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Subject : Political Science.

Q.No1: Describe in detail Karl Marx views on class, state and religion.

→ 1 Introduction:-

Karl Marx, the father of Communism, was the German philosopher of the 19th century. He specialized in political philosophy and was a renowned communist supporter. Marx co-wrote two magnum opuses, "The Communist Manifesto" and "Das Kapital" both of which served as the cornerstones of Marxism.

He was not only a political philosopher but also a socialist and an economist. Marx's in-depth 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 used capitalism to exploit the proletariat. Because of this, a class struggle will

remain among the haves and have-nots. Because the capitalist class never wants the labour class to take a firm hold on the means of production. Through this, Marx gave in-depth insight into how class, state, and religion are exploitation tools.

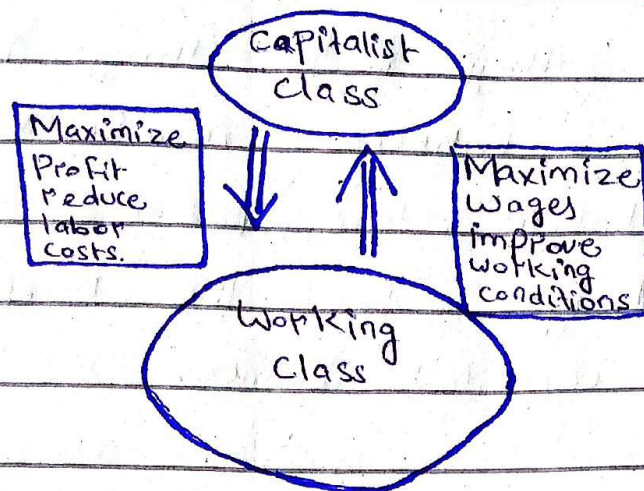
2. Karl Marx's views on class:-

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle.

(Karl Marx: The Communist Manifesto)

In Marxist theory, the stage of capitalist production consists of two main classes:

1. The Bourgeoisie:- Capitalist owners who own the means of production.
2. The Proletariat:- The working class sells their labor to ~~the~~ buy the means of production.



(Neo-Marxist Model of class conflict)

Marx advanced the idea that there has been a class struggle between two factions of society ever since the establishment of the state. Every community has a Dominant class, those who own the means of production, and a dominated class. Dominated class is a subclass - those who do not own any means of production but work for the dominant class.

The dominant class is constantly being exploited by the dominant class, primarily through the alienation of their area of interest. People in the earliest forms of communism worked for themselves and their

Satisfaction. They produce things following their needs, whereas members of the capitalist class ~~produce~~ produce things for the benefit of the capitalist owner.

2:→

Class Struggle in the 21st Century:-

Marx's idea of class struggle can be visibly seen in the United States, where the members of the conservative party want to maintain status quo. At the same time, liberals are more open to progressive change. However, the Great Depression, the civil Rights movement, and other shifts in public thinking have demonstrated a clear divide within the United States.

The current political divide within the major parties can be seen as a conflict between the have and have-nots. Karl Marx saw this kind of conflict,

"disenfranchised versus establishment,"
as a class struggle.

2. → Karl Marx's 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 ~~the~~ to free the common man. The state served as a tool for class dominance.

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Theory of State by Karl Marx:-

The theory of state by Karl Marx is known as the **Materialist** conception of history because he presented a materialistic view of history.

"Political power, properly so called, is merely the organized power of one class oppressing another.

The executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the whole bourgeoisie."

(Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels: Communist Manifesto)

2.

Origin of the State:-

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

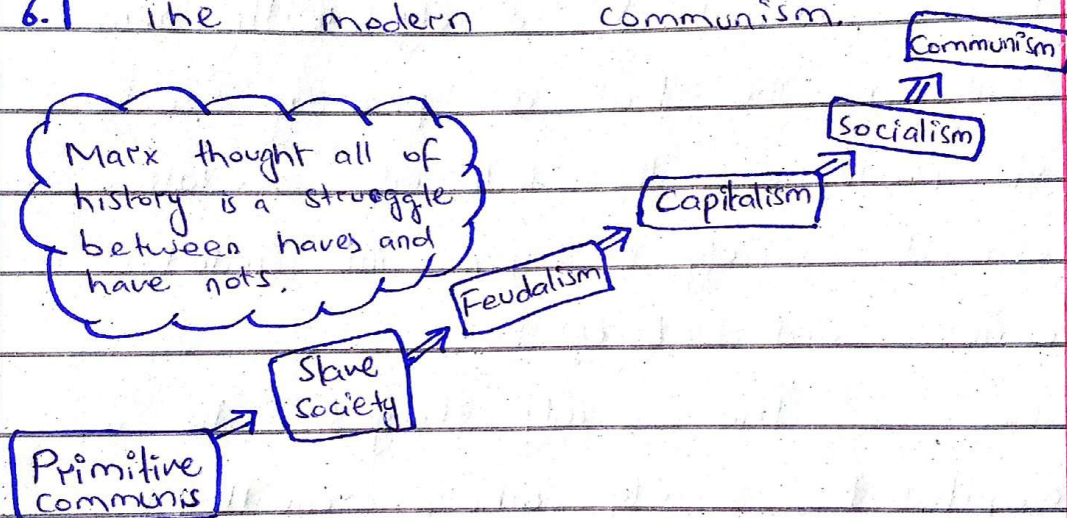
(Karl Marx)

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.

3. Stages of the Social Transition:-

Marx categorized the six stages of the evolution of society, which are as follows.

1. Primary communism (stateless society, absence of private property)
2. The slave society (master and slave)
3. The Feudal society
4. The industrial society.
5. The socialist class
6. The modern communism.



(Marx's 6 stages of history)

There was no state in the Primitive Communist society due to the absence of private property. The concept of private property played a vital role in the development of the state. A system of barter was followed. Later, society transformed into a Slave Society.

where a concept of a King and servant existed. King was regarded as a superior and people labored for him. After that, Society changed and transitioned from a slave Society to a "feudal Society", where land was the primary motivating factor. People work on land and earn their livelihood. Another change occurred, and Society evolved from a feudal to an "industrial Society" with man replacing the land as primary source of production. The industrial revolution caused society to split into industrial owners and laborers.

The Society changed into a capitalist society where wealthy individuals controlled the economy and exploited workers and the general populace to further their interests.

Marx, however, disagreed with them because it was in this region where the idea of private property first emerged. According to him, the inequalities in the capitalist

System pushed people to start revolutions. After that a socialist class would appear, educating society about ~~the~~ its rights and paving the way for "modern communism." It will be just like primitive communism, where there is a classless society, but this communism is more sophisticated and technologically oriented. When there is no state and no government, history will come to an end. This period will be called the "End of History".

⇒ End of History - There is only administration, and it is responsible for managing the entire state process. The people in the state are free to do anything.

⇒ Stage 1: Economic Crisis

⇒ Stage 2: Miseries of Proletariat class

⇒ Stage 3: Class consciousness

⇒ Stage 4: Revolution begins

⇒ Stage 5: Proletarians capture the State

⇒ Stage 6: Withering away of the state.

→ Stage 1 | End of History

This is how a financial crisis could lead to the demise of the capitalist state and the emergence of a state without borders.

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Critical views of Marx on Society:-

Marx's idea of the end of history is a political and philosophical phenomenon that postulates the possibility of the emergence of a specific political, economic, or social system that would mark the culmination of humanity's sociocultural evolution and its last incarnation. It happened because of the bourgeoisie's appropriations.

→ Marx's views on Religion:-

Marx held a materialistic view of religion. According to Marx, religion obscures the true relationships between people and inanimate objects. Similarly, nature

is an impersonal force that restricts man's ability to act, but it can also be rationally comprehended and controlled by technology, potentially to the advantage of humankind. Moreover, religion is a conservative force that contains social transformation by fostering false consciousness.

"In religion, people make their empirical world into an entity that is only conceived, imagined, that confronts them as something foreign." (Karl Marx)

→ Religion - A tool of Exploitation:-

Marx asserts that one of the religion's primary "functions" is to prevent people from demanding social reform and numbing the agony of oppression.

→ Critical Analysis:-

Marx's beliefs on class, state, and religion were criticized by various critics. According to Marx, the capitalist system is overthrown by the proletarian class as a result of

their economic crisis because class conflict causes people to become revolutionary, which leads to revolution. However, to date, there has not been any sign of a revolution. Despite this, capitalist owners gained a stronger foothold, and a new class emerged, the middle class. Critics disagree with Marx's assessment of the state's deterioration, stating that no End of History has yet been observed, and there is no hope of one shortly. According to Marx, understanding religion was incomplete.

⇒ Conclusion:-

Karl Marx's beliefs mainly revolved around perception. It has nothing to do with reality. According to Karl Marx, society is divided based on the means of production, the state only serves the interests of the powerful bourgeoisie class, and religion is used as a tool of exploitation of working class to appease

them for their material tribulations
