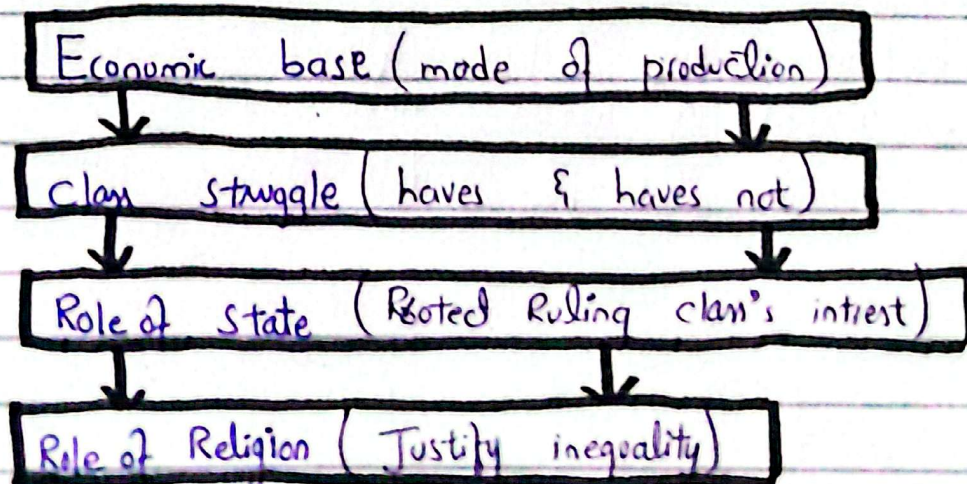


Question :

Discuss in detail the Karl Marx View on class, state, and Religion.

Karl Marx, the pioneer of historical materialism, analyzed the society as economy, power and ideology. He believed that the essence of history is class struggle. When one class dominates on another class through the control of mean of production. The state act as a political tool in the hands of the ruling class to protect its economic interests. Similarly, religion also functions as an ideology, comforting the oppressed while justifying inequality. Thus Karl Marx saw the classes, state and religion as interconnected instruments that maintain exploitation but also carry within them the seeds of revolutionary change.

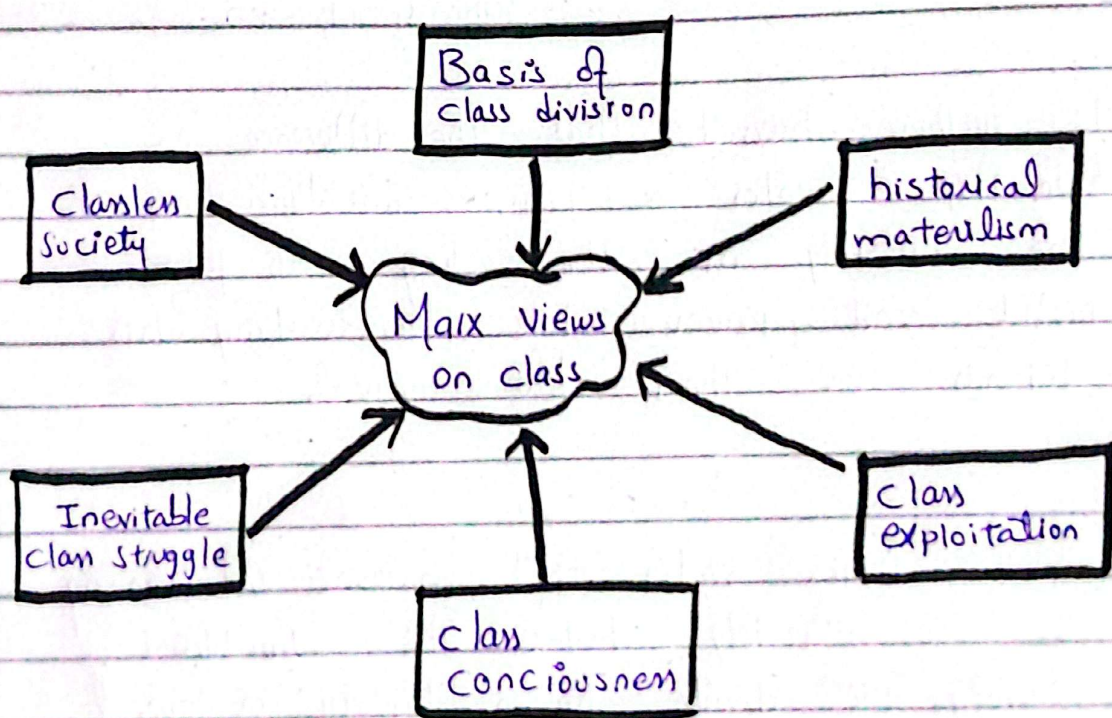
MARX INTERCONNECTION OF CLASS, STATE AND RELIGION



MARX'S VIEW ON CLASSES

Karl Marx believed that the essence of history is class struggle. He wrote in his book "The Communist Manifesto", that:

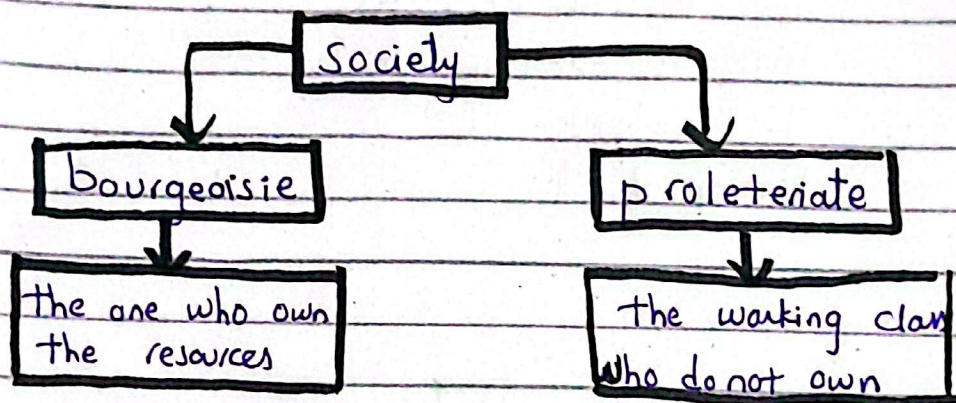
"The history of all hitherto existing in the society is the history of class struggle"



(a) Basis of Class division :

Marx believed that the base of classes are formed on the basis of the people's relationship with the means of production.

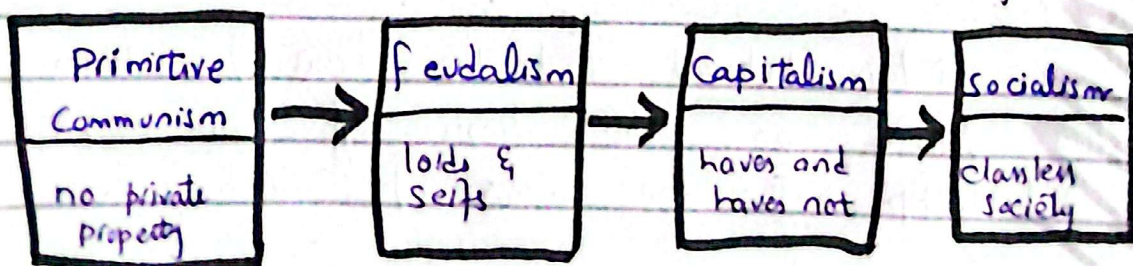
The means of production includes lands, factories, tools and capital. He explained the reason behind classes is the ownership of means of goods. He elaborates that there are two main classes in the society.



He further observed that the difference in ownership creates a power imbalance in the society as the ruling class gain profit and power while the working class depends on them for survival.

(b) Historical Materialism :

Marx states that material and economy of the society shape the structure of society. He divide human history in several stages, each defined by its economic system.



(c) Class exploitation :

Marx said that :

"exploitation is the heart of capitalism"

He justified that workers produced goods that have more value than the wages they receive.

The capitalists compete for their profit. They pay the workers less wages and started exploiting the working class.

(d) Class Consciousness :

According to Marx, workers sometimes even don't realize they are being exploited, but when they realize their exploitation, they become united. Once they unite, organize and fight for their rights against the capitalists they develop class consciousness. Moreover, class consciousness is the first step towards revolution and social change.

(f) Inevitable class struggle :

Class struggle is the central force behind all social & political change.

Throughout the history, one class always oppressed another eg :

master vs slaves

lords vs serfs

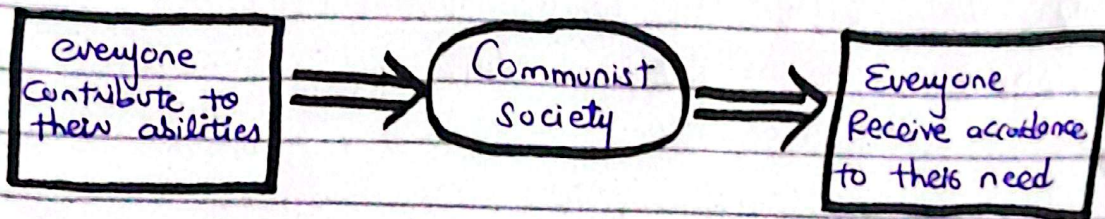
& workers vs capitalists.

The struggle continues and eventually brings revolution.

(f). Classless Society :

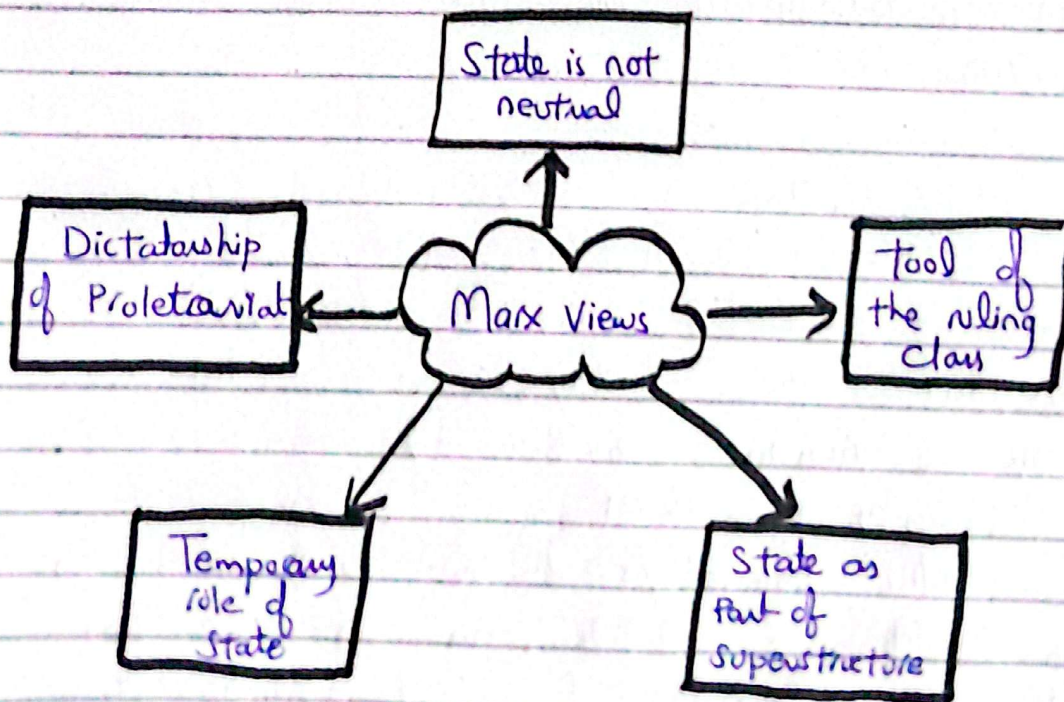
The final goal of Marx theory is classless society where

- ① Private ownership will be abolished
- ② Production will be shared equally
- ③ Exploitation and oppression will disappear.



MARX'S VIEWS ON STATE

Karl Marx saw the state as tool for the ruling class.



(a). State is not Neutral :

Karl Marx argued that state do not serve everyone equally. It mainly protects the interest of elite and powerful and with the help of state the bourgeoisie control all means of production while oppressing and exploiting the workers.

(b). Tool of the ruling class :

Marx believed that state is like a tool of the ruling class. The ruling class use law, state and government to enhance their interest and suppress the working and labour class. The state works to maintain the status quo.

(c). State as Part of superstructure :

Marx divide the society into two parts : the base (economic structure) and the superstructure. The state belongs to superstructure and depends on the economic base.

(d). Temporary role of state :

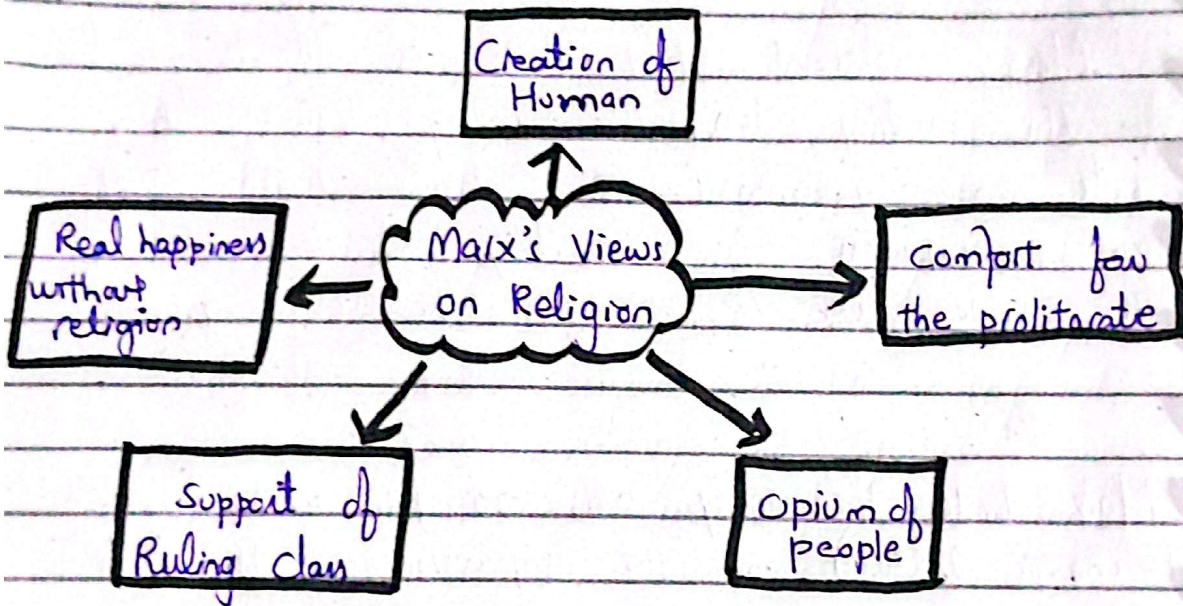
The ultimate goal of Karl Marx is classless and stateless society. He described the temporary role of state in society till communism.

(e). Dictatorship of Proletariat :

During the transition from capitalism to communism there would be worker's revolution and the working class would take over the bourgeoisie.

MARX'S VIEWS ON RELIGION

Karl Marx saw the religion as a human creation, comfort for the oppressed class, opium of the people and the real happiness can gain without any Religion.



(a) Creation of human :

As Karl Marx stated that :

"Man Made Religion, Religion doesn't Make Man"

He believed that religion is man made it is not a gift from god but a social creation that reflects people's suffering. When human feel powerless, they turn to religion for hope and comfort.

(b). Comfort of proletariat.

He argued that religion provide comfort for the people who are suffering in the society. The use religion as a hope and sense of relief as it promises a better life after death which helps proletariat, but for him religion works as temporary comfort not a real-world solution.

(c). Opium of people :

Marx famously said :

Religion is the opium of the people means religion act as drug as it dulls people awareness and keep them calm in the hardship. People find peace in religious faiths, accept the inequality and injustice rather than fighting for their rights.

(d). Support of Ruling class :

He argued that the bourgeoisie often use the religion for their own interest and economic benefits to oppress the working class. This prevents rebellion and keeps the workers passive.

(e). Real happiness without Religion :

Marx believed that people can achieve true happiness when they don't use religion as the cause of suffering. They realized the inequality and injustice and started fighting for their rights and once they got rights they will be happy in society.

FINAL REMARKS:

Karl Marx view the society as a dialectical materialism in which the haves class oppress the workers in many ways. They use the religion and state as a tool to enhance their economic benefits and suppress the proletariates. He saw the society, state and religion as an interconnected instruments that maintain the exploitation. He idealize the classless and stateless society where everyone contributes according to their ability and receive their needs. In a communist society, it is assumed that everyone will be happy and there is no inequality and injustice on economic resources and means of production.
