

Qno

Describe in detail Karl Marx's views on class, state and Religion.

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Introduction:

Karl Marx was a German philosopher of the 19th century. Marx's indepth study provided a deep insight into class, state and religion. Religion, according to Marx is a tool of exploitation. The same is the case with the state, where the bourgeoisie use Capitalism to exploit the proletariat. Because of this, a class struggle will remain among the have and have not. Because the capitalist class never wants the labor class to take a firm hold on the means of production. Thought this, Marx gave in-dept insights into how class and religion are exploitation tools.

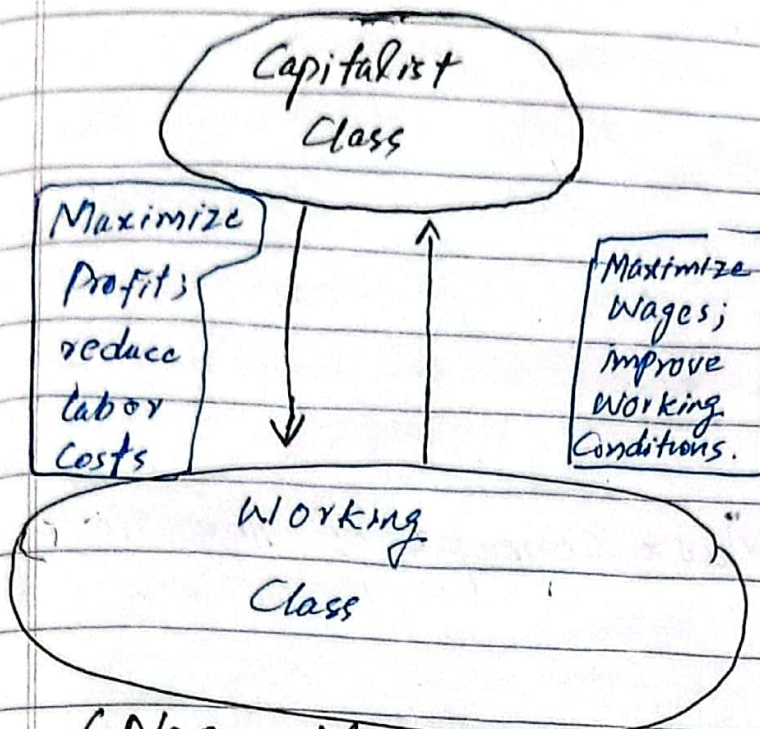
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Karl Marx's view on class-

According to Karl Marx, society is fundamentally divided into two classes i.e bourgeoisie and proletariat.

Bourgeoisie: Capitalist owners who own the means of production.

Proletariat: The working class sells their labor, art and skill to buy means of production.



(Neo - Marxist Model of Class Conflict)

The bourgeoisie class exploits the proletarian class, this exploitation leads to class struggle between two factions of the society. It is a conflict between two classes for have and have not.

Marx predict that this class struggle would eventually lead to a revolution where proletarian would overthrow the bourgeoisie and establish a communist society.

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The current political divide within major political parties can be seen as conflict between the haves and the have nots. Karl Marx saw kind of conflict "disfranchised versus establishment" as a class struggle.

Karl Marx Concept of the State:

Karl Marx had

a materialistic perspective on society. He contends that materialism is the foundation upon which the state emerges. The Marxist theory emphasizes that in order to achieve its objectives, the liberal state enslaves the majority of men in society and that it must be abolished or destroyed to free the common man.

The state historically served as a means of protection for the bourgeoisie class and as a means of exploitation for the proletariat class. His theory of the state

is known as the Materialist conception of history

Origin of the State:

"It is a tool for exploitation since the bourgeoisie employs it to take advantage of the common people"

Marx examined the origin of the state from a materialistic perspective, emphasizing that while man created the state, it was under the influence of material conditions, which they called economic conditions rather than any emotion or idea.

State of Social Transition.

Marx thought all of history is a struggle between haves and have nots

Primitive
Communism

Slave
Society

Feudalism

Capitalism

Socialism

Comm
unism

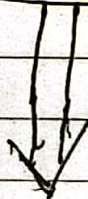
(Marx's Six Stages of History)

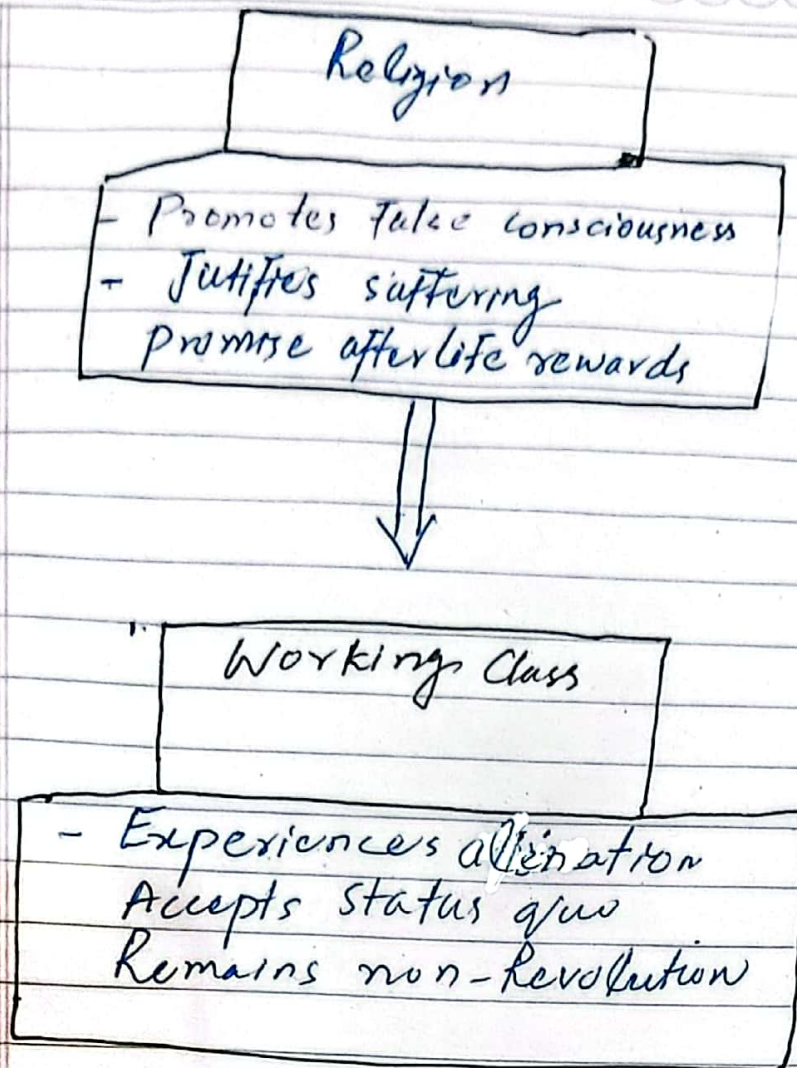
Marx's view on Religion:

Marx held a materialistic view of religion. Marx famously described religion as "the opium of the people" meaning that it is used to pacify and distract the working class from the realities of their exploitation. He argued that religion serves the interests of ruling class by promoting the idea that suffering in this life is acceptable because it will be rewarded in the after life. By doing so, religion discourages working class from seeking real world change. Marx believe that in a classless society religion would lose its influence as people would no longer need to rely on it for comfort or explanation.

Ruling Class

- Controls production
- uses religion as a tool - justifies inequalities





This diagram illustrates that how ruling class uses religion to prevent revolution among working class.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Karl Marx's believe mainly revolved around perception. It has nothing to do with reality. According to Karl Marx, society is divided based on means of production, the state only

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Serves interest of powerful bourgeoisie class and religion is used as tool of the exploitation of the working class to appease them for their material tribulations. All these concept caused him into become a critic of capitalism, which eventually resulted in the development of socialism.