

Qno:3 What is the difference between Hegel's and Marx's dialectical approach? Which one appeals you, describe with logical arguments.

ANSWER

① INTRODUCTION:

Friedrich Hegel was born in Germany and developed idealistic dialectic in the form of thesis-antithesis-synthesis of ideas (Geist). Whereas ^{Karl} ~~Hegel~~ Marx too, was a German philosopher. However, he applied Hegel's dialectic to material and economic conditions and class struggle. Marx was highly influenced by Hegel but stood against his dialectical method arguing that material, not ideas, drive history and reality. The end goal for Hegel was to evolve human self-understanding, while Marx wanted to put an end to economic exploitation.

M=Realism

② Hegel's Dialectical Approach

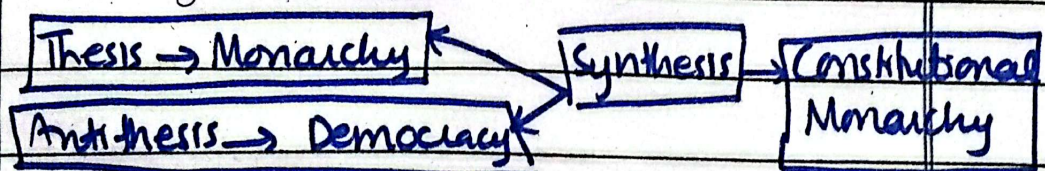
(a)

(a) Geist as ultimate Reality

Hegel based his whole philosophical premise on Geist (Spirit or Mind). For him, it is the ultimate reality that the world will at the end move towards its own freedom through collective consciousness.

(b) Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis

History moves forward when an idea (thesis) encounters its negation (antithesis), which ultimately produces a higher idea (synthesis).



*** Hegel's Triadic Process.**

(c) Process of Being

Everything is in a process of development and self-realization. History, knowledge, and the state are not static, but constantly keep on changing in

in the course of time:

$$\boxed{\text{Being}} + \boxed{\text{Nothing}} = \boxed{\text{Becoming}}$$

* Hegel (Change is constant)

(D) Example:

In phenomenology of spirit, Hegel quoted Master-slave (Lord-bondsman) dialectic:

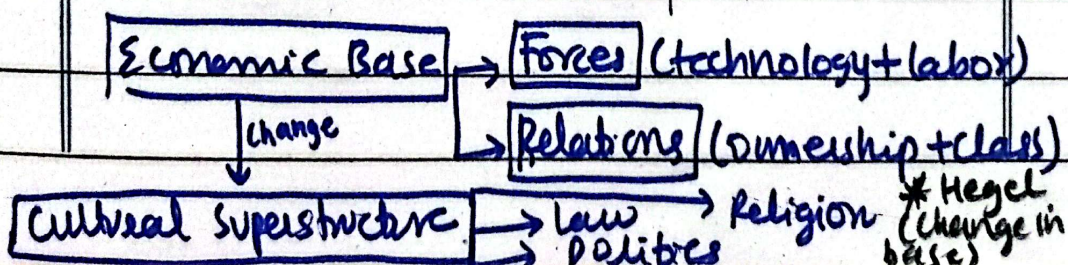
A Master enjoys power over his slave while the latter feel exploited all the time.

However, slave becomes more self-aware over time. Thus, the slave discovers a new, richer idea of 'Freedom'.

③ Marx's Dialectic Approach

(a) Material Conditions

Material conditions drive history and shape minds, not the other way round. According to Marx, it is the economic base (forces and relations) that determine cultural superstructure.



(b) Praxis (Theory and Action)

For Karl Marx, theory alone is not enough. It must lead to collective action. The material force, though weak, build up over time and trigger a qualitative change (revolution) in society.

(c) Historical Materialism

Societies pass through stages. From primitive communism and slavery and feudalism to capitalism and socialism, then communism. Each stage is shaped by material forces that drive it forward.

(d) Classless Society

Nobody would have a complete control over the means of production. A self-managing community would emerge which is a class in itself, not a class for itself.

(E) Example:

For Marx, factory owner and workers emerge in a conflict when workers demand better pay, and the owner tries to disguise its exploitation. If this is not resolved, workers organize in unions to reshape the economy, creating a new social order.

(3) Differences in Hegel's and Marx's Dialectics

(a) Ontological Differences

For Hegel, reality is ultimately spiritual or ideal. Whereas, for Karl Marx, reality is material and matter shaped mind.

(b) Agency or Drivers of change

For Hegel, change is driven by collective consciousness. Whereas, for Karl Marx, change is driven by material forces or actors (classes). He termed ideology as a 'false consciousness'.

(C) Telological Differences

History unfolds towards a higher idea of freedom for Hegel. While for Karl Marx, history moves towards a classless society. Thus, the purpose of history is different for both.

(D) Role of the state

For Karl Marx, state is exploitative and seeks to protect the capitalist class. Thus, only a classless society would bring social transformation. Whereas, for Hegel, state is where individual freedom and universal ethics unite. It is the realization of human spirit.

(E) Marx's Dialectic is More Compelling

I find Karl Marx's dialectic more compelling because it starts from real people's lives. He also shows how collective action can actually change

infernal and exploitative systems.
Since Marx explains change through
external, tangible factors (wages,
property, working conditions), so it
feels immediately relevant to people's
daily struggles. Whereas, Hegel's idealistic
consciousness carries less practical
weight and cannot be empirically
observed.

Conclusion

Thus, it could be concluded from the
above discussion that Hegel's dialectical
approach puts ideas on the forefront,
whereas Karl Marx believes in
material factors driving history of the
world. Their approach to ontology,
teleology (purpose), agency, and
state's role is entirely different.
However, Karl Marx's sounds more
relevant in today's exploitative

role of capitalism in the whole world.

The richest 9% would hold

85% of the world's wealth. Thus,

Karl Marx's approach is more practical
and carries more empirical
weight.