

Date: _____

Day: _____

Q5 Write short note on the following:
a Class conflict of the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat

Section A

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. He co-wrote two magnum opuses, "The Communist Manifesto" and "Das Capital", both of which served as the cornerstones of Marxism. He was not only a political philosopher but also a socialist and an economist. Marx 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 state, where the bourgeoisie used capitalism to exploit the proletariat. Because of this, a class struggle will remain among the haves and have-nots. The Capitalist class never wants the labor class to take a firm hold on the means of production. Through this, Marx gave in-depth insights into how classes, state, and religion are exploitation tools.

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 consist of two main classes:

- The Bourgeoisie
- The Proletariat

Bourgeoisie: Capitalist owners, who own the means of production.

Proletariat: The working class sells their labor to buy the means of production.

Marx advanced the idea that there has been a class struggle between two fractions of society ever since the establishment of the state. Every community has a ^(Bourgeoisie) Dominant class - those who own the means of production - and a ^(Proletariat) subclass known as the Dominated class - those who do not own any means of production rather it works for the dominant class. Proletariat is constantly being exploited by the bourgeoisie, primarily through the alienation of their area of interest. People in the earliest forms of communism worked for themselves and their satisfaction.

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

Additionally, capitalists exploit them by acquiring the surplus value they create through their profits. These business owners had only one goal: to enrich themselves at the expense of the working class. Consequently, they continued to have class struggles.

Class Struggle in 21st Century

Marx's idea of class struggle can be seen visibly in ^{the} United States, where the members of the conservative party want to maintain a certain 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 in the United States.

The current political divide within the major parties can be seen as a conflict between the haves and have-nots. Karl Marx saw this kind of conflict, "disenfranchised versus establishment," as a class struggle.

Critical Analysis

Marx's beliefs on class struggle was criticized by various critics. According to Marx, the capitalist system is overthrown by the proletariat 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 revolution. Despite this, capitalist owners gained a stronger foothold, and a new class emerged: the middle class. Thus, according to critics, Marx's understanding of class struggle was incomplete.

Conclusion

Conclusively, Karl Marx's beliefs mainly revolved around ^{or} perception. It has nothing to do with reality. According to him, society is divided based on the means of production, the state only serves the interest of powerful bourgeoisie which results in the exploitation of proletariat. This concept caused him to become a critic of capitalism, which eventually resulted in the development of socialism.