

Q₁ what is historical Materialism? Elaborate Marx's contribution in it's development. (A5)

① Introduction:

Historical materialism is application of dialectical materialism to human society, which means that history progresses through dialectical processes caused by material factors for instance, economy. Historical Materialism is built on Hegel's philosophy of history. But, it was majorly based on Karl Marx's own ideas. That is to say, he had made prime contribution. He explained how history progresses through dialectical process driven by material factors.

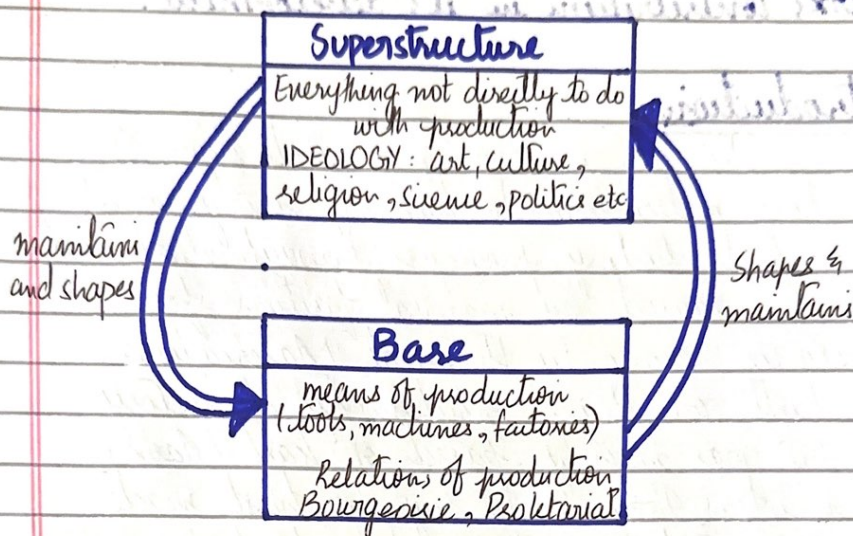
Furthermore, he explains how the means of production and relation of production dictate the political, social and cultural ideology of a society.

② Historical materialism:

Historical Materialism can be defined as "Progression of history driven by material factors for instance, economic and social factors". (A5)

Karl Marx believed that material factors drive history forward as opposed abstract ideas as believed by Hegel. (A5)

2A) Core concepts of historical materialism:



The Base, means of production and relations of production, determine the superstructure of society, which includes ideology, its culture, religion and other factors. The superstructure in turn influences the base of the society.

3) Marx's contribution in its development:

Although the theory is based on Hegel's Dialectics, Karl Marx primarily built this theory. He was prime contribution.

3A) 4 stages of modes of production

Marx identified 4 stages of mode of production
— Primitive communities: ancient societies without class system.

- Slavery: societies where individuals are legally owned by others
- Serfdoms: provide labour to feudals in exchange of some benefits
- Capitalists: owns means of production and exploits labourers

Each stage of production is characterised by special social relations and mode of production

3B) Conflict of forces of production:

Karl Marx argues that the forces of production come into conflict with relations of production and as a result new mode of production emerged through social revolution.

3C) Historical change driven by conflict:

As a result of this conflict, historical change takes place. A struggle between dominant class, owning means of production and subordinate class, that sell their labour, brings about change in society.

3D) How conflict generates:

Karl Marx believes that ruling class dominates and oppresses the working class until they rise up against this oppression and bring a revolution, which results in establishment of new mode of production.

③E ultimate goal of historical materialism

The ultimate goal of historical materialism is the creation of classless society. In other words, a society where communism would prevail, which will mark end of inequality and oppression.

Karl Marx believed this is the only way to prevent exploitation.

"Each according to his abilities; to each according to his needs"

— Karl Marx

④ Critical Analysis on historical Materialism:

④A Mid 19th century Europe witnessed uprisings:

The uprisings in Europe in mid 19th century advocated for the truth of Marx's theory where working class rose up ~~at~~ ~~off~~ against ruling class. This period was marked by number of revolutions.

④B Theory proved wrong in practice:

Marx's idea of communist society did not work as he imagined. In several countries after second world war, like Russia and China, one witnessed authoritarian regimes rather than society favouring Proletariat as imagined by Marx.

⑤ Conclusion:

To sum up, the historical materialism is theory, explaining how history progresses through the conflict between means of production and relations of production. It explains how history is driven by economic factors. Karl Marx was the political philosopher who contributed to this theory, explaining different stages and factors involved. However, the theory in practical world did not proved as Marx imagined. Failure of Communist states discredit it. Nonetheless, it was very influential. Even to this day, it ~~was~~ is highly regarded.