH FRENCH IDEAS (BLANC-PROUDHON-LEROUX) AND THE RUSSIAN ANARCHISTS BOTKIN AND BAKUNIN... (AND MEANWHILE HE STARTED STUDYING THE ECONOMIC THEORIES OF THE ENGLISHMEN, ADAM SMITH AND DAVID RICARDO)...



PROUDHON FRENCH PHILOSOPHER



HEAVENS! even a German will go crazy reading all these books!

MARX'S FRIENDSHIP WITH ANOTHER
FELLOW-GERMAN, FREDERICK ENGELS,
HAD THE GREATEST EFFECT ON HIM.

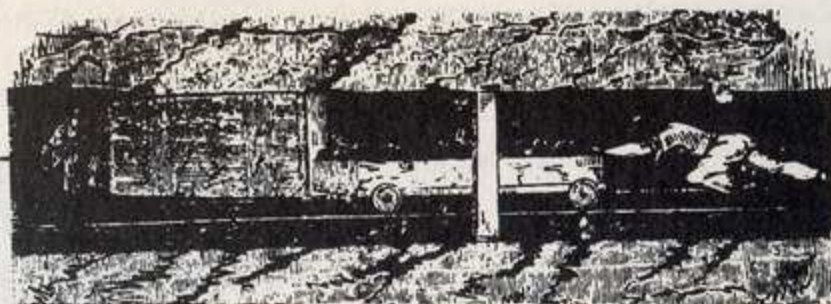
THEY MET IN THE "ANNALS" HEYDAY, 1844...

WHO IS ENGELS?

(1820-1895)



THE SON OF A RICH TEXTILE MANUFACTURER, HE LEFT PRUSSIA IN 1842
TO WORK AS A BUSINESS AGENT FOR HIS FATHER'S BRANCH OFFICE IN
MANCHESTER. ENGELS WAS A RESTLESS 'LEFT' HEGEMAN ANYWAY, BUT FIRST-
HAND CONTACT WITH WORKING CLASS MISERY AFFECTED HIM DEEPLY.



MANY ARTISTS OF THE TIME HAVE
LEFT US EVIDENCE OF THE TERRIBLE
EXPLOITATION SUFFERED BY ENGLISH
WORKERS...

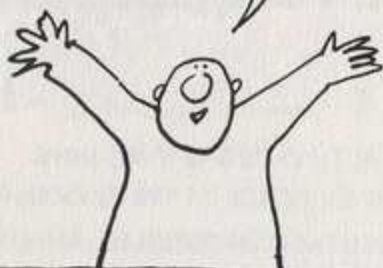
BECAUSE OF THEIR SMALL SIZE
(AND LITTENESS OF THEIR WAGES)
CHILDREN WERE EXPLOITED IN MINES
AND OTHER KINDS OF INDUSTRY BY
INHUMAN BOSSES...

THE SWINE!!



ENGELS WROTE "THE CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN ENGLAND", 1845. MARX HAD BEEN POWERFULLY STRUCK BY AN ARTICLE ON ECONOMICS WHICH ENGELS WROTE FOR THE "ANNALS". THEY BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS AND DECIDED TO WORK TOGETHER...

A truly historical meeting!!



MARX WAS SO UNPOPULAR WITH THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT PRESSURED FRANCE TO EXPEL HIM (1845). HE MOVED TO BRUSSELS, BUT WAS EXPELLED AGAIN. DURING THE 1848 REVOLUTION, HE RETURNS TO GERMANY AND SETS UP THE "NEW RHENISH GAZETTE" WITH ENGELS (WHO FIGHTS IN THREE BATTLES!). MARX IS ACCUSED OF INCITEMENT TO ARMED REBELLION, BUT ACQUITTED BY A COLOGNE JURY...



Age? 30
Financial situation? Desperate
Work? Not one that pays...

MAY, 1849, MARX IS EXPELLED AS A "STATELESS" PERSON. AND SO, AS A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY - A "CITIZEN OF THE WORLD" - MARX BEGINS HIS EXILE IN LONDON...

BEFORE SEEKING REFUGE IN LONDON, MARX AND ENGELS HAD TAKEN PART IN A SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE "COMMUNIST LEAGUE" WHICH COMMISSIONED THEM TO PREPARE THE NOW FAMOUS



(Rest assured that we didn't earn a penny from it...)

COMMUNIST MANIFESTO



What a catastrophe children!

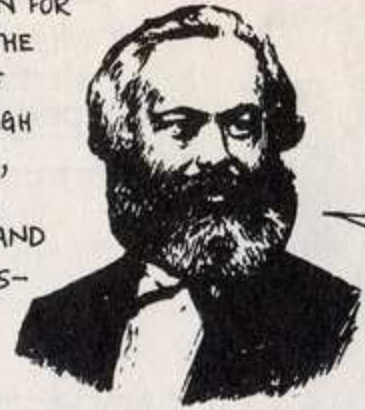
"A spectre is haunting Europe - the spectre of Communism. All the powers of old Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise the spectre: Pope and Czar, Metternich and Guizot, French Radicals and German police-spies. Where is the party in opposition that has not been decried as communistic by its opponents in power? Where the opposition that has not hurled back the branding reproach..."



AT FIRST IT DIDN'T CAUSE ANY GREAT SENSATION. BUT LATER, BIT BY BIT, IT BEGAN TO CREATE REAL WORLD-WIDE ANXIETY. THE MANIFESTO'S PUBLICATION TURNS OUT TO BE ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HUMAN HISTORY...

(so it begins: but more of that later...)

MARX REMAINED IN LONDON FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, IN THE DIREST POVERTY (THREE OF HIS CHILDREN DIED THROUGH THE LACK OF MEDICINES), CONTINUING TO WRITE REVOLUTIONARY BOOKS AND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWS-PAPERS WHICH WOULD ACCEPT THEM...



Among others, the New York "Daily Tribune"...

ENGELS HELPED OUT AND OFTEN HAD TO SUPPORT HIM. THE LITTLE INHERITANCE MARX RECEIVED WHEN HIS FATHER-IN-LAW DIED WENT TO PAY OFF HIS DEBTS. A JOB IN A RAILWAY OFFICE HE WAS ABOUT TO GET WAS REFUSED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS TERRIBLE HANDWRITING...
(Judge for yourself..!)

Handwritten text in German, likely a letter or note, mentioning 'Dear friend' and 'the 2nd volume'.



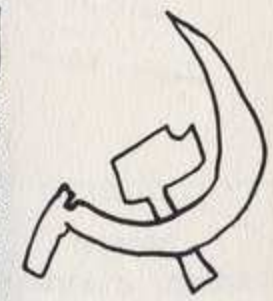
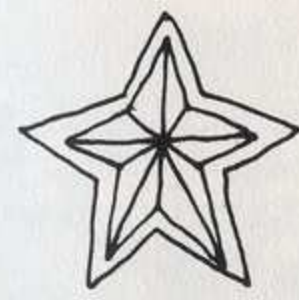
MARX NEVER HAD A STEADY INCOME OR A PERMANENT JOB OR A BANK ACCOUNT... BUT WHAT HE COULDN'T EARN FOR HIS OWN FAMILY, HE WON FOR MILLIONS OF OTHERS THROUGH HIS WRITINGS...

DON'T IMAGINE THAT CHARLIE'S IDEAS WERE GREETED WITH WILD ENTHUSIASM BY THE PUBLIC. ON THE CONTRARY - NO ONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT MARX OUTSIDE A SMALL CIRCLE OF GERMAN EXILES AND A FEW INTELLECTUALS...

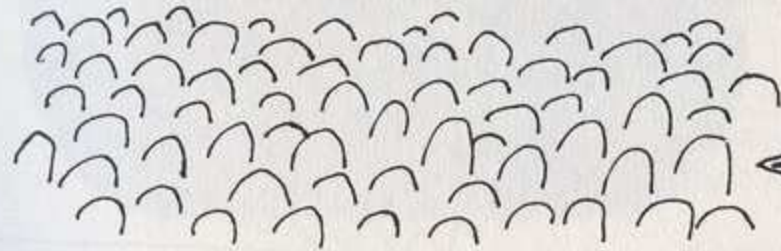
Marx's economic theories made no immediate impact on the debate inside the workers' movement or on other thinkers, except after his death (1883). This is true of his theories on value and surplus value, accumulation, exploitation, pauperization, crisis and appropriation, class struggle and revolution. But by the end of the century, several such theories were being hotly discussed within the workers' movement; while others were gradually accepted as absolutely valid.



THE NUMBERS OF HIS BOOKS AND REVIEW ARTICLES PRINTED WERE VERY SMALL. COMRADE MARX'S STYLE WASN'T TERRIBLY CLEAR, AND SO, VERY FEW WERE ABLE TO GRASP HIS DARING AND COMPLEX IDEAS.



IN FACT, IT WAS ONLY IN 1917, WITH LENIN'S VICTORY IN RUSSIA, THAT THE WORKS OF MARX WERE HEARD OF THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND STUDIED AND DISCUSSED...



(and put into practice by millions of people...)

Working in misery was not easy, and the Marx family of six became ever more proletarian in character during those London years. Sometimes Marx could not go out because his clothes were at the pawnbroker's. Even paper to write on was lacking, as well as the necessities for his family. During this Dean Street period, 1851, a daughter, Francesca, was born only to die in a year.

Jenny Marx describes the hard times in a letter to a friend: "Our three children lay down by us and we all wept for the little angel whose livid, lifeless body was in the next room. Our beloved child's death occurred at the time of the hardest privation, our German friends being unable to help us just then. . . Anguish in my heart, I hurried to a French emigrant who lived not far away and used to come to see us, and begged him to help us in our terrible necessity. He immediately gave me two pounds with the most friendly sympathy. That money was used to pay for a coffin in which my child now rests in peace. She had no cradle when she came into the world and for a long time was refused a last resting place. . ."



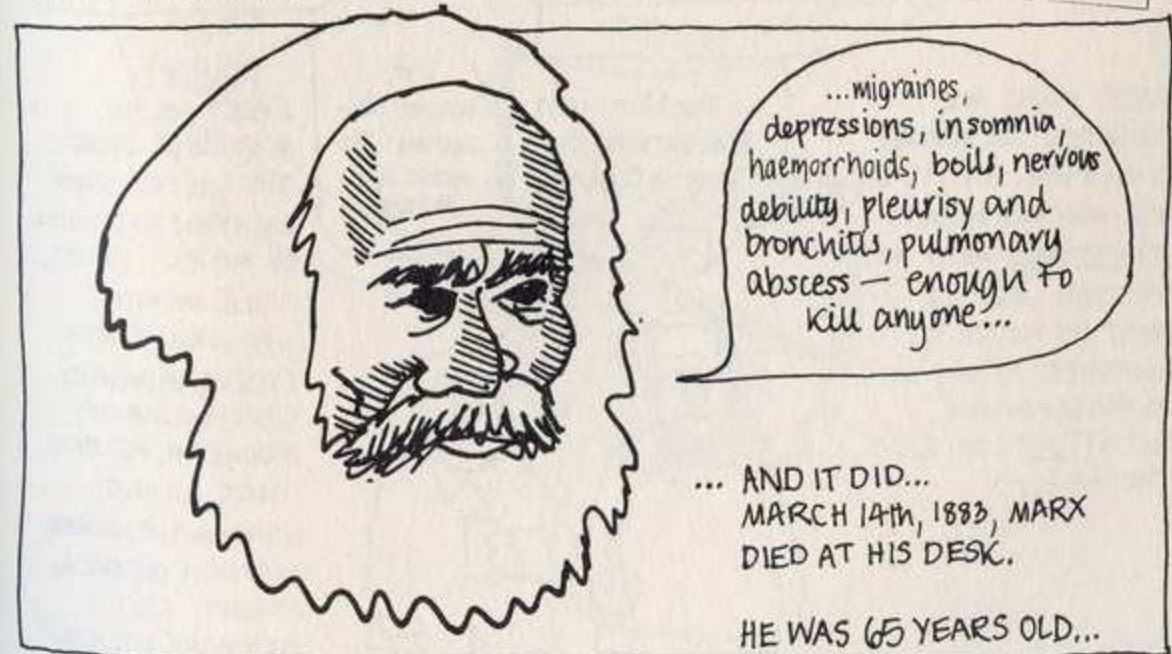
THE LAST 25 YEARS OF
MARX'S LIFE WERE SPENT
WORKING ON HIS MAJOR WORK:

'CAPITAL'

WHICH HE DIDN'T MANAGE
TO FINISH.

ONLY THE FIRST OF THE
THREE VOLUMES HE HAD
PLANNED WAS ENTIRELY
COMPLETED BY HIM. THE
OTHER TWO WERE PUT INTO
ORDER AND FINISHED,
ACCORDING TO MARX'S NOTES,
BY ENGELS.

MARX'S LAST YEARS WERE
FILLED WITH ILLNESS
AND INFIRMITIES...



...migraines,
depressions, insomnia,
haemorrhoids, boils, nervous
debility, pleurisy and
bronchitis, pulmonary
abscess — enough to
kill anyone...

... AND IT DID...
MARCH 14th, 1883, MARX
DIED AT HIS DESK.

HE WAS 65 YEARS OLD...

BESIDES THE HUNDREDS OF ARTICLES HE WROTE FOR THE GERMAN, ENGLISH, FRENCH AND AMERICAN PRESS, MARX PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING GEMS:

- 1841: ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NATURAL PHILOSOPHY OF DEMOCRITUS AND EPICURUS
- 1844: } ON THE JEWISH QUESTION
- 1844: } THE CRITIQUE OF HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT ECONOMIC AND PHILOSOPHIC MANUSCRIPTS
- 1845: THE HOLY FAMILY
- 1846: THE GERMAN IDEOLOGY
- 1847: THE POVERTY OF PHILOSOPHY
- 1848: THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO
- 1850: CLASS STRUGGLES IN FRANCE
- 1852: THE 18th. BRUMAIRE OF LOUIS BONAPARTE
- 1853: REVELATIONS ON THE COMMUNIST TRIAL AT COLOGNE
- 1859: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
- 1865: WAGES, PRICE, PROFIT
- 1871: THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE
- 1867: } CAPITAL VOLUMES I, II & III
- 1885: }
- 1894: }

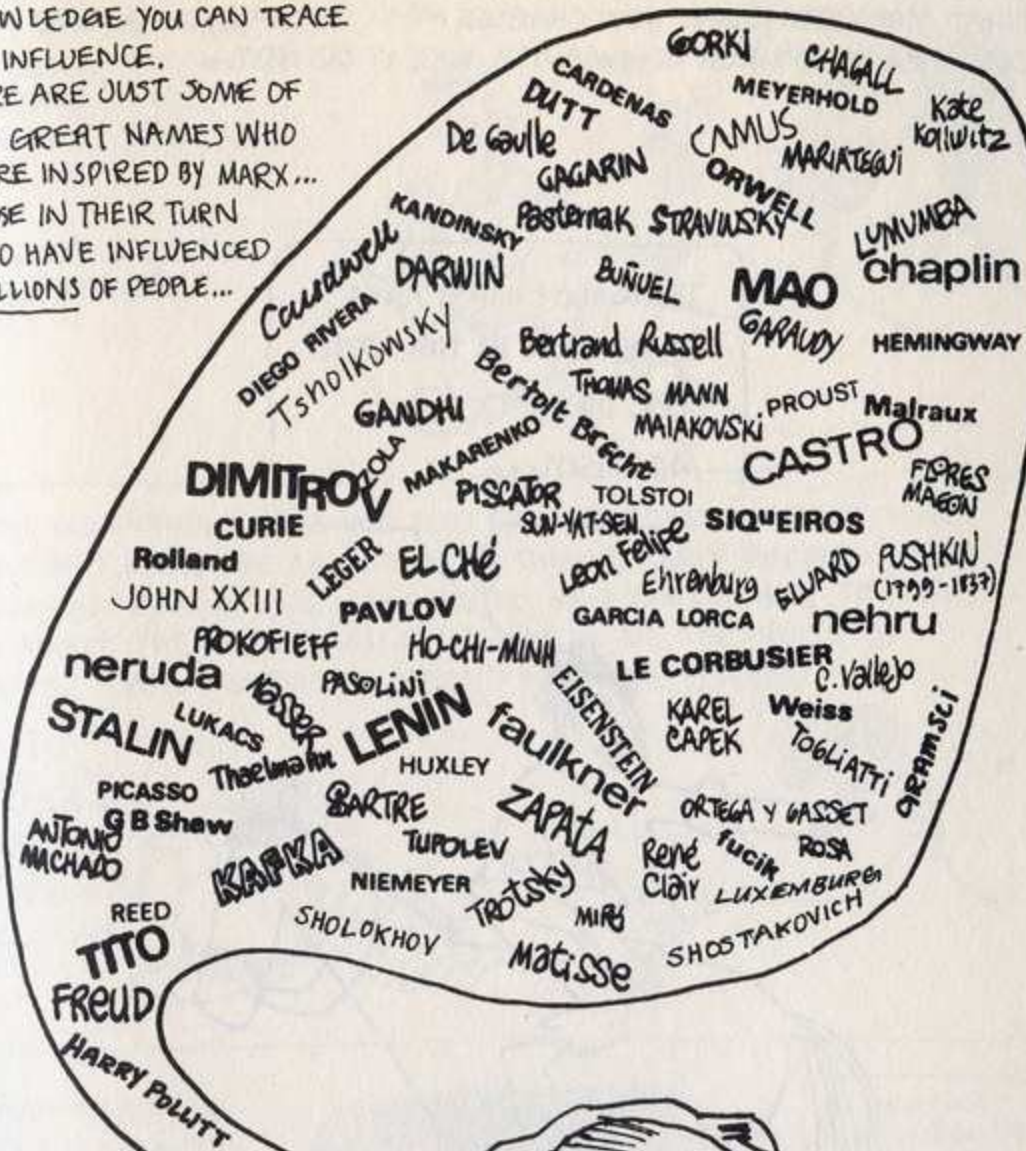


MARX'S WORKS ARE CONSIDERED THE WORKING CLASS BIBLE. YET IT'S ODD HOW VERY FEW WORKERS UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S WRITTEN. MOST OF WHAT HE WROTE IS ABSTRACT, AS DIFFICULT AS MATHEMATICS, BUT IT DID CHANGE THE WORLD...



EVERY SOCIAL MOVEMENT OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY MARX (CUBA, CHILE, MEXICO, VIETNAM, KOREA, CYPRUS, HUNGARY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, INDONESIA, POLAND, TIBET, BOLIVIA, GUATEMALA, CONGO, ALBANIA, GREECE, ANADIA, EAST GERMANY, ETC, ETC)

IN ALL FIELDS OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE YOU CAN TRACE HIS INFLUENCE. HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE GREAT NAMES WHO WERE INSPIRED BY MARX... THOSE IN THEIR TURN WHO HAVE INFLUENCED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE...



SO, AFTER THIS SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE MAN, LET'S GO ON TO SEE WHAT MARXISM IS, AND HOW CHARLES MARX ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CONTRIBUTE SO MUCH TO HUMANITY, LIKE IT OR NOT...

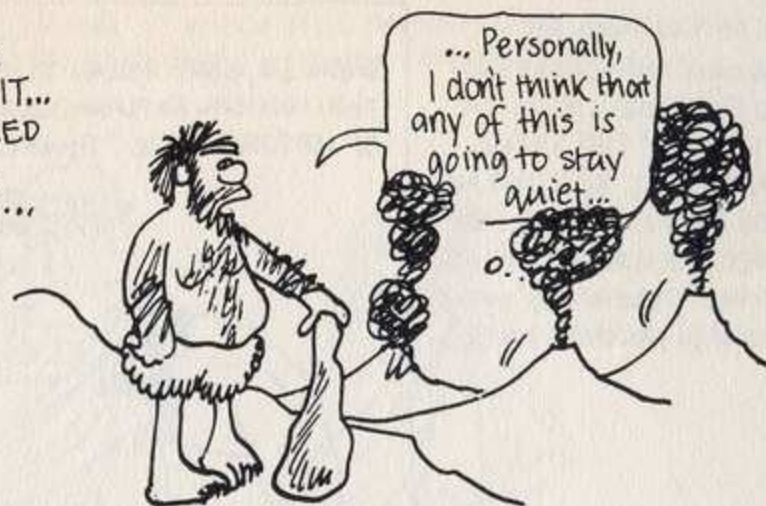
To do that, we'll have to go back in time and seek the roots of Marxism...



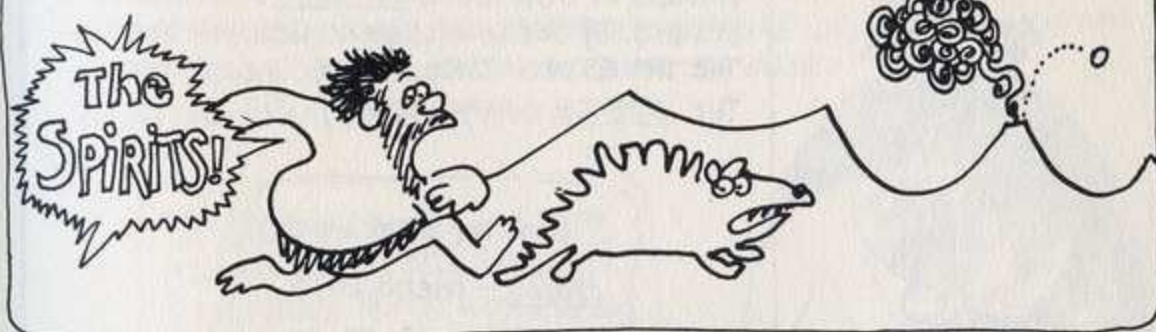
...WHAT HAS MAN BEEN THINKING THROUGH THE AGES?

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO GUESS WHAT MEN THINK IF THEY DON'T EXPRESS IT... EVEN LESS IF THEY LACKED THE MEANS TO WRITE DOWN WHAT WAS SAID...

WHAT DID THE FIRST HUMANS THINK?



IN THE BEGINNING, IGNORANCE AND FEAR PREDOMINATED, BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE MEANINGS OF THINGS, EARLY PEOPLES WERE AFRAID OF EVERYTHING WHICH MOVED, AND THEIR FIRST THOUGHT WAS ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL; WHO MADE THE NOISE OF THUNDER? WHO MOVED THE EARTH? WHO MADE IT RAIN?



THAT'S WHY, TO PROVIDE SOME KIND OF EXPLANATION FOR NATURAL EVENTS, MANKIND CREATED THE GODS: THE GOD OF RAIN, OF FIRE, OF EARTH, OF SUN, THE GODDESS OF FERTILITY, THE GOD OF HUNTING...



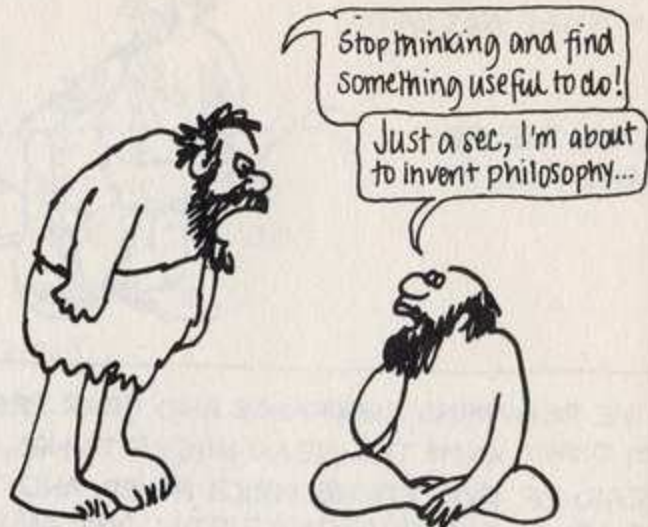
OUT OF THIS CAME THE MAGICIANS AND SORCERERS WHO EXPLOITED THE "IDEA OF DIVINITY" FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. BY USING ALL KINDS OF CHEAP TRICKS THEY PASSED THEMSELVES OFF AS SPECIAL "DELEGATES" OF THE GODS WITH FANTASTIC POWERS...

...to profit from it, of course...!!



THIS IS THE WAY GRADUALLY AN "UPPER" CLASS WAS FORMED- OR A RULING CLASS- AND A LOWER- OR RULED- CLASS... THOSE WHO LET THEMSELVES BE EXPLOITED AND THOSE WHO LEAD FOOLS BY THE NOSE (AND AVOID WORK...)

EVEN SO, SOME BEGAN TO USE THEIR HEADS TO FIND LOGICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR THE PHENOMENA OF NATURE; THE "THINKERS"...

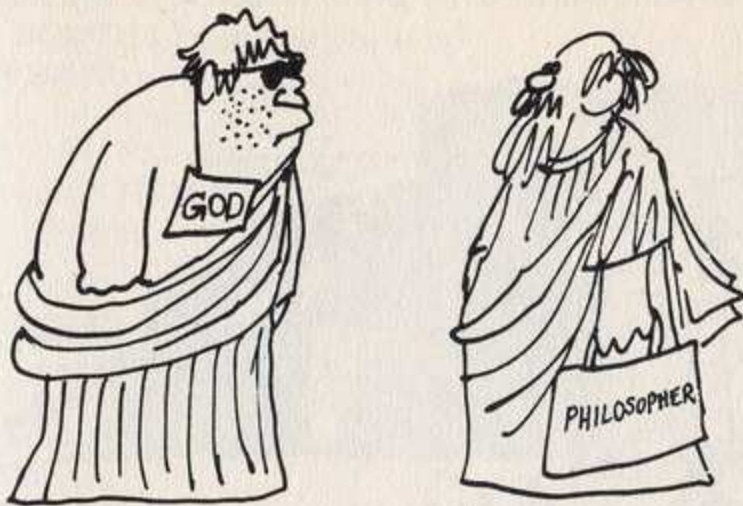


PHILOSOPHY STARTED AS CRITICISM OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. BY SEEKING LOGICAL REASONS FOR THE THINGS IN NATURE, MANKIND CREATED THE SCIENCE OF PHILOSOPHY...*

* from the Greek words Philos - friend, and Sophos - science



TWO OPPOSED CAMPS SPRANG UP WHICH STILL PERSIST TO THIS DAY: RELIGION ON ONE SIDE, SCIENCE ON THE OTHER...



ONE OF THE VERY FIRST PHILOSOPHERS WE HEAR OF, A GREEK BY THE NAME OF XENOPHANES OF COLOPHON, REFUSED TO ADORE IDOLS, BECAUSE, AS HE SAID:

"If oxen and horses and lions had hands or could draw with these hands, horses would draw pictures of gods like horses, and oxen like oxen, lions like lions, and the gods would resemble the bodies each species possesses..."



THE IDEAS OF XENOPHANES GOT ROUND, BUT THE RULING CLASS WASN'T GOING TO TOLERATE RIDICULE OR DOUBT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE GODS WHICH SUPPORTED THEIR "SACRED AND LEGITIMATE" CLAIMS TO POWER... BUT STILL MANY LISTENED TO HIM...

AS TIME WENT ON - AND PROFITS ROSE - THE RULING CLASS PERFECTED ITS RELIGION AND ADDED MORE GODS, MORE MYTHS, MORE RITES AND CEREMONIES. TEMPLES WERE BUILT IN WHICH GODS AND GODDESSES WERE WORSHIPPED, WHICH USUALLY MEANT "DONATIONS" OF MONEY OR OTHER THINGS HAD TO BE PAID UP "TO ATTRACT DIVINE FAVOURS"...



AT THE SAME TIME, A "DIVINE CASTE" SET ITSELF APART. WITCH DOCTORS HAD ELEVATED THEMSELVES TO THE PRIESTHOOD. THEIR POWER WAS SO GREAT THAT, TOGETHER WITH KINGS AND PHARAOS, THEY CREATED HUGE EMPIRES OF FAITHFUL SLAVES "BY THE WILL OF THE SUPREME GODS"...



THE WHOLE BUSINESS WENT SO FAR THAT KINGS TOO WANTED TO BE WORSHIPPED AS GODS...

THE STATE COMMANDED WHICH GODS COULD BE WORSHIPPED OR NOT...

EVEN RELIGION HAD TO INVENT SOME KIND OF SCIENCE FOR ITSELF (THEOLOGY = THE PHILOSOPHY OF DIVINITY) TO JUSTIFY ITS EXISTENCE.

THE FIRST THING RELIGION INVENTED WAS A FAITH IN THE "BEYOND", THE AFTER LIFE...

(The Egyptians were the first to fall for it...)



THE EGYPTIANS

THE EGYPTIAN ARGUMENT WAS QUITE SIMPLE: MEN WERE CREATED BY OSIRIS AND MUST OBEY HIS WILL ON THIS EARTH. THEY MUST PUT UP WITH SLAVERY IN THE HOPE THAT, IF THEY BEHAVE WELL, A BETTER AFTER-LIFE AWAITS THEM IN THE NEXT WORLD - NO MORE SLAVERY, ONLY ETERNAL BUSS...



SOUNDS PRETTY FAMILIAR, DOESN'T IT?

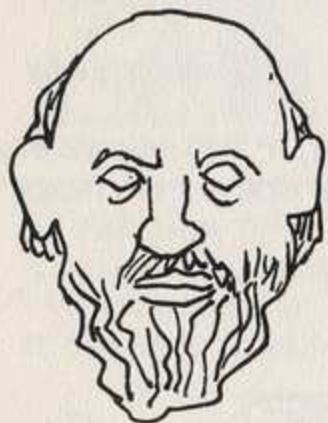
HOWEVER, THE WORLD WASN'T TOTALLY DEPRIVED OF MEN (NO MATTER HOW FEW) ABLE TO RESIST BLIND FAITH, WHO PREFER TO COME TO THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS, RELYING ON SCIENCE...

Who were they

Well... Thales for instance...



THALES



OF MILETUS IS CONSIDERED THE FATHER OF PHILOSOPHY. HE LIVED FOUR CENTURIES BEFORE CHRIST AND DEVOTED HIMSELF TO ASTRONOMY AND SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY INTO NATURE...

What is the force that keeps the universe in motion?



Pythagoras

ANOTHER FAMOUS PAIR OF WHISKERS - FATHER OF MATHEMATICS - CONCLUDED THAT NUMBER STANDS AT THE ORIGIN OF ALL THINGS, AND THEREFORE LIFE IS...



...The result of a perfect mathematical relation between the parts of a body...

PYTHAGORAS AND HIS FOLLOWERS (HE FOUNDED A PECULIAR SECT WHICH PROHIBITED THE EATING OF BEANS!!) WERE THE FIRST TO DECLARE THAT THE EARTH ISN'T AT THE CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE...



Heretics!
Atheists!
REDS!!



AS A RESULT, THEY WERE PERSECUTED AND THE PYTHAGOREAN COMMUNITY WAS SCATTERED BY RELIGIOUS FANATICS...

NEXT CAME **HERACLITUS**, OFTEN NAMED THE FATHER OF DIALECTICS, THAT IS, THE ART OF ARGUMENT...

HERACLITUS, AN ATHEIST PHILOSOPHER, USED TO TEACH THAT EVERYTHING EXISTS AND AT THE SAME TIME DOESN'T EXIST... THAT ALL THINGS ARE IN MOTION AND FLUID CHANGE, CONTINUOUSLY APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING...



"No one steps twice into the same river, for what occurs in the next instant is never the same as the first"



MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THESE ENLIGHTENED FELLOWS WERE PERSECUTED AND ENDED UP BADLY. SCIENCE WAS FAR TOO BACKWARD AND IT WASN'T THE TIME TO TEST NEW "ATHEIST THEORIES"...

The structure of things depends on opposite tensions, as between the bow and arrow...



What kind of daft idea is that??

AND NOW WE'RE OFF TO SICILY...



AT AGRIGENTUM, EMPEDOCLES, ANOTHER PHILOSOPHER, USED TO CLAIM THAT HUMANS WERE ONCE UPON A TIME DESCENDED FROM GODS, BUT HAD BEEN CAST DOWN TO EARTH BECAUSE OF THEIR WICKEDNESS AND IMPURITY...

HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT EVERYTHING WAS MADE UP OF FIRE, AIR, EARTH AND WATER - A THEORY THAT SURVIVED RIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE AGES...



And which prepared the way for modern chemistry...

THESE FOUR ELEMENTS, SAID HE, WERE INFLUENCED BY TWO FORCES; ATTRACTION AND REPULSION, LOVE AND HATE, WHICH EXPLAINS HOW ALL THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE CHANGE ACCORDING TO THE RHYTHMS OF LIFE AND DEATH...



Love unites, hate divides. That's how change and motion happen...



HERE'S ONE MORE WHO DIED FOR HIS OPINIONS: ANAXAGORAS...

AND YET HE SAID NO MORE THAN THE TRUTH: "the sun is a mass of fire and stone"... (AND NOT A GOD AS THE IGNORANT ATHENIANS BELIEVED)...

But the "worst" of the lot was Socrates!



Socrates

THIS GRANDDAD OF HUMOUR USED TO JOKE ABOUT EVERYTHING - ABOUT GODS, PHILOSOPHERS, GOVERNMENTS, RELIGION... AND ALSO ABOUT HIMSELF. AND IT'S TRUE HE WAS NO BEAUTY... SHORT, FAT, BALD WRINKLED, AND REALLY UNTIDY...



THIS WAS ONE OF HIS MOST ORIGINAL DISCOVERIES: HE DENIED MORALITY AS A SYNONYM FOR RELIGION... AND HERE'S HOW:

Human beings can be good without having to believe in the gods

No one is bad knowingly, but only through ignorance

Living begins when you start doubting everything that came before you

Know thyself

Doubt is the origin of truth



IN THE END, SOCRATES WAS ACCUSED OF CORRUPTING THE YOUTH, OF ATTACKING INSTITUTIONS, OF ATHEISM, LACK OF MORALS AND SO ON AND SO ON.

OF COURSE, THIS MEANT THE DEATH PENALTY, WHICH HE ACCEPTED BY DRINKING POISONOUS HEMLOCK FROM A BIG CUP.

BUT, IN BETWEEN SIPS, HE WENT ON TALKING CALMLY TO HIS DISCIPLES...



SOCRATES IS DEAD... LONG LIVE SOCRATES...

GREEK PHILOSOPHY ENDS WITH THESE THREE GIANTS:



PLATO, DEMOCRITUS & ARISTOTLE

PLATO USED THE DIALOGUE FORM TO EXPRESS HIS IDEAS. IN THIS WAY HE POSED THE THREE MOST BASIC QUESTIONS OF PHILOSOPHY:

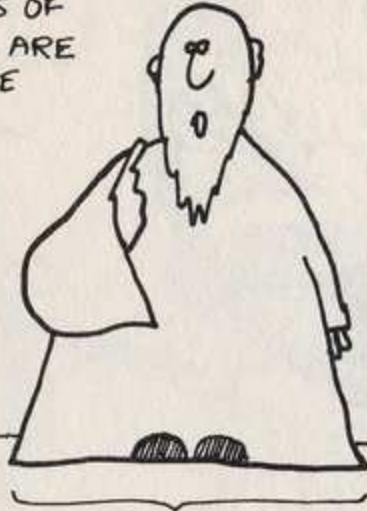
HOW CAN MAN DISCOVER THE TRUTH?

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE?

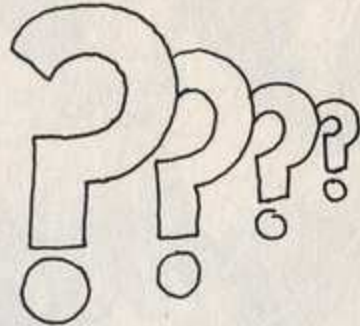
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF HUMAN LIFE?



THE ANSWERS OLD PLATO GAVE TO THESE QUESTIONS LAID THE FOUNDATIONS OF A SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY CALLED "OBJECTIVE IDEALISM", ACCORDING TO WHICH ALL THINGS ARE THE MERE SHADOWS OF IDEAS. IDEAS ARE ETERNAL, WHILE THINGS ARE TRANSITORY...



Horses don't exist. What alone exists is the idea we have of horses...



TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS - SAYS PLATO - COMES NEITHER THROUGH PERCEPTION NOR REASON... OR, THAT IS, MAN CANNOT KNOW TRUTH BY MEANS OF SCIENCE BUT ONLY THROUGH "INSPIRATION" ARRIVING FROM THE BEYOND. MAN CANNOT KNOW THINGS ON HIS OWN, BUT ONLY BY THE IDEAS GOD GIVES HIM OF THINGS...

Platone



Needless to say... Plato wasn't executed...



HIS INTERPRETATIONS OF REALITY WERE SURE TO PLEASE THE AUTHORITIES: E.G. THAT HUMBLER FOLK SHOULD SERVE THOSE RICHER AND NOBLER THAN THEY. THAT THE POOR SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THEIR FATE SINCE THEY WILL BE HAPPY IN THE NEXT WORLD - THE ONE TO COME, OF COURSE, NOT THIS ONE WHICH IS JUST IMAGINARY ANYWAY...

A First for Science goes to Mister Plato!!



LATER ON, IT'S WELL KNOWN, PLATO'S IDEAS WERE USED TO PROP UP THE DOCTRINE OF THE "IMMORTALITY" OF THE SOUL AND THE SINFUL NATURE OF THE FLESH - THAT IS, OF MATTER.

Amen!

DEMOCRITUS

INSTEAD WAS PERSECUTED FOR UPHOLDING "MATERIALIST" IDEAS...



"Cosmic substance is made up of an infinite number of elements or particles physically invisible, indestructible and in finite, which vary in size and shape, and are in eternal motion..."

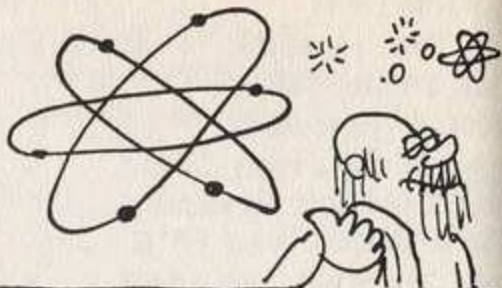
What's he talkin' about?



DEMOCRITUS WAS TALKING ABOUT

ATOMS

FOUR CENTURIES BEFORE CHRIST
AND TWENTY FOUR BEFORE EINSTEIN!



THE GREEK EPOCH CLOSES WITH

ARISTOTLE

A REAL MASTER-MIND, A PROTÉGÉ OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT, A GENIUS IN ALL FIELDS OF HUMAN ENQUIRY (HE WROTE ON PHYSICS, METAPHYSICS, ETHICS, POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY, BIOLOGY, ZOOLOGY...)
A REMARKABLE TEACHER AND A TIRELESS SCIENTIST. HIS INFLUENCE LASTED EVERYWHERE UNTIL THE BIRTH OF MATERIALISM IN THE 18TH. CENTURY

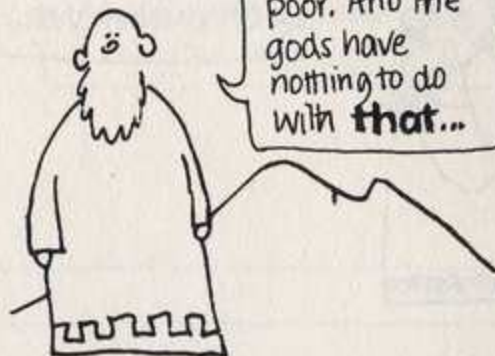


Must be a friend of Ed's...!

ONE OF ARISTOTLE'S MOST INTERESTING DISCOVERIES IS THAT SOCIAL CONFLICTS ARISE FROM THE INEQUALITY IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS...



Some are rich and some are poor. And the gods have nothing to do with **that**...



IT ALL DEPENDS-'ARY' THOUGHT-ON WHO'S GOT THE POWER. IF IT'S IN THE HANDS OF THE RICH, IT'S CALLED OLIGARCHY. WHEN THE PEOPLE HAVE IT, IT'S CALLED DEMOCRACY. THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF DEMOCRACY, WHICH AGAIN DEPENDS ON WHO PREDOMINATES-PEASANTS, ARTISANS AND SO ON...

SO, "ARY'S-THOUGHT-ALL" WAS THE FIRST TO REALISE THAT THE ECONOMIC SET-UP GIVES RISE TO SOCIAL INEQUALITIES. THOUGH IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT HE GAVE HIS O.K. TO SLAVERY BECAUSE IT WAS "NECESSARY" TO SOCIETY...



(Just as the slavery of women is justified because "NECESSARY" to the family...?)

ARISTOTLE FOUND PLATO'S IDEAS RIDICULOUS. HE CONSIDERED THE SENSES AS THE ONLY SOURCES OF TRUTH.



Seeing is believing...

HIS TEACHINGS ABOUT ETHICS WAS THAT THE GOAL OF LIFE WAS HAPPINESS. SO, HE ADMITTED THAT ANYONE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE MONEY OR POWER OR HONOUR WAS BOUND TO BE HAPPY...

(Those, first and foremost...)



THE FIRST PHILOSOPHICAL ENQUIRY WHICH THE YOUNG MARX STARTED ON, DEALS PRECISELY WITH THESE "GIANTS" OF GREEK THOUGHT. IT WAS THE SUBJECT OF HIS PH. D. THESIS AT UNIVERSITY

"On the Difference between the Natural Philosophy of Democritus and Epicurus..."



pnew!
It's hard!!



IF ANYONE CARES TO READ IT, (IT CAN BE FOUND IN SOME LIBRARY NEARBY) AND CAN DIGEST IT IN A FORTNIGHT, I'LL GUARANTEE HE'LL BE A REAL MASTER MIND... (OR A COMPLETE NUT-CASE IN A MONTH...)

PHILOSOPHY DOESN'T QUITE END HERE... EVEN IF IT DID ALMOST VANISH WITH THE APPEARANCE OF THE FALSE, BACKWARD CHRISTIANITY OF THE MIDDLE AGES...



(Knowledge becomes the slave of religious theology...)

NOT BY ACCIDENT, THIS UNBELIEVABLE EPOCH IS NAMED:

THE AGE OF FAITH

(AND BY 'FAITH' UNDERSTAND THE DENIAL OF ALL SCIENTIFIC REASONING)

DURING THIS PERIOD, AT ROME, A FEROCIOUS DICTATORSHIP WAS SET UP WHICH DECLARED ANYONE A "HERETIC" WHO DIDN'T THINK LIKE THE CHURCH... EVERY TRACE OF PHILOSOPHY DISAPPEARS FROM EUROPE WHEN THE "HOLY INQUISITION" LIGHTS THE EXECUTION FIRES...



...And next, we will try to define the sex of angels...

DURING THESE DARK TIMES, SCIENCE AND THOUGHT DID NOT DEVELOP EXCEPT OUTSIDE EUROPE, IN THE MUSLIM WORLD, WHERE MEN LIKE AVERROËS AND AVICENNA REFUTED THE BIBLE AS FALSE, OR AT BEST AS "SYMBOLIC TALES MEANT FOR IGNORANT FOLK"...



△ An illustration of 'Erasmus of Rotterdam' censored by the Spanish Inquisitors because he was a "heretic"

IN THE ABSENCE OF PROPER PHILOSOPHY, A FEW, WHO HAD NOTHING BETTER TO DO, PASSED THEIR TIME IN THEOLOGICAL QUIBBLES ABOUT WHETHER ANGELS HAD NAVELS, OR THE IMMORTALITY OF LOBSTERS, OR THE MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY TRINITY AND THE CHURCH. THOMAS OF AQUINO WAS ONE SUCH WORTHY FELLOW WHO WROTE

21 VOLUMES OF MENTAL GYMNASTICS TO DEFEND THE DOCTRINES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH...

*Quilicantur cui rī Dno nFib
Aplos q' ac dicit applica nichl expiffa et
b' quiffibz nīnībz org delicia quō dīcōz
alībz nīnībz a pōns exlōtīas a lū
grāz a rīnībz nīnībz dīcōz nīnībz*



(These are still studied today in Catholic seminaries...)



MACHIAVELLI (1469-1527) WAS THE FIRST TO COME ALONG AND ATTACK THE CHURCH AND PREACH REBELLION AGAINST THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE CLERGY...

The church has appropriated God for its own ends!



NOW BEGINS THE

RENAISSANCE

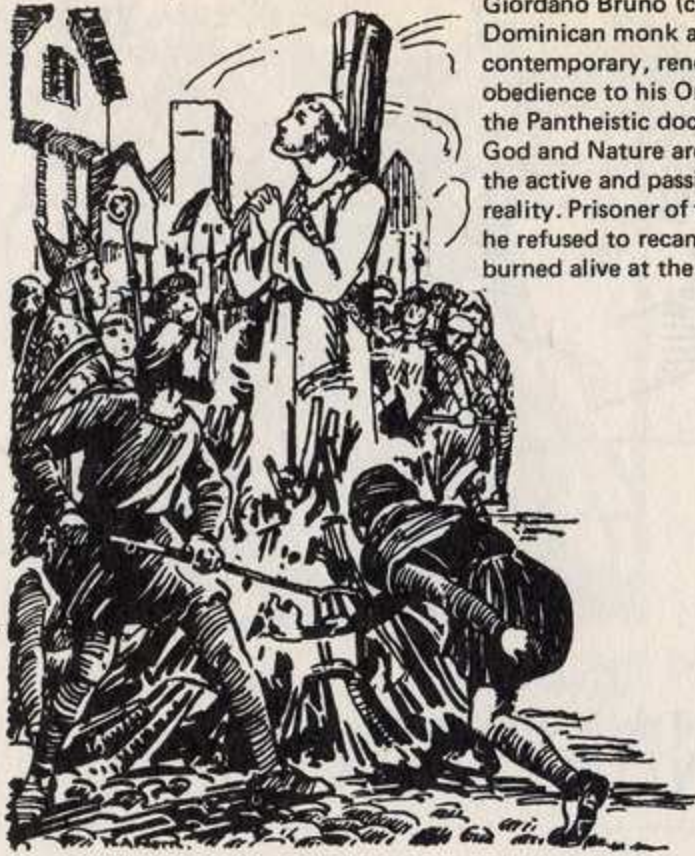
WHICH IS TO SAY - THE ALL-OUT COUNTER-ATTACK OF REASON AND SCIENCE AGAINST DOGMA, RELIGIOUS TYRANNY AND FANATICISM: AND IT SCORED AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR HUMANITY, THAT IS, FREEDOM OF THOUGHT...



I wonder why it is that the countries with the most nobles also have the most misery...?

BACON

THIS IS THE PERIOD
IN HUMAN HISTORY
WHEN FIRST-RATE
MINDS SUDDENLY
FLOWERED. PROOF OF
THE VICTORY OF MIND
OVER DARKNESS:
DANTE, PETRARCH,
DAVINCI, ERASMUS,
LUTHER, VICO,
COPERNICUS,
GALILEO, KEPLER,
NEWTON, BACON AND
GIORDANO BRUNO...



Giordano Bruno (c.1548-1600), a Dominican monk and Galileo's contemporary, renounced obedience to his Order to follow the Pantheistic doctrine whereby God and Nature are considered as the active and passive elements of reality. Prisoner of the Inquisition, he refused to recant and was burned alive at the stake in 1600.

ALL OF THEM ARE GUIDED BY ONE IDEA: SEEK THE TRUTH
INDEPENDENTLY OF THE CHURCH AND RELIGION.
BUT EACH ONE STAGGERED UNDER THE HEAVY YOKE
IMPOSED BY THE CHURCH...

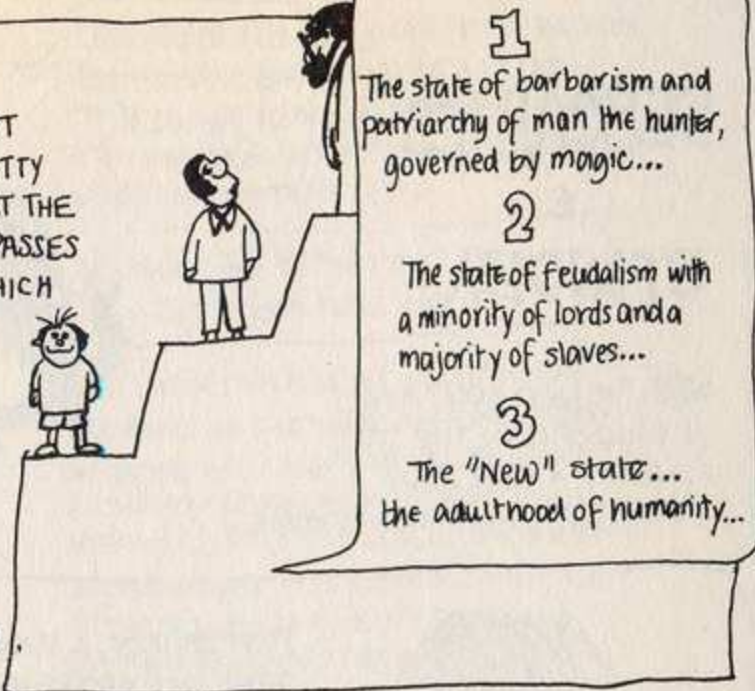
Reading through that list of
renowned names, you perhaps
wondered, 'who the devil is
VICO?'



"...Vico, Giambattista, a
Neapolitan philosopher
(1688-1744), author of
the 'Principles of New
Science Concerning the
Common Nature of
the Nations'..."

Mmmmm....

WELL, LET'S SEE!
THIS PHILOSOPHER FIRST
PROPOSED THE IDEA (PRETTY
BOLD FOR HIS TIME) THAT THE
HISTORY OF MANKIND PASSES
THROUGH 3 STAGES WHICH
CORRESPOND TO THE
3 STAGES OF
HUMAN LIFE:
INFANCY,
ADOLESCENCE &
ADULTHOOD... OR:



THE IDEA ISN'T ESPECIALLY REMARKABLE IN ITSELF, EXCEPT FOR TWO DETAILS:
ONE, THAT VICO MAINTAINED IT DESPITE THE FEUDAL SOCIETY AROUND HIM,
AND TWO, THAT HE SPOKE FOR THE FIRST TIME OF AN EVOLUTION OF SOCIETY
TOWARDS DEMOCRACY THROUGH
CLASS-STRUGGLE...

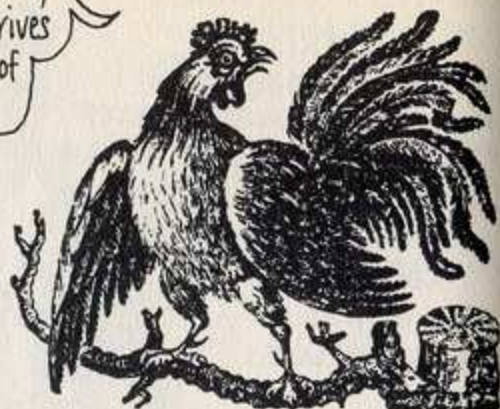


CERTAINLY, HIS MISTAKE WAS TO END HIS EVOLUTION HERE AND ASSUME
THE BOURGEOIS STATE WOULDN'T BE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER,
BUT ONLY THAT HISTORY WOULD START ALL OVER AGAIN FROM A
FIRST PHASE ON A NEW CYCLE OF EVOLUTION...

DESCARTES & SPINOZA

WERE THE NEXT GREAT ADEPTS OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE XVII CENTURY, A TIME STILL DOMINATED BY THE CHURCH OF ROME...

With these two, mankind arrives at the use of Reason



POSSESSED OF A TRULY SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT, RENÉ DESCARTES WRESTLED HARD TO EXPLAIN THINGS FROM A MATERIALISTIC POINT OF VIEW, REASONING ABOUT THE NATURE OF THINGS, AND AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO PROVE GOD'S EXISTENCE...

"All things we can conceive of clearly and distinctly, exist..."

THE CARTESIAN SYSTEM ("I THINK, THEREFORE I AM") WAS PART MATERIALIST, PART IDEALIST. HE BELIEVED THE HUMAN BEING WAS ONLY A MACHINE, BUT WITH A SOUL... AND HE EVEN LOCATED IT SPECIFICALLY: THE SOUL WAS HIDDEN IN THE PINEAL GLAND INSIDE THE BRAIN...



DESCARTES INTRODUCES US TO A MECHANISTIC CONCEPT OF THE WORLD. LATER WE'LL SEE WHAT THIS IS AND WHETHER IT'S EDIBLE...



SPINOZA LIVED A LONELY LIFE, FIRST BECAUSE HE WAS A JEW, AND SECOND BECAUSE HE STOPPED BEING ONE AND TURNED ATHEIST... SPINOZA PROCLAIMED SOMETHING COMPLETELY UNTHINKABLE IN THOSE DAYS:

Man is free to think and believe as his reason tells him

GOD DOESN'T EXIST IN THE WAY RELIGION PREACHES, BUT - SPINOZA AFFIRMED - ONLY AS AN IMPERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL "PRINCIPLE", AS A SUBSTANCE WHICH CONSTITUTES THE REALITY OF THE UNIVERSE... (PANTHEISM BELIEVES EVERYTHING IS GOD). THAT'S WHY SPINOZA LIVED IN POVERTY, POLISHING EYE-GLASS LENSES FOR A LIVING...

BUT ALL THESE SEMI-ATHEIST, MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHERS HAD ONE FLAW: THEY PLACED TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE IN SCIENCE. THEY STARTED FROM THE ASSUMPTION THAT MAN IS PART OF NATURE (TRUE) AND THAT HUMAN RELATIONS ARE REGULATED BY THE SAME LAW WHICH APPLIES TO ALL OTHER NATURAL EVENTS (FALSE)

WHY IS THAT WRONG?

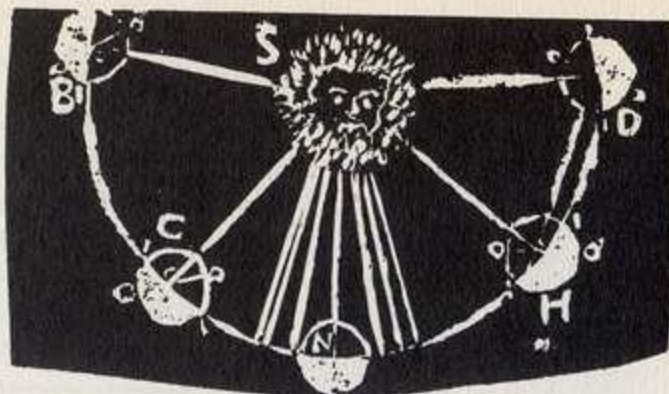


BECAUSE DESCARTES AND SPINOZA AND THEIR FOLLOWERS WERE WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT NATURE DOESN'T CHANGE, DOESN'T EVOLVE, AND THAT IT OBEYS ONLY ETERNAL AND UNCHANGING LAWS.

Let's see how Diderot thought of it...

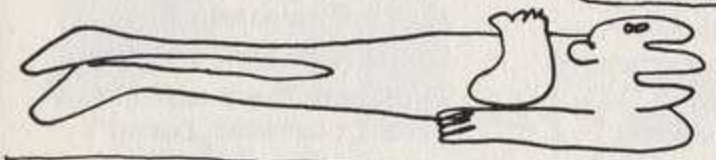


"Astronomy has demonstrated that planets move in defined orbits which repeat themselves at their point of origin..."



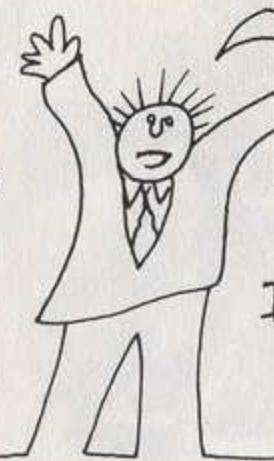
DIDEROT (AMONG OTHERS) CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE UNIVERSE AND HUMANITY HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE SAME. NEITHER HAD EVER UNDERGONE EVOLUTIONS, BUT BOTH WENT ON REPEATING THEMSELVES IN THE SAME CYCLES OF LIFE AND DEATH...

(These were - as we'll soon see - metaphysical and mechanistic concepts)...



Oh no! not more of that again!!

IN THEIR EYES, THE PEOPLE HAD NO EXISTENCE. ONLY "HEROES" EXISTED (KINGS, CAPTAINS, PROPHETS AND PHILOSOPHERS) WHO ACTED AS LEADERS. THESE WERE THE "DRIVING FORCE" OF HISTORY. CLEOPATRA'S NOSE - OR HER BEHIND - HAD MORE EFFECT ON HISTORY THAN ALL THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT PUT TOGETHER...



... and so if man isn't the master of his own destiny, but the plaything of a series of haphazard causes...

I'D LIKE TO...!

TO CONTINUE WITH THE PHILOSOPHY BEFORE MARX, WE RUN ACROSS THE

EMPIRICISM OF LOCKE, BERKELEY AND HUME

LOCKE (JOHN)

AN ENGLISHMAN WHO OPPOSED THE "DIVINE RIGHT" OF KINGS, THE INFALLIBILITY (ABSOLUTE TRUTH) OF RELIGION AND THE DOGMAS OF THE CHURCH... HE'S ALSO ANOTHER MATERIALIST-ATHEIST...



"... NO MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO MORE FROM ANOTHER BECAUSE WE ARE ALL EQUAL, OF THE SAME SPECIES AND CONDITION, EQUAL AMONGST OURSELVES, WITH EQUAL RIGHT TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF NATURE..."

LOCKE HAD THE IDEA THAT MEN WERE FREE TO THINK OF GOD IN THEIR OWN WAY, NOT AS ANY RELIGION TOLD THEM TO... THIS WAS A BIG BRICK ON THE HEADS OF PRIESTS, AND AN IDEALIST PHILOSOPHER, GEORGE BERKELEY, AN ANGLICAN BISHOP, TRIED TO REFUTE LOCKE'S THEORIES, BUT DIDN'T SUCCEED BECAUSE ANOTHER PHILOSOPHER CAME TO HIS DEFENCE...



DAVID HUME (1711-1776)

... AGNOSTIC PHILOSOPHER (BEING SOMEONE WHO DEFENDS THE IDEA THAT NOTHING IS CERTAIN). HUME SCANDALIZED ALL OF BRITAIN WITH HIS ANTI-RELIGIOUS IDEAS, AND SO HE HAD TO PACK UP FOR FRANCE, WHICH RECEIVED HIM A LOT MORE WARMLY...

FRANCE WAS A REAL HIVE OF THE MOST ADVANCED IDEAS. A WIDESPREAD REBELLION HAD BROKEN OUT AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF THE CLERGY AND THE MONARCHY WHICH FINALLY CULMINATED IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND THE TRIUMPH OF **Reason** OVER RELIGION

Names!!
C'mon! Out with 'em!



Sure...
Voltaire, Rousseau,
Diderot, Montesquieu,
Robespierre, Danton...



OF COURSE, THE FRENCH REVOLUTION DID MORE TO SPREAD POLITICAL IDEAS (SUCH AS LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY) THAN PHILOSOPHICAL ONES. FOLLOWING ITS EXAMPLE, OTHER PARTS OF AMERICA FOUGHT TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM EUROPE... AND EUROPE FROM THE POPE...



These ideas
liberated the world
from the chains of
religion...

(and with this liberation
came the flowering
of new sciences...)

Critic
...
reinen Vernunft

Immanuel Kant
Bibliol. in Leipzig



8 1/2 B.
verlegt Johann Gottlob Zschweig
1781

AS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF 17TH CENTURY MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHY, AN IDEALIST VARIETY NOW AROSE, AND ITS GREAT CHAMPION WAS IMMANUEL **KANT**

(GERMAN, 1724-1804)

HIS MOST TALKED ABOUT WORK IS THE "CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON" WHICH COST HIM 15 YEARS OF CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF HUMAN THOUGHT. AMONG THE MANY OTHER COMPLEX POINTS BROUGHT UP IN HIS STUDY, KANT MAKES THESE:

"Every intent, whether scientific or religious, to define reality is nothing other than pure hypothesis..."

"Every attempt to apprehend transcendental knowledge is vain, since for every thesis the mind produces, one can oppose an equally valid anti-thesis..."

"It is impossible to prove the existence of God through any normal means..."



KANT WAS CERTAIN THAT THERE CANNOT BE MORALITY WITHOUT SOME BELIEF IN GOD OR IMMORTALITY, AND SO THIS OBLIGED ONE TO PRESUPPOSE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD AS A NECESSITY...

(IF WHAT WE'VE SAID SO FAR ISN'T CLEAR, DON'T WORRY. THIS HAPPENED IN THE DAYS OF "PURE" PHILOSOPHY WHICH NO ONE UNDERSTOOD OR TOOK ANY NOTICE OF EITHER...)



THE POINT OF OUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN TO ARRIVE HERE — AT GERMAN IDEALIST PHILOSOPHY, SINCE THIS WAS ALSO MARX'S STARTING POINT. SCHELLING, FICHTE AND HEGEL WERE ITS CHIEF EXPONENTS. BECAUSE OF THEM, PHILOSOPHY MAKES A GREAT LEAP FORWARD AND RECOVERS THE BEST OF GREEK PHILOSOPHY — THE DIALECTIC OR THE IDEA OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT...

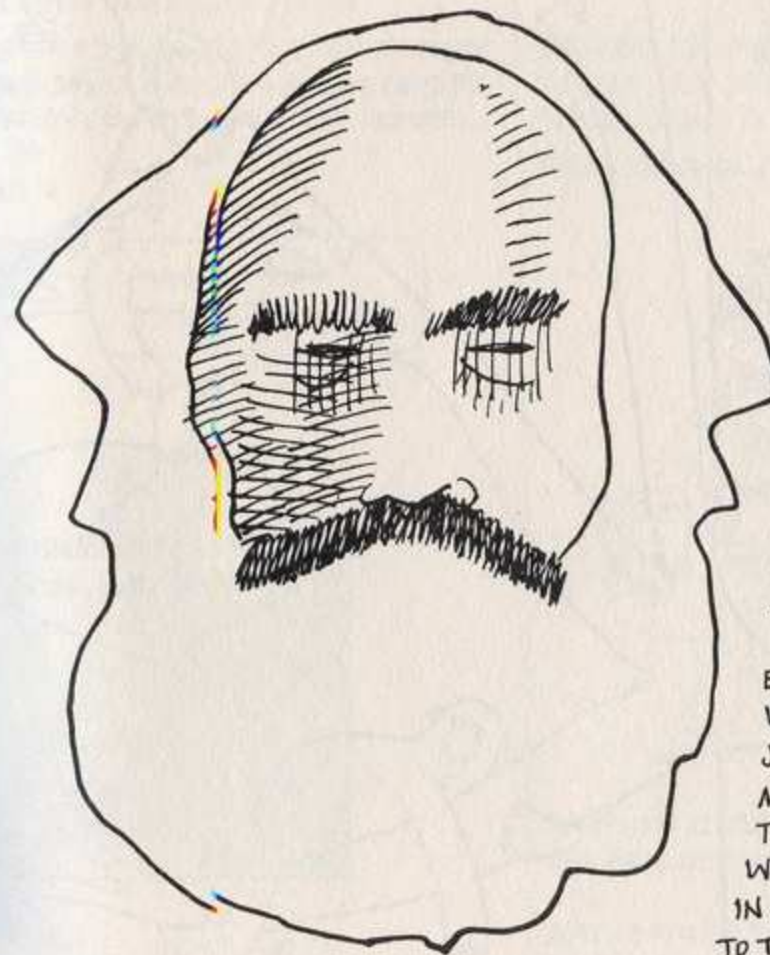
Metaphysics,
dialectics,
mechanistics,
materialism,
idealism...
hey!
cut it out,
will you!

Yeah!
we're all
going nuts!

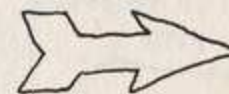


RIGHT!
MARX ALSO THOUGHT SO. PHILOSOPHY HAD BECOME A STRAJTJACKET OF JARGON AND MIDDLES, IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE OUT HEADS OR TAILS. MARX SET HIMSELF THE JOB OF UNRAVELLING THIS CAT'S-CRADLE AND BEGIN MAKING PHILOSOPHY INTO AN EXACT SCIENCE, WITH LESS FUZZY SUPPOSITIONS, AND SO GIVE IT THE PRACTICAL MEANS TO **TRANSFORM** THE WORLD...

"PHILOSOPHERS HAVE ONLY INTERPRETED THE WORLD, IN VARIOUS WAYS; THE POINT IS TO CHANGE IT."
(Marx: XI Theses on Feuerbach')



SO LET'S
PROCEED...



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN WITH CHARLIE MARX IN TRYING TO FATHOM THE WORLD HE LIVED IN AND STRUGGLED TO TRANSFORM...

"The teaching of Marx is all-powerful because it is true"...



LENIN

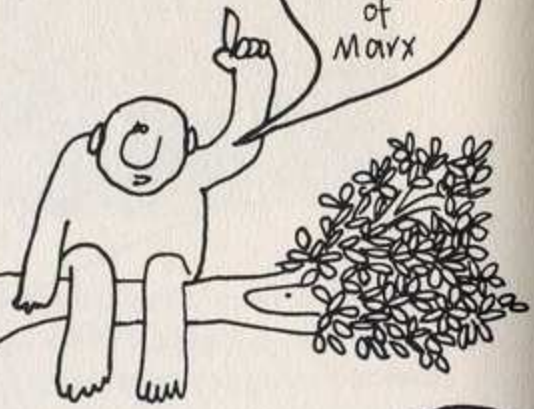
NATURALLY, YOU CAN'T EXPECT THIS LITTLE BOOK OF MINE TO EXPOUND ALL OF MARX'S THEORY, WHICH IS A VAST OCEAN TO SWIM IN.

THE BEST THING TO DO IS SUM UP AND DIVIDE THE BASICS OF MARXISM INTO

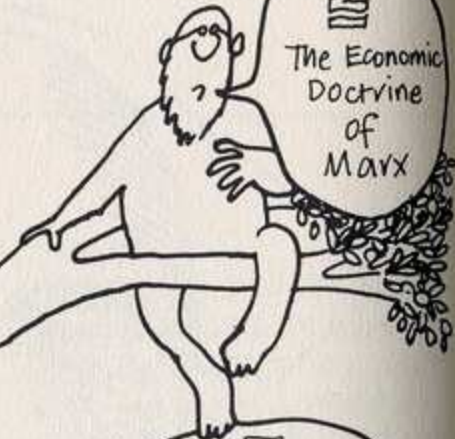
3

MAIN BRANCHES...

1
The Philosophy of Marx



2
The Economic Doctrine of Marx

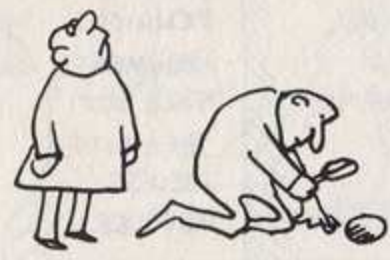


3
The Historical Materialism of Henry Marx



AS WE'VE ALREADY SEEN, THE PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS OF MAN ARE OF TWO KINDS:

IDEALIST AND MATERIALIST



IDEALISM STARTS BY ASSUMING THE EXISTENCE OF SUPER-NATURAL AND DIVINE FORCES...

MATERIALISM CONSIDERS THAT THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND NATURAL THINGS...

IDEALISM IMAGINES THINGS, PRESUPPOSES THE EXISTENCE OF SPIRITS, "IDEALISES" EVERYTHING, BUT DOESN'T OFFER PROOFS FOR WHAT IT PROPOSES...

MATERIALISM, INSTEAD, DOESN'T IDEALISE, BUT SEEKS THE SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS OF THINGS - INCLUDING EVEN RELIGION...

FAITH BY ITSELF IS ENOUGH TO GO ON



(... WHICH IS LIKE TRYING TO KNOW WHAT SUGAR TASTES LIKE WITHOUT SAMPLING IT...)

Or to put it more simply...



IDEALISTS EXPLAIN THINGS TO THEMSELVES THROUGH RELIGION...

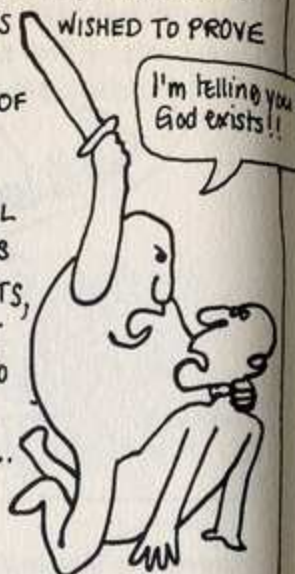
MATERIALISTS EXPLAIN WHAT'S WHAT ON THE BASIS OF SCIENCE...

RIGHT AT THE START OF HIS PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES, MARX JOINED FORCES WITH MATERIALISM. BUT HE DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE LIFE'S WORK TO GIVING IT MORE CONSISTENCY AND SCIENTIFIC CHARACTER...



Why?
Because before Marx, materialists were content to deny God's existence. Period!
An' that's that...

"BY GOD'S GRACE", THE MAJORITY OF ATHEISTS WISHED TO PROVE THE NON-EXISTENCE OF GOD BY STARTING THE USUAL RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTS, WHICH GOT THEM INTO USELESS MUDDLES...



IN THE XVII AND XVIII CENTURIES, THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES WERE MADE IN THE AREAS OF THE MATHEMATICS AND MECHANICS OF CELESTIAL BODIES. AND SO, MATERIALISM BECAME "MECHANISTIC"...

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHERS EXAMINED BOTH NATURE AND SOCIAL LIFE FROM A MECHANICAL POINT OF VIEW...



And that's why Diderot, Descartes and others are called "mechanists"...



BASING THEMSELVES ON MECHANICS, WHICH IN THOSE DAYS WAS THE HEIGHT OF SCIENCE, THE PHILOSOPHERS IMAGINED THAT THE SAME MECHANICAL LAWS COULD BE APPLIED AUTOMATICALLY TO LIFE AND TO NATURE...



Nature is immutable, subject to the cause and effect of rotary motion like machines... *

* THIS PHILOSOPHICAL CRITERION IS CALLED METAPHYSICAL

WHY METAPHYSICAL??

METAPHYSICS, FROM THE GREEK, "PLACED BEYOND PHYSICS".*

IN METAPHYSICS, THINGS ARE UNCHANGING (I.E. IMMUTABLE), GIVEN ONCE, AND FOR ALL, WITHOUT INTER-RELATIONSHIP, AND HENCE MAY BE EXAMINED INDEPENDENTLY, ONE FROM THE OTHER

HEGEL'S DISCIPLE, FEUERBACH REASONED LIKE THIS:

... nature augments only in quantity while always remaining the same...



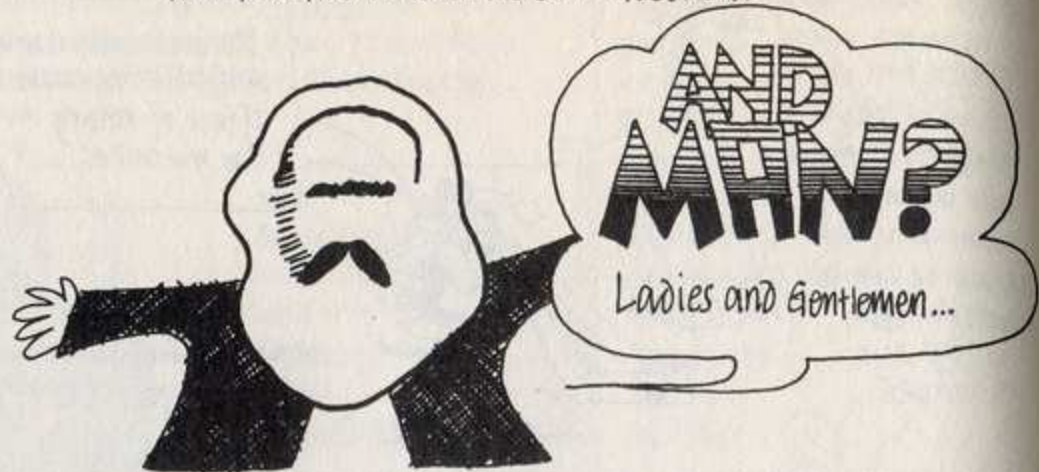
(THOSE WHO THOUGHT LIKE THIS ABOUT NATURE, COULD THINK THE SAME WAY ABOUT SOCIETY TOO. SOCIETY CHANGES VERY LITTLE FOR THE METAPHYSICIAN, EXCEPT BY REPEATING ITSELF MECHANICALLY, E.G. WARS, HUNGER, GOVERNMENTS ETC...)

* ORIGINALLY, THOSE WORKS OF ARISTOTLE PLACED AFTER HIS "PHYSICS"

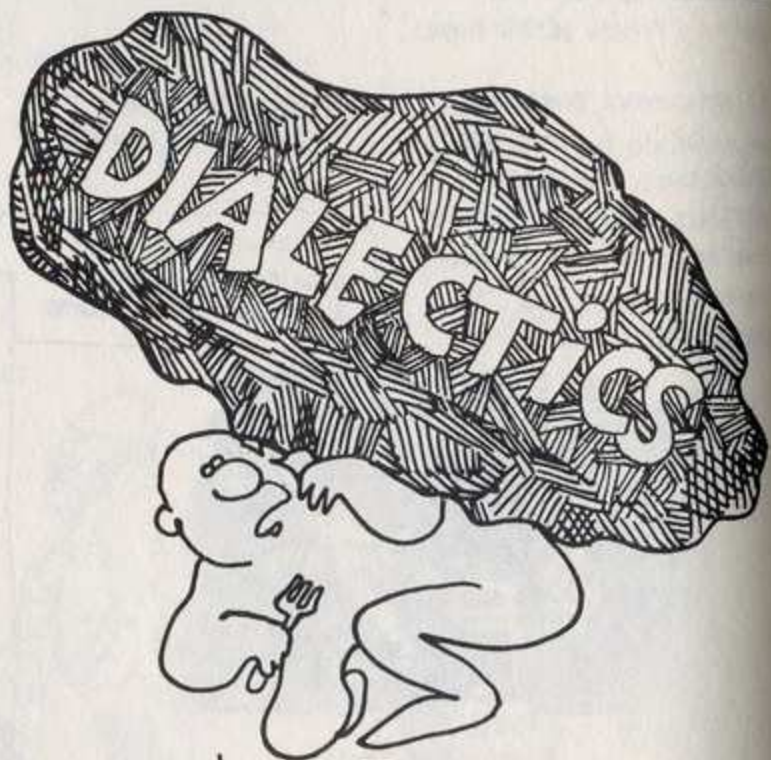


and mankind really can't do anything to change things?

HAVING RECOGNISED THE ERROR OF THE MATERIALISTS AND METAPHYSICIANS,
 MARX ASKED HIMSELF THE SAME QUESTION:



LET'S LEAVE GOD OUT OF IT, AND ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO DRIVE THEMSELVES
 CRAZY ASKING WHETHER HE EXISTS OR NOT—SO CHARLIE SAID—AND LET'S LOOK
 AT MAN AND HIS ROLE IN THE WORLD. HOW IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE THAT NOTHING
 CHANGES?...



INSTEAD OF THE
 USUAL MECHANISTIC
 NOTION OF NATURE
 AND HUMANITY, MARX
 AND ENGELS SET OUT
 A THEORY OF
 DEVELOPMENT—OR—
 A RETURN TO
 DIALECTICS

supposing it's edible...
 how do you cook it?

DIALECTICS:
 from the Greek,
 "dialogue", to argue,
 to contend



WAY BACK IN ANCIENT TIMES, SOME
 PHILOSOPHERS HAD ALREADY APPLIED THIS STRATEGY
 TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH, A SYSTEM OF
 ARGUMENT WHICH BRINGS OUT THE CONTRADICTIONS
 IN YOUR
 OPPONENTS
 REASONING...



RELIGION (CATHOLICISM ESPECIALLY)
 OPPOSED DIALECTICS BECAUSE IT DIDN'T
 PERMIT ARGUMENT. THINGS WERE
 JUST AS THE BIBLE SAID—AND NO
 DISCUSSION...



(...or else you
 discussed it
 with me!)

KANT AND HEGEL BEGAN TO RE-EMPLOY
 THE DIALECTIC METHOD.
 BUT HEGEL NEVER BROUGHT IT DOWN
 TO EARTH; AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS:

"... HIS HORIZON WAS FUNDAMENTALLY
 RESTRICTED BY THE KNOWLEDGE AND
 CONCEPTS CURRENT IN HIS DAY.
 ONE SHOULD ADD THAT HEGEL WAS AN
 IDEALIST, AND FOR HIM, THE IDEAS WERE
 NOT MORE OR LESS ABSTRACT IMAGES
 OF OBJECTS; ON THE CONTRARY, THINGS
 AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT WERE A
 PROJECTION OF IDEAS WHICH HAD
 EXISTED, NO ONE CAN SAY HOW,
 EVEN BEFORE THE WORLD ITSELF
 EXISTED. HEGEL'S SYSTEM WAS A
 GIANTIC MISCARRIAGE, BUT THE
 LAST OF ITS KIND. WHILE ON ONE
 HAND IT AFFIRMS A FORMULA
 ESSENTIAL TO THE CONCEPT OF
 HISTORY, ACCORDING TO WHICH HUMAN
 HISTORY IS A PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT
 WHICH CANNOT, GIVEN ITS NATURE...



IN ESSENCE:



HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY CONTAINS LOTS OF VALUABLE IDEAS, SUCH AS HIS THEORY OF ETERNAL MOTION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL SPIRIT, AND ESPECIALLY HIS METHOD OF

Dialectics

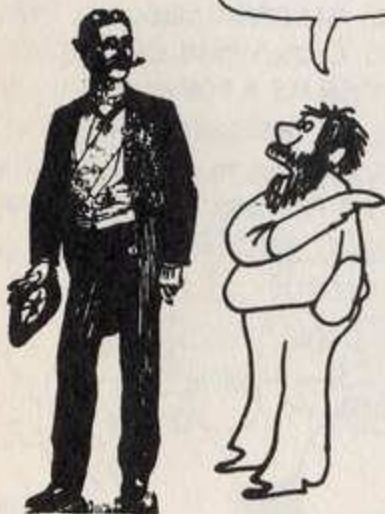
HE WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THE LAW OF DIALECTICS GOVERNS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRIT (MIND). BUT HE DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH AND APPLY IT TO NATURE AND SOCIETY...!

Berlin 12 of Nov. 1832.

*Ma très cher ami,
C'est un véritable honneur qui me force la main pour avoir une lettre qui l'introduise auprès de Vous. Vous*

What's all this?

Well... Just look



FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE DIALECTICAL METHOD, NOTHING IS ETERNAL OR UNCHANGING... BUT IN SPITE OF THIS HEGEL DENIES THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURE AND SOCIETY. THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS CONTRADICTION IN HIS USE OF THE METHOD...

Now how's about an example even I can understand!



HEGEL (AND I'LL TRY HARD TO BE CLEAR) WAS AN IDEALIST. "THE ESSENCE OF REALITY," HE SAID, "ISN'T MATERIAL, BUT SPIRITUAL (OR MENTAL), AND IS THEREFORE INDEPENDENT AND THUS FREE..."

Great! Now explain that...!

Sure! Hegel says that you can feel free even in chains...



HEGEL'S ADVICE TO ANY WORKER EXPLOITED BY HIS BOSS WOULD BE: DON'T WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT MATERIAL OPPRESSION, BUT ONLY ABOUT THE "SPIRITUAL" KIND. BY OBEYING THE STATE (GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE ON EARTH) YOU WILL FIND HAPPINESS AND FREEDOM (OF THE SPIRIT...)

TODAY, HEGEL'S IDEAS SEEM ABSURD. BUT IN HIS DAY, THEY SOUNDED PRETTY DARING AND THEY WERE ATTACKED JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE (IN THEIR OWN WAY) DIALECTICAL...

Dialectic... yes, but idealist...

What the 'ell's he saying?



THIS LED MARX TO SAY THAT HEGEL'S METHOD WAS "INVERTED", UPSIDE-DOWN, AND IT NEEDED TO BE STOOD ON ITS FEET AGAIN...

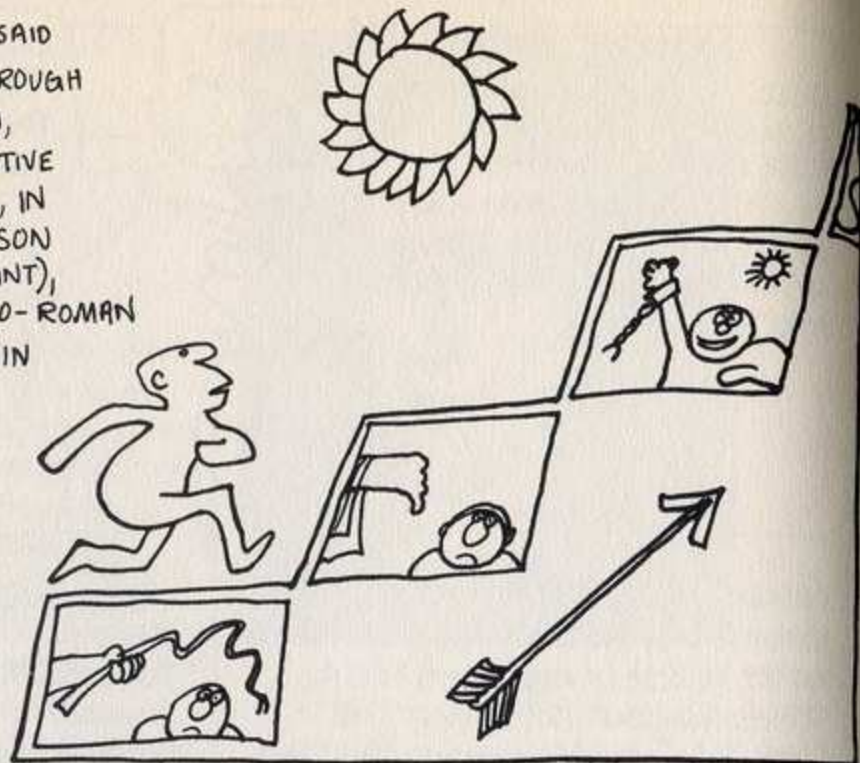
...in short, to make it Materialist...

But what does Hegel's theory say about Development?



Well, Let's take it step by step:

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT- SAID
HEGEL- HAD GONE THROUGH
CONSTANT EVOLUTION,
STARTING WITH PRIMITIVE
ORIENTAL DESPOTISM, IN
WHICH ONLY ONE PERSON
WAS FREE (THE TYRANT),
AND NEXT THE GRAECO- ROMAN
ARISTOCRATIC SYSTEM IN
WHICH MANY MORE
WERE FREE...



LATER STILL, SLAVERY AND SERFDOM DISAPPEARED, AND EVEN MORE
PEOPLE WERE FREE... AFTER THE HOLY ROMAN- GERMAN EMPIRE,
FEUDALISM, MONARCHY, THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, AND FINALLY WITH THE
PRUSSIAN STATE HUMANITY REACHES (ACCORDING TO HEGEL, ANYWAY)

ABSOLUTE
LIBERTY



My, I do like this
chap Hegel.
Give him the
National Award.



PRUSSIA HAD AN EMPEROR, AN ARMY, A VERY RICH CHURCH AND SOME BIG
LANDOWNERS. THE PEOPLE WORKED FOR THEM, WITHOUT BEING SLAVES MAYBE, BUT
OPPRESSED ENOUGH. HEGEL DIDN'T NOTICE THIS OPPRESSION. HE IMAGINED ABSOLUTE
LIBERTY EXISTED JUST BECAUSE SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED...

WHAT WAS REALLY
HAPPENING WAS
THAT FEUDALISM HAD
GRADUALLY GIVEN
WAY TO
CAPITALISM
A MORE MODERN
AND SUBTLER
FORM OF
EXPLOITATION.



... Doctor Hegel
didn't take any
notice of this...

But
MARX
did!!

HEGEL WENT ON
TALKING ABOUT HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT WHILE
DENYING IT, BECAUSE
HE CLAIMED THE
PRUSSIAN STATE HAD
BEGUN TO ACHIEVE
THIS DEVELOPMENT
ALREADY. SO HE
TOO SINKS BACK
INTO
METAPHYSICS...



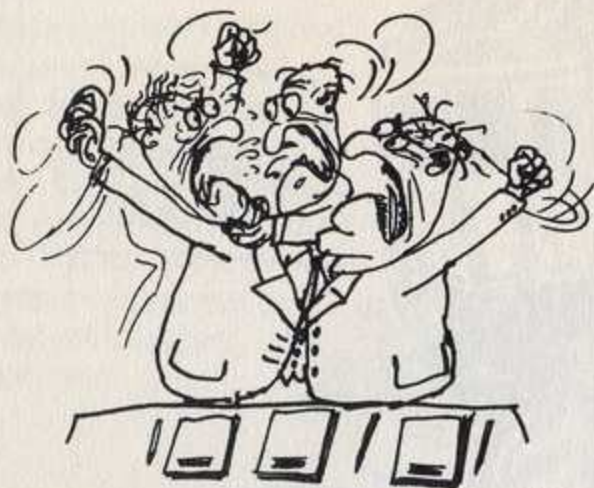
... Isn't that
just like a
Government
Minister!!

HEGEL'S ARGUMENTS REMAIN VALID AND
DIALECTICAL, EVEN THOUGH MISTAKENLY APPLIED
BY HIM TO REALITY... LET'S SEE, FOR INSTANCE,
WHAT HE MAKES OF THE
"CONFLICT BETWEEN CONTRARIES"...



"Each thing is a combination
of contraries because it is
made up of elements which,
although linked together, at
the same time eliminate
one another..."

DON'T HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
YET! THERE'S AN EXAMPLE COMING:



SOCIETY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS A COMBINATION OF CONTRARIES (THE RICH AND WELL-OFF VERSUS THE POOR AND MISERABLE) HITCHED TOGETHER, YES, BUT OPPOSED...



If ya wanna stick with me, TOIL, man, TOIL!!

WITH VERY GOOD REASON, HEGEL SAID THAT WHAT MAKES HUMANITY EVOLVE IS THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN CONTRARIES. THE TRIUMPH OF ONE OVER THE OTHER PRODUCES CHANGE...

But this dialectical law wasn't supposed to apply to REALITY...



FUNNY, HOW IN HEGEL'S PRUSSIAN STATE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN CONTRARIES WASN'T GOING TO LEAD TO TRANSFORMATION, BUT RATHER AN IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY. THIS SUITED HEGEL, NATURALLY... THAT'S WHY!...

AT THIS POINT, MARX STEPS IN TO PUT HEGEL (AND HIS METHOD) THE RIGHT WAY UP...



HEGEL



... Between real contraries, such as capital and labour, no reconciliation is possible.

Is that clear...?

IF HEGEL'S DIALECTICAL METHOD INFLUENCED MARX, LUDWIG FEUERBACH (PRONOUNCED "FOY-ER-BACK") TURNED HIM INTO A MATERIALIST.

BUT MARX TOOK OVER FEUERBACH'S THEORY AND CHANGED IT...

What did this bloke Foy-er-back say and how did Marx change it?



FEUERBACH, A DISCIPLE OF THE IDEALIST HEGEL, GAVE UP HEGELIAN IDEALISM TO SWITCH OVER TO MATERIALISM, BUT OF A METAPHYSICAL BRAND, BECAUSE HE SAWNATURE (AND SOCIETY TOO) SUNK IN SLEEP, MOTIVE-AND-MOTIONLESS, WITH NO IMMEDIATE CHANCE FOR CHANGE **THAT IS:**



Hegel was dialectical, but idealist... Feuerbach was materialist, but metaphysical (non-dialectical)

IT WAS UP TO MARX TO RE-SHUFFLE THE DECK: TO AMALGAMATE THE THE BEST OF THIS ONE AND THAT ONE AND COME UP WITH HIS OWN FAMOUS, UNIQUE VARIETY OF

DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

(Dialectics by G.W.F. Hegel and Materialism by L. Feuerbach)

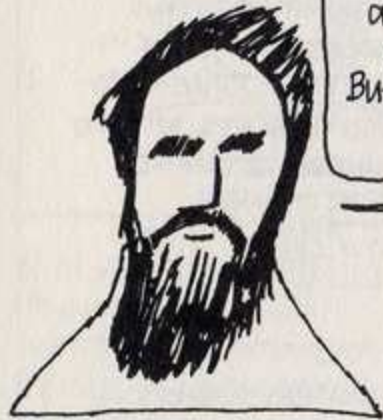
oargh! Marx made a merger

No! He improved, corrected and enriched them...



AS WE'VE NOTED, HEGEL DIDN'T SEE OR DIDN'T WISH TO SEE THE EXPLOITATION OF THE MAJORITY BY A MINORITY OF THE PRIVILEGED RICH. HERE'S THE FIRST QUESTION THE YOUNG MARX ASKED HIMSELF...

Work alienates the worker... But how and why?

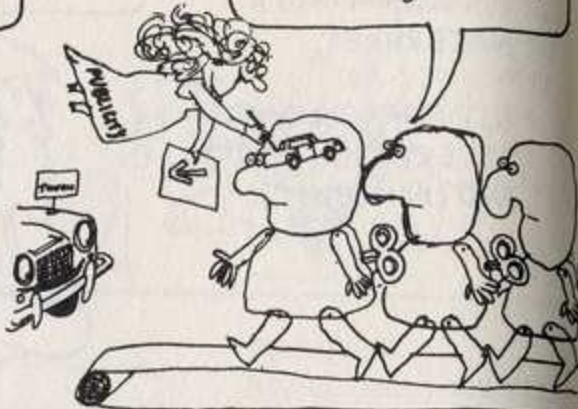


UNFREE LABOUR, (IE WHAT'S DONE FOR A BOSS) MAY EARN THE WORKER A WAGE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT "ALIENATES" HIM. IT DEPRIVES HIM OF SOMETHING WHICH GOES INTO THE BOSS'S POCKET.

But is this "something" money or what?



(ALIENATION means 'to distract; to seize possession of something, to extort from others what belongs to them'.)



IN HIS FIRST WORK, MARX BEGINS TO INVESTIGATE ALIENATION - OR BETTER, THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ALIENATION: POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC



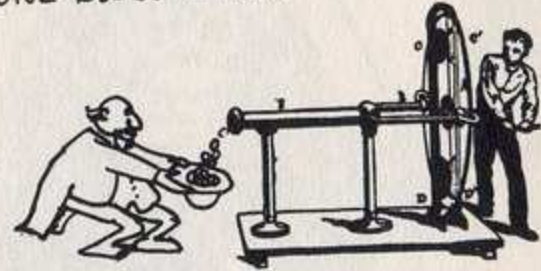
This work's called "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844"

Marx wonders: where does the product of the workingman's labour end up?



BY HIS LABOUR, A WORKER MAKES SOMETHING (CLOTH, MACHINERY, TYRES, BOOKS, HOUSES...). BUT THIS OBJECT, BY THE FACT OF REMAINING THE BOSS'S PROPERTY, TURNS HEY PRESTO! INTO MERCHANDISE (A COMMODITY)...

LABOUR OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T PRODUCE THINGS FOR THE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT OF THE WORKER WHO MAKES THEM. RATHER, IT IS GRIST FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S MILL...



Alienation begins with the worker being squeezed dry...

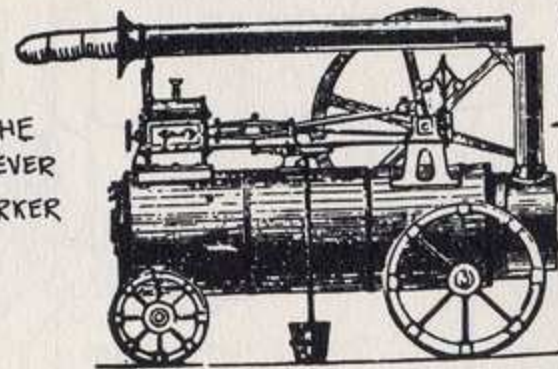
"...THE ALIENATION OF THE WORKER IS EXPRESSED THUS: THE MORE HE PRODUCES, THE LESS HE CAN CONSUME; THE MORE VALUE HE CREATES, THE LESS VALUE HE HAS... LABOUR PRODUCES FABULOUS THINGS FOR THE RICH, BUT MISERY FOR THE POOR, MACHINES REPLACE LABOUR, AND JOBS DIMINISH, WHILE OTHER WORKERS TURN INTO MACHINES..."

(Marx: "Manuscripts of 1844")

(This is how alienation makes its victims...)

ALIENATION NOT ONLY DEGRADES MAN, BUT ALSO DE-PERSONALISES HIM. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

MARX STATES: THE BOSS IMPOSES THE KIND OF WORK, THE METHOD AND THE RHYTHM, BUT HE NEVER BOTHERS IF THE WORKER ENDS UP AS:



A mere appendage of flesh on a machine of iron...

(Marx)

MARX GOES EVEN FURTHER AND AFFIRMS: THE COMBINED MEANS OF PRODUCTION NOW IN EXISTENCE HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE LABOUR OF PREVIOUS GENERATIONS WHO HAVE THOUGHT, CREATED AND GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO ATTAIN SOMETHING...

So? Who owns the inventions of Galileo, Newton, Leonardo, and thousands of others?



IS IT RIGHT THAT ALL OF THIS SHOULD REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE FEW? THAT THE INVENTION AND LABOUR OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS SHOULD BE THE EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE OF THE WEALTHY FEW? NO, IT'S NOT RIGHT!



NO ENTRY PRIVATE PROPERTY

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION IS THE MAXIMUM FORM OF ALIENATION...

"SOCIAL POTENTIAL HAS BECOME THE PRIVATE POWER OF THE FEW." MARX ALSO SUBMITS: THE LABOUR OF THE MANY TRANSFORMS ITSELF INTO THE CAPITAL OF A PRIVILEGED FEW.

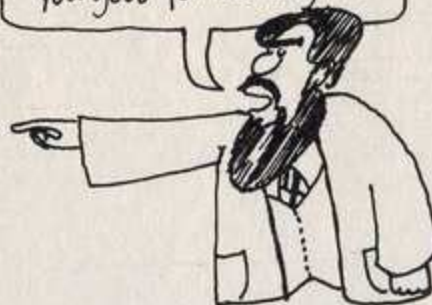
THE ROOTS OF CAPITALISM



AND SO - MARX CONCLUDES - THE DEEPEST ESSENCE OF MAN, HIS CREATIVE ACT, HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A POSSESSION...



"The less you are, the more you'll have. To have more, you must alienate yourself. You good-for-nothing!!!"



THE WORKER'S LABOUR BECOMES MERCHANDISE IN THE HANDS OF THE OWNER, DEAD LABOUR, POSSESSION, WEALTH, AND THE GREATER THE CAPITALIST'S PROPERTY BECOMES, THE MORE IMPOVERISHED THE WORKER'S BEING...

Which changes into a thing...

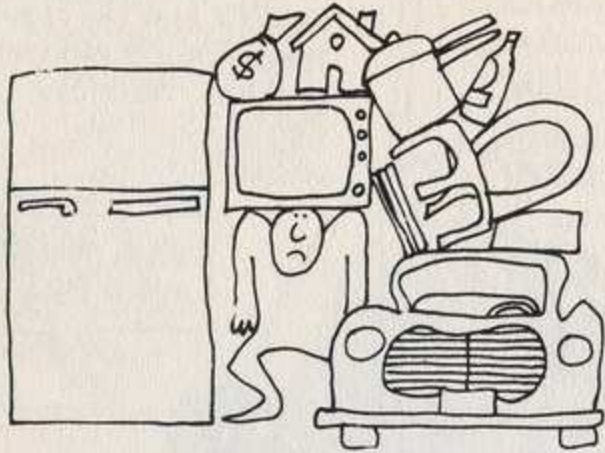


THAT BLESSED "LIBERTY" HEGEL TALKED ABOUT, JUST DOESN'T EXIST. MONEY OBLIGES THOSE WHO HAVEN'T GOT ANY, TO SELL THEMSELVES BODY AND SOUL - THAT IS, TO SELL THEIR LABOUR-POWER (WORKER, PEASANT, INTELLECTUAL)... THIS IS ALIENATION:

EXPLOITATION...



TO POSSESS POSSESSIONS, A MAN WILL "SELL HIMSELF" TO HAVE WHAT ANOTHER HAS. BUT IT NEVER DAWNS ON HIM ~ THAT THE MORE HE GETS, THE LESS HE KEEPS OF HIMSELF...



This guy too aspires to own property. The purpose of his life is to possess more and more and more and...

Bye-bye homo sapiens...



THE COUNTLESS EVILS OF THE WORLD STEM FROM THE "DEFENCE" OF PRIVATE PROPERTY: THE EVILS OF ENVY, WAR, EGOTISM, CRIME, INJUSTICE, THE MISERY OF THE MASSES AND LUXURY FOR THE VERY FEW...

I have a hunch that this fellow Marx is going to cause us many a headache...



HOW CAN THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS BE CHANGED?



In no way!! Who's going to tangle with the rich, the powerful, the church...?

MARX SINGLED OUT THE EXISTENCE OF A "NEW" CLASS:

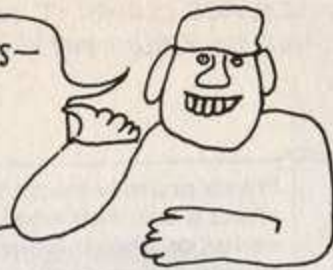
The Proletariat

WHICH CAME TO LIFE WITH THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WHEN MACHINES BEGAN REPLACING THE CRAFTSMEN OF THE PAST...



a proletarian: someone at the beck and call of the boss's machines...

Marx predicted that this class—the working class—was going to change things...



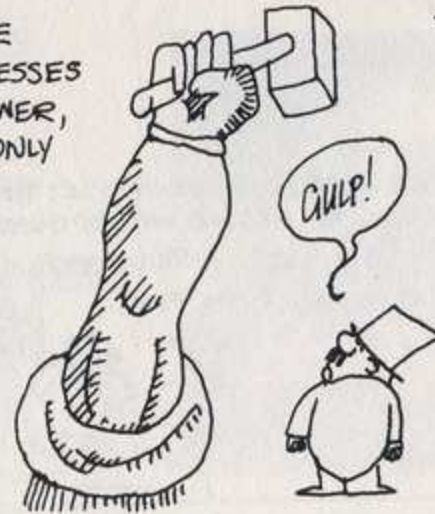
HOW, AND WITH WHAT POWERS??



UNLIKE THE SMALL-SCALE ARTISANS WHO USED TO OWN THE TOOLS OF THEIR TRADE, THE PROLETARIAT OWNS NOTHING AT ALL—NEITHER THE MEANS, NOR THE END-PRODUCTS...

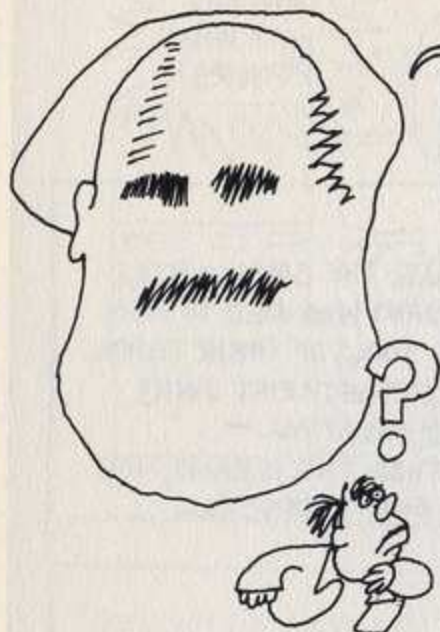
AND STILL LESS OWN LABOUR...

UNLIKE ALL OTHER SOCIAL CLASSES, THE WORKING CLASS POSSESSES ONLY ITS LABOUR POWER, I.E. WHAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "WORK FORCE".



DIALECTICALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS WHAT SPECIFIES THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE CONTRARIES: CAPITAL ON ONE SIDE, LABOUR ON THE OTHER. THEY LIVE TOGETHER, SURE, BUT WITH OPPOSED INTERESTS...

THE OUTLINES OF THE PROBLEM ARE CLEAR: IT ONLY REQUIRES PRACTICAL PROOF, NOT THE WAYWARD LANGUAGE OF PHILOSOPHY WHICH BAFFLES EVERYONE...



Private property has made us so stupid and one-sided that an object is only *ours* when we have it — when it exists for us as capital, or when it is directly possessed, eaten, drunk, worn, inhabited, etc.,—in short, when it is *used* by us . . .

In place of *all* these physical and mental senses there has therefore come the sheer alienation of *all* these senses — the sense of *having*. The human being had to be reduced to this absolute poverty in order that he might yield his inner wealth to the outer world . . .

In order to abolish the *idea* of private property, the *idea* of communism is completely sufficient. It takes *actual* communist action to abolish actual private property. History will come to it; and this movement, which in *theory* we already know to be a self-transcending movement, will constitute in *actual fact* a very severe and protracted process . . .

1844

Marx (extracts from *Manuscripts of 1844*)

Sorry!!

IN HIS "MANUSCRIPTS OF 1844", MARX STILL SPEAKS LIKE A PURE PHILOSOPHER, WITHOUT REAL CONTACT WITH THE WORKING CLASS WHICH HE IS ONLY DISCOVERING. HE WON'T REALLY SEE THINGS CLEARLY UNTIL HE FREES HIMSELF FROM BOURGEOIS CONCEPTIONS AND STARTS VIEWING REALITY FROM A PROLETARIAN ANGLE...



THE REASONS QUITE SIMPLE: THE ONLY PHILOSOPHY AROUND WAS BOURGEOIS, NOT PROLETARIAN... A PHILOSOPHY RESTRICTED TO THE FEW...



The working class doesn't have a philosophy of its own!

THAT'S WHAT MARX RECOGNIZED, AND SO HE SPENT HIS LIFE TRYING TO CREATE A PROLETARIAN PHILOSOPHY...



It's got to be materialist and dialectical...



"JUST AS PHILOSOPHY FINDS ITS MATERIAL WEAPONS IN THE PROLETARIAT, SO THE PROLETARIAT FINDS ITS INTELLECTUAL WEAPONS IN PHILOSOPHY... PHILOSOPHY CAN ONLY BE REALISED BY THE ABOLITION OF THE PROLETARIAT, AND THE PROLETARIAT CAN ONLY BE ABOLISHED BY THE REALISATION OF PHILOSOPHY."

("Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right" 1844)

BUT THE PRIMARY NECESSITY WAS TO KNOW WHAT THE PROLETARIAT THOUGHT, TO LIVE AMONG THEM FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNITING THEORY AND PRACTICE... AND THE COUNTRY IN WHICH REVOLUTIONARY PRACTICE HAD MADE MOST PROGRESS WAS

France,

THE BIRTHPLACE IN 1789 OF THE FIRST GREAT REVOLUTION IN HUMAN HISTORY, THE

FRENCH REVOLUTION



AS WE'VE ALREADY SEEN (BUT PROBABLY FORGOTTEN), MARXISM HAS THREE BASIC SOURCES WHICH ARE:



3

- GERMAN PHILOSOPHY
- ENGLISH POLITICAL ECONOMY
- FRENCH SOCIALISM

SINCE WE'VE HAD A LOOK AT THE PHILOSOPHICAL ORIGINS, LET'S GLANCE BRIEFLY AT FRENCH SOCIALISM, STARTING WITH:

GRACCHUS BABEUF
(PLEASED...)



WHEN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION HAD BEEN DEFEATED, AND THE WORTHY JACOBINS WERE IN RETREAT, A SMALL GROUP OF THEM KNOWN AS

THE 'CONSPIRACY OF EQUALS'

HOPED TO CARRY ON THE ARMED STRUGGLE FOR POWER AND THE CREATION OF A SOCIALIST STATE...

What kind of socialism did they have in mind?

WELL, IT'S NOT KNOWN EXACTLY, BUT, FIRST, THE EXPROPRIATION OF WEALTH AND ITS EQUAL REDISTRIBUTION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP. WORK AND EDUCATION COMPULSORY FOR EVERYONE. BUT THE CONSPIRACY WAS DISCOVERED AND BABEUF CONDEMNED...

THE NEXT ATTEMPTS AT SOCIALISM ALSO OCCUR IN FRANCE, DURING NAPOLEON'S REGIME, BUT THESE ATTEMPTS WERE ONLY THEORETICAL.

THE BIG NAMES HERE ARE

SAINT-SIMON & FOURIER

KNOWN AS "UTOPIAN SOCIALISTS" BECAUSE WHAT THEY WANTED TO ACHIEVE SEEMED "UTOPIAN" OR "IDEALLY PERFECT"...



...planned economy under the direction of a central bank

...end the rule of the leisure class (nobles, clergy and military)

...organise a new society directed by industrialists to promote the welfare of the larger and poorer classes

...found a new religion which recognises work as man's only merit



WHEN SAINT-SIMON DIED, HIS DISCIPLES REALLY STARTED A RELIGION WITH ITS OWN LITURGY, RITES AND THINGS OF THAT SORT. SAINT-SIMON'S THEORY HAD NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS AT ALL AND IT DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE CLASS STRUGGLE...



Religious morality suffices to eliminate social inequalities...

Fourier

UNLIKE THE ARISTOCRATIC SAINT-SIMON, HE WAS POOR AND SPENT HIS LIFE TRYING TO GET THE RICH TO FINANCE HIS PROJECTS...

He must be mad! Imagine asking the rich to finance their own ruin!

What's he up to, the simpleton??



Oh! not much! He only wants to build a "communist" system of little communities, in which everything belongs to everyone, with communal homes and consumers' co-operatives. To prevent the rise of wealth in any one sector, the richer would get a smaller part of the share, while the poorer got more, (and thereby balance things out). He actually founded a few such communities (called "Phalanstères"). But he spent his last days in a mad-house...

* THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT A FEW OF HIS IDEAS MERIT SOME CONSIDERATION. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ELIMINATION OF COMPETITION AMONG PRODUCERS TO STOP THEM CHURNING OUT USELESS THINGS, DUPLICATES AND LUXURY ITEMS...

SOME OF THE IDEAS OF SAINT-SIMON AND FOURIER WERE PROBABLY TAKEN UP BY MARX (AND LENIN!) IN THEIR OWN, MORE PRACTICAL THEORIES.

BUT THE BIGGEST CONTRIBUTION CAME FROM THREE OTHER FRENCH "SOCIALISTS"...

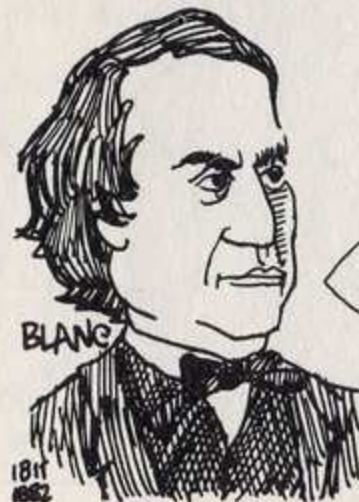
LOUIS-AUGUSTE BLANQUI (1805 - 1881)

* (sorry! I couldn't find his picture...)

A partisan of class war and armed revolution who spent 33 years of his life in jail. He first spoke of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, even if it was a minority one, and not as Marx argued, in the majority...

BLANQUI, PROUDHON, AND BLANC

Anarchist and syndicalist, but despite this, anti-feminist and an avowed enemy of woman's liberation from domestic slavery. He was the founder of mutual aid societies. "Property is theft."



Workers' leader, theorist of election-based, legislative socialism, not the violent revolutionary kind. His most famous saying is: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

MARX CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THEM IN PARIS, OFTEN STRIVING TO SHOW THEM THEIR ERRORS. SOME WERE FISHING IN THE TROUBLED WATER OF ADVENTURISM. OTHERS DIDN'T GRASP MARX'S THEORY AND CALLED IT "UNREALISTIC FOLLY" OR "EXCESSIVELY RADICAL"...

This Marx is a proper lunatic! We'll all be senile before his preaching comes to anything..!



BASICALLY, THE ERROR OF THESE "UTOPIAN SOCIALISTS" AND ANARCHISTS WAS AN ABSENCE OF FORESIGHT, OF PREPARATION, A CONTEMPT FOR STUDY AND SLOW, BUT METHODICAL ORGANIZATION, AND THE DENIAL OF A THEORY OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CLASS CONFLICT...



They haven't grasped the class struggle! They imagine society's one big, happy family...

FAMILY??
A HOLY FAMILY??
HMMMM...

SO MARX HAD SOMETHING NEW TO ADD TO HIS PARIS "MANUSCRIPTS", ANOTHER STUDY WITH THE STRANGE TITLE:

THE HOLY FAMILY

Die heilige Familie,

oder
Kritik

des
kritischen Kritik.

Gegen Bruno Bauer & Consorten.

von
Friedrich Engels und Karl Marx.

or:
"Critique of
Critical Critique.
Against
Bruno Bauer & Co."



IN THIS BOOK, WRITTEN WITH ENGELS, MARX BRINGS TO LIGHT THE CONFLICT OF CONTRARIES WHICH GOES ON WITHIN CAPITALIST SOCIETY, BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOUR, THE INEVITABLE REVOLT OF THE WORKING CLASS, AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEFEAT OF THE BOURGEOISIE... IN TWO WORDS: THE CLASS STRUGGLE...

LABOUR & CAPITAL



THIS THESIS WAS OPPOSED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD...

INSTEAD OF CLASS STRUGGLE, CAPITALISM WANTS TO PREACH AN "ALLIANCE" FOR PROGRESS...

THE AMERICAN TWINS.
"United we stand, Divided we fall."

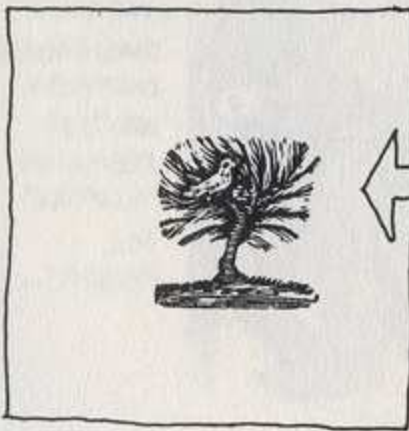
BUT THE CLASS STRUGGLE ISN'T JUST MARX'S INVENTION. IT HAS ALWAYS EXISTED (AND MAYBE ALWAYS WILL) EVER SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN. (ALTHOUGH MARX TELLS US IT WON'T ALWAYS EXIST, AS WE SHALL SEE...)



In Rome we have patricians, knights, plebeians and slaves...



In the Middle Ages, feudal lords, vassals, master artisans, apprentices, serfs...



"THE MODERN BOURGEOIS SOCIETY THAT HAS SPROUTED FROM THE RUINS OF FEUDAL SOCIETY, HAS NOT DONE AWAY WITH CLASS ANTAGONISM. IT HAS BUT ESTABLISHED NEW CLASSES, NEW CONDITIONS OF OPPRESSION, NEW FORMS OF STRUGGLE... SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IS MORE AND MORE SPLITTING INTO TWO GREAT HOSTILE CAMPS: BOURGEOISIE AND PROLETARIAT..."



(That was written in the Manifesto of 1848. But don't go believing Marx was wrong. His epoch was very different from ours...)

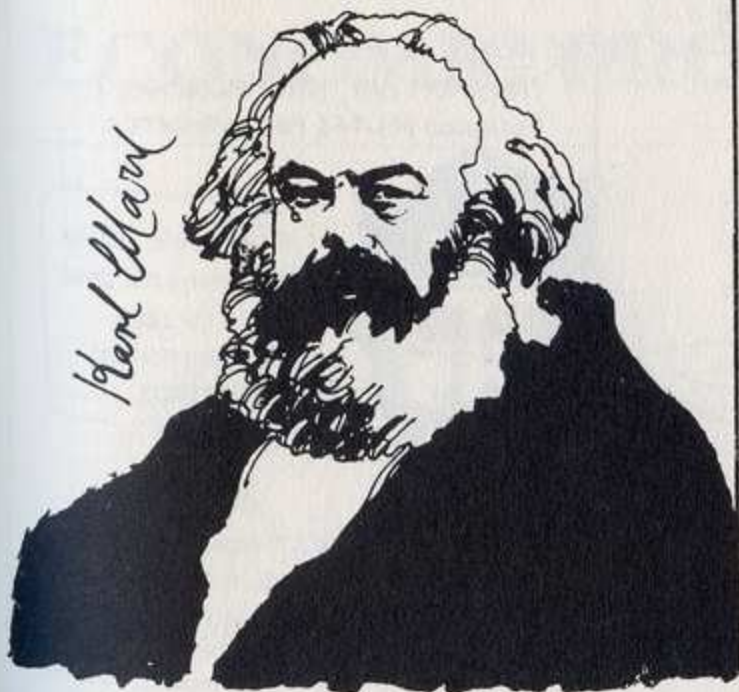
WHAT'S IMPORTANT, IS TO GRASP THAT EACH SOCIAL CLASS HAS ITS OWN INTERESTS AND EACH HOLDS VIEWS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE CONSISTENT WITH THE DEFENCE OF THOSE INTERESTS...

Social harmony which certain "beautiful souls" preach, CANNOT exist...



IT CAN'T, BECAUSE SO LONG AS ANY ONE CLASS LIVES BY EXPLOITING ANOTHER, A STRUGGLE WILL EXIST AGAINST SUCH EXPLOITATION...

He never denied what he owed to others—as in this letter to Weydemeyer, dated March 5, 1852: 'And now as to myself, no credit is due to me for discovering the existence of classes in modern society, nor yet the struggle between them. Long before me, bourgeois historians had described the historical development of this class struggle and bourgeois economists the economic anatomy of the classes. What I did that was new was to prove: 1) that the *existence of classes* is only bound up with *particular, historical phases in the development of production*; 2) that the class struggle necessarily leads to the *dictatorship of the proletariat*; 3) that this dictatorship itself only constitutes the transition to the *abolition of all classes* and to a *classless society*."



And this class struggle is NECESSARY for human progress...



HARMONY BETWEEN THE CLASSES WOULD BE IDEAL, OF COURSE, AND AN EQUITABLE REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND PEACE FOR ALL

BUT...



It's just not on!!

IT'S NOT ON BECAUSE THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM HAS ONLY ONE AIM, PROFIT, BASED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY EXPLOITING THE LABOURS OF THE PROLETARIAT...



Nobody likes being exploited, unless they're unaware of it...

...and many aren't aware of it because they believe that's how life is and you can't change it...

* NOTE:
IN MARX'S DAY, THE FOLLOWING RELIGIOUS BELIEFS PREDOMINATED:



God made some to command and others to obey, and resignation is Christian...

HEBEL WAS OF THIS OPINION. HE SAW NO WAY OUT FOR THE POOR EXCEPT FOR CAPITALISM... MARX WAS CONVINCED PRECISELY OF THE CONTRARY...

MARX PROVES WITH GREAT PRECISION THAT UNDER THIS "NEW SYSTEM", (CAPITALISM, THAT IS) THE WORKER IS CONDEMNED NEVER TO ENJOY THE ADVANTAGES WHICH THE SYSTEM RESERVES ONLY FOR THE OWNERS OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION...

Who ends up with the profits that you produce?



Who else but the boss, that's who!...



AND WHY ONLY THE BOSS?

SO MARX HAD TO SWITCH FROM PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEMS TO THOSE WHICH PHILOSOPHY USUALLY IGNORES, BUT HE RECKONED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THEM BEFORE HE COULD PROVE HIS THEORIES:

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS



His own, maybe?

THE PECULIAR MR. MARX WHO NEVER MANAGED TO SOLVE HIS OWN FINANCIAL PROBLEMS (HIS FAMILY OFTEN WENT HUNGRY) WANTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF MILLIONS OF EXPLOITED WORKERS; IN LONDON, PARIS, ROME, BERLIN, BRUSSELS,

I COULD GO ON ALL DAY...

MARX WAS BY NOW LIVING
IN THE DEEPEST POVERTY,
WITHOUT SALARY AND
WITHOUT CAPITAL...

Except the one
he was writing!



Marx to Engels, Sept. 8, 1852.

"You will have seen from my letters that, as usual when I am right in the shit myself and not merely hearing about it from a distance, I show complete indifference. Anyway, *que faire?* My house is a hospital and the crisis is so disrupting that it requires all my attention . . . The atmosphere is very disturbed: my wife is ill, Jennychen is ill and Lenchen has a kind of nervous fever. I couldn't and can't call the doctor, because I have no money for the medicine. For eight or ten days I have managed to feed the family on bread and potatoes, but it is still doubtful whether I can get hold of any today. . . I have written no articles for Dana because I had not a penny to go and read the newspaper. . . Besides there is the baker, milkman, greengrocer, and old butcher's bills. How can I deal with all this devilish filth? And then finally, during the last eight or ten days I managed to borrow a few shillings and pence which were absolutely necessary if we were to avoid giving up the ghost. . ."

BUT IT'S EASIER TO
UNDERSTAND HIM BY
QUOTING FROM A LETTER
THAT HE WROTE TO
HIS OLD FRIEND ENGELS...



WAGES PRICES
CAPITAL PROFITS
VALUE RAW MATERIALS
THE
HOLY
EUCHARIST!



MARX BEGINS:
WHAT IS SALARY?



HOW IS IT DEFINED?

If workers were asked: "How much are your wages?" one would reply: "I get a mark a day from my bourgeois," another "I get two marks," and so on. According to the different trades to which they belong, they would mention different sums of money which they receive from their respective bourgeois for a particular period of labour or for the completion of a particular piece of work, e.g. weaving a yard of linen or type-setting a printed sheet. In spite of the variety of their statements, they would all agree on one point: wages are the sum of money paid by the capitalist for a particular period of labour or for a particular output of labour.

The capitalist, it appears, therefore *buys* their labour with money. They *sell* him their labour for money. But this is merely the appearance. In reality what they sell to the capitalist is their labour *power*. The capitalist buys this labour power for a day, a week, a month, etc. And after he has bought it, he uses it by having the workers work for the stipulated time. For the same sum with which the capitalist has bought their labour power, e.g. two marks, he could have bought two pounds of sugar or a definite amount of any other commodity. The two marks, with which he bought two pounds of sugar, are the *price* of the two pounds of sugar. The two marks, with which he bought twelve hours' use of labour power, are the price of twelve hours' labour. Labour power, therefore, is a commodity, neither more nor less than sugar. The former is measured by the clock, the latter by the scales.

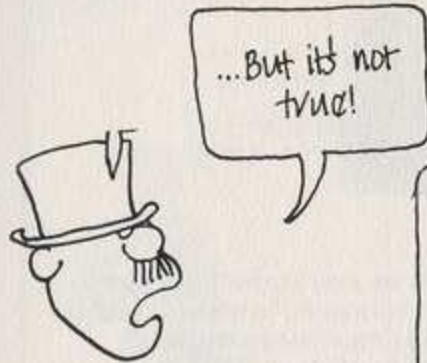
(Marx, *Wage-Labour and Capital*)

HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD?
THE WORKER EXCHANGES HIS COMMODITY
(LABOUR-POWER) FOR AN EQUIVALENT WAGE
(SO THE BOSS SAYS) TO PURCHASE WHAT HE
NEEDS TO SURVIVE: LIGHT, FOOD, ROOF, CLOTHES...

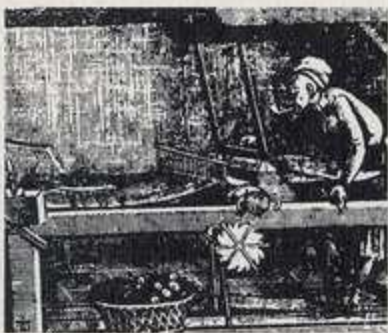


Or rather, just
to keep afloat...

BUT IF A WORKER'S PAY WERE CALCULATED ON HIS BASIC NEEDS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A VERY GOOD PAY, SO THE BOSSES MIGHT ARGUE...



LET'S CHECK THAT AGAINST THE PROFIT MADE FROM A WORKER'S LABOUR. ENGELS, WHO WAS A 'BOSS' HIMSELF, EXPLAINS HOW...



Let us assume that our worker—a machinist—has to make a part of a machine which he can complete in one day. The raw material—iron and brass in the necessary previously prepared form—costs, twenty marks. The consumption of coal by the steam-engine, the wear and tear of this same engine, of the lathe and other tools which our worker uses, represent for one day, and reckoned by his share of their use, a value of one mark. The wage for one day, according to our assumption, is three marks. This makes twenty-four marks in all for our machine part. But the capitalist calculates that he will obtain, on an average, twenty-seven marks from his customers in return, or three marks more than his outlay.

Whence came the three marks pocketed by the capitalist? According to the assertion of classical economics, commodities are, on the average, sold at their values, that is, at prices corresponding to the amount of necessary labour contained in them. The average price of our machine part—twenty-seven marks—would thus be equal to its value, that is equal to the labour embodied in it. But of these twenty-seven marks, twenty-one marks were values already present before our machinist began work. Twenty marks were contained in the raw materials, one mark in the coal consumed during the work, or in the machines and tools which were used in the process and which were diminished in their efficiency to the value of this sum. There remain six marks which have been added to the value of the raw material. But according to the assumption of our economists themselves, these six marks can only arise from the labour added to the raw material by our worker. His twelve hours' labour has thus created a new value of six marks. The value of his twelve hours' labour would, therefore, be equal to six marks. And thereby we would at last have discovered what the "value of labour" is.

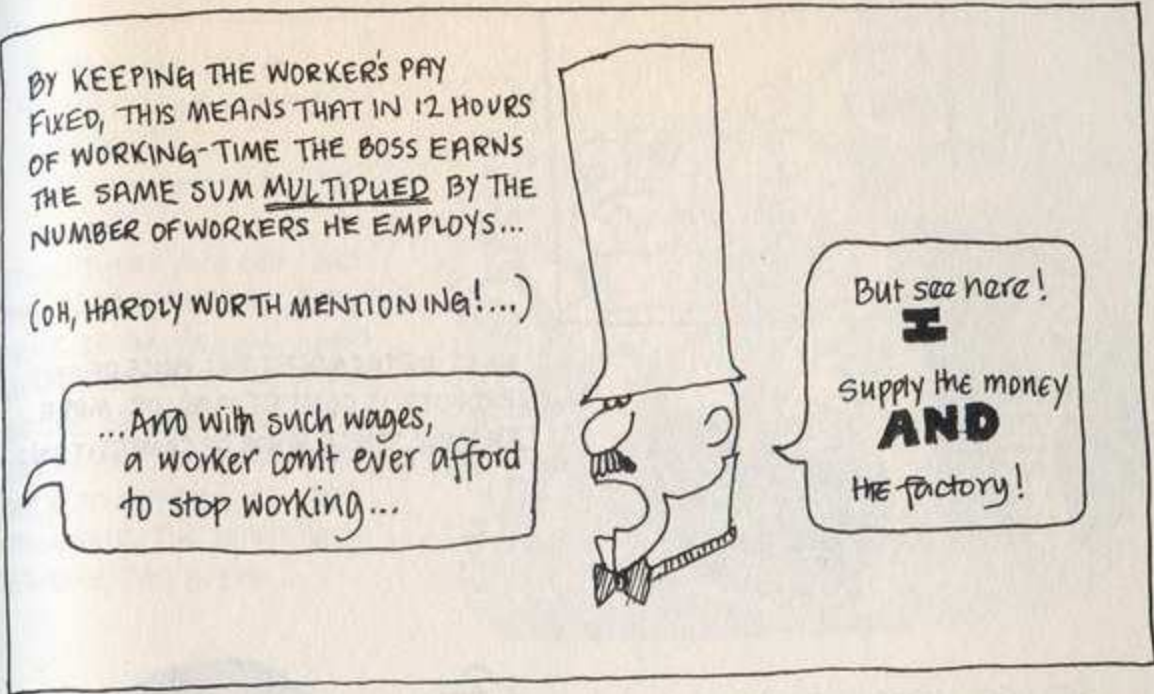
(Engels, *Wage-Labour and Capital*)

Six marks? But I only get three!!

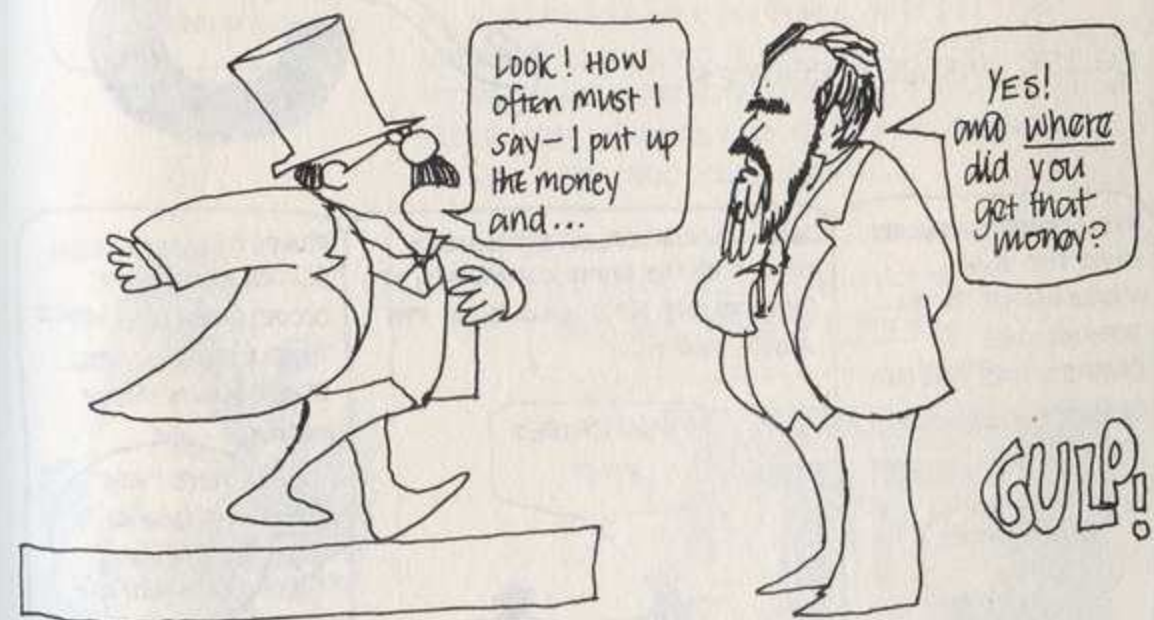
Yeah, so do I!

... IN OTHER WORDS, THE OWNER MAKES IN A DAY WHAT ALL THE WORKERS PUT TOGETHER EARN, AND WITHOUT DIRTYING HIS HANDS, MILORD! ...

Yes, but I put up the money!

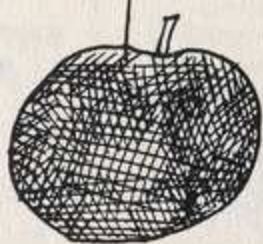


IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING—THE WORKER WORKS TO LIVE. WHAT HE EARNS GOES INTO KEEPING HIS FAMILY ALIVE, AND SO HE PASSES THE BEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE DOING WHAT HE DOESN'T LIKE DOING... WHILE THE BOSS GROWS RICHER AND RICHER...



WHILE THE BOSSES RUN TO CONSULT THEIR ECONOMISTS AND IDEOLOGISTS, HOPING TO FIND SOME WAY TO COMBAT HIS THEORIES, MARX CONTINUES: "SALARY IS THE PRICE OF A GIVEN COMMODITY... BUT HOW IS THE PRICE OF A COMMODITY DETERMINED?" ...

Prices



WHAT DETERMINES THE PRICE OF ANY PRODUCT IS COMPETITION, OR, MORE EXACTLY, THREE KINDS OF COMPETITION:

SELLER VERSUS SELLER

PURCHASER VERSUS PURCHASER

SELLER VERSUS PURCHASER



WHEN SEVERAL VENDORS HAVE THE SAME MERCHANDISE TO SELL, THEY BECOME COMPETITORS WHO MAY RESORT TO CUT-PRICE TACTICS...

This lowers prices



WHEN A NUMBER OF PURCHASERS HEAD FOR THE SAME COMMODITY, IT GOES TO ONE WHO'S WILLING TO PAY MORE FOR IT...

This raises prices



COMPETITION BETWEEN SELLER AND BUYER OCCURS WHEN ONE WANTS TO SELL HIGH, AND THE OTHER WANTS TO BUY CHEAP...

Here everything depends on the previous competition!



That's the law of "supply and demand", kiddo!!

WHEN THERE ARE 100 CARS AND 1000 POSSIBLE BUYERS, THE PRICE OF THE VEHICLE JUMPS UP ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF THE SELLER... BUT IF THERE ARE 100 CARS AND ONLY 20 BUYERS, IT'S VERY PROBABLE THE PRICE WILL FAVOUR THE BUYER...



But we still don't know what it is that determines prices...

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PRICE OF PRODUCTION... AN AUTOMOBILE, FOR INSTANCE, JUST OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE COSTS £1000; ADD TO THIS ALL THE HIDDEN COSTS SUCH AS PUBLICITY, PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISES, THE DISTRIBUTOR'S PERCENTAGE, TAXES, THE PRODUCER'S PROFIT...

Result? The retail price to the public jumps to £2000...



MARX DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT SUCH NOVELTIES AS SALES REPRESENTATIVES, P.R. AND AD. MEN, ALL OF WHOM GROSSLY INFLATE THE PRICE OF GOODS...



...I'd have given 'em a whole chapter in my 'Capital'

ANYWAY, THE QUESTION HAS BEEN ASKED WHETHER (AND BY HOW MUCH) THE PROFITS OF THE WEALTHY MIGHT BE LIMITED... BY 10%? IS THAT "FAIR AND DECENT"? BUT AT THIS RATE, THE PROBLEM CAN NEVER BE RESOLVED...



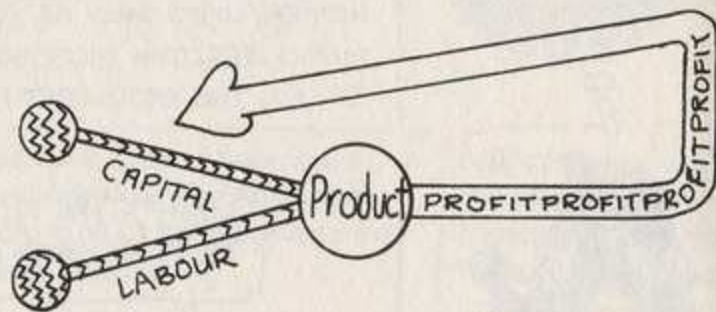
(Some businesses function at 200% profit...)
So???

SO IT'S THE LABOUR-POWER OF THE WORKER WHICH DAY BY DAY SWELLS THE BOSS'S CAPITAL. THE RICH BECOME EVEN RICHER, WHILE THE POOR CERTAINLY DON'T GET ANY FATTER ON THEIR WAGES (WHICH HARDLY KEEP PACE...)

The world is all upside-down...!!



WHILE THE BOSS, THE CAPITALIST AND THE RICH MAN MAKE A FABULOUS PROFIT FROM THE WORKER'S LABOUR, THE POOR FELLOW DOESN'T MAKE A PENNY EXTRA FOR HIS WORK...



THIS DRAWING ↑ SHOWS THE PROCESS AT WORK: THE INPUTS OF THE CAPITALIST AND THE WORKER (MONEY FROM ONE AND LABOUR FROM THE OTHER) COMING TOGETHER TO CREATE A PRODUCT. BUT THE PROFIT FLOWS ONLY IN ONE DIRECTION, NOT BOTH, AS JUSTICE DEMANDS... SO ONE GROWS FAT WHILE THE OTHER TIGHTENS WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS BELT...

THAT'S HOW OUR CHARLIE CAME TO DISCOVER THE BASIS OF CAPITALISM, THE FAMOUS

SURPLUS VALUE

I promise not to yawn if you keep it simple...



O.K. LET'S PROCEED. THE BASIC FORMULA OF CAPITALISM IS VERY SIMPLE: BUYING SO AS TO SELL AGAIN FOR PROFIT. THIS INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF THE MONEY EMPLOYED WHICH RESULTS FROM THE TRANSACTION, MARX CALLS SURPLUS VALUE.

MARX REASONED THIS: SURPLUS VALUE CANNOT DERIVE FROM THE MERE EXCHANGE OF GOODS, SINCE THIS IS AN EXCHANGE OF EQUIVALENT THINGS, COMMODITIES ARE SOLD TO BUY OTHER COMMODITIES...

... EVEN LESS DOES SURPLUS VALUE COME FROM INCREASES OF PRICE, SINCE THE RECIPROCAL PROFIT-AND-LOSS BETWEEN BUYERS AND SELLERS TEND TO BALANCE OUT...

If one gains,
the other loses!



WELL THEN!

TO OBTAIN SURPLUS VALUE (EXTRA PROFIT), THE POSSESSOR OF CASH HAS GOT TO FIND ON THE MARKET SOME OTHER "COMMODITY" WITH THE CURRENT VALUE HAVING THE ONE PECULIAR QUALITY WHICH MAKES IT THE SOURCE OF VALUE...

Gosh!
and what is
that commodity?



Simple!
Human labour-
power!



THE CAPITALIST BUYS THE WORKER'S LABOUR-POWER AS IF IT WAS ANY OTHER KIND OF MERCHANDISE, AND PUTS IT TO WORK EIGHT HOURS A DAY (IN MARX'S TIME, THE WORKING DAY WAS 12 TO 15 HOURS...)

But the worker can make, say, in 6 hours ("necessary" working time) a product which is enough for his livelihood

In six hours he "produces his salary"...



In the two hours remaining he produces another commodity, a "surplus" product for which his boss doesn't pay him anything...



This surplus product, the boss's extra profit, is surplus value...

THANKS TO SURPLUS VALUE, THE BOSS GETS RICHER, WHILE THE WORKER EARNS NOT A PENNY FROM IT. SURE, SOME MONEY IS SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS... BUT IT GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE BANK...



To fatten my capital some more...

THIS IS THE TRAP OF PRESENT-DAY CAPITALISM: INCREASING THE WORKER'S PRODUCTIVE OUTPUT AND HIS EFFICIENCY, ALSO INCREASES SURPLUS VALUE...

A RISE IN PRODUCTIVITY IS NOTHING OTHER THAN A WAY TO AUGMENT THE BOSS'S CAPITAL - AND THE POVERTY OF ALL WORKERS...!!

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In the two hours remaining he produces another commodity, a "surplus" product for which his boss doesn't pay him anything...



This surplus product, the boss's extra profit, is surplus value...

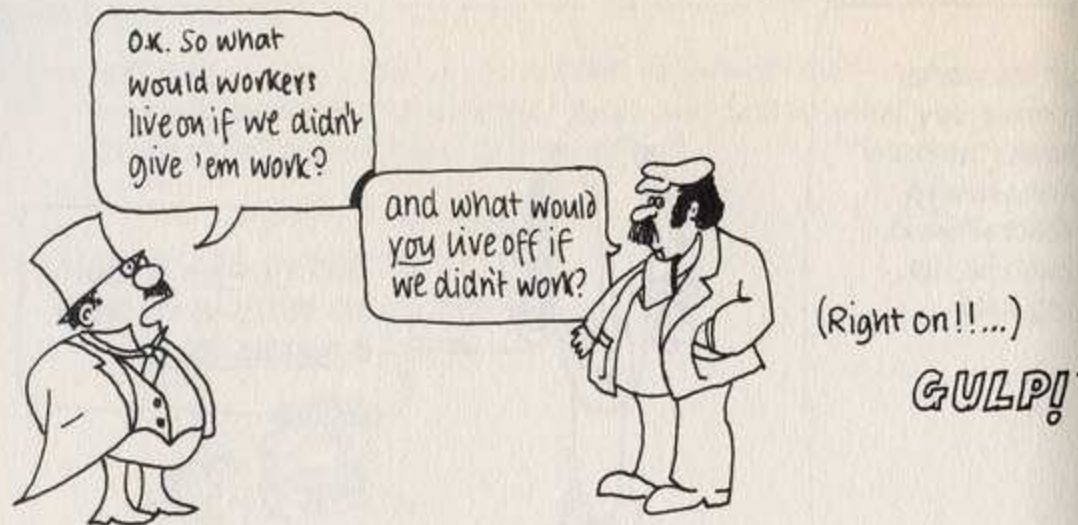
THANKS TO SURPLUS VALUE, THE BOSS GETS RICHER, WHILE THE WORKER EARNS NOT A PENNY FROM IT. SURE, SOME MONEY IS SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS... BUT IT GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE BANK...



To fatten my capital some more...

THIS IS THE TRAP OF PRESENT-DAY CAPITALISM: INCREASING THE WORKER'S PRODUCTIVE OUTPUT AND HIS EFFICIENCY, ALSO INCREASES SURPLUS VALUE...

A RISE IN PRODUCTIVITY IS NOTHING OTHER THAN A WAY TO AUGMENT THE BOSS'S CAPITAL - AND THE POVERTY OF ALL WORKERS...!!



SOMEONE IS SURE TO THINK EVERYTHING COULD BE RESOLVED BY A NICE RAISE IN SALARY

MARY DIDN'T AGREE WITH THIS BECAUSE...

WELL, JUST READ WHAT HE THOUGHT...

Real wages may remain the same, they may even rise, and yet relative wages fall. Let us suppose, for example, that all means of subsistence have gone down in price by two-thirds while wages per day have only fallen by one-third, that is to say, for example, from three marks to two marks. Although the worker can command a greater amount of commodities with these two marks than he previously could with three marks, yet his wages have gone down in relation to the profit of the capitalist. The profit of the capitalist (e.g. the manufacturer) has increased by one mark, that is, for a smaller sum of exchange values which he pays to the worker, the latter must produce a greater amount of exchange values than before. The share of capital relative to the share of labour has risen. The division of social wealth between capital and labour has become still more unequal. With the same capital, the capitalist commands a greater quantity of labour. The power of the capitalist class over the working class has grown, the social position of the worker has deteriorated, has been depressed one stage further below that of the capitalist. *What then is the general law which determines the rise and fall of wages and profits in their reciprocal relation? They stand in inverse ratio to each other. Capital's share, profit, rises in the same proportion as labour's share, wages, falls and vice versa. Profit rises to the extent that wages fall; it falls to the extent that wages rise.*

(Marx, *Wage-Labour and Capital*)



(WHICH MEANS: THE BOSS NEVER WANTS TO LOSE...)

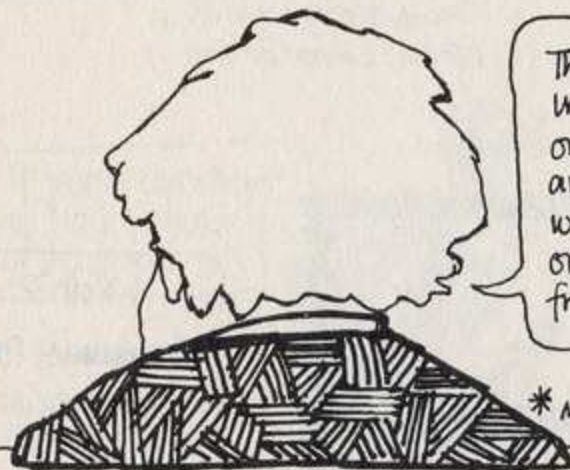
TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF CONSTRUCTION:



WELL, BY BUILDING APARTMENT BLOCKS IN WHICH YOU'LL NEVER LIVE AND FROM WHICH YOU'LL NEVER COLLECT RENT, YOU'RE ONLY HELPING THE CLASS WHICH EXPLOITS YOU TO GROW RICHER...



EVEN BY EARNING MORE — INDEED, DOUBLE — THE WORKER'S SITUATION WON'T CHANGE. MARX SAYS IT CLEARLY:



The best salary workers can get, under the most favourable conditions, only reveals in reality the strength and thickness of the golden bars which imprison them, and which only seem to permit them "greater" freedom of action...

* MORE SALARY, MORE PROFIT FOR THE BOSS...

Hang on! That's not from Marx

(You're right! An Austrian Marxist, Ernst Fischer, said it, and he goes on...)

"...THE MISERY OF THE WORKER, ABOVE ALL, CONSISTS OF THE FACT THAT BY WORKING FOR CAPITALISM HE REPRODUCES CAPITAL, AND BY REPRODUCING IT, HE ALSO INCREASES HIS OWN ALIENATION AND MISERY..."

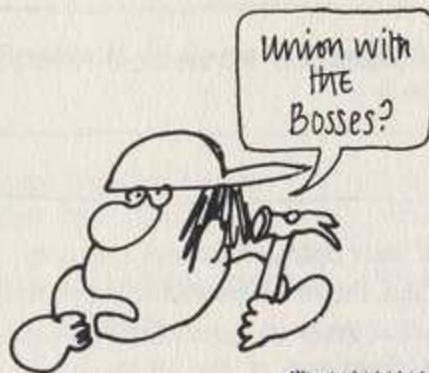
By 'eck! and what do I do then?





MARX SEES ONLY ONE WAY OUT FOR THE WORKERS:

UNION



(WELL, WELL! A SCAB!) LET'S GO BACK IN TIME TO THE PERIOD WHEN MARX SET OUT HIS THEORIES ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY AND THE LIBERATION OF THE POOR FROM THEIR CHAINS...
(Gold, Silver or tin...)

The historic moment is the publication of the COMMUNIST MANIFESTO



What?? Communist Parties didn't exist already?



The *Manifesto* was published as the platform of the Communist League, a workingmen's association, first exclusively German, later on international, and, under the political conditions of the Continent before 1848, unavoidably a secret society. At a Congress of the League, held in London in November 1847, Marx and Engels were commissioned to prepare for publication a complete theoretical and practical party program. Drawn up in German, in January 1848, the manuscript was sent to the printer in London a few weeks before the French revolution of February 24th. A French translation was brought out in Paris, shortly before the insurrection of June 1848. The first English translation, by Miss Helen Macfarlane, appeared in the *Red Republican*, London, 1850. A Danish and a Polish edition had also been published. . . The first Russian translation, made by Bakunin, was published at Herzen's *Kolokol* office in Geneva, about 1863. . . However much the state of things may have altered during the last 25 years, the general principles laid down in this *Manifesto* are, on the whole, as correct today as ever.
(Engels, 1888 preface to the *Communist Manifesto*)

The Communist League...? What on earth is that?



BACK IN THOSE DAYS (1846-47), THERE WAS A GROUP MADE UP OF GERMAN WORKERS, ARTISANS AND INTELLECTUALS OF THE AVANT-GARDE (I.E. OF ADVANCED IDEAS) CALLING ITSELF THE "LEAGUE OF THE JUST", WHICH MET TO TALK POLITICS AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE "JUST" MEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES...

And if justice doesn't get us any justice, that's unjust injustice!



Just so, sir!

THE "JUST" WERE HALF ANARCHIST AND PREACHED A PRETTY STRANGE FORM OF SOCIALISM: DESTRUCTION OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION (BLOWING UP FACTORIES, PREFERABLY WITH THE BOSSES IN THEM) AND A RETURN TO AGRICULTURE AND ARTISAN CRAFTSMANSHIP... IN FEBRUARY 1847, MARX AND ENGELS WERE INVITED TO JOIN THE LEAGUE TO HELP TO REORGANISE IT...

MARX AND ENGELS IMMEDIATELY GAINED THE LEAGUE'S FULL SYMPATHY, AND THANKS TO THEIR GREATER INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL MATURITY, THEY HAD A BIG INFLUENCE OVER THE LEAGUE... MARX, THE "TOUGH GUY" KNEW HOW TO COMMAND...



...to start, instead of the "Just", we'll call ourselves the League of Communists...
Right?...

Question 1: *What is communism?*

Answer: Communism is the doctrine of the prerequisites for the emancipation of the proletariat.

Question 2: *What is the proletariat?*

Answer: The proletariat is that class of society whose means of livelihood entirely depend on the sale of its labor and not on the profit derived from capital; whose weal and woe, whose life and death, whose whole existence depend on the demand for labor, hence on the alternation of good times and bad, on the vagaries of unbridled competition. The proletariat, or class of proletarians, is, in a word, the working class of the 19th century.

Question 3: *Proletarians, then, have not always existed?*

Answer: No. Poor folk and working classes have always existed. The working classes have also for the most part been poor. But such poor, such workers as are living under conditions indicated above, hence proletarians, have not always existed, any more than free and unbridled competition has always existed.

Question 4: *How did the proletariat originate?*

Answer: The proletariat originated in the industrial revolution which took place in England during the second half of the 18th century and which has repeated itself since then in all the civilized countries of the world. This industrial revolution took place owing to the invention of the steam engine, of various spinning machines, of the power loom, and of a great number of other mechanical instruments. These machines were expensive and, consequently, could only be installed by persons who had plenty of capital to lay out. Their introduction completely altered the existing method of production and displaced the existing workers. This was due to the fact that machinery could produce cheaper and better commodities than could the handcraftsmen with their imperfect spinning wheels and hand looms. Thus, these machines handed over industry entirely to the big capitalists and rendered the little property the workers possessed (tools, hand looms, etc.) entirely worthless. Soon the capitalists got all in their hands and nothing remained for the workers.

TOUGH-MINDED GERMANS, AS THEY ALWAYS REMAINED, MARX AND ENGELS ORGANISED A LONDON CONGRESS IN 1847 WHICH BROUGHT IN DELEGATES FROM EVERY CORNER OF EUROPE. AND HERE, ENGELS PROPOSED HIS "CREDOS" OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE WHICH SERVED AS THE PLATFORM OF THE "COMMUNIST MANIFESTO"... (ALSO KNOWN AS THE "PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNISM," 1847)

NOTE: THIS KIND OF EASY-TO-READ CATECHISM STYLE MADE ENGELS MORE POPULAR THAN MARX, WHO, DEEPER AS HE WAS, SEEMED PRETTY HARD TO DIGEST...



Question 7: *In what way does the proletariat differ from the slave?*

Answer: The slave is sold once and for all. The proletariat must sell himself by the hour or by the day. Each individual slave, being the direct property of a master, has his existence assured, be that existence ever so wretched, if only because of the interest of the slave owner. Each individual proletariat, the property as it were of the whole bourgeois class, whose labor is sold only when it is needed by the owning class, has no security of life. Existence is merely guaranteed to the working class as a whole. The slave is excluded from competition; the proletariat is beset by competition and is a prey to all its fluctuations. The slave is counted an object and not a member of civil society; the proletariat is recognized as a person, as a member of civil society. The slave may therefore be able to secure better conditions of life than can the proletariat, but the proletariat belongs to a higher stage of development of society than the slave. The slave frees himself by rupturing, of all relations of private ownership, only one, the relation of slavery and by this act becomes himself a proletariat; the proletariat can only achieve emancipation by abolishing private property in its entirety.

If what he says is true, we're cooked!



Question 16: *Will it be possible to bring about the abolition of private property by peaceful methods?*

Answer: This is greatly to be desired, and communists would be the last persons in the world to stand in the way of a peaceful solution. Communists know only too well the futility and, indeed, the harmfulness of conspiratorial methods. They know only too well that revolutions are not made deliberately and arbitrarily, but that everywhere and at all times revolutions have been the necessary outcome of circumstances quite independent of the will or the guidance of particular parties and whole classes. But they also perceive that the development of the proletariat in nearly all civilized countries is violently suppressed, and that in this way opponents of communism are working full force to promote a revolution. Should the oppressed proletariat at long last thus be driven into a revolution, then we communists will rally to the cause of the workers and be just as prompt to act as we are now to speak.





Question 17: Will it be possible to abolish private property all at once?

Answer: No. This would be just as impossible as to multiply all at once the existing forces of production to the degree necessary for the inauguration of the community. The proletarian revolution, which in all probability is coming, will for this reason, only be able to transform present society gradually. Private property will be abolished only when the means of production have become available in sufficient quantities.

FIRST LONDON EDITION, FEBRUARY 1848, OF THE
COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

Print-run?
Only 1000 copies

Author?
MARX AND
Engels

Published in
German, English,
French, Russian
and Spanish...

... and then in
Italian, Danish,
Swedish, Flemish,
Chinese, Czech,
Hungarian, ...
In... AVF!AVF!

The *Manifesto* is a direct appeal to all workers—*Workers of the World, unite!* It defends the Communist position that the emancipation of the working class itself must be the act of the working class itself. Its lucid, powerful arguments are still potent today. It moves us to take a definite position against the structure of a society in which the unjust division of wealth contradicts basic decency.

THE MANIFESTO
IS REALLY AN
AMALGAMATION
OF MARX'S
IDEAS WRITTEN
IN A RICH,
LIVELY AND
DIRECT STYLE...

Read it
and you'll
see for
yourself!



We quote only
parts of it, or
it would take
up 1/2 THE BOOK...

Modern industry has established the world market, for which the discovery of America paved the way. This market has given an immense development to commerce, to navigation, to communication by land. This development has, in its turn, reacted on the extension of industry; and in proportion as industry, commerce, navigation, railways extended, in the same proportion the bourgeoisie developed, increased its capital, and pushed into the background every class handed down from the Middle Ages.

We see, therefore, how the modern bourgeoisie is itself the product of a long course of development, of a series of revolutions in the modes of production and of exchange. The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal, patriarchal, idyllic relations. It has pitilessly torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his "natural superiors", and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous "cash payment". It has drowned the most heavenly ecstasies of religious fervour, of chivalrous enthusiasm, of philistine sentimentalism, in the icy water of egotistical calculation. It has resolved personal worth into exchange value, and in place of the numberless infeasible chartered freedoms, has set up that single, unconscionable freedom—Free Trade. In one word, for exploitation, veiled by religious and political illusions, it has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation. The bourgeoisie has born away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation.



What you have
is what you're
worth...

The bourgeoisie, during its rule of scarce one hundred years, has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together. Subjection of Nature's forces to man, machinery, application of chemistry to industry and agriculture, steam-navigation, railways, electric telegraphs, clearing of whole continents for cultivation, canalisation of rivers, whole populations conjured out of the ground—what earlier century had even a presentiment that such productive forces slumbered in the lap of social labour?

Owing to the extensive use of machinery and to division of labour, the work of the proletarians has lost all individual character, and, consequently, all charm for the workman. He becomes an appendage of the machine, and it is only the most simple, most monotonous, and most easily acquired knack, that is required of him. Hence, the cost of production of a workman is restricted, almost entirely, to the means of subsistence that he requires for his maintenance, and for the propagation of his race. But the price of a commodity, and therefore also of labour, is equal to its cost of production. In proportion, therefore, as the repulsiveness of the work increases, the wage decreases.



But Big Mama Television
wasn't around yet to stupefy
us all the more before
going to bed...

Modern industry has converted the little workshop of the patriarchal master into the great factory of the industrial capitalist. Masses of labourers, crowded into the factory, are organised like soldiers. As privates of the industrial army they are placed under the command of a perfect hierarchy of officers and sergeants. Not only are they slaves of the bourgeois class, and of the bourgeois State; they are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine, by the over-looker, and, above all, by the individual bourgeois manufacturer himself. The more openly this despotism proclaims gain to be its end and aim, the more petty, the more hateful and the more embittered it is.

The less the skill and exertion of strength implied in manual labour, in other words, the more modern industry becomes developed, the more is the labour of men superseded by that of women. Differences of age and sex have no longer any distinctive social validity for the working class. All are instruments of labour, more or less expensive to use, according to their age and sex.

No sooner is the exploitation of the labourer by the manufacturer, so far, at an end, that he receives his wages in cash, than he is set upon by the other portions of the bourgeoisie, the landlord, the shopkeeper, the pawnbroker, etc.

But with the development of industry the proletariat not only increases in number; it becomes concentrated in greater masses, its strength grows, and it feels that strength more. The various interests and conditions of life within the ranks of the proletariat are more and more equalised, in proportion as machinery obliterates all distinctions of labour, and nearly everywhere reduces wages to the same low level. The growing competition among the bourgeois, and the resulting commercial crises, make the wages of the workers ever more fluctuating. The unceasing improvement of machinery, ever more rapidly developing, makes their livelihood more and more precarious; the collisions between individual workmen and individual bourgeois take more and more the character of collisions between two classes. Thereupon the workers begin to form combinations (Trades' Unions) against the bourgeois; they club together in order to keep up the rate of wages; they found permanent associations in order to make provision beforehand for these occasional revolts. Here and there the contest breaks out into riots.



... And here's how
Marx formulates
the class struggle ...

Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever-expanding union of the workers. This union is helped on by the improved means of communication that are created by modern industry and that place the workers of different localities in contact with one another. It was just this contact that was needed to centralise the numerous local struggles, all of the same character, into one national struggle between classes. But every class struggle is a political struggle. And that union, to attain which the burghers of the Middle Ages, with their miserable highways, required centuries, the modern proletarians, thanks to railways, achieve in a few years. This organisation of the proletarians into a class, and consequently into a political party, is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves. But it ever rises up again, stronger, firmer, mightier. It compels legislative recognition of particular interests of the workers, by taking advantage of the divisions among the bourgeoisie itself. Thus the ten-hours' bill in England was carried.



And what says
this Manifesto
about the
down-and-out?

Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class. The other classes decay and finally disappear in the face of modern industry; the proletariat is its special and essential product. The lower middle class, the small manufacturer, the shopkeeper, the artisan, the peasant, all these fight against the bourgeoisie, to save from extinction their existence as fractions of the middle class. They are therefore not revolutionary, but conservative. Nay more, they are reactionary, for they try to roll back the wheel of history. If by chance they are revolutionary, they are so only in view of their impending transfer into the proletariat, they thus defend not their present, but their future interests, they desert their own standpoint to place themselves at that of the proletariat.

The "dangerous class", the social scum, that passively rotting mass thrown off by the lowest layers of old society, may, here and there, be swept into the movement by a proletarian revolution; its conditions of life, however, prepare it far more for the part of a bribed tool of reactionary intrigue.

Just like
scabs...



All property relations in the past have continually been subject to historical change consequent upon the change in historical conditions.

The French Revolution, for example, abolished feudal property in favour of bourgeois property.

The distinguishing feature of Communism is not the abolition of property generally, but the abolition bourgeois property. But modern bourgeois private property is the final and most complete expression of the system of producing and appropriating products, that is based on class antagonisms, on the exploitation of the many by the few.

In this sense, the theory of the Communists may be summed up in the single sentence: Abolition of private property.

We Communists have been reproached with the desire of abolishing the right of personally acquiring property as the fruit of a man's own labour, which property is alleged to be the ground work of all personal freedom, activity and independence. Hard-won, self-acquired, self-earned property! Do you mean the property of the petty artisan and of the small peasant, a form of property that preceded the bourgeois form? There is no need to abolish that; the development of industry has to a great extent already destroyed it, and is still destroying it daily.

Or do you mean modern bourgeois private property? But does wage labour create any property for the labourer? Not a bit. It creates capital, i.e. that kind of property which exploits wage labour, and which cannot increase except upon condition of begetting a new supply of wage labour for fresh exploitation. Property, in its present form, is based on the antagonism of capital and wage labour. Let us examine both sides of this antagonism.



You are horrified at our intending to do away with private property. But in your existing society, private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population; its existence for the few is solely due to its non-existence in the hands of those nine-tenths. You reproach us, therefore, with intending to do away with a form of property, the necessary condition for whose existence is, the non-existence of any property for the immense majority of society.

BUT THE WORLD WOULD GO TO RACK AND RUIN OR SO THEY SAY...

In one word, you reproach us with intending to do away with your property. Precisely so; that is just what we intend. From the moment when labour can no longer be converted into capital, money, or rent, into a social power capable of being monopolised, i.e. from the moment when individual property can no longer be transformed into Bourgeois property, into capital, from that moment, you say, individuality vanishes. You must, therefore, confess that by "individual" you mean no other person than the bourgeois, than the middle-class owner of property. This person must, indeed, be swept out of the way, and made impossible.



Capital needs
workers, but workers
don't need capital.
It's in the strength
of their arms...!

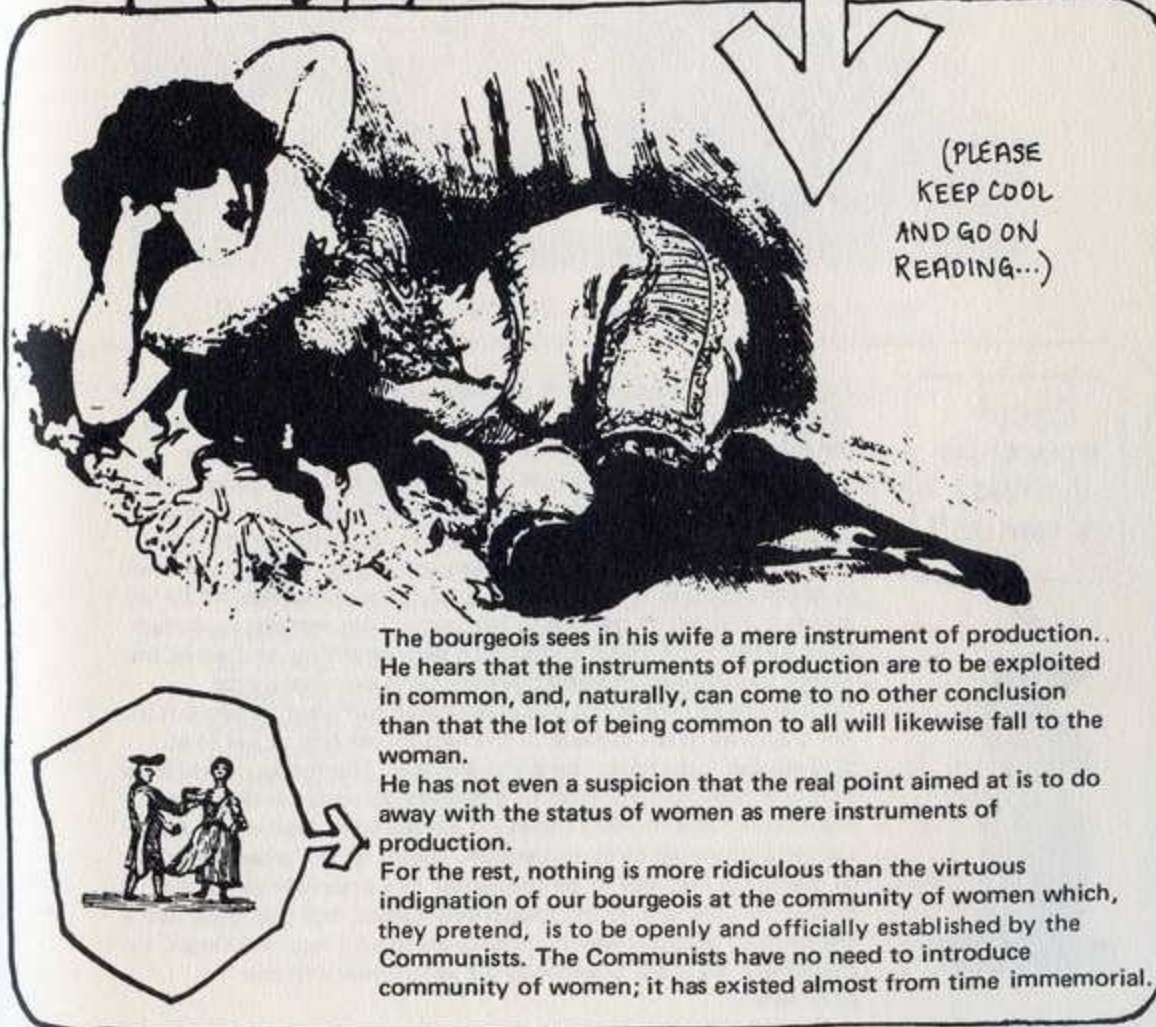
It has been objected that upon the abolition of private property all work will cease, and universal laziness will overtake us. According to this, bourgeois society ought long ago to have gone to the dogs through sheer idleness; for those of its members who work, acquire nothing, and those who acquire anything, do not work. The whole of this objection is but another expression of the tautology: that there can no longer be any wage-labour when there is no longer any capital.

There's nothing but
politics in this
Manifesto!!



Not even a
joke or two?
Nothing about
girls?

OH! OF COURSE THERE IS!
MARX WAS THE FIRST TO
CONDEMN THE EXPLOITATION
OF WOMEN, AND IN THE
MANIFESTO HE DID SO IN NO
UNCERTAIN TERMS!



(PLEASE
KEEP COOL
AND GO ON
READING...)

The bourgeois sees in his wife a mere instrument of production.. He hears that the instruments of production are to be exploited in common, and, naturally, can come to no other conclusion than that the lot of being common to all will likewise fall to the woman.

He has not even a suspicion that the real point aimed at is to do away with the status of women as mere instruments of production.

For the rest, nothing is more ridiculous than the virtuous indignation of our bourgeois at the community of women which, they pretend, is to be openly and officially established by the Communists. The Communists have no need to introduce community of women; it has existed almost from time immemorial.

Our bourgeois, not content with having the wives and daughters of their proletarians at their disposal, not to speak of common prostitutes, take the greatest pleasure in seducing each other's wives.

Bourgeois marriage is in reality a system of wives in common and thus, at the most, what the Communists might possibly be reproached with, is that they desire to introduce, in substitution for a hypocritically concealed, an openly legalised community of women. For the rest, it is self-evident that the abolition of the present system of production must bring with it the abolition of the community of women springing from that system, i.e. of prostitution both public and private.



(And since we're talking about women, let's see what old Prof. Engels had to say...)

Go on!
Women's Lib
is already
100 years old!!



This situation changed with the patriarchal family and even more with the monogamous individual family. The administration of the household lost its public character. It was no longer the concern of society. It became *private service*. The wife became the first domestic servant, pushed out of participation in social production. Only modern large-scale industry again threw open to her — and only to the proletarian woman at that — the avenue to social production; but in such a way that, when she fulfils her duties in the private service of her family, she remains excluded from public production and cannot earn anything; and when she wishes to take part in public industry and earn her living independently, she is not in a position to fulfil her family duties. What applies to the woman in the factory applies to her in all professions, right up to medicine and law. The modern individual family is based on the open or disguised domestic enslavement of the woman; and modern society is a mass composed solely of individual families as its molecules. Today, in the great majority of cases, the man has to be the earner, the breadwinner of the family, at least among the propertied classes, and this gives him a dominating position which requires no special legal privileges. In the family, he is the bourgeois; the wife represents the proletariat.

MARX'S PROPHETIC
VISION IS PRETTY
ASTONISHING.

THAT'S WHY HIS
WRITINGS DON'T
GO OUT OF
DATE.

But let's get on
with the
Manifesto:

Blimey!
Was that written
in 1848 or today??

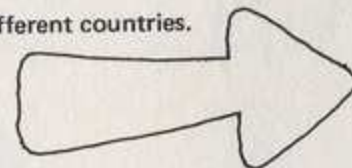


We have seen above, that the first step in the revolution by the working class, is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to win the battle of democracy.

The proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralise all instruments of production in the hands of the State. i.e. of the proletariat organised as the ruling class; and to increase the total of productive forces as rapidly as possible.

Of course, in the beginning, this cannot be effected except by means of despotic inroads on the rights of property, and on the conditions of bourgeois production; by means of measures, therefore, which appear economically insufficient and untenable, but which, in the course of the movement, outstrip themselves, necessitate further inroads upon the old social order, and are unavoidable as a means of entirely revolutionising the mode of production.

These measures will of course be different in different countries.



What are the socialist measures Charlie mentions?



YOU CAN SEE - LISTED BELOW - THE FIRST PRACTICAL PROGRAMME FOR CONSTRUCTING SOCIALISM:...

AND IF YOU COMPARE IT WITH PRESENT-DAY REALITY, TWO THINGS BECOME CLEAR:

- ① THE INFLUENCE OF MARX EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD...
- AND ② COUNTRIES TODAY (AFTER 120 YEARS) WHICH HAVEN'T YET IMPLEMENTED (AND DON'T FORESEE DOING SO) EVEN THIS MINIMUM AND INCOMPLETE PROGRAMME...

Nevertheless in the most advanced countries, the following will be pretty generally applicable:

1. Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes.
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.
3. Abolition of all right of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels.
5. Centralisation of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly.
6. Centralisation of means of communication and transport in the hands of the State.
7. Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State; the bringing into cultivation of waste-lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan.
8. Equal liability of all to labour. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.
9. Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country, by a more equable distribution of the population over the country.
10. Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labour in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production, &c., &c.

HERR KARL MARX (ALIAS THE "TOUGH GUY") FORCEFULLY DEMONSTRATES THAT CAPITALISM IS INCAPABLE OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF HUMANITY. SO LONG AS THE SYSTEM GOES ON DEVELOPING, EVERYTHING WILL GO FROM BAD TO WORSE... A DECADENT EMPIRE SPREADING LIKE A PLAGUE EVERYWHERE...

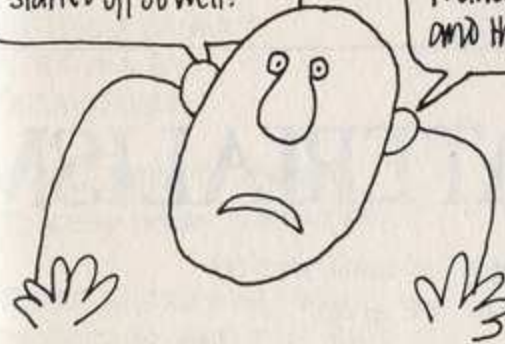


Is that -gulp- North American Imperialism...?

WHY'S THAT?

What went wrong with the bourgeoisie who'd started off so well?

Why has it produced gangster representatives like Hitler, Trujillo, the Brazilian apes, Truman Franco, Pinochet, Nixon and the rest...?



MARX COULDN'T MAKE IT ANY PLAINER. ALL SYSTEMS WHICH CARRY THE DESTRUCTIVE SEEDS OF CLASS WAR WILL EVENTUALLY DISAPPEAR... BUT BEFORE GOING UNDER, THEY DEFEND THEMSELVES TO THE DEATH LIKE SAVAGE, WOUNDED BEASTS, UNTIL THE UP-AND-COMING SYSTEM ADMINISTERS THE COUP-DE-GRÂCE...

THE INTERNAL CRISES OF THE YANKEE EMPIRE, THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM IN VIETNAM, CUBA, CHILE, AFRICA, THE SPLITS INSIDE THE CHURCH, EVERY LIBERATION MOVEMENT... ARE ALL SIGNS OF CAPITALISM'S LAST STRUGGLES TO AVOID BEING WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH...

Vietnam And Chile prove glaringly who the real enemy of humanity is...

Yech! Greed!!



CAPITALISM HAS PROVEN ITSELF UNABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING UNDER IT (NOT TO MENTION PROBLEMS IN GENERAL OF HUMANITY) ... AND IT'S WELL ON THE ROAD TO FINAL CRISIS AND EVENTUAL COLLAPSE.



(Just as Charlie Marx "prophesized" it a century ago...)

THE PURPOSE OF MARX'S THEORY OF

HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

IS TO SHOW US THAT HISTORY IS MADE BY MAN, NOT BY "DESTINY" OR THE SO CALLED "HAND OF GOD"...

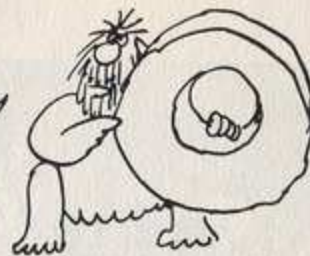


History is the life of people-period-that's all.

HUMANITY-THOUGHT MARX- DID NOT REQUIRE 'OUTSIDE' HELP TO INVENT ITS TOOLS. NO ANGEL APPEARED FROM HEAVEN TO TEACH MAN HOW TO CONSTRUCT PLOUGHS AND WHEELS...

Wheel?!??

What I want to invent is the lifebuoy!!



EACH GENERATION COMES ALONG TO CREATE, AND GRADUALLY PERFECT NEW TOOLS - BY WORKING AND NOT THANKS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT! (EVEN IF NOT ALL THE GREAT INVENTORS WERE ATHEISTS...)

BUT TOOLS CANNOT WORK ALL BY THEMSELVES.

PEOPLE HAVE TO SWEAT TO KEEP THEM OPERATING...

THESE INSTRUMENTS OF PRODUCTION, AND THE MEN WHO PRODUCE THINGS WITH THEM, ARE WHAT MARX CALLS...

The moving forces of society



BUT NOTHING IS PRODUCED IN ISOLATION. HUMAN LABOUR ALWAYS HAS A SOCIAL CHARACTER. SOCIETY WAS FORMED BY MEN AS A HELP, AS A PROTECTION AGAINST WILD ANIMALS, TO GET BETTER RESULTS FROM WORK...



(and to pull the wool over our eyes...)

EXACTLY. BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT EVENTUALLY HAPPENED. THE OWNERS JOINED FORCES TO SQUEEZE PRODUCTIVITY OUT OF THE NON-OWNERS (I.E. THOSE WHO HAD NOTHING BUT THEIR LABOUR-POWER...)



THESE RELATIONS, WHICH PEOPLE ESTABLISH (LIKE 'EM OR NOT) DURING THE PROCESS OF PRODUCTION, MARX CALLS:

The relations of production

(AND THAT'S HOW, AS WE'VE SEEN, THE LEVELS OF SOCIAL CLASS AROSE, AND HOW THE PRECISE KINDS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM WERE SET UP. ONE EXPLOITERS, THE OTHER EXPLOITED...)

THE COMBINATION OF "PRODUCTIVE FORCES" (OR UNITS OF PRODUCTION) AND THE RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION, MARX DEFINES BY THE CONCEPT OF

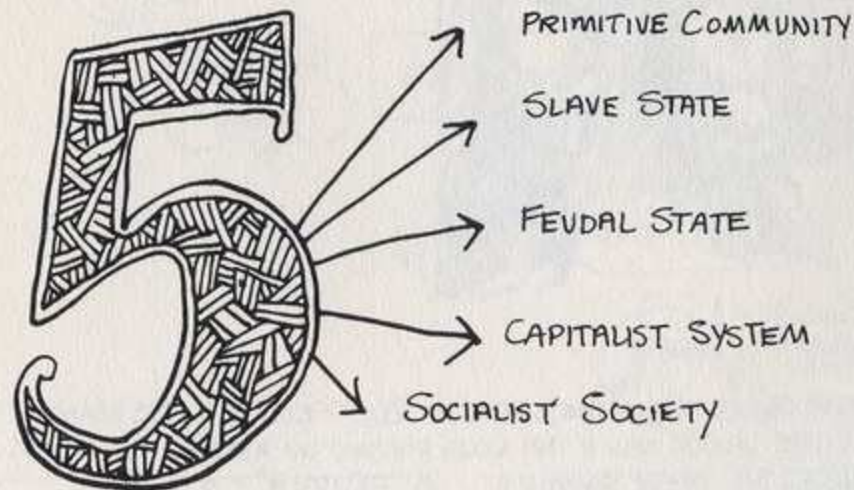
MODE OF PRODUCTION

Indeed, Marx says - History becomes the history of the modes of production...



HISTORY ISN'T JUST THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NOBLES, KINGS, PRIESTS AND SUCH, BUT IT REVEALS THE SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF THE DIFFERENT MODES OF PRODUCTION BY WHICH MANKIND GAINED POWER OVER NATURE.

MARX DISTINGUISHES 5 SYSTEMS OR MODES THUS:



PRIMITIVE
COMMUNITY...



... AND THE SLAVE STATE
ARE KNOWN AND CLEAR
TO EVERYONE...



THE SYSTEM WE'LL NOW TRY TO EXPLAIN IS...

Feudalism (hoping everybody'll understand it!)



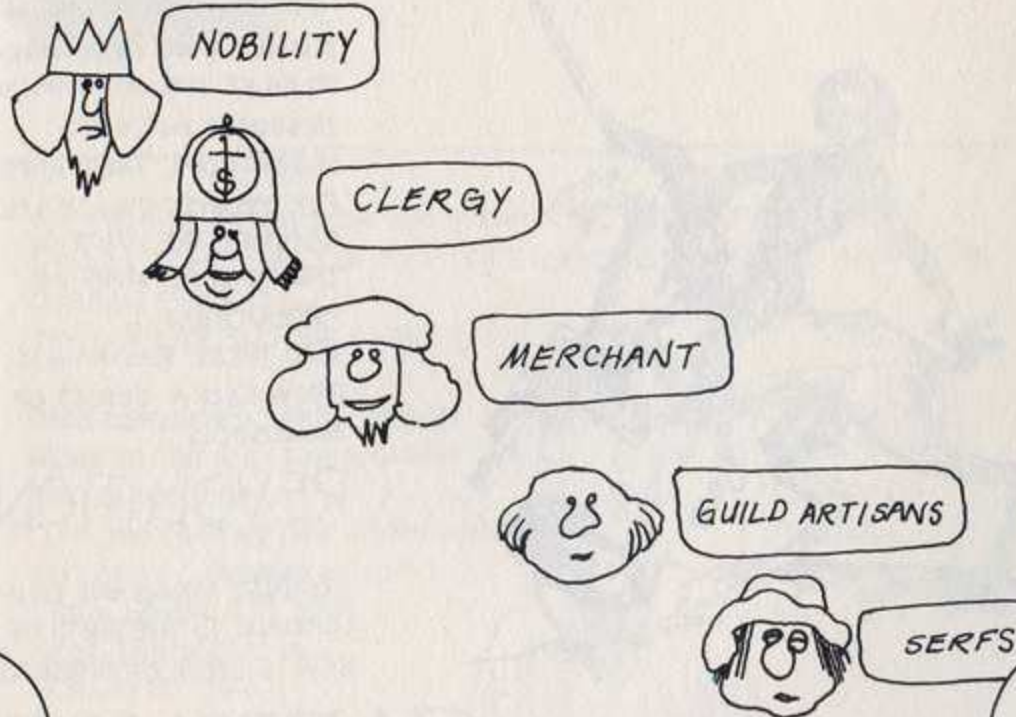
Now then my lad,
What's this 'Feudalism' then?

FEUDALISM COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD, "FEUDUM", THE NAME
GIVEN TO THE LANDS WHICH THE KING DIVIDED UP AMONG HIS NOBLES IN
EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SUPPORT... (A "FEUDUM" = A "FEE")

THOSE WHO ACTUALLY
LIVED ON THE LAND HAD
SOME CLAIM TO THEIR BIT
OF EARTH. BUT THEIR
LABOUR BELONGED TO
THE FEUDAL OVER-LORD
TO WHOM THEY PAID
TAXES AND WHO USED
THEM WHENEVER HE
WENT TO WAR...
WHEN I SAY "KING" BY
THE WAY, YOU CAN JUST
AS WELL READ "POPE",
BECAUSE THE CHURCH
OF CHRIST WAS ALSO A
FEUDAL SYSTEM LIKE
ANY OTHER (AND
PROBABLY WORSE...)



WITHIN FEUDALISM, THE SOCIAL CLASSES SEEN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM WERE:



AS TIME WENT ON, THE MERCHANTS AND GUILD ARTISANS GREW IN NUMBERS AND POWER. THEY BEGAN TO SHRUG OFF THE BURDENSOME YOKE IMPOSED ON THEM BY THE NOBLES AND CLERGY. THE FIRST INTELLECTUALS AWOKE, BRINGING NEW IDEAS INTO DAYLIGHT. A NEW CLASS IS BORN, THE

BOURGEOISIE



I'm really fed up with paying taxes to those lay-about bishops and kings. Long live Liberty, Damn it!!!



COMMERCE THIS BEGAN TO CHANGE THE FORM OF PRODUCTION. THE BOURGEOISIE NEEDED BIGGER (AND FREE) MARKETS TO SHIFT THE MERCHANDISE PRODUCED IN THEIR WORKSHOPS. THEIR APPETITE FOR PROFITS CAN SMACK AGAINST THE LIMITS OF THE FEUDAL MODE OF PRODUCTION... AND THESE RESTRAINTS PROVOKED A SERIES OF BOURGEOIS

REVOLUTIONS

AGAINST KING AND CHURCH, LEADING TO THE BIRTH OF A NEW "SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION":

CAPITALISM...

CAPITALISM IS ALREADY IN ITS VENERABLE OLD AGE. IN PRACTICE, IT SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY IN PARIS, 1789, WITH THE FRENCH REVOLUTION...



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WAS PRIMARILY A LIBERATION MOVEMENT. 'LIBERATION' FROM WHAT? FROM THE POWER OF THE MONARCH AND THE CLERGY. FOR WHAT? TO DEFEND PRIVATE PROPERTY AND FREE ENTERPRISE. FOR WHOSE BENEFIT? THE BOURGEOISIE, I.E. THE RICH WHO WANTED THE LIBERTY TO MAKE MORE MONEY AND THE LIBERTY OF THE SERFS SO AS TO BUY THEIR LABOUR FREELY.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WAS A GENERAL CLASS STRUGGLE, A TOUGH PITCHED BATTLE IN WHICH EVERYONE TOOK SIDES AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY: THE NOBILITY AND THE CLERGY.

ONCE DEFEATED, THEIR POWER WENT TO THE ASCENDING CLASS - THE BOURGEOISIE. THE PEASANTRY GOT SOMETHING OUT OF IT: OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LANDS. BUT THE SERF-LABOURERS GOT NOTHING AT ALL...



Except the "liberty" to exchange masters...

THE BOURGEOIS REVOLUTION
(OR THE FRENCH: SAME DIFFERENCE)
WAS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER
REVOLUTION - THE INDUSTRIAL,
HUMANITY INVENTED MACHINES
WHICH TOOK THE PLACE OF
MANUAL CRAFTS. THIS
COMPLETELY REVOLUTIONIZED
THE MODE OF PRODUCTION...



Oh sure!
But these 'effin'
machines won't
work 'emselvs!!

THE APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE OF MACHINE-PRODUCED GOODS BRINGS
WITH IT A COUPLE OF NEW SOCIAL CLASSES: CAPITALISTS, OR
OWNERS OF THE MACHINES, AND WORKERS, OR THE OPERATORS
TIED TO THESE INFERNAL MACHINES. WITH MACHINERY
COMES A NEW MODE OF PRODUCTION WHICH MARX
CALLS

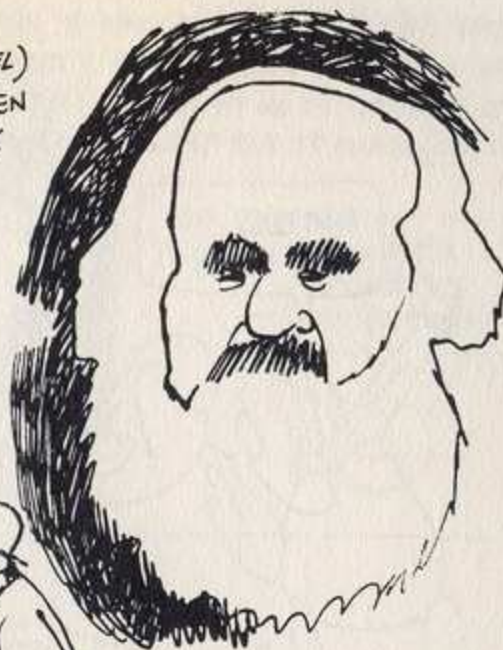
CAPITALISM

NOW THE WORKER ISN'T THE
SLAVE OF A FEUDAL LORD.
HE'S A "FREE CITIZEN"
(I.E. FREE TO SELL
HIMSELF TO THE
"HIGHEST" BIDDER...)

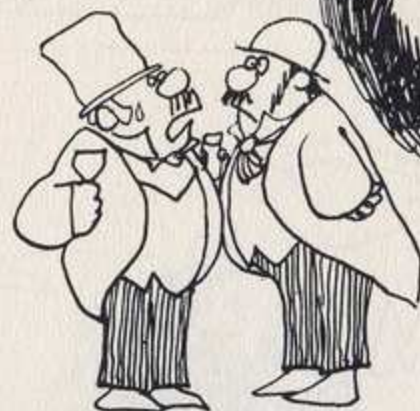


Right! Anyone feel
like paying me more...?

JUST AS EVERYONE WAS SETTLING DOWN
HAPPILY WITH CAPITALISM (AND LIKE HEGEL)
THINKING THAT SOCIETY HAD FINALLY TAKEN
THE RIGHT ROAD, ALONG COMES MARX
AND SPOILS THE PARTY...



'Ere!
Who the 'ell
invited yon
hippie??



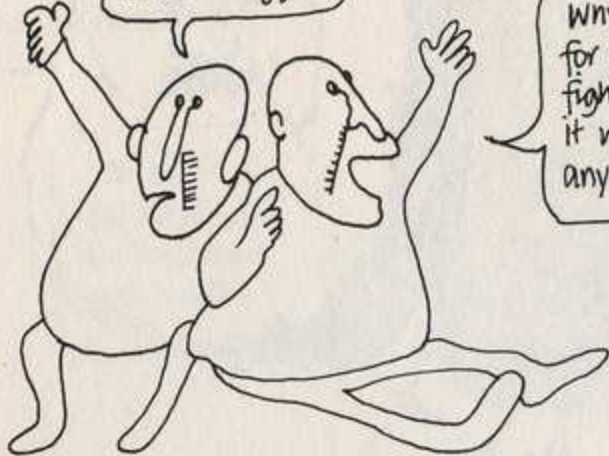
MARX'S THEORY OF CLASS STRUGGLE -
INEVITABLE AND HISTORICAL -
REALLY HIT CAPITALISM BELOW
THE BELT. SOONER OR LATER,
SAYS MARX, CAPITALISM IS GOING
TO HAVE TO RETREAT BEFORE A
NEWER AND FAIRER SYSTEM...

Socialism



MARX SHOWS US HOW THE LAWS OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT DETERMINE THE INEVITABLE SEQUENCE OF MODES OF PRODUCTION: FROM PRIMITIVE TO SLAVERY, FROM FEUDALISM ON TO CAPITALISM... WHICH LED (AND STILL LEADS) MANY TO ASK THEMSELVES:

Then why the class struggle?



Why struggle for socialism, and fight the police, if it will happen anyway?

MARX
Replies:

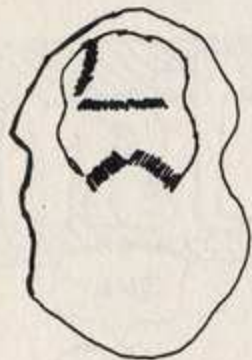
Only rain, hail and stuff like that fall from heaven. Change doesn't come from "on high"...



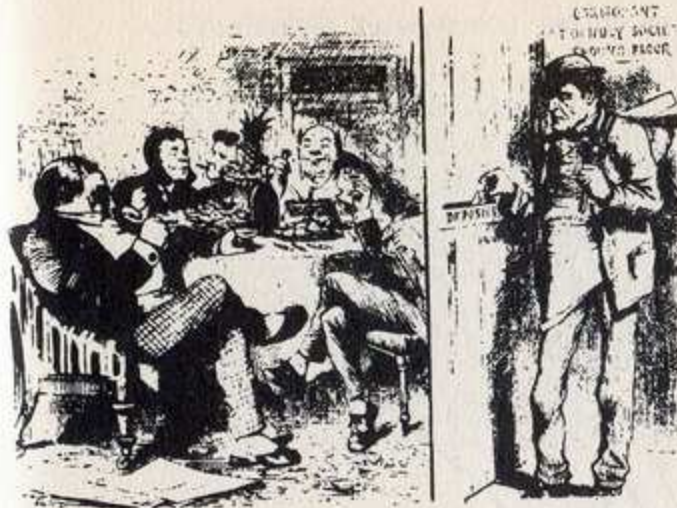
BECAUSE MEN MAKE HISTORY, NOT THE OTHER WAY ROUND...

HISTORY DOESN'T DO ANYTHING. IT DOESN'T PROMOTE ANY STRUGGLE.

CAPITAL WILL ATTEMPT TO RESIST ITS OWN DOWNFALL. WHAT WILL LEAD TO ITS DESTRUCTION ARE CAPITALISM'S INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS: BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF AN ADVERSARY DEVELOPING INDEPENDENTLY OF CAPITALISM'S WILL, I.E. THE PROLETARIAT...



MARX KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL THAT THE RICH WILL NEVER FREELY SURRENDER THEIR WEALTH AND PRIVILEGES...



You gotta persuade 'em with "good manner!"

My word! I'd like to know how the plebeian riff-raff will take over...



HOW?



WELL, IF ANYONE REALLY WANTED TO KNOW (INCLUDING THIS FAT RUSSIAN FAUNTLEROY), MARX WILLINGLY EXPLAINED THE RECIPE FOR TRANSFORMING CAPITALIST SOCIETY INTO A SOCIALIST ONE: EXPROPRIATING THE PRIVATE MEANS OF PRODUCTION, REPLACING THE GOVERNMENT AND STATE ADMINISTRATION... I.E. SEIZING POWER...

BUT HOW CAN THE WORKERS SEIZE POWER??



MARX SUPPLIES THE FORMULA IN THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO ...

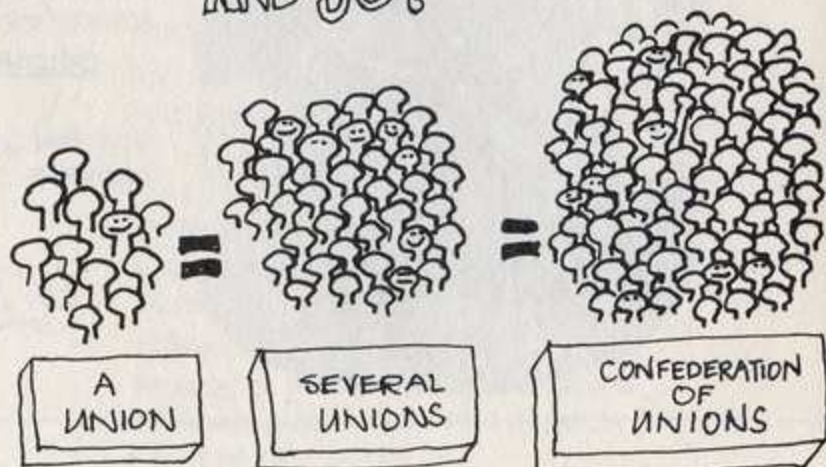


A HAND IS MADE UP OF 5 FINGERS, BUT A FIST IS THE SAME 5 FINGERS UNITED...

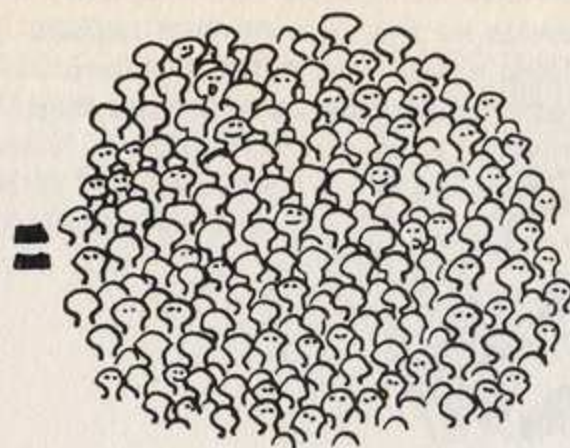
(NOT FOR NOTHING, THE FIST IS THE SYMBOL OF THE WORKERS' STRUGGLE...)



AND SO?



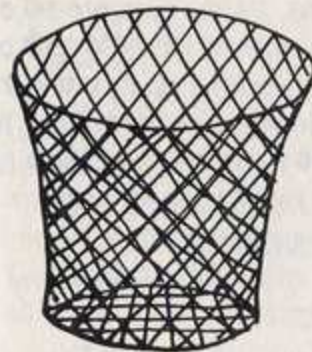
MARX MAKES THE POINT CRYSTAL CLEAR - AS IN THIS ILLUSTRATION:



A workers' party!



"IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE UNITED POWER OF THE RULING CLASS, ONLY THE WORKING CLASS - AS AN ORGANISED CLASS - CAN ACTIVATE A PARTY OF ITS OWN TO OPPOSE ALL OTHER OLD, REACTIONARY PARTIES..."



But a mass party isn't built overnight!!!

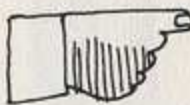
(OR BY PARLIAMENTARY LEGISLATION...)

THE FIRST STEP MUST BE TO CONVINCE THE WORKER THAT ONLY UNITY WILL GIVE HIM THE MEAN TO CHANGE HIS EXISTENCE. HE MUST BECOME AWARE OF HIS POWER, OF THE REASONS WHY HE LIVES BADLY, AND THAT CAPITALISM WILL NEVER SOLVE HIS PROBLEMS. HE MUST REALISE WHAT SOCIALISM CAN OFFER HIM...



... IN A WORD (HE'S GOT TO BE)

POLITICIZED



ONLY A POLITICIZED WORKING CLASS CAN MOVE TO THE NEXT STAGE: THE ORGANIZED STRUGGLE TO SAFEGUARD ITS RIGHTS...

EVEN IN MARX'S DAY, SOME ALREADY BELIEVED THAT UNION CAMPAIGNS ONLY SERVED TO OBTAIN HIGHER WAGES AND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS... BUT, SAYS MARX, THIS IS THE WRONG WAY TO UNDERSTAND UNIONS...

"Communists fight for the attainment of the immediate aims, for the enforcement of the momentary interests of the working class, but in the movement of the present, they also represent and take care of the future of that movement"...

(Manifesto)



THE PRINCIPLE AIM OF ANY LABOUR UNION MUST BE CHANGE WHICH ANTICIPATES SOCIALISM ... OR ELSE IT JUST WASTES ITS TIME, AS AMERICAN UNIONS DO, STRUGGLING AROUND ON BENDED KNEE FOR CAPITALISM'S SAKE...



NOW COMES THE INTERESTING QUESTION, WHICH MANY READERS HAVE PROBABLY ASKED THEMSELVES: PEACEFUL ROAD OR ARMED STRUGGLE? WHICH?



Ranged against the workingman's party, there's the U.S. government... the army, the police, laws, repression, the whole propaganda machine!



... and I'll add a dash of what's missing - like in Chile!

SOONER OR LATER - MARX SAID - THE CONFRONTATION HAS GOT TO TURN DEADLY, AND THE WORKING CLASS WILL ARRIVE AT REVOLUTION. A WORKERS' PARTY MAY HELP THE PROLETARIAT TO SCREW CONCESSIONS FROM THE CAPITALISTS, BUT EVEN THAT WON'T CHANGE THE BASIC EXPLOITIVE CONDITIONS (MORE OR LESS EXPLOITED, MAYBE, BUT NEVER COMPLETELY FREE...)

THE STRUGGLE OF INDUSTRIAL AND AGRARIAN WORKERS WITHIN THE FRAME OF UNIONS, PARTIES AND EVEN PARLIAMENT, IS ONLY A WAY TO PREPARE, TO ORGANIZE, TO GAIN THE STRENGTH FOR THE DECISIVE BLOW...



"... in times when the class struggle nears the decisive hour, the process of dissolution going on within the ruling class, in fact within the whole range of old society, assumes such a violent, glaring character..."

"... that a small section of the ruling class cuts itself adrift, and joins the revolutionary class... just as, at an earlier period, a section of the nobility went over to the bourgeoisie..." (Manifesto)



THIS "SMALL SECTION" CUTTING ITSELF ADRIPT FROM THE BOURGEOISIE INCLUDES INTELLECTUALS, LIKE MARX AND ENGELS, LENIN, MAO, HO CHI MINH, FIDEL CASTRO, CHE, AND LOTS OF OTHERS WHO WOULD HAVE DONE NOTHING ALONE... LIKE THE STUDENTS WHO WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING UNLESS THEY JOIN FORCES WITH THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS...

(Amen!!)

MARX NEVER IMAGINED A WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT SEPARATE FROM SOCIALIST THEORY. A SOCIALIST PARTY WITHOUT MASS SUPPORT IS A PHANTOM, A BODY WITHOUT A HEAD, OR VICE VERSA, LIKE THE LEFTIST PARTIES WHICH HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH THE REAL PROBLEMS OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS...



Bah!
just hot air!!

MARX'S THEORY HAD TO WAIT 24 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH BEFORE BEING PUT INTO PRACTICE, AND IN A COUNTRY WHERE IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE. IN RUSSIA, 1917, THANKS TO THE VISION AND STEADFAST STRUGGLE OF A "BOURGEOIS" MARXIST CALLED

Lenin



("The 3 Sources and 3 Component Parts of Marxism" 1913 v.19)

"...THE TEACHING OF MARX IS ALL-POWERFUL BECAUSE IT IS TRUE. IT IS COMPLETE AND HARMONIOUS, PROVIDING MEN WITH A CONSISTENT VIEW OF THE UNIVERSE, WHICH CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH ANY SUPERSTITION, ANY REACTION, ANY DEFENCE OF BOURGEOIS OPPRESSION. IT IS THE LAWFUL SUCCESSOR OF THE BEST THAT HAS BEEN CREATED BY HUMANITY IN THE 19TH CENTURY—GERMAN PHILOSOPHY, ENGLISH POLITICAL ECONOMY AND FRENCH SOCIALISM."

LENIN WAS THE ONE TO CONTINUE MARX'S IDEAS. HE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO REVOLUTIONARY THEORY, DEFENDING IT AGAINST ITS ENEMIES AND MISTAKEN INTERPRETERS. HE WAS THE ONE TO PROVE MARX CORRECT...

But Marx, basing himself on the experience of the Paris Commune, taught that the proletariat cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machine and use it for its own purposes, that the proletariat must smash this machine and substitute a new one for it. . . This new type of state machinery was created by the Paris Commune, and by the Russian Soviets of Workers. . .

(Lenin, Vol.26, p.90)

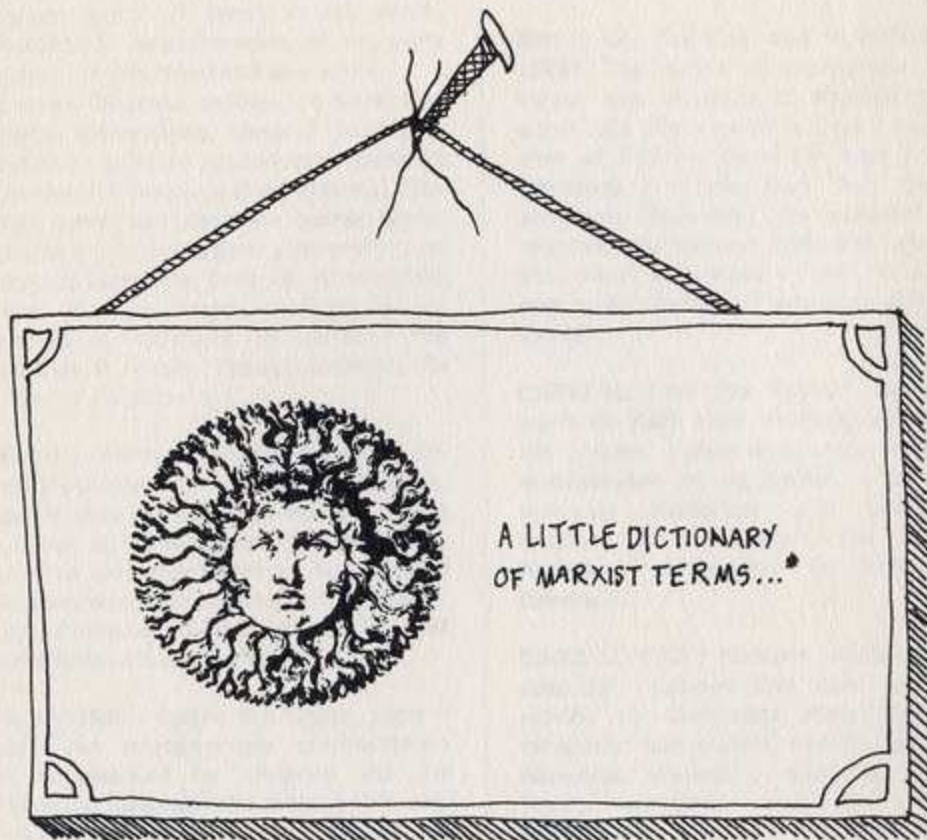
(BUT TO GO ON ABOUT LENIN AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION CALLS FOR A WHOLE OTHER BOOK...)



... I THINK THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE TO WRITE

The End...

(...well, not entirely...)



* You're not obliged to read this now! Declare a holiday and start again - later on! And I hope it will be clearer than the preceding pages...

AGNOSTICISM / (from the Greek, *agnostos* = unknown). Philosophical doctrine which maintains that human reason is limited and the true nature of things inaccessible to man. This doctrine holds that the world we observe and deal with is not an objective reality, but rather a product of the activity of our reason and sense organs. Agnosticism is disproved by experience and practice, now that science has cleared the way to the knowledge of things. There remains one difference: between what is already known and what is not yet known.

Agnostic philosophers include Hume, Kant, Comte, Spencer, Mach etc.

ANALYSIS and SYNTHESIS / 1) analysis (in Greek, 'decomposition'), dis-integration of an object or phenomenon into its simple component parts. 2) synthesis (in Greek, 'composition'), recombination of the parts of an object or phenomenon as a whole. Metaphysics opposes analysis to synthesis. Dialectical materialism, instead, maintains the unity of these two procedures. "Without analysis there is no synthesis" (Engels). For example, when analysing the human body, anatomists study its organs separately; but to grasp the complete, deep significance and function of every organ, analysis is not enough. It is necessary to consider the organism as a whole: indeed, studying its parts, but as a synthesis.

ANIMISM / (from the Latin, *anima*: soul). The spiritualization of natural phenomena. The belief that behind every natural object there hides an invisible or 'mental' spirit-force. "This tendency to personification had as a consequence the creation of the gods." (Engels). Primitive animism was the basis of religion and later idealist thought.

ANTAGONISM / (from the Greek, *agon* = contest). An irreconcilable contradiction which is resolved by violence. As the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the working class is thus resolved by socialist revolution. Contradictions between the working class and peasantry have no antagonistic character.

ATHEISM / (from the Greek, 'without god') The scientific negation of religion. Atheism was born in ancient Greece with the materialist philosophers, Democritus and Epicurus, who denied the supernatural and

stated that the world is nothing other than matter composed of atoms.

ANTI-DUHRING / The abbreviated title of a work by Engels: "The Scientific Revolution of Eugene Duhring", a classic of Marxist literature. The work was aimed against the German philosopher, Duhring, who wished to refute Marxism by recourse to metaphysics. The ANTI-DUHRING is a masterly synthesis of Marx's forty years of struggle and study.

ATOM / The idea of the atom was first introduced to science by Democritus and Epicurus, more than 2,000 years ago. The physicist, Newton, and the philosophers, Holbach and Gassendi, worked on this theory.

BASE (or INFRA) and SUPERSTRUCTURE / The mode of production, i.e. the forces and relations of production which constitute the economic base - the foundation of society. Once the base (or infra-structure) is modified then the super-structure (including the political system, religion, philosophy, morality, art, science etc.) must also modify itself, at a more or less rapid rhythm. (see also ECONOMIC BASE)

CAPITAL / or 'Das Kapital', the principal work by Karl Marx. A detailed analysis of the laws governing the economic development of capitalism - but also an immense historical and philosophical treatise. In this work, the theory of historical materialism is fundamentally developed.

CATEGORIES / Notions which express the essential relations and laws of the real world. In dialectical materialism, these categories are: matter, motion, space, time, necessity, causality, quantity, substance, form, content, etc. In Historical Materialism, they are: the social-economic structure, forces of production, infra-and super-structure, ideology, etc. These categories represent a generalization of the processes and phenomena of nature, independent of the consciousness of man.

CAUSALITY / One of the forms of general interdependence of phenomena in the objective world. In essence, cause and effect

"are only moments of interdependence and universal relation, of the connection of events; they are, above all, present in the chain of the development of matter." (Lenin) There can be no phenomena (events) without causes. All natural phenomena have natural and material causes. Cause and effect stand in reciprocal relation to each other. Between them exists an internal relation regulated by laws. Thus in the socialist system, the development of technology becomes a *cause* of the increasing well-being (*effect*) of workers.

CLASS STRUGGLE (see also **SOCIAL CLASSES**) / Struggle between exploited and exploiters. Demonstration that class interests are irreconcilable. The forms of class struggle are diverse: economic, political, ideological, theoretical. But all such kinds are subordinate to the *political* struggle. With the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, class struggle does not cease but takes on new forms.

COMMUNISM / The doctrine of Marx and Engels founded on the basis of the materialist conception of history. Communism is the stage following after socialism and when social classes cease to exist. Communism does not yet exist in any country. The Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries are still in the phase of socialism where class struggle has still not terminated.

CONDITIONS OF THE MATERIAL LIFE OF SOCIETY / The elements determining the conditions of material life in society are: 1) geographical situation and natural resources; 2) population density; 3) the mode of production by which it creates the material goods necessary to its existence. The fundamental force which determines development of a society, and also its passage from one kind of social system to another, is material production — the development of the "productive power of the society".

DARWIN, CHARLES (1809-1882) / Celebrated English thinker, founder of the theory of evolution. "Darwin put an end to the belief that the animal and vegetable species bear no relation to one another, except by chance, and that they were

created by God, and hence immutable." (Lenin)

DETERMINISM and INDETERMINISM / *Determinism*: doctrine concerning the necessary relationship between events and phenomena and their accidental conditioning. For example, the anarchy of the capitalist mode of production fatally *determines* economic crisis; the development of class struggle inevitably *determines* a social revolution. Idealists oppose to determinism, *indeterminism* — maintaining that the natural course of events in reality are not subject to laws but to independent, arbitrary chance.

DIALECTIC / (from the Greek, 'debate' and 'converse') According to early Greek philosophers, the art of knowing truth by uncovering the contradictions in the reasonings of one's adversary. Later, dialectics (also sometimes in the form, 'dialectic') came to be transformed into a theory of development and universal relations. Dialectics considers all phenomena as being in movement, in process of perpetual change. It views the development of nature itself as a result of the struggle between contradictions within nature. Dialectics became a science when Marx and Engels liberated it from Hegelian idealism. It is a doctrine of development — a science of the universal laws governing the development of nature, human society and thought.

DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT / The period of transition from socialism to communism, during which the material conditions are created for socialist construction, the suppression of classes and the passage to a classless and stateless society.

DOGMA, DOGMATISM / Dogma is undemonstrated affirmation, accepted with blind faith. This is why Marx and Engels always said: "Our doctrine is not a dogma, but a guide to action." Unfortunately, dogmatic Marxists often ignore this crucial aspect of Marxism, and thereby rob it of its revolutionary, creative power.

DUALISM / (from the Latin, 'two') A philosophical tendency opposed to

'monism' (from the Greek, *monos* = one, unity). Dualism places not one but two different substances at the origin of existence. Thus DESCARTES sees man as being composed of two distinct substances: one, material — the body, the other spiritual — the soul. Marxism places matter-in-movement at the origin of all natural phenomena as primary cause. Consciousness is a secondary cause produced by matter.

ECLECTICISM / Mere mechanical link-ups of various currents, concepts and theories, without any pre-established principle. Eclectic thinkers attempt to reconcile materialism and idealism.

ECONOMIC BASE / The mode of production at the basis of any social system. The economic base (or infra-structure) determines the totality of the social super-structure: the state, political institutions, ideas and theories, etc. "The structures of every society can change rapidly only by revolutionizing the economic base." (Marx)

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE / Ordering of society into classes: the *relations* of production which correspond to the specific level determined by the development of the *material* forces of production.

EMPIRIO-CRITICISM / Reactionary, idealist current of philosophy which arose in Germany and Austria during the second half of the 19th century. Its initiators were Avenarius and Mach. They affirmed that "elements of the world" i.e. "elements of experience" stood at the basis of all phenomena. Each thing is a "combination of elements". By the term 'elements', they meant the fact that sensation is at the basis of phenomena; but in such a way as to identify 'element' with sense-impression.

EPICURUS / (342-270 B.C.) Greek materialist philosopher, teacher and follower of Democritus.

EVOLUTION and REVOLUTION / Quantitative changes, of an unperceived, slow and interrupted kind come about through evolution. Qualitative changes, on the contrary, happen all at once, by leaps, in a revolutionary manner. Development implies both, necessarily. Evolution prepares

the way for revolution. But opportunism replaces revolutionary struggle by reform.

EXISTENCE Philosophic term designating *subjective* reality, in matter.

EXISTENCE and SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS / From the viewpoint of dialectical materialism, existence is primary while consciousness, as a simple reflection of matter, of nature, of human thought, is secondary. Social existence — i.e. the mode of producing material goods, objects, food, clothing etc. — is the primary element which determines social consciousness and the spiritual, intellectual life of society (its culture). Marx extended materialism into the areas of social phenomena by discovering that social existence and the mode of production determine social consciousness.

EXPERIMENT / By experiment is currently understood the 'practical experience' of the procedures verifying knowledge by direct observation of phenomena — either in the laboratory or in objective reality. Philosophy explains *experiment* either in materialist or idealist form. For dialectical materialism, experience presupposes the presence of an objective, material world which exists independently of human consciousness. But for idealism, experience does not involve material objects or even phenomena: rather, it is concerned with our past impressions. It can therefore consider religious 'sentiment' alone as *experimental* proof enough of the existence of God.

FATALISM / (from the Latin, 'fate') Idealist notion which holds that historical development is pre-determined by some unknown force, by 'destiny'. Fatalism denies the *creative* function of people, history and political struggle, and considers humanity a plaything in the hands of God or fate, unable to influence things through **ACTION**.

FETISHISM / To deify or 'fetishize' objects means to give them occult, supernatural forces foreign to human nature. In primitive times, the fetish was an object of awe; later becoming a good or bad luck charm. In capitalism, the fetishism of money, property and commodities is the magic of capitalist ownership.

FEUERBACH, LUDWIG (1804-72) / One of the major German materialists who proclaimed and defended atheism and influenced the founders of Marxism. Feuerbach, however, remains idealist in his concept of social phenomena. Neglecting the material basis of society, he distinguished the successive stages of human development according to the different forms of religious consciousness. Feuerbach did not grasp the importance of practical revolutionary action, or the dialectical interaction between man and nature and the transformation of humanity in the process of production.

FIDE-ISM / (from the Latin, *fides*: 'faith') Doctrine (especially in Latin countries) which replaces understanding by faith and stresses the determining role it plays. Lenin sees idealist philosophy as a "more or less weakened or diluted fide-ism"; so to speak, a clericalism. (see IDEALISM)

FORCES OF PRODUCTION / Instruments or tools with which material goods are produced; also *persons* who use these productive tools and manufacture material goods, thanks to experience and work-training. Productive forces (machines, tools, raw materials etc.) and human labour-power must be present as the indispensable elements of work. Social life depends upon productive forces which it can command and the modes of production employed. Hence the importance of the *social planning* of these forces, which will only bear fruit with socialism.

FORM and CONTENT / In nature, society or thought, everything has its content and form. Agrarian reform, for instance, may be the content; but its form may vary according to the modes of application.

FORMAL LOGIC / Theory concerning the laws of human thought which separates nature from the enquiry into those laws. Formal logic does not preoccupy itself with material truth (i.e. the faithful reflection and conception of natural phenomena), but with 'formal' truth. Hence its name. Herein lies the basis of metaphysical method. Dialectics (i.e. natural logic) is the contrary of formal logic since it considers that the content of thought, the principles and laws of logic, must correspond to materiality.

nature and its regulative laws. Formal logic affirms that all objects and concepts are equal to themselves (i.e. the concept of *formal* identity: that A=A). Dialectical materialism shows that every object *is* and *is not* self-identical because it is caught up in a process of development.

FREEDOM and NECESSITY / Metaphysicians often contrast freedom to necessity. Some affirm that will is absolutely free, i.e. unconditioned. Others hold that free will does not exist, but only absolute necessity. Either freedom or necessity... From the Marxist viewpoint, these positions are un-scientific, because freedom does not merely consist of imaginary independence vis-a-vis the laws of nature, but of knowledge of these laws and the possibility of applying them positively in practical action. "Freedom", Engels says, "consists of a domination over self and external nature; a domination based on the knowledge of the necessities of nature. Consequently, freedom is *conscious necessity*. Without an understanding of necessity, real liberty is unattainable."

HEGEL, GEORG WILHELM FRIEDRICH / (1770-1831) German philosopher, idealist dialectician. Nature, according to Hegel, does not develop across time, but varies eternally only in space. The most valuable part of idealist Hegelian philosophy is the dialectical method it employs - that ideas develop from dialectical contradictions; that transformations from quantity to quality have their origin in this development; that truth is concrete; that the developmental process of human society is realized by its submission to laws and not by chance or under the pressure of outsized personalities. Yet, Hegel was pusillanimous and inconsistent: he bowed before the Prussian feudal monarchy, and minimized the extremes of his dialectical positions out of fear and self-interest. "My dialectical method," Marx said, "is not only distinct from Hegelian method at bottom, but is absolutely opposed to it." For Hegel, thought creates reality. The opposite for Marx - ideas are nothing more than matter absorbed and transformed by human thought.

HUMANISM / Cultural current, developed from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

Conception of social reality proper to the then new-born bourgeoisie which struggled to liberate human personality and science from bondage to religious feudalism. Petrarch, Boccaccio, Erasmus, Machiavelli etc., were some representatives of bourgeois humanism. Humanism cannot survive under a capitalist regime because it is opposed to the exploitation of man by man, the very essence of capitalism. Only the real liberation of humanity can bring about genuine humanism.

HUME, DAVID / (1711-1776) English bourgeois philosopher, historian and economist. As an agnostic, he reckoned insoluble the problem of the existence or non-existence of objective reality. He affirmed that we cannot know what things are in themselves and whether they exist or not. Denying the material basis of things and causality, Hume concluded that what alone exists is a flux of psychological perception in human consciousness, and that science leads only to the simple description of this current, with little possibility either of understanding or of conceiving its laws.

IDEALISM / Philosophy which considers reality as an incarnation of a 'universal Idea' or of a 'consciousness'. Idealism is closely linked with religion and leads more or less openly to the idea of God.

IDEOLOGY / Combination of ideas, assumptions, notions of determined concepts, representations. Politics, science, morality, art and religion are *forms* of ideology. All ideologies are reflections of social existence. In class-based society, ideology expresses and defends the interests of the classes in struggle. In bourgeois society, struggle develops between bourgeois and socialist ideologies. There is no intermediate term, since, as Lenin affirms, humanity has not elaborated a 'third' ideology.

INDUCTION (and DEDUCTION) / *Induction*: method of reasoning which consists of passing from the particular to the general, from facts to generalizations. *Deduction*: method which consists of passing from the general to the particular, from generalized propositions to particular conclusions.

INSTRUMENTS (or TOOLS) OF PRODUCTION / Principle elements of productive forces (e.g. machinery) employed by humanity to act upon nature and transform it into material goods. Marx says that economic epochs differ from each other not so much in what they produce but *how* they do so. How labour produces. The means of production are not simply measures of human labour-power but also the indication of the *relations* by means of which work takes place.

KANT, IMMANUEL / (1724-1804) Founder of classical German idealism. He attempted to reconcile materialism and idealism. "When Kant admits that a certain 'thing-in-itself', outside us, must correspond to our representation of it, then he is a materialist. When he declares it impossible to know this 'thing-in-itself', he becomes an idealist." (Lenin) As Kant himself declares, the central problem of his theory of knowledge is to define the limits of the laws of reason, while still retaining a place for God beyond such limits. In his doctrine of ethics, Kant believes it 'necessary' to recognize the existence of God and the soul's immortality, so as to maintain a basis for morality.

MARXISM-LENINISM / Theory of the proletarian liberation movement. Theory and practice of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Theory of the construction of communist society.

MATTER (or MATERIAL) / By its nature, the world is material. The variety of phenomena in nature corresponds to the distinct forms of *matter in motion*. Lenin wrote that matter is a philosophical category to designate objective reality which presents itself to humanity through human perception. Matter is copied, 'photographed' or reflected through human sensations while retaining an existence proper to itself and independent of them.

MATERIALISM / One of the two main tendencies in philosophy which gives a specific reply to the fundamental problem of the relation between thought and existence. Materialism recognizes matter as the primary element, and consciousness (or thought) secondary. It relies on science - particularly the physical sciences. Dialectical

materialism recuperates the entire materialist tradition preceding it and re-elaborates everything of value in it. (see below)

MATERIALISM (DIALECTICAL) / Philosophical doctrine formulated by Marx and Engels, so called because of its *dialectical* manner of confronting, studying and understanding natural phenomena; and *materialist* by its manner of interpreting phenomena and drawing up its theory. Dialectical materialism is the only scientific interpretation of the world; and it is opposed to idealism which offers an interpretation based on religion.

MATERIALISM (HISTORICAL) / Marxist doctrine of the development of human society. Historical materialism sees in the development of material goods necessary to human existence the primary force which determines all social life (and which conditions the transition from one kind of social order to another).

The growth of human power over nature finds its expression in the development of the productive forces of society. The transmutation of economic-social forces throughout history (primitive communal, slave, feudal and capital states) is, above all, a change from certain kinds of productive *modes* and *relations* towards other more progressive ones. Such change is the necessary effect, the cause of which are the laws to which social productive forces everywhere submit.

Discovery of the real basis of life and social development (material production) allows one to see for the first time the importance of the creative spirit of the masses. Great men were not the ones *alone* to make history, but the workers, the real prime movers of the production process, those who accomplished the material tasks necessary for social subsistence.

MATERIALISM (MECHANISTIC) / Early form of materialism which sought to explain all natural phenomena by mechanical laws. It considers motion not as *change* in general but as the mechanical displacement of bodies in space due to external influences — the mere collision of two entities. Mechanistic materialism denies the spontaneous movement of bodies, their qualitative change, the development by

leaps, the passage from inferior to superior.

METAPHYSICS / (from the Greek, *ta meta ta physika*: those works of Aristotle after his 'Physics') Metaphysical method affirms that things and their mental reflections (i.e. concepts) are essentially discrete, unchanging, petrified, given once for all, and can thus be investigated separately, independently one from the other. Metaphysics posits in principle that nature is at rest, immobile, unchanging and unmoving. It considers the process of development uniquely on a quantitative and not qualitative level. Politically, the stance is one that denies class struggle and tries to show that the transition from capitalism to socialism can be realized without violent rupture, by peaceful fusion of capitalism with socialism.

METHODOLOGY / Doctrine of method: combination of procedures, techniques of enquiry applicable to all sciences.

MONISM / (from the Greek, *monos*: one) Philosophical doctrine which, contrary to dualism, recognizes as the cause of all existence only a single principle or origin. Materialists, for instance, consider *matter* as the unique cause of all phenomena; and the idealist-monist, spirit or god or mind.

MORALITY, MORALS / Norms of social life, human behaviour, one of the forms of social consciousness. Materialists hold that morality changes with each change of social order. There exists a morality typical of the slave state; another in the feudal state, the bourgeois, and the communist. The ruling class imposes 'its' morality and puts it into practice in accord with its historical class interests.

NEGATION OF NEGATION / The law of the negation of negation is fundamental to dialectics. Every phenomenon, because internally contradictory, contains in itself its own proper negation (or its own opposite). Thus, within it unfolds the conflict between what *was* and what is *becoming* — between old and new. Negation of the past state is not, however, a pure or vain negation, a simple annulment of everything which has been (as metaphysics thinks.) "Negation, in dialectics, does not signify merely saying No, or simply saying

something does not exist, or destroying it in some manner." (Engels) Dialectics demands "demonstration of the relation between the negative and the positive: so as to encounter the positive in the negative." (Lenin) Communism, thus, declares that everything positive has been created by humanity — even what was obtained under the yoke of capitalism. This is the positive in the negative. Communist society, in its turn, is the negation of the exploitative class regime — i.e. the negation of the negation.

OBJECTIVE / Opposite of subjective: what exists outside human consciousness, independently, but which human thought genuinely reflects.

PANTHEISM / (from the Greek, *pan*: all, and *theos*: god) Philosophical doctrine according to which divinity, as a spiritual and impersonal first principle, is found throughout nature — so that everything is divine.

PLATO / (427-347 B.C.) Greek philosopher, ideologist of the slave-owning aristocracy; founder of objective idealism which maintains that there exists besides the universe of perceptible things *another* world — the one of Ideas. So, above and beyond the trees one actually sees (which derive from various essences), Plato affirms there exists *the* unique Idea one has of 'trees', which is always identical, eternal — and this is the case for all of nature. According to Plato, things are only the shadows of Ideas. Ideas are eternal; things transitory. Not perception, but reason and its concepts give one true knowledge of the essence of things in reality.

PHILOSOPHY / (from the Greek, *philos*: love, friend, and *sophia*: science or wisdom) In dialectical materialism, the science of the most general laws of nature, human society and thought. The fundamental problem of philosophy is that of the relation between existence and thought. To find the answer, all philosophical tendencies divide up into two camps — materialist and idealist.

PHILOSOPHY, THE CLASSICAL GERMAN / Of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. Kant, its founder, was succeeded by Fichte and Schelling. Hegel's system represents the culminating phase of

this philosophical movement. Classical German philosophy reflects the influences of European revolutionary movements. But such influences were deflected by the retrogressive socio-economic conditions of the epoch. This philosophy did contribute something fundamental — the renewal of dialectics as the theory of development. Taken up by Marx, it served as the basis for dialectical materialism. Engels has brilliantly analysed this philosophy in his work, "Ludwig Feuerbach And The End Of Classical German Philosophy."

POSITIVISM / One of the most widespread of the idealist currents within modern bourgeois philosophy. Positivism, according to its founders, is based not upon abstract deductions but on 'positive', real facts. August Comte, its creator, believed that the human mind must renounce any effort to know the very essence of things and content itself with the truth derived from observation and experiment. But this is only an "up to date" agnosticism.

PROPERTY / Private property appeared long after the origins of humanity. In the primitive communal state, ownership of the means of production was held in common. In the slave state, the 'boss' was the owner of human means of production — and hence the origin of private property. Under socialism, the means of production belong to the community, not to particular individuals — hence *socialist* property.

RATIONALISM / Theory which tends to recognize reason as the unique source of true knowledge; contrary to *empiricism* which makes perception this source of knowledge. Descartes and Leibnitz were outstanding representatives of rationalism.

RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION / Reciprocal relations established between people in the process of producing material goods. Persons can produce goods, not only individually, but together by uniting and practising communal action. History determines five main types of such relations: 1) In the primitive communal state, ownership of the instruments of production and products was held in common. With the passage from stone tools to metal, the tribes turned to agriculture and commerce and began to accumulate

commodities. This led to the birth of private property, and monopolizing of accumulated wealth by a minority, and the rise of classes – the owners and the slaves. 2) In the slave epoch, free labour was replaced by slave exploitation: land was parcelled out to his serfs who worked for him partly freely, partly by payment in kind. 4) With the rise of the bourgeois or pre-capitalist society, a minority capitalist class seizes the means of production and exploits a wage-earning class. 5) The socialist state restores common ownership of the means of production, gives the product back to the producer, and eliminates ruling class exploitation.

RELIGION / Combination of beliefs and cult-practices which subordinates human life to a divine super-order. It appears in history as a form of oppression of the people by the ruling class. Marxism sees in religion the exploitation of human ignorance and credulity.

REVISIONISM / Hostile counter-current to Marxism which seeks to 'correct' the philosophical foundations of dialectical materialism. Today, for instance, China and the USSR accuse each other of 'revisionism' in their modes of applying socialism.

SCHOLASTICISM / (from Latin, *schola*, school; and Greek *skhole*, leisure) Gathered under this name are the various schools of philosophy current in the Middle Ages. But each one was linked strictly to religious dogma, all equally "servants of theology", all overlooked nature. Such dogmatism lends its name, 'scholastic', to all reasoning foreign to reality, all groundless philosophies, certain political discussions, etc. The main scholastics (or school-men) were Thomas Aquinas, Anselm of Canterbury, Duns Scotus, William of Occam, etc.

SOCIALISM / Economy, social and political doctrine which expresses the struggle for the equal distribution of wealth by eliminating private property and the exploitative ruling class. In practice, such a distribution of wealth is achieved by *social* ownership of the means of production, exchange and diffusion.

SOCIALISM (UTOPIAN) / Non-scientific socialism based on imaginary or optimistic

theories. Upheld by certain French and English utopian-socialists of the 19th century.

SOCIOLOGY / Science of society; as founded by Comte and Herbert Spencer, it takes no account of class struggle. Marx succeeded in raising sociology to a science by demonstrating that the development of society is not solely determined by *ideas* but by the *relations* of production. Thus he showed the course of ideas obeys the course of things. Marx also made clear that the problem of scientific research into society consists of the explanation of those particular historical laws which regulate the origin, existence, development and decline of any given social organism, and its transformation into another, superior one.

SOPHISM, SOPHISTRY / Incorrect reasoning presented in such a way as to appear correct, or persuasive, and thus which leads others into error. Sophistry is the application in discussion of such erroneous conclusions. The characteristic method of sophistry is: "To start from external resemblances between facts, apart from their relation to events." (Lenin) By relying on apparent resemblances, sophists seek to apply the properties of one set of phenomena to others completely different.

SPINOZA, BARUCH / (1632-77) Jewish-Dutch philosopher, denied the existence of God as creator of nature. Considered that God was nature itself. By thus calling nature God, he explained that nature was its own cause. He continued the rationalism of Descartes, although his system was monist – a system in which thought originates in nature.

STATE / Political organization of the economically dominant class, having as its aim the defence of the existing economic order (status quo) – but also the annihilation of the resistance put up against it by other classes. "The state is a machine to maintain the domination of one class over another." (Lenin)

TIME AND SPACE / These represent the objective form of the existence of matter. Time and space are inseparable from matter, and vice-versa. Dialectical materialism teaches that nothing exists in the world

outside of or beyond matter in motion, and that matter cannot move except in space and time. Opposing itself to materialism, idealism believes time and space to be products of human thought and it separates these categories from matter.

THEOLOGY / Pseudo-science which seeks to give foundation to religion by borrowing from philosophical argumentation.

THESIS, ANTITHESIS, SYNTHESIS / (from the Greek: affirmation, negation, union) Every process of development, according to Hegel passes through these three stages: thesis, anti-thesis, syn-thesis. Each stage refutes the one before, and the last re-unites in itself the dominant features of the first two – hence its name,

'synthesis'. This is the 'surface' aspect of dialectics.

UNITY AND CONFLICT BETWEEN CONTRARIES / Opposing metaphysics, dialectics posits on principle that, internal contradictions belong properly to all objects and natural phenomena, and within them everything is continually in motion, ever-changing. Each thing represents in itself the unity of contraries. Everything has a past and a future, a development and a decline, a positive and a negative aspect. This is why movement from a lower to a higher state is achieved by the struggle between opposite tendencies. Within the capitalist mode of production, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie are at once related and opposed through struggle.



Tips for further reading

The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre said that Marxism is the philosophy of our time—that we cannot go beyond it because we have not gone beyond the circumstances that engendered it. The literature about, for and against Marx and Marxism is therefore vast and ever-increasing. The following lists contain only a tiny fraction of all the books written on the subject, chosen for non-experts on the basis of readability, availability and up-to-dateness.

Texts

The best way to study Marx is to read what he and Engels wrote. Their most famous short writings — *The Communist Manifesto*; *Wage-Labour and Capital*; *Value, Price and Profit*; *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*; *Ludwig Feuerbach And the End of Classical German Philosophy*; *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and The State*; *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*; and *Class Struggles in France, 1848 to 1850* — are generally available in handy and cheap paperbacks published by Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow, or Foreign Language Press, Peking. In the United States the International Publishing Company puts out these and many other writings by Marx and Engels.

These texts and others are usefully collected in *Marx/Engels: Selected Works In One Volume* (Lawrence and Wishart, London; International Publishing Co., New York). Further selections include *Marx/Engels: Basic Writings on Politics and Philosophy*, edited and introduced by Lewis S. Feuer (Fontana, London; Doubleday, New York); and four Pelican paperbacks: *Early Writings*, introduced by Lucio Colletti, and *The Revolutions of 1848*, *Surveys From Exile*, and *The First International and After*, all edited and introduced by David Fernbach (Penguin New Left Review, London; Random House, New York).

The three volumes of *Capital* are available from Lawrence and Wishart, London and International Publishing Co., New York; while the first volume is now available in a Penguin

paperback edited by Ernest Mandel. Engels' *Anti-Duhring* is published by Progress Publishers, Moscow. The same publishers also produced the Marx-Engels *Selected Correspondence*, as well as useful anthologies of their writings: *On Britain; On Religion; On Colonialism; On Ireland*.

For those who want to go further into the study of Marx and Engels, an English edition of their *Collected Works* in approximately 50 volumes is now under way (Lawrence and Wishart, London; International Publishing Co., New York). Six volumes have appeared thus far. Volume 3 contains the important *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, and volume 5, *The German Ideology*.

Commentaries

Useful introductions to Marx are Lenin's essay, *Karl Marx* (Foreign Language Publishing House, Peking; International Publishing Co., New York); Karl Korsch's *Three Essays on Marxism* (Pluto Press, London; Monthly Review, New York); David McLellan's *Marx* (Fontana Modern Masters, London; Viking, New York); and Ernst Fischer's *Marx in His Own Words* (Penguin).

Biographies

The most recent and readable biographies are: Isaiah Berlin, *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment* (Oxford University Press); Werner Blumenberg, *Karl Marx: an Illustrated Biography* (New Left Books, London; Herder and Herder, New York); and David McLellan, *Karl Marx: His Life and Thought* (Paladin, London; Viking, New York). These last two contain useful lists of further reading.

About the Author

Rius is the pseudonym of Eduardo del Rio, the internationally acclaimed Mexican caricaturist and editorial cartoonist whose innovative work established a new field in comic strips: the political and documentary cartoon-book. He was chosen Best Editorial Cartoonist in Mexico in 1959, and in 1968 he received the Grand Prize of the International Salon of Caricature in Montreal. He currently lives and works in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

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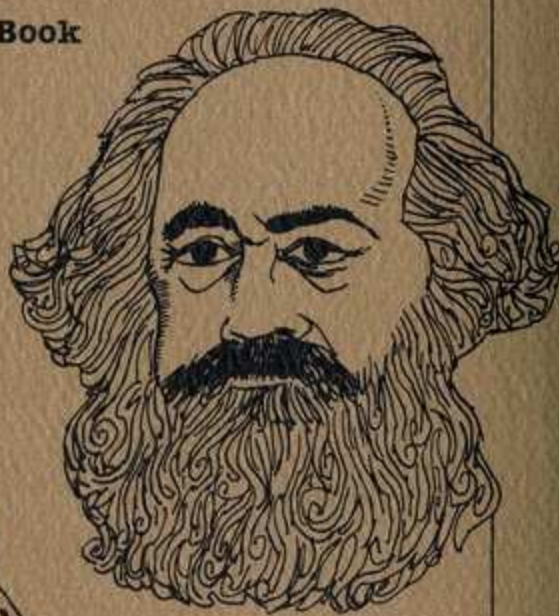
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