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Karl Marx

1066 words

Once a time, agriculturists produce their products and sell by themselves in the market. Since, they have to sell their labor to capitalists because they lack in capital and fund, so it is the beginning of capitalism.¹ Therefore, capitalists can sell their products in the price which cheaper than the cost. There was a man who saw the disadvantage of capitalism that can lead to the market failure and make a great impact to proletariats who sell their labor and have less income. Karl Marx² is the one who made a theory, which can prevent this misfortune. Marxism³ is a social theory, a revolutionary theory of social changing. It is also influence for Communism⁴, Political Economy and social movement throughout history. Karl Marx's most important work is to deal with class conflict between capitalists and working class.⁵

Karl Marx was born in May 5 1818, into a middle class lawyer family in Trier, Germany. He was a father of Communism. He studied at the University of Bonn in the Faculty of Law. At the same time he also interested in philosophy and history. After graduated from his university, he has devoted himself for science, and he

¹ Bruce. "Marxian Socialism." *The History of Economic Thought*. By Grant. N.p.: n.p., n.d. 175-176. Print.

² Mehring, Franz, *Karl Marx: The Story of His Life* (Routledge, 2003) pg. 75

³ Wolff and Resnick, Richard and Stephen (August 1987). *Economics: Marxian versus Neoclassical*. The Johns Hopkins University Press. p. 130. ISBN 0801834805. "Marxian theory (singular) gave way to Marxian theories (plural)."

⁴ "Communism and Marxism." *Rationalrevolution.net*. N.p., n.d. Web.>

⁵ Bruce. "Marxian Socialism." *The History of Economic Thought*. By Grant. N.p.: n.p., n.d. 171-192. Print.

became a teacher at University of Bonn, but policy of government banished teacher who advanced from university. It did Marx be aware that there is no place in University to criticism⁶. Rheinische Zeitung⁷ is a newspaper that Marx used to express progressive ideas against with obscurantism⁸. Because it is rapidly spread, government forced to prohibit Marx's journal⁹. Marx went to foreign to make Communism journal and sent into Germany. Before he left from Germany, He married with his girlfriend Jenny Von Westphalia. During fight for working class, he met true friend that is Frederick Engels. Marx and Engels have the same attitude and they were cordiality. They wrote many literatures but no one allowed him to publish. They also wrote "German Ideology¹⁰" for foundation of social science. German Ideology is a fundamental conclusion history of materialism. They insisted in the way of hypothesis about necessity of revolution socialism. German ideology is also foundation of communism. Marx formed his philosophy and also established Communist Correspondence Committee¹¹. This is a beginning of socialism movement. In 1847, there is the first convention in London; Engels attended the meeting, and Marx expressed phrase "Working Men of All Countries, Unite!¹²" After second convention on December in the same year, Marx wrote "Communist

⁶ Mehring, Franz, Karl Marx: The Story of His Life (Routledge, 2003) pg. 75

⁷ Franz Mehring, Karl Marx: The Story of His Life. Edward Fitzgerald, trans. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1936; pg. 34.

⁸ Wikimedia Foundation. "Obscurantism." *Wikipedia*. 01 Feb. 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obscurantism>>

⁹ Nicolaievsky and Maenchen-Helfen 1976, pp. 60–61; Wheen 2001, pp. 47–48; McLellan 2006, pp. 50–51.

¹⁰ Karl Marx. "The German Ideology". *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1998. 653-658. Print.

¹¹ "ENGELS TO THE COMMUNIST CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE." *Letters: Letters: Engels to the CCC*, 16 Sep 1846. Trans. Peter Ross and Betty Ross. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013.

¹² "Working Men of All Countries, Unite." *Csun.edu*. N.p., n.d. Web

Manifesto¹³". The book contained theories about the nature of society and politics in his words "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles¹⁴". In 1848, wave of revolution broke out in Europe.

Karl Marx carried on Hegel's dialectical method¹⁵, thus he avoided the idea that human nature is not changed. He did not believe that people worked in the same way. Indeed, work was determined by a person's thoughts. He explained that work is activities in social condition of work depend on social and change by time. His analysis was placed on the difference between factors of production such as land or natural resources including technology need to produce product. He gave a priority about labor, which is the base resource of human.

When labor used to produce product until output is available, product will belong to capitalist that is abandon ownership of laborite, which cause of commodity fetishism that people give value to output more than human. Marx called commodity fetishism is a wrong conscience. He explained that the cause of commodity fetishism is a specific of capitalism. He observed in every success industry wage of labor which is always lower than price of product that can produce. He called it surplus value and explained that profit of capitalist came from surplus value. Production of capitalism has a potential for enormous growth because capitalist can use profit to invest in new technology. He believed surplus value that takes advantage from labor is a source of profit. He summarized that after investment in new technology it caused of lower profit even though economic will be in progress. He also thought that when profit

¹³ "Manifesto of the Communist Party." *Communist Manifesto (Chapter 1)*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013.

¹⁴ Marx, Karl. *The Communist Manifesto*. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Web. <http://salempress.com/store/samples/masterplots_4/masterplots_4_manifesto.htm>.

¹⁵ Howard Ll. Williams, Hegel, Heraclitus, and Marx's Dialectic. Harvester Wheatsheaf 1989. 256 pages. ISBN 0-7450-0527-6

decline to the minimum; wage of labor will be decreased too. Moreover, he implied that in long-term effect of economic cause of working class was poor, but capitalist became stronger on this effect. He desired working class to struggle for equity and made a new society that had equity benefit for everyone. He believes negotiate with tranquility that can't be solving the problems, revolution is needed.

In his idea, capitalism makes working class being poor, and it causes extravagant factor of production. He offered socialism idea that everyone should do task in the way that they are specialize and get rewarded from achievement. Karl Marx's idealism ¹⁶is necessary to change human nature and the way that can change human is the change in environment such as nurture, education and etc. In capitalism, humans have their own selfish attitude; it can change by altering capitalism to socialism. On his purpose, people devoted themselves to society, and believed that selfishness was certainly wrong. The outstanding thing of Karl Marx is criticizing capitalism systematically¹⁷. Moreover, Karl Marx's idea is foundation of communist¹⁸. One of larger manuscripts that Marx wrote in his life is The Grundrisse¹⁹. It was discussed about capital, labor wage, property and etc. but it was not published until Marx died on March 14 in 1883. His death inscribed in history of working class in Europe and American.

¹⁶ "Was Karl Marx a Realist or an Idealist?" *Quora*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013

¹⁷ Bruce. "Marxian Socialism." *The History of Economic Thought*. By Grant. N.p.: n.p., n.d. 175-176. Print.

¹⁸ "The Foundation of Communism." *The Foundation of Communism*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013.

¹⁹ Wood, Ellen Meiksins (2002) *The Origins of Capitalism: A Longer View* London: Verso p.35

Karl Marx devoted himself to work for enormous society, and it can be referred that he was one of the great man of science. This is because he is the most influential socialist thinker that contributed to people's thought in the 19th century; especially the conflict between capitalist and working class. Karl Marx's attitude about capitalist is immoral; they use labor to make their profit and don't have sympathy to labor. They always call for freedom such as free trade but actually they call for taking advantage one another. The most important of communism is taken off private property because it is exploitation of capitalist. Karl Marx wanted a society being in peace which is good. He thought the selfishness of human can be changed by society, and he believed that people can happily live together in communism.