

Write a note on Communism.

COMMUNISM

Communism, as envisioned by Karl Marx in his two magnum opuses "Das Kapital" and "The Communist Manifesto", reflects an ideal phase of society where government and authority are no longer needed. This phase would start after dictatorship of proletariat. It is characterized by stateless and classless society. According to Marx's Communism, as class distinctions dissolve and material conditions for scarcity disappear the need for state would wither away.

1. Background of Marx's Views On Communism

Marx's views on communism is deep-rooted in his views on class, state and religion which he consider merely tools of exploitation to be used by the ruling class (haves) for exploiting working class (have-nots).

i. Marx views on class

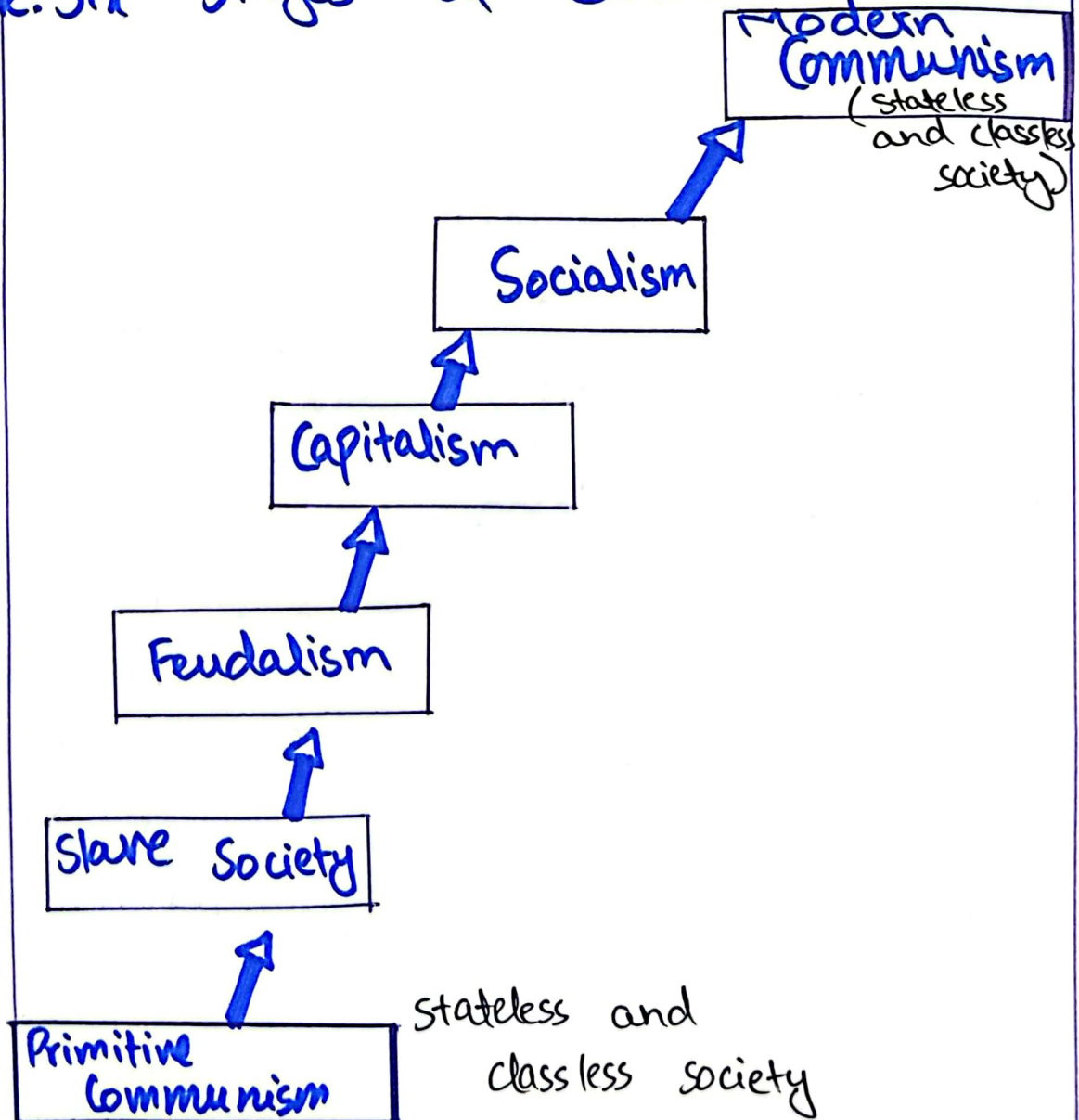
According to Marx:

“History of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle between ruling class and working class.”

ii. Marx views on state

Marx views on state is known as historical materialism which ^{material} ^{conditions of society i.e.} posits that economic forces and means of production shape the structure of society.

Figure: Six Stages of Social Transition



iii. Marx views on religion

According to Marx, the ruling class (bourgeoisie) also known as 'haves' exploit working class (have-nots) using religion as an opium.

2. Dynamics Of Class Struggle

Following are the dynamics of class struggle between haves and have nots.

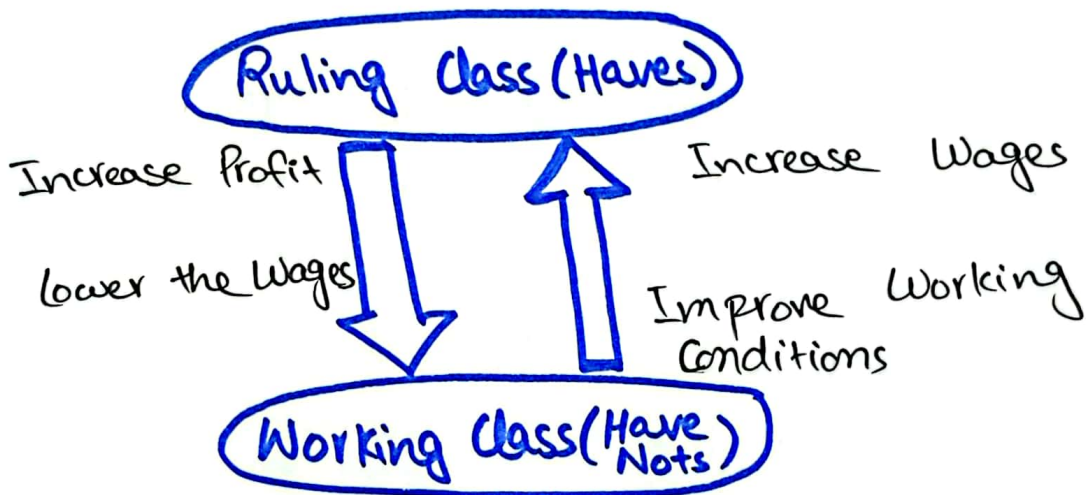
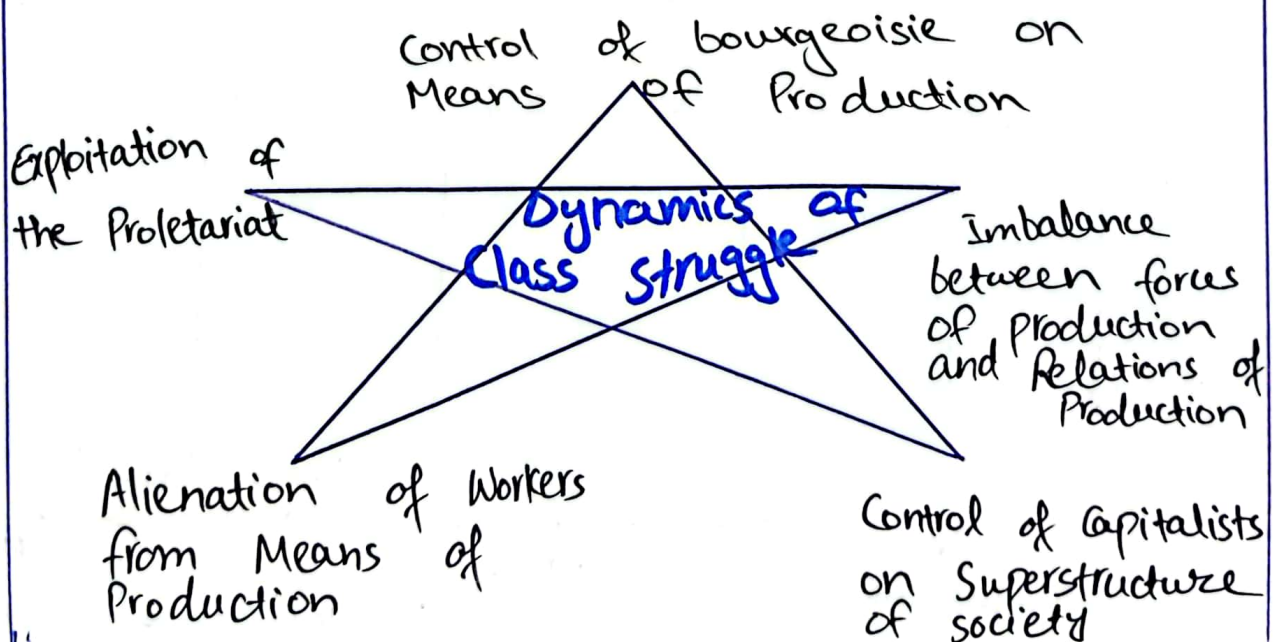


Figure : Neo-Marxist Model of Class Conflict



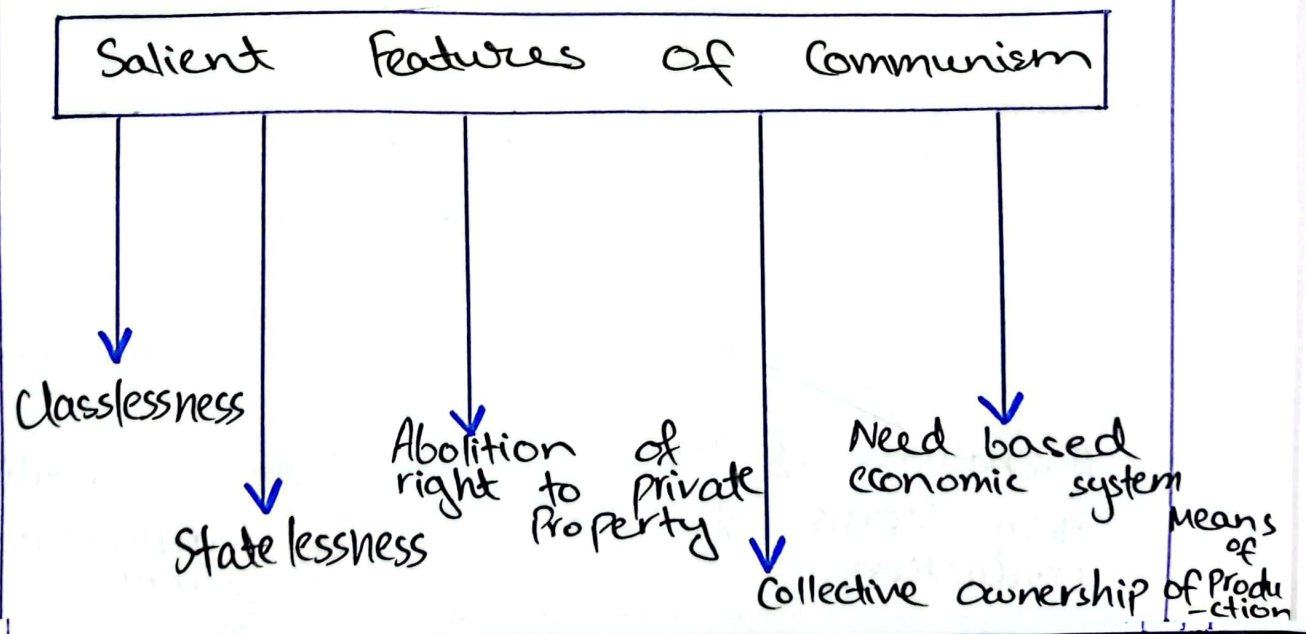
3. Transition from Capitalism to Socialism

When bourgeoisie controls means of production and exploits the proletariat, then the society moves toward revolutionary change where forces of production would be seized by the proletariat in a socialist society. Thus socialism is a transitional phase between capitalism and communism.

4. Transition from Socialism to Communism

After dictatorship of proletariat, an ideal phase of society would start where means of production would be collectively owned and controlled by the community itself. This is known as communism.

5. Salient Features of Communism



i- Classlessness:

Classlessness is a core principle of communism. It reflects an ideal of society without social hierarchies or divisions based on economic status. In communist society, class distinction between bourgeoisie and proletariat will be abolished.

ii- Statelessness:

Statelessness is another fundamental tenet of communism, which represents a society where the need for authority and government would diminish. Once a classless society would establish, the need for state would wither away.

iii- Abolition of Right to Private Property:

Another fundamental characteristic of communism is abolition of right to private property. Communists argue that right to private property causes consolidation of power within the hands of capitalists and leads the society toward social inequality.

iv. Collective Ownership of Means of Production

Communism is characterized by collective ownership of means of production. In communist society, the means of production would be owned by community itself rather than privately owned by individuals or corporations as in capitalism.

v. Need Based Economic System

In communism, economy is driven by the needs of individuals. All resources are distributed on the basis of needs of ^{individuals living in a} community.

Unlike capitalism, in which economy is driven by motive of profit, communist economic system is need-based economic system.

Conclusion

Communism is a concept characterized by classlessness and statelessness. However, this ^{political and} economic system is incompatible with modern era because all the states which adhered to Marx views of communism have not adopted this ideology and remained stuck in socialism. All such states consolidated power within the hands of ruling elite

while pushing the society toward chaos.