

MARXIST VIEW OF SCIENCE AND APPROACH INTRODUCTION

Marx's theories about society, economics and politics, which are collectively known

as Marxism, hold that all society progresses through class struggle. He was heavily

critical of the current form of society, capitalism, which he called the 'dictatorship of

the bourgeoisie', believing it to be run by the wealthy middle and upper classes

purely for their own benefit. Marx intended his understanding to be scientific in the

sense of avoiding materialist or idealist abstractions in favour of 'human science'.

Structural Marxism arose in opposition to the humanistic Marxism that dominated many Western universities during the 1970s. Structuralists view the state

in a capitalist mode of production as taking a specifically capitalist form, not because

particular individuals are in powerful positions, but because the state reproduces the

logic of capitalist structure in its economic, legal, and political institutions.

This unit

deals with the Marxist and Neo-Marxist approach to political theory. The development

of Neo-Marxism came forth through several political and social problems which

traditional Marxist thought was unable to answer.

The critical theory is an approach developed by the Frankfurt School of theorists who look at the ways and means in which the society can be understood

completely to bring about the required changes in the society. The theory aims at

understanding the society and its constructs and how it is affected by the thoughts and knowledge of individuals. The critical theory helps to understand the structuralism that exists in the society.