

ultimate reality is matter in motion. He believes that historical development is caused by economic reasons. Dialectic materialism will establish a society perfectly organized for production where there will be no class division. There are three laws on the basis of which Marx put forward his theory of dialectics.

- a. Transformation of quantity into quality and vice versa is the first law. Marx is of the view that the progress of humanity is not affected by the gradual process of growth but by the sudden jumps. Marx termed this as revolution and believed that it is inevitable.
- b. Unity of opposites is the second law. It implies that unity contains polar opposites. He cited the example of a capitalist society where the bourgeoisie and proletariat exist and they are connected to each other. They cannot develop without each other.
- c. The third law is the negation of the negation. Thesis anti thesis and synthesis are the stages of development. This can be illustrated with the help of feudalism, capitalism and socialism. The contradictions within feudalism led to the rise of capitalism. Again the contradictions within capitalism led to socialism.

Marx has concluded that each phenomenon is related to other one. They should be studied in the light of interaction. They should be studied as changing and developing. He believes that contradictions are the motive force behind all development.

Stop To Consider

Class Struggle

Class is an important unit of the society. It is an economic unit. It is already known to you that in every society there are mainly two classes- the haves and the have nots, the propertied and the property less class, the rich and the poor. According to Marx, one class can be distinguished from another class on the basis of two factors. These are- ownership of the means of production and control of labour powers of others. Marx, on the basis of these two factors in his Communist Manifesto talked about three distinct classes in the society. The capitalist class is the owner of the means of production and it also purchases the labour power of others. The worker class neither owns the means of production nor possesses the ability to purchase the labour of others. Rather, they sell their own labour. The third class known as the petite bourgeoisie class owns sufficient

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means of production but cannot buy the labour of others. Marx has not defined this class in details. Marx defines a class on the basis of ownership of means of production. He holds that the class is not determined by the occupation but by the ownership of means of production. For eg. if there are two blacksmiths and one owns the shop while the other is a paid labourer in that shop, then both belongs to two different classes in spite of their same occupation.

You have already learnt that according to Marx, the labour class earns their income by selling their labours while the capitalist class earns its income by exploiting the labourers. The capitalist class owns the products of the labourers. Whatever they produce belongs exclusively to the capitalist class. They need to work in the factories under hard and fast rules. They work in a mechanization process which ultimately alienates them from their respective products and even from their own self as well. They are left with no other options than to work in a mechanical way. Work becomes necessary for their survival. He is of the view that all the classes possess different interest and these differences in interest lead to class struggle in the society. It has already been mentioned that both the capitalist and the working classes hold opposite views which is the reason behind this class struggle. Marx cited various examples like Roman Revolution, Glorious Revolution, Russian Revolution, Chinese Revolution etc. In the Roman Revolution the slave class of Rome revolted against their masters under the leadership of Spartacus. Glorious Revolution was led by the bourgeoisie against the feudal class. The Chinese Revolution was a revolution of the working class against the bourgeoisie. He opines that the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle. It needs mention here that Marx has attributed various reasons for the emergence of class conflict in the society. The negligence of the capitalist class towards the proletariat is one of them. The capitalist class as the controller of legal and political system makes laws which are not in favour of the working class. This leads to the conflict between the two classes. Again, the exploitation by the capitalist class also induces the conflict. The labour is a perishable commodity and therefore the labourers need to sell their labour at any cost. The capitalists take advantage of this situation and exploit the labourers. This also gives rise to conflict in the society. The capitalist tendency to expand leads to the establishment of big factories consequently leading to the concentration of labourers near the factory area. This has given the labourers a chance to unite and put their demands in front of the capitalist class. By now, you have learnt that according to

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