



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: Political science-I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL-101

NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Shiv Kumar Tripathi

Lecture-40



Karl Marx

Karl Marx was an intellectual who developed influential political dogmas. He was the first philosopher to bring together the various elements of socialist thought into both a coherent world view and an emotional principle of struggle. Along with Friedrich Engels (1820-1895), with whom he shared an unmatched partnership, Marx dissected 19th century capitalism as scientific socialism or communism. Marxism is not only a critical evaluator of capitalism but also a feasible or credible alternative to it. Marxism is an orientation, programme of action and a working class movement.

Karl Marx is considered as originator of Modern Communism. The theory of communism be indebted its birth to Karl Marx and Friedrich Engel. According to the theory of communism, the only practical thing was to obtain mastery over the governing laws of society. Besides this, Karl Marx and Engel wanted to know the causes of economic changes in human society. They also wanted to discover what further changes are required. They established that the changes in human society were not the least accidental like changes in external nature. They worked out a scientific theory of society based on the actual experience of men. Karl Marx applied this theory to the society in which he lived mainly Capitalist Britain. He had an opinion that it was quite impossible to separate his economic theories from historical and social theories. Marx criticized the existing capitalist institutions. He did not believe in the essential goodness of man. He considered that a man is more as an economic than as a political animal.

Marx's principles were not new but he greatly enlarged and systematized older ideas, putting them into new and effective combinations. He attempted to demonstrate that a socialist program must be based upon a systematic interpretation of social evaluations and a critical analysis of the existing system of production and exchange. His design was to show how a socialist community is to be built upon capitalist foundations. Marx defined his socialism as scientific.

Marx inherited and combined three legacies in his theoretical groundwork:

- German philosophy
- French political thought
- English economics

From the German intellectual tradition, he borrowed the Hegelian method of dialectics and applied it to the material world. From the French revolutionary tradition, he recognized the idea that change motivated by a messianic idea was not only desirable, but also practicable. He applied his method with a view to bringing about huge change within the industrialized capitalist economy of which England was the classical model in the 19th century. He used the English classical economists to comprehend the dynamics of capitalism and the Industrial Revolution.

Marx has written various issues of Philosophy, Economics, Politics and society. The books, articles, pamphlets of Marx were written during three decades from the early forties to the early seventies. The important works of Marx include Critique of Political Economy, The Communist Manifesto, Das Capital. The basic ideologies of Marxism can be mentioned as follows:

1. Dialectical Materialism
2. Historical Materialism
3. Theory of Alienation
4. Theory of surplus value
5. Class struggle
6. Dictatorship of the proletariat
7. Vision of a communist society

Dialectical materialism:

Karl Marx is obligated to both Hegel and Hobbes for his theory of Dialectical materialism.

Marx took dialectical method from Hegel but reformed it at basic level. While Hegel had applied the dialectics to explain the material conditions of life, Marx applied the dialectics to elucidate the material conditions of life. In the process of doing so, he criticized the Hegelian philosophy of dialectical idealism on one hand and the theory of mechanistic materialism on the other. Marx wrote "May dialectic method" which is not only different from the Hegelian but is its direct opposite.

In the dialectical materialism of Marx, development within environment help or hinder but neither originating the evolutionary process nor capable of preventing it from reaching its unavoidable goal. Matter is active and not passive, and moves by an inner necessity of its nature. We may put it In another way, Dialectical Materialism of Marx is more interested in motion than matter, in the vital energy within matter inevitably driving it towards perfect human society. Engels signified that the dialectical method grasps things and their images, ideas essentially in their sequence, their movement, their birth and death. According to Marx, every state of history which falls short of perfection carries within itself the seeds of its own annihilation. Each stage reached in the march to the classless society.

Marxian Dialectical Materialism developed by Engels has three dimensions.

1. The law of transformation of quantity into quality. It means that qualitative changes lead to qualitative revolutionary situation.
2. The law of unity of opposites.
3. The law of negation.

Historical materialism:

Historical materialism is the use of the principles of dialectical materialism to the development of society. Marx applied dialectical materialism to the social world consisting of economic production and exchange. In his *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, Engels has defined historical materialism as a theory which maintains that the ultimate cause which determines the whole course of human history is the economic development of society. The whole course of human history is explicated in terms of changes occurring in the mode of production and exchange. Beginning from primitive communism, the mode of production has passed through three stages. Slavery, feudalism and capitalism and the consequent division of society into three distinct classes (Slave- master, self-baron and proletariat-capitalist) and the struggle of these classes against one another. The most thoughtful statement of Marx's theory of historic materialism is contained in his preamble to a contribution to the *Critique of Political Economy*. In this work, Marx marked that:

"The economic structure of society, constituted by its relations of production is the real foundation of society. It is the basis on which rises a legal and political super structure and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness. Along with it, the society's relations of production themselves corresponds to, a definite state of development of its material productive forces. Thus the mode of production of material life determines the social, political and intellectual life process in general."

Marx expounded that the general relations as well as form of state are to be grasped from the material conditions of life. As the society's productive forces develop, they clash with the existing relations of production. This incongruity between forces of production and relations of production divides the society into different classes. As people become conscious of this conflict they fight it out. The conflict is resolved in favour of the productive forces and higher relations of production.

Analogous to his dialectical materialism, Marx created his materialistic conception of history out of the Hegelian system itself which had sought to bridge the gap between the rational and actual concept. Marx borrowed such concepts as civil society and property from the Hegelian system and set them in a revolutionary relationship to the concept of the state. Hegel confronts civil society as a sphere of materialism and counterposes it to the state as sphere of idealism. On the contrary, Marx maintains that relations as well as forms of state are to be grabbed neither from themselves, nor from the general development of human mind but rather they have their roots in the material conditions of life. As a consequence, Hegel stated that the real world is only the external phenomenal form of the idea, while for Marx, the ideal is nothing else than the material world reflected by human mind and interpreted into forms of thought.

MCQ

1. While giving materialistic interpretation of History, Marx believed that:

A. Great men change the course of history

B. Historical events so move that some people

become great

C. Course of history and greatness of the people have nothing to do with each other

D. Course of history is static and as such question of change does not arise

2. With Marx, salient features of the historians in the past was that:

A. They covered the activities of masses

B. They covered the relationship of masses with rulers

C. The exaggerated people's movements against their rulers

D. They recorded events glorifying the rulers

3. According to Karl Marx, main factor which has been influencing and continues to influence society is:

A. Social factor

B. Political factor

C. Economic factor

D. Religious factor

E. Cultural factor

4. Who said first, 'workers of the world unite':

A. Stalin

B. Lenin

C. Khrushchev

D. Karl Marx

E. Kosygin

5. According to Karl Marx societies have all along been divided between:

A. The rich and the poor

B. The educated and the elite

C. The religious and the educated people

D. The rich and the religious people