

# **MARXISM**

**INTRODUCTION  
BASIC TENETS OF MARXISM  
CRITICISM  
NEO MARXISM**

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- Karl Marx is considered as the most influential socialist thinkers of 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Its main tenets are found in the Communist Manifesto and Das Capital.
- Marxism describes society with his 'Five stages of History' as determined by economic structures.

- Dialectical Materialism
- Historical Materialism
- Doctrine of Class struggle
- Theory of Surplus Value
- Alienation

## **Basic tenets of Marxism**

- Marx borrowed his dialectical method from German philosopher, G.W.F. Hegel.
- Marx believed matter was the essence of universe, and that social institutions were the manifestation of changing material conditions.
- Matter underwent the dialectical process because of its inherent tensions, until perfect material conditions come into existence.

## **Dialectical Materialism**

- The materialistic conception of history is the application of the principles of dialectical materialism to the study of the development of the society.
- Ac to Marx all fundamental historical changes are determined by the mode of production or the economic forces.
- Any change in the mode of production brings corresponding change in social relations.
- Mode of production has two components: Forces of production and Relation of production.
- Forces of production cannot remain static , they have an inherent tendency of development in the direction of achieving perfect society.

## Historical materialism

- Four factors for production- land, labour, capital, and organization.
- While other factors do not change value in the process of production, labour produces a surplus value over and above its equivalent.
- The reward which the labourer gets for his service is much less than the value he produces.
- This differences between the wages paid to the labour and the value received by the capitalist is called surplus value.

## Surplus Value

- Marx theory of alienation refers to the alienation of people from aspects of their 'human nature';. Marx believes that alienation is a systematic result of capitalism.
- Four levels of alienation in capitalist society:
  - a. Man his alienated from his own product and from his work process.
  - b. Man is alienated from nature as he is forced to work under artificial atmosphere of a factory.
  - c. Man is alienated from his fellow man because of severely competitive character of capitalist economy and his sharp class division of society.
  - d. Man is alientaed from himsef.reduced to animal existence.

# Alienation

- Antonio Gramsci's Civil Society and Hegemony
- H. Marcuse 'One dimensional MAN'
- Louis Althusser's Ideological State Apparatuses

**Neo Marxist**