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CSS-2025

QUESTION #4

- Q. What's the difference between the Hegel's and Marx's dialectical approach? Which one appeals you, describe with logical arguments.

ANSWER**1. INTRODUCTION:**

Hegel and Karl Marx are the German philosophers of 19th century. Karl Marx was the student of Hegel. Under the heavy influence of his teacher, Marx continued the legacy of Hegel by expanding the dialectics. However, the approaches of both Hegel and Marx are fundamentally different. Some of the key areas of differences between Hegel's and Marx's dialectical approaches include basis of dialectic, direction of causality, nature of change, primary agent of history, role of the individual, outcome of dialectic, historical progress, abstraction vs. practice, role of philosophy, religion and state, emphasis on contradiction and influence. However, Marx's dialectical materialism is more appealing logically and practically because of the grounded reality, predictive power, practical implications and historical evidence.

2. KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HEGEL'S

AND MARX'S DIALECTICAL APPROACHES:

1) BASIS OF DIALECTIC:

(i) Hegel:

In Hegel's dialectics, ideas/spirit (Geist) shape history and reality.

(ii) Karl Marx:

In Marx's dialectics, material conditions (economy, labour class) shape ideas and history.

2) DIRECTION OF CAUSALITY:

(i) Hegel:

consciousness → society
attempt by adding paragraphs.

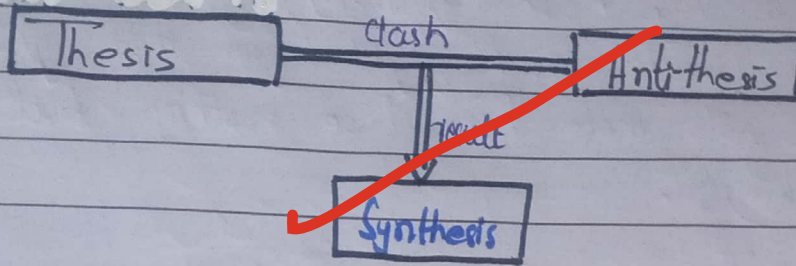
(ii) Karl Marx:

Society (material base) → consciousness

3) NATURE OF CHANGE:

(i) Hegel:

According to Hegel's dialectics change comes through conflict of abstract ideas.



(ii) Karl Marx:

As per Karl Marx, change comes through conflict of **classes** and material forces. He says that any change in forces of production demands a change in relations of production. The conflict between **Haves** and **Have not** occurs when forces of production change without any change in relations of production. This is called exploitation.

4) PRIMARY AGENT OF HISTORY:

(i) Hegel:

Hegel believed that History is rational. It is not random. Events in the history follow a dialectical process that moves from ignorance and contradiction toward greater freedom and awareness. This means Reason is not static; it reveals itself gradually through history, in time, through human actions, conflicts, and institutions.

(ii) Karl Marx:

He believed that Working class (proletariat) is the source of revolution. He urged this class to stand up for its

rights as they have quantity. He encouraged them to unite and fight for their rights as it will make them lose nothing but their chains.

5) ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL :

(i) Hegel,

According to Hegel's dialectics individuals are vehicles through which spirit (universal consciousness) develops. In other words, individuals are born into a world of ideas, culture and institutions that are bigger than them. They live within them, challenge them and gradually shape them further.

(ii) Karl Marx :

Marx believed that only the collective struggle of masses can change the society. History progresses not by elite thinkers (quality) but by the masses (quantity) in motion.

6) OUTCOME OF DIALECTIC :

(i) Hegel:

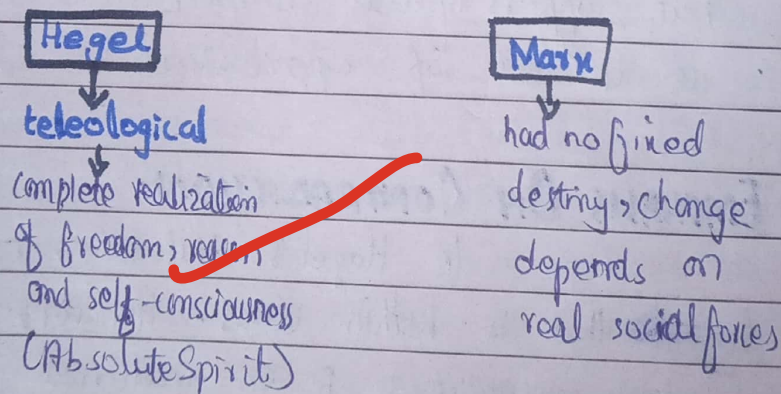
In Hegel's dialectic, the evolution of freedom and self-awareness of spirit is the outcome. He sees history as a story of increasing freedom. At first, humans were not aware of their freedom but over time, through conflict, war, revolution & philosophy, Spirit becomes conscious of its own

essence, that it is free, rational and unified. This is the Hegel's self-awareness of Spirit. Just like a child matures into an adult and becomes more aware, humanity matures historically, becoming more aware of its freedom, dignity and reason.

(ii) Karl Marx:

He says that his materialistic dialectic results into a classless, governmentless society. This is called communism.

7) HISTORICAL PROGRESS:



8) IDEALISM Vs. REALISM:

Hegel's dialectic is based on idealism as he incorporated just ideas and logics, while Karl Marx used the realistic approach by using practical (material) ideas in his dialectic.

9) ROLE OF PHILOSOPHY:

In Hegel's approach, Philosophy is the highest form of knowledge. However, Marx emphasized that Philosophy must be used to change the world, not just interpret it.

10) RELIGION AND STATE:

For Hegel, religion and state are not enemies. He believes that a rational state should reflect the same moral truths found in religion, but in a clearer and more universal form. However, Marx says that religion is an opium for the masses. He believes that it is a real suffering but offers false comfort. He sees state as a tool of oppression.

11) EMPHASIS ON CONTRADICTION:

In Hegel's dialectic, contradiction is logical that is within ideas. However, in Marx's dialectic, contradiction is in material that is forces of production and relations of production.

12) INFLUENCES:

Hegel was influenced by German Romanticism, metaphysics, and theology. However, Marx was influenced by political economy, enlightenment and rationalism.

3) MARX'S DIALECTIC MATERIALISM

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Is MORE APPEALING:

(i) GROUNDED IN REALITY:

One of the reasons why Marx's dialectic materialism is more appealing is the reality ground in it. Marx linked historical change to tangible, observable forces — like economic inequality, labor exploitation and class struggle — rather than the abstract ideas like Hegel's.

(ii) PREDICTIVE POWER:

Marx's dialect predicted the rise of class-based conflicts. For example: Industrial strikes, revolutions etc. He also offered a framework for analyzing capitalism, which remains relevant in modern economies. One of the most relevant aspect of state control narrative is also explained by Marx which he considered a way to control the ideas of people in a capitalist state.

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

(iii) PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unlike Hegel, whose dialectic mostly stayed within the realm of philosophy, Marx applied his dialectic to social change and revolutionary actions — making it a tool for transforming

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society.

(iv) HISTORICAL EVIDENCE:

Karl Marx dialectic materialism became the basis of many revolutions and labour movements. French revolution, Russian revolution and many other ongoing labour movements seem to be aligned with materialist dialectics than with Hegel's abstract idealism.

4. CONCLUSION:

Although Karl Marx dialectic materialism seems more appealing and different from Hegel's idealistic dialectic, yet both ideas retain their importance for understanding evolution of history. On one hand, Dialectic materialism laid the basis of labour right movements and revolutions. On other hand, the idealistic ^{dialectic} seems to exist even today. As for now thesis is Western social liberal capitalist democracy and the world is gradually ^{seems to be} moving towards antithesis that is authoritarianism. Therefore, both the dialectics paved a way for understanding the evolution of history either through ideas or materials.