

Q) Describe in detail Karl Marx views on class, state and religion. [20].

1) Introduction

Karl Marx, also known as "The Father of Communism", was one of the greatest philosophers and the originator of Communism. He was born in 1818 as a Jew. However, despite being born in a strong family, he was a victim of perpetual poverty, misfortunes and sufferings. He was moved by the dire and exploitative conditions of the working class by the feudalists. He developed a serious disliking towards economic disparity and class stratification from a young age. One factor that left a lasting impact on him and shaped much of his views was his friendship with Friedrich Engel. Among his countless works, Communism Manifesto is a notable one which attracted much attention.

2) Marx's views on state, class and Religion

2.1) Marx's Views of state:

2.1.1) A tool for Minority

Marx was a staunch critique of state. He held that states served as a means for minority to impose their will on the majority. He was of the view that states did not in any way aimed at induring welfare of common people or cared about their rights. He also observed that states coerce people into class-coercion.

2.1.2) Protecting the interests of the Privileged:

Marx was of the view that states were not necessary for the well-being of people. The primitive societies did not needed it, but when the society began to bifurcate into rich and working class, it is then when the concept of state was considered necessary in order to protect the # privileges of the privileged. He aptly describes

state in his Communist Manifesto in the following words: "The state is nothing more than the form of organization which bourgeoisie necessarily adopt both for internal and external purposes for the mutual guarantee of their property and interest"

2.1.3) Maintain status quo:

The laws in a state are specially designed to preclude any revolts. The idea is to keep the ruling class in power and nip any revolts by the proletariat in the bud.

2.1.4) Repressive Institutions:

The state apparatus is at the disposal of bourgeoisie. They employ armed men as well as repressive institutions to induce fear and intimidation into ordinary people, subduing them into obedience.

2.1.5) Eventual Dwindling of the state:

Marx was of the view that

the state will begin to wither away when society has realised the value of their ability and the value of their needs - He thought that this would lead to a revolution with a proletariat getting the reins of power and that would mark the end of the state and class stratification.

2.2) Marx's views on class:

2.2.1) Capitalist Exploitation:

Marx repudiates the class struggle. He held that the bourgeoisie have the working class at their mercy and will continue to exploit them.

2.2.2) Economic Determinism:

Marx argued that capitalist societies revolved around the economic edifice. He observed that political and legal superstructures are based upon economic structure, particularly the means of distribution. In simpler words, the economic structure

determined the social and political relationship.

2.2.3) Revolution to end class struggle:

Marx believed that the class struggle will cease to exist when a bloody revolution takes place. He argued that a proletarian movement will take the reins of power from bourgeoisie. Once he gains the control he will abolish this class struggle and bring all the ~~pub~~ private companies under state ownership.

2.3) Marx's Views of Religion:

2.3.1) Critique of Religion:

Aptly describes Religion as "Opium of people". He criticised religion as it served as a form of ideological control, providing comfort and distraction to the oppressed masses. It also provided ~~st~~ satisfaction to people, depriving people from the ability to resist.

2.3.2) Reflecting social conditions:

He argued that religion was a reflection of social and economic conditions. He said in a capitalist society, religion could be used as a means to justify and perpetuate class inequality.

2.3.3) Call for Liberation:

While critical of organized religion, Marx did not dismiss the potential for individuals to find solace or meaning in religious beliefs. He called for emancipation of individuals from the conditions that led them to seek refuge in religion.

3) Analysis:

Marx's views on class and society were accurate to a certain point, but the fact that some of the most flourishing societies are capital in nature point out the flaws in his theories. He argued that capitalist societies were characterise d by

bourgeoisie's exploitation of proletarians, but what he failed to take into account the effort and hard work needed to establish and regulate industries. He also argued that state would wither away following a revolution, however we see today that the concept of state has permeated to all parts of the world. He held that the bourgeoisie would always rule the state, which contradicts many democratic states where middle class or low middle class have risen up the ranks and have the reins of the country.

4) Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Karl Marx was one of the most influential philosophers whose communistic views are still the basic ideologies of many states today. He was an adamant critique of state, class and religion and was of the view that capitalistic societies were doomed to wither away. However, contrary to his beliefs, capitalistic societies are present hitherto and some of the most thriving nations have capitalistic ideologies as their cardinal pillar.