

Marxism

Background

Imagine a society that requires all students under 20 to attend boarding school. Students have no choice on the matter. If they refuse to attend school, they will be forcibly sent to prison.

Students must attend school 16 hours a day, and the rest of their time is reserved for sleeping. At school, they are required to write essays and solve equations all day. They are given some food throughout the day, but they are always hungry. They will suffer from malnutrition, poor eyesight from reading and writing, permanent claw hands caused by excessive pencil-gripping, and numerous other ailments.

The teachers at these schools don't teach. They collect student work and sell it to book publishers. Teachers make a lot of money from these books, and most can make a profit of \$500,000 per year.

Teachers have all the free time they want . . . they are often seen golfing!

Then one day a student meeting is called, and everyone agrees to overthrow the teachers. The students decide to go into the publishing business together collectively. They calculate that everyone could work 8 hours a day, and still make enough money for food and leisure activities. The next day, they manage to overthrow the teachers and kick them out for good. There are many more of students than teachers, but still there are a few casualties.

The students take over the publishing business and they agree to divide up the work and the profits equally.

According to Karl Marx, the students have just participated in a small MARXIST REVOLUTION!

Teachers = BOURGEOISIE

Students = PROLETARIAT

EXPLOITATION = The students were being taken advantage of. They were doing all the work, while the teachers made all the money.

CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS = When the students realized how much money the teachers were making, the students decided that they deserved more.

Assignment

Use your *Student Workbook* to complete the following questions.

Your objective is to be able to fully describe Marxism, so when you are done please take notes on the significant features of Marxism.

1) Bourgeoisie: _____

2) Proletariat: _____

3) Exploitation: _____

4) Class Consciousness: _____

5) Marxist Revolution: _____

6) Write a summary on the key features of Marxism.

<p><i>Historical Background</i></p> <p><i>(Background research may be needed here, but remember that a lot of information was also covered in our video on Communism.</i></p> <p><i>You should know a little about industrial capitalism in the Early Modern Period.</i></p> <p><i>This is the system that Marx was attacking.)</i></p>	
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<i>Historical Dialectic</i>	<i>Stage 1 . . . Feudalism</i>
	<i>Stage 2 . . . Capitalism</i>
	<i>Stage 3 . . . Revolution</i>
	<i>Stage 4 . . . Dictatorship of the Proletariat</i>
	<i>Stage 5 . . . Communism</i>
<i>Philosophical Principles</i>	

