

2022 - Political Science Paper-I

Describe in detail Karl Marx views on class, state and religion

Introduction

- Karl Marx was a great German philosopher in 19th century. He has been a prominent philosopher of political economy and society. He is best known for his work on Communism, Socialism or Marxism. His major writings include The Communist Manifesto and Capital (Das Kapital). He was a great opponent of capitalism.

- Marxist views of class

According to Karl Marx, classes are defined and structured on basis of

- (i) work and labour
- (ii) ownership or possession of means of production

- Marxist views of state

In his book, The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx argued that state is a creature of bourgeois economic interest.

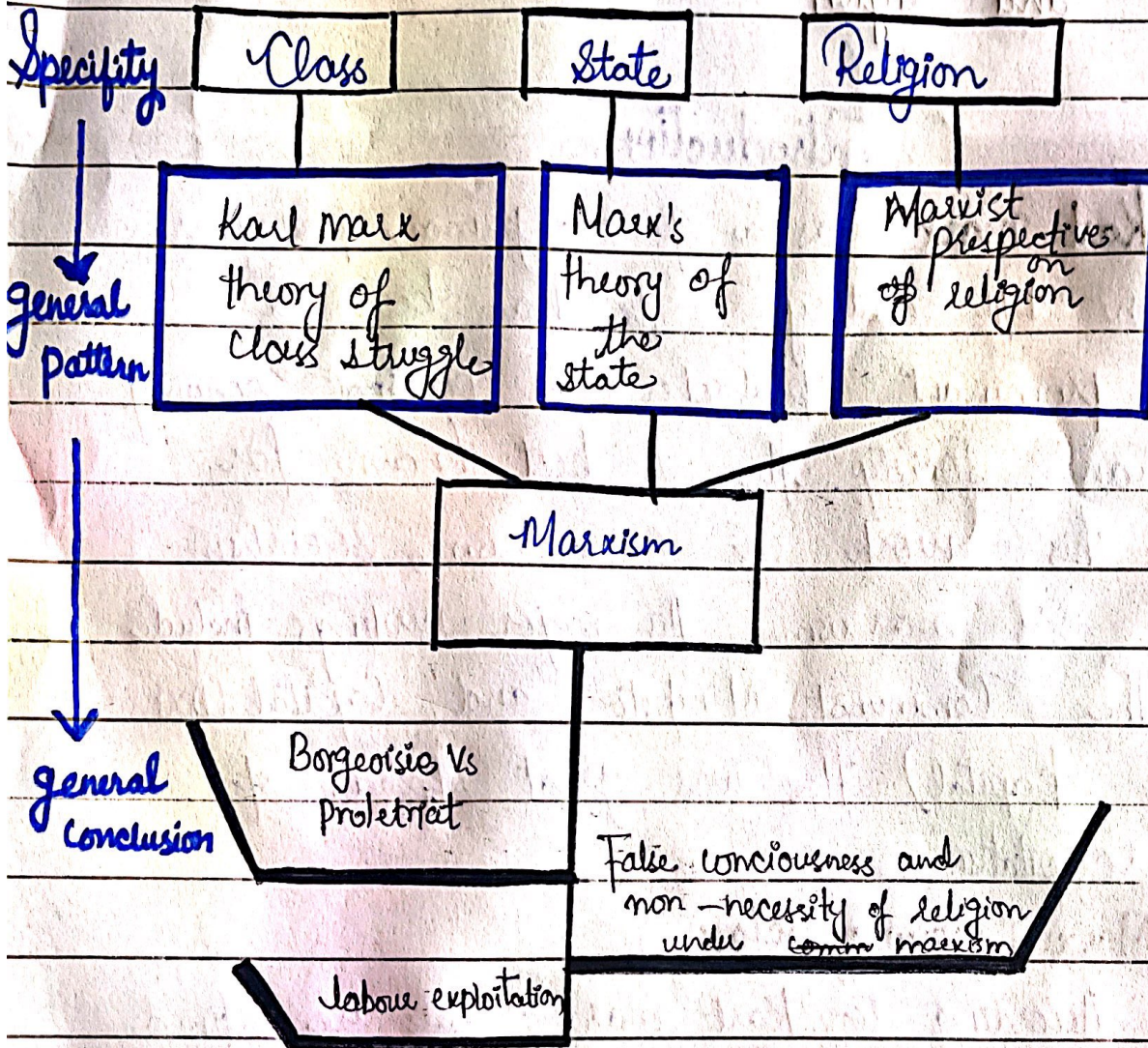
- Marxist view of religion

"Religion is the opium of people"

- Karl Marx, (Critique of Hegel's philosophy)

of right, 1820)

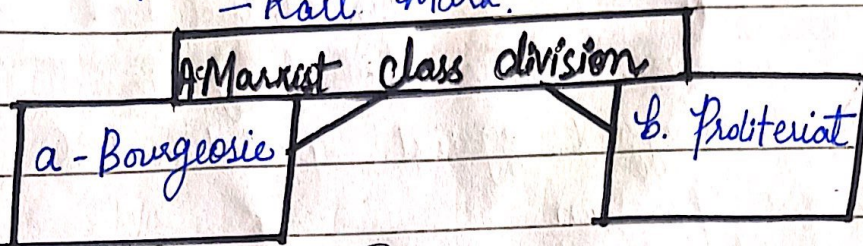
Applying inductive method



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Karl Marx views on class

The history of all the hitherto existing in society is the history of class struggle
- Karl Marx.



a - Bourgeoisie

- middle class in capitalist societies
- owned means of production such as factories
- used waged labor to produce goods and services for profit
- educated and politically influential
- had higher class status than working class.
- pursuing wealth and material possession
- desired to maintain their position in society

(The Communist Manifesto, 1848)

b - Proletariat

- working class in capitalist society
- sold their labor in exchange for wages.

④

- had no control over means of production
 - were economically dependent on bourgeoisie
 - typically less educated and had lower status than bourgeoisie
 - struggled against exploitation and oppression
 - desired to improve their working conditions and achieve greater economic and political power.
- (The Communist Manifesto, 1848).

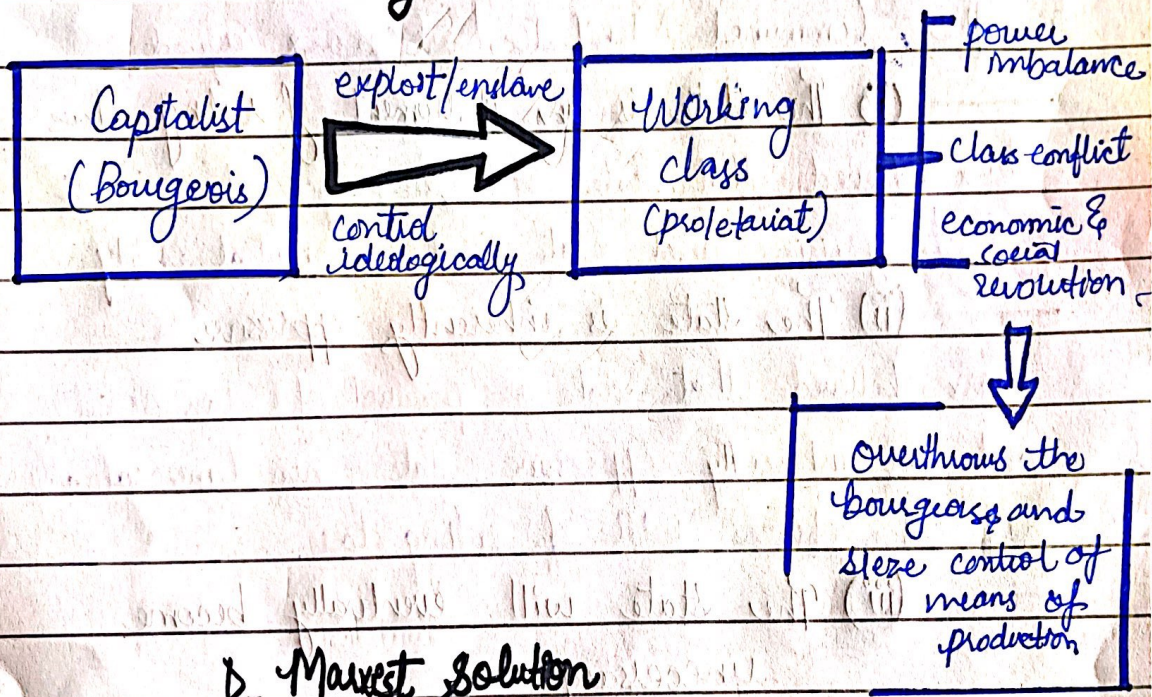
B- Concept of exploitation by Karl Marx.

In his book "The Communist Manifesto", Karl Marx emphasizes the fact that bourgeoisie, as the owner of means of production, were able to extract the surplus value from the labour of working class, leading to exploitation of working class.

In his other book "Das Kapital", he ~~express~~ delves ~~into~~ deeper into his analysis of exploitation under capitalism. He argues that the value of commodity is determined by amount

by amount of socially necessary labor time required by to produce it, and workers are paid less than value of their labor, which means they are being exploited.

C. Synthesis



D. Marxist Solution

In Karl Marx's seminal book "The Communist Manifesto" he gave solution to replace a capitalist society with a communist society and empowering working class to gain surplus value and hold presence in decision making.

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Karl Marx views on State

"The state isn't something originated from society. It is a product of society."

- Karl Marx.

A. Major views of Karl Marx on state

In 'The Communist Manifesto', Karl Marx argued.

—— (i) The state is an instrument of ruling class. Marx believed that state exists to protect the interest of bourgeoisie and state isn't a neutral entity.

—— (ii) The state is inherently oppressive. Marx believed that state is product of class society and is inherently oppressive. State non-democratically enforces will of ruling class.

—— (iii) The state will eventually become unnecessary.

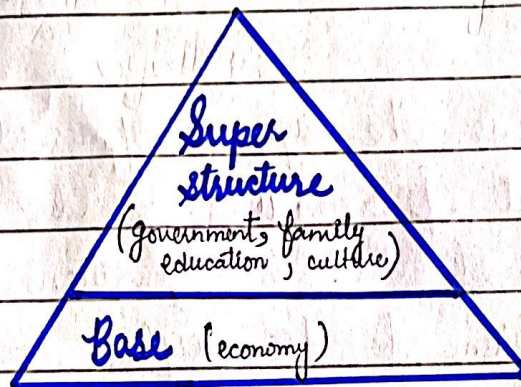
Marx believed that state is product will gradually disappear as society moves towards communism. As soon as class distinctions will abolish the state will become unnecessary.

—— (iv) The state is site of class struggle. Ruling class and working class are constantly in conflict, according to Marx. He believed that working class must eventually seize control of state and create communist society.

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B- Synthesis

State serves the common interests of whole bourgeoisie and supports capitalist ideology. State structure by no means give any benefit to working class.



C- Marxist Solution

In volume 2 of "Das Kapital" Karl Marx highlighted all the demerits of capitalist society including surplus capital and capitalist competition.

In volume 3 of "Das Kapital" Marx highlighted the role of state with ideal characteristics.

The solution of capitalist society was expounded in "The Communist Manifesto" where he compared communist society with capitalist society and pointed out capitalist society as an

unfair and instable society, and it should be replaced with a communist society that provides justice to working class.

Karl Marx views on Religion

"Religion is the sign of oppressed creature, the heart of heartless world, and the soul of soul-less conditions. It is the opium of the people."

- Karl Marx.

A. Views of Karl Marx on religion

In his work "A Contribution to Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right"

—(i) Religion as form of social control

Marx believed that religion is a tool to maintain status quo by those in power to prevent people from recognizing and challenging injustice in society.

—(ii) Religion is reflection of capitalist society

Marx believed that religion was reflection of contradictions and conflicts of capitalist society. Religion was a product of alienation and exploitation, for him, from a capitalist mode of production.

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— (iii) Religion as product of alienation
Marx argued that religion being a product of alienation and exploitation was used to justify oppressive conditions of capitalist society.

— (iv) Role of religion in Communism
Marx argued that religion would eventually disappear as society moved towards Communism. Only Communism can create more rational and human form of social organization.

B-Synthesis

Religion is tool of ruling class to maintain power and reproduce inequality, according to Marx. It supports oppression and exploitation of working class.

C. Marxist solution

Karl Marx saw solution to religious exploitation in elimination of underlying economic and social conditions that give rise to religion. Marx argued that communist society should be created that would eliminate the contradictions and conflicts that give rise to religion.

Deductive Analysis

- Class, state and religion reflect capitalism by favouring ruling class and exploiting working class
- Only Communism can make the society fair and stable by giving opportunity to both classes equally and exploitation of none.

Conclusion

Class system empowers bourgeoisie to exploit proletariat. State makes laws that give pleasure to people belonging to upper class only and don't care about people of lower class. Religion maintains the social system of powerful ruling class and oppressive working class. Hence class, state and religion serve social, political and religious elites only and only communism can bring good to working class without exploiting ruling class.