

# Introduction to Marxism

# Karl Marx



1818 - 1883

# George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel



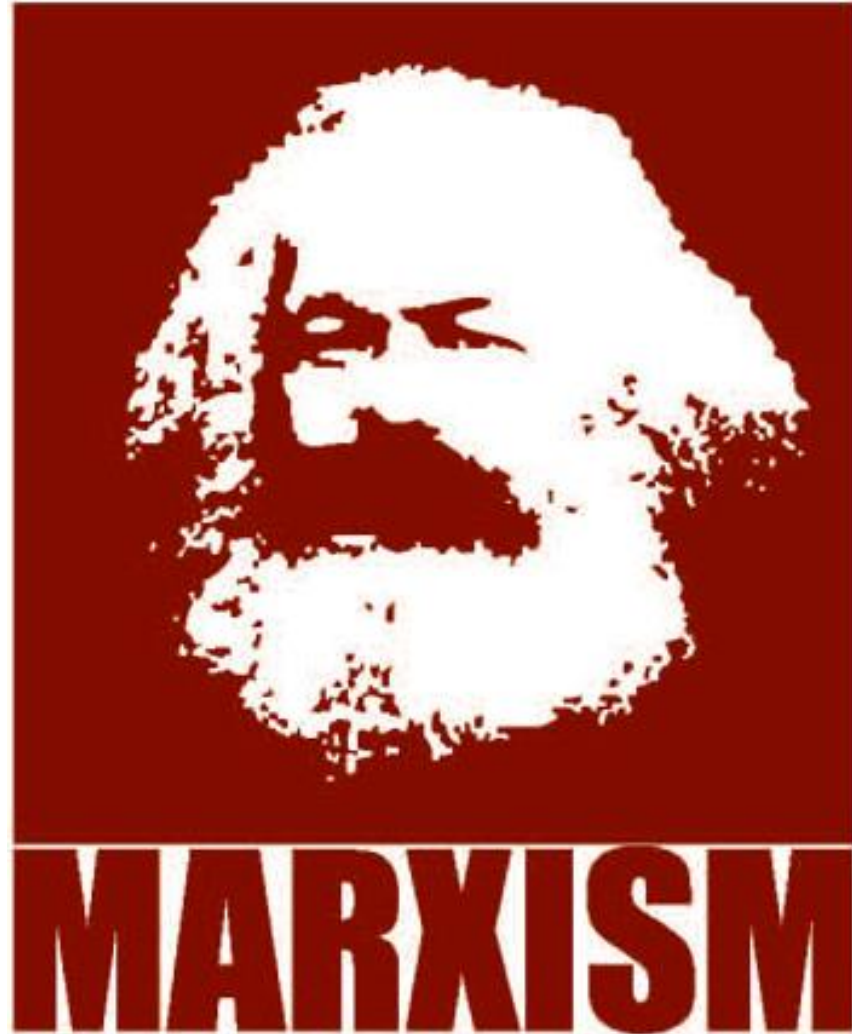
1770 - 1831

# Friedrich Engels



1820 - 1895

# Marxism



# Marxism

- “If anything is certain, it is that I myself am not a Marxist.” (Marx said to French Marxists in the 1870s; originally quoted in Engel’s letter to Bernstein in 1882)

# Emancipation of Human Beings

“Every emancipation is a restoration of the human world and human relationships to man himself.” (Marx’s On Jewish Question: first published in 1844)

# Alienation

“Every self-estrangement of man, from himself and from nature, appears in the relation in which he places himself and nature to men other than and differentiated from himself” (Marx’s Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844: first published in 1844)

# History

“Men make their own history, but they do not make it as they please; they do not make it under self-selected circumstances, but under circumstances existing already, given and transmitted from the past.” (Marx’s the Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte: first published in 1852)

# Historical Materialism

“The production of ideas, of conceptions, of consciousness, is at first directly interwoven with the material activity and the material course of men, the language of real life. Conceiving, thinking, the mental intercourse of men, appear at this stage as the direct efflux of their material behaviour.” (Marx’s *The German Ideology*: first published in 1845)

# The Mode of Production

- The mode of production of material life conditions the general process of social, political and intellectual life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existences, but their social existences that determines their consciousness. (Marx's Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy)

# The Mode of Production

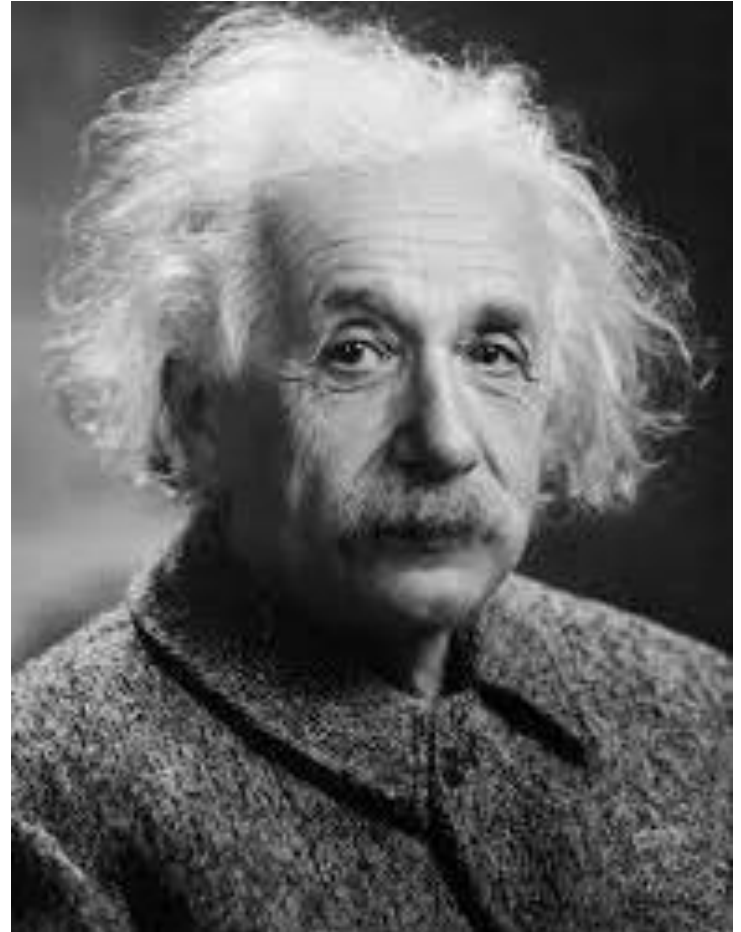
- “In the social production of their existence, men inevitably enter into definite relations... namely relations of production appropriate to a given stage in the development of their material forces of production.” (ibid.)

# Class

“The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.” (Marx’s Manifesto of the Communist Party: first published in 1848)

# Capitalism

“The economic anarchy of capitalist society as it exists today is, in my opinion, the real source of the evil.” (Einstein 1949)



# Imperialism

“If it were necessary to give the briefest possible definition of imperialism we should have to say that imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism” (Lenin’s *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*: first published in 1917)



# The End of Capitalism

“The development of modern industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own gravediggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.”  
(Marx and Engels’s *The Manifesto of the Communist Party* 1948)

# Revolution

“The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries, unite!” (Marx and Engels’s Manifesto of the Communist Party: first published in 1848)

# Armed Revolution

“My marxism has taken root and become purified. I believe in armed struggles as the only solution for those peoples who fight to free themselves, and I am consistent with my beliefs”. (Che Guevara in 1965)

