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Why did Marxist ideology emerge during the Industrial Revolution?

Objectives: Describe why Marxist ideology emerged during the Industrial Revolution.

The proletarians [workers] have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. WORKING MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

- Karl Marx, *Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Source: <http://www.csun.edu/~kaddison/marx.pdf>

Using your prior knowledge of the Industrial Revolution's impact on workers, what do you think, "The proletarians [workers] have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. WORKING MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!" means?

Socialist and Communist Thought Emerges

Directions: Read the excerpts below. Respond to the questions.

While some people sought to **reform** industrial society through changes in education and labor laws, other thinkers condemned capitalism entirely and sought remedies to create equality between the rich and the poor.

Socialism: a political and economic theory that advocates for the people as a whole rather than private individuals to own and operate the **means of production** [farms, factories, and other large businesses].

Communism: a political theory derived from Karl Marx's ideas that advocates for a class war between the rich [**bourgeoisie**] and the poor [**proletariat**], leading to a **classless** society where all **means of production** would be owned by the community.

1. How is capitalism different from socialism and communism?

2. How are socialism and communism different from the reforms you've studied already in this unit?

Who is Karl Marx? What is *The Communist Manifesto*?

Directions: Read the excerpt below and respond to the questions on the right.



Karl Marx

Source:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/87/Karl_Marx.png

Karl Heinrich Marx (May 5, 1818 – March 14, 1883) was a revolutionary activist and a prolific writer. Trained as a philosopher, self-educated as a political economist, and an organizer of the International Workingmen's Association, Marx became interested in social change during his university studies.

Upon receiving his doctorate in absentia from the University of Jena in 1841, Marx was hired as editor of the *Rheinische Zeitung*, a German

newspaper. There he championed the rights of peasants against the Prussian government in an editorial column. This led to his opponents accusing Marx of being a "communist" and to his being ostracized. Marx left for Paris where he continued to suffer accusation from the Prussian and the French government.

Marx developed his revolutionary theories over a period of four decades beginning in 1843. He formulated his theories with the intention to liberate wage workers or laborers from the capitalist societies of nineteenth century Europe. He maintained that in order to emancipate humanity from economic domination, a social revolution was needed. The envisioned result would transform the existing economic structures, and create a society in which property, particularly the means of production would no longer be held privately. Marx's theories were developed in close collaboration with Friedrich Engels.

[...]

In 1848, Marx published *The Communist Manifesto* where he shared his ideas on the impacts of capitalism and the need for a revolution. To Marx, feudal lords, land owners and capitalists were pitted against the ruled working class. This claim is summed up in the opening line of *The Communist Manifesto*: "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle." Marx predicted the demise of capitalism through a workers' revolution that would lead to a utopian "classless society" where, according to Marx, "people work according to their ability and get according to their needs" and "in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."

Source: http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Karl_Marx

1. When did Karl Marx become interested in social change?

2. What did Marx do while an editor for *Rheinische Zeitung*? How was he treated?

3. What were Marx's early revolutionary ideas concerned with?

4. What did Marx hope would be the impact of his revolutionary ideas?

5. Who did Marx work closely with to develop his ideas?

6. What did Marx believe about the relationship between the rich and poor?

7. What did Marx believe history was made of?

8. What did Marx believe would lead to the demise or end of capitalism?

Workers Rights Before *The Communist Manifesto*

Directions: Read the passage below and respond to the questions.

Flora Tristan (1803-44) was a nineteenth-century French social theorist and author. She argued that the progress of women's rights was directly related with the progress of the working class. She believed the oppression of women was directly related to the oppression of the working class. Five years before the publication of *The Communist Manifesto*, Tristan published *The Workers' Union*. In *The Workers' Union*, Tristan encouraged French workers to unite nationwide. She encouraged greater unionization so they could be united to fight for a minimum wage and better work conditions. *The Workers' Union* includes methods for organizing a union and the purpose of the unionizing.

- . . . 1. Consolidation of the working class by means of a tight, solid, and indissoluble [indivisible] Union.
2. Representation of the working class before the nation through a defender chosen and paid by the Workers' Union, so that the working class's need to exist and the other classes' need to accept it become evident.
3. Recognition of one's hands as legitimate property. (In France 25,000,000 proletarians [working class] have their hands as their only asset.)
4. Recognition of the legitimacy of the right to work for all men and women.
5. Recognition of the legitimacy of the right to moral, intellectual, and vocational education for all boys and girls.
6. Examination of the possibility of labor organizing in the current social state [social conditions].
7. Construction of Workers' Union palaces [buildings] in every department, in which working-class children would receive intellectual and vocational instruction, and to which the infirm and elderly as well as workers injured on the job would be admitted.
8. Recognition of the urgent necessity of giving moral, intellectual, and vocational education to the women of the masses so that they can become the moral agents for the men of the masses.
9. Recognition in principle of equal rights for men and women as the sole [only] means of unifying humankind. . . .

Source: Flora Tristan, *The Workers' Union*, University of Illinois Press (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, June 2006.

1a. Based on this document, state two changes in society that Flora Tristan believed were needed for the working class.

1b. Why does Flora Tristan believe these changes are necessary?

1c. Why does Flora Tristan emphasize the need for equal rights between men and women?

