

Question According to Marx 'the mode of production in material life determines the general character of social, political and spiritual process in life'. Elucidate.

Answer Exordium

Karl Marx is a philosopher of 'dialectical Materialism'. He highlighted with his theory that the mode of production in material life determines the general character of social, political and spiritual process in life. The time when he gave this theory it was the time of 'Industrialization'. In 1840s and 50s due to industrialism, capitalism was at its peak. He motivated working class for revolution. He gave base for the arrival of communism. He addressed the working class. He presented 'material' as the base of all conflicts throughout history.

Marx's philosophy

Marx recognized that upper class only used poor for their

own benefit. The factory owners firstly exploited the minds of public by telling the need of industry work. Then, they exploited them by extra work because labour was available at cheap rates and it was surplus. Marx realized workers that this is not your need and they are just manipulating by spreading these views. Here is the detailed analysis of Karl Marx philosophy by which he determined social, political and spiritual process in life.

A- Revolt is needed

Marx presented his ideas in 'Das Kapital' and 'German ideology'. He focused on the revolution by works. He suggested that all the workers of the world must unite and revolt against the exploitation of the bourgeoisie.

B- Contrast with Hegel

Marx was the student of Hegel. Hegel in his theory 'Dialectics' argued

that conflicts are due to ideologies, and material things are just reflection of it. Marx contrasted that no material objectives are real thing and ideologies are the reflection of it. He followed Hegel theory but make 'material' and 'resources' as the base of conflicts.

Economic Foundation:

Economic Foundation is consisted of 'forces of production' and 'relations of production'. Marx said, any change in forces of production demand change in relations of production.

a- Forces of production:

Forces of production are all the tools used in production. Those own these tools are 'Haves' and those do not own forces of production are 'Haves not'. 'Haves' always exploited 'Haves not' because they have these means of production. Exemplification, A worker produces Rs100 and get Rs20 by bourgeoisie as wage.

With time upper class started earning Rs 100 from Rs 100, only because of proletariate. Meanwhile, proletariate still receive only Rs 20. Whereas, by increase in capital, bourgeoisie is increasing forces of production.

2) Relations of production

Relations of production are the relations which established on the basis of 'forces of production'.

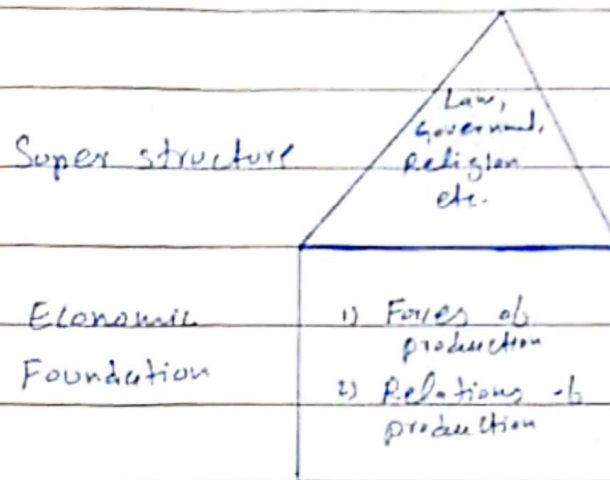
The owner of means of production is bourgeoisie. Those who do not own means of production are proletariate. This relation is established by the forces of production.

B- Super structures

These economic foundations are establishing super structures in society. These super structures include government, law, police etc. There are two objectives of super structures:

- a) Establishing the hegemony of the bourgeoisie
- b) Maintain that hegemony by different

means through out the time frame.



E. Capture forces of production

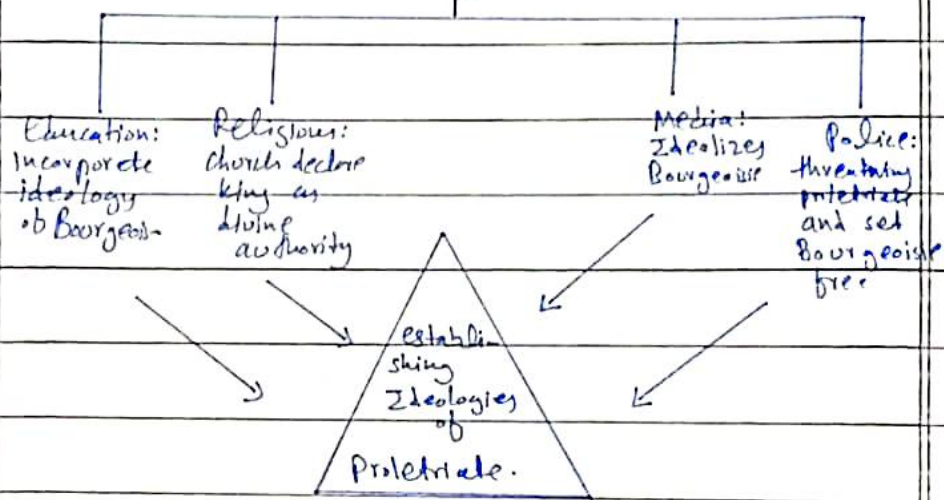
Marx guided the working class to capture forces of production during revolt. They must not change superstructures but focus on forces of production. These forces of production created the superstructures and can mould them according to need.

F. Ideologies are Flexible

According to Marx no ideology is good or bad rather ideologies are appropriate or inappropriate. When one ideology support the bourgeoisie that is appropriate. But when it stopped supporting they

will change it because it turned into inappropriate. Exempli gratia, Muhammad Bin Suleman declared 354 Ahdees as 'Zaif'. All the institutions are supporting these ideologies.

Bourgeoisie



∴ Institutions Establishing Ideologies

G. Religion as opium

Marx argued, Religion is the opium of the people. He emphasized that bourgeoisie intentionally directed proletariat to religion. They considered it as fate and wait for divine help. Church helped king in this matter and declared 'divine right of king'.

4- Vanguards responsibility

Mars gave name to 'vanguards' to those workers who can manage and lead the business after revolution. He told them to educate others as well. After this socialism, these vanguards will also withdraw power. A society will establish a concept of equality. There will be no need of police or any institution. Property will be equally divided.

1- Communism is the saviour

The whole process of revolution is to establish a classless society. Communism will prevail in that society.

Four steps

Mars identified four steps in this process of revolution.

- 1- Change is bound to happen
- 2- Revolution
- 3- Dictatorship of proletariat
- 4- Communism.

Criticism

In 1917, 'Bolshevik revolution' again N Marx was brought by student of Marx, Lenin. He brought socialism. But, after his death in 1924, Stalin continued his idea. Marx advised vanguards not to ~~emph~~ embrace property. But, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Lenin became the dictator and it resulted in collapse of USSR in 1989. So, history saw till dictatorship of proletariat but a complete society ^{based} on communism is not appeared yet. Some critics argued that Marx did not discuss other factors like social, political and religious. Marx also ignored the struggle of capitalist, there is competition and they do great work as well. Marx also ignored the way these capitalists changed the lives of proletariat by providing them jobs.

Denouement :

The mode of production shapes social, political and spiritual process in life. That's why a change and revolution is needed. He said, revolution will take nothing from you but your chains. He is a great philosopher and motivated revolutions in history to change the concept of capitalism. They would get rid of capitalism those followed his theory. Hence, resources and forces of production developed relations of production. This system then determined social, political and spiritual processes in life.
