

"The teaching of Marx is all-powerful because it is true..."



LENIN

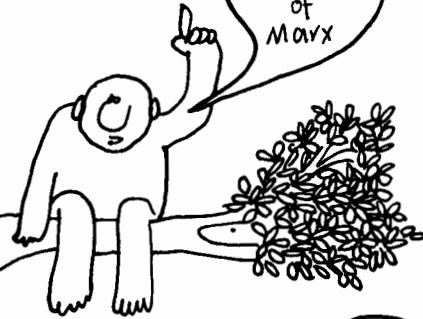
NATURALLY, YOU CAN'T EXPECT THIS LITTLE BOOK OF MINE TO EXPOUND ALL OF MARX'S THEORY, WHICH IS A VAST OCEAN TO SWIM IN.

THE BEST THING TO DO IS SUM UP AND DIVIDE THE BASICS OF MARXISM INTO

3

MAIN BRANCHES...

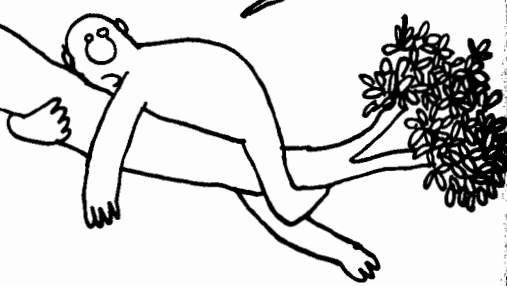
1
The Philosophy of Marx



2
The Economic Doctrine of Marx

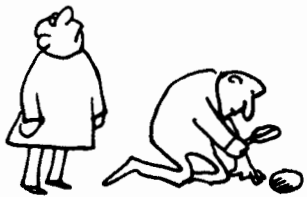


3
The Historical Materialism of Herr Marx



AS WE'VE ALREADY SEEN, THE PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS OF MAN ARE OF TWO KINDS:

IDEALIST AND MATERIALIST



IDEALISM STARTS BY ASSUMING THE EXISTENCE OF SUPER-NATURAL AND DIVINE FORCES...

MATERIALISM CONSIDERS THAT THERE IS NOTHING BEYOND NATURAL THINGS...

IDEALISM IMAGINES THINGS, PRESUPPOSES THE EXISTENCE OF SPIRITS, "IDEALISES" EVERYTHING, BUT DOESN'T OFFER PROOFS FOR WHAT IT PROPOSES...

MATERIALISM, INSTEAD, DOESN'T IDEALISE, BUT SEEKS THE SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS OF THINGS - INCLUDING EVEN RELIGION...

FAITH BY ITSELF IS ENOUGH TO GO ON



(... WHICH IS LIKE TRYING TO KNOW WHAT SUGAR TASTES LIKE WITHOUT SAMPLING IT...)

Or to put it more simply...



IDEALISTS EXPLAIN THINGS TO THEMSELVES THROUGH RELIGION...

MATERIALISTS EXPLAIN WHAT'S WHAT ON THE BASIS OF SCIENCE...

RIGHT AT THE START OF HIS PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES, MARX JOINED FORCES WITH MATERIALISM. BUT HE DEVOTED HIS ENTIRE LIFE'S WORK TO GIVING IT MORE CONSISTENCY AND SCIENTIFIC CHARACTER...



Why?
Because before Marx, materialists were content to deny God's existence. Period!
Am' that's that...

"BY GOD'S GRACE," THE MAJORITY OF ATHEISTS WISHED TO PROVE THE NON-EXISTENCE OF GOD BY STARTING THE USUAL RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTS, WHICH GOT THEM INTO USELESS MUDDLES...



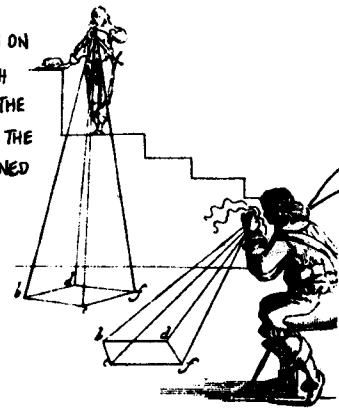
I'm telling God exists

IN THE XVII AND XVIII CENTURIES, THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES WERE MADE IN THE AREAS OF THE MATHEMATICS AND MECHANICS OF CELESTIAL BODIES. AND SO, MATERIALISM BECAME "MECHANISTIC"...
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHERS EXAMINED BOTH NATURE AND SOCIAL LIFE FROM A MECHANICAL POINT OF VIEW...

And that's why Diderot, Descartes and others are called "mechanists"...



BASING THEMSELVES ON MECHANICS, WHICH IN THOSE DAYS WAS THE HEIGHT OF SCIENCE, THE PHILOSOPHERS IMAGINED THAT THE SAME MECHANICAL LAWS COULD BE APPLIED AUTOMATICALLY TO LIFE AND TO NATURE...



Nature is immutable, subject to the cause and effect of rotary motion like machines... *

* THIS PHILOSOPHICAL CRITERION IS CALLED METAPHYSICAL

WHY METAPHYSICAL?

METAPHYSICS, FROM THE GREEK, "PLACED BEYOND PHYSICS". *

IN METAPHYSICS, THINGS ARE UNCHANGING (I.E. IMMUTABLE), GIVEN ONCE, AND FOR ALL, WITHOUT INTER-RELATIONSHIP, AND HENCE MAY BE EXAMINED INDEPENDENTLY, ONE FROM THE OTHER

HEGEL'S DISCIPLE, FEUERBACH REASONED LIKE THIS:

... nature augments only in quantity while always remaining the same...



(THOSE WHO THOUGHT LIKE THIS ABOUT NATURE, COULD THINK THE SAME WAY ABOUT SOCIETY TOO. SOCIETY CHANGES VERY LITTLE FOR THE METAPHYSICIAN, EXCEPT BY REPEATING ITSELF MECHANICALLY, E.G. WARS, HUNGER, GOVERNMENTS ETC...)

* ORIGINALLY, THOSE WORKS OF ARISTOTLE PLACED AFTER HIS "PHYSICS"



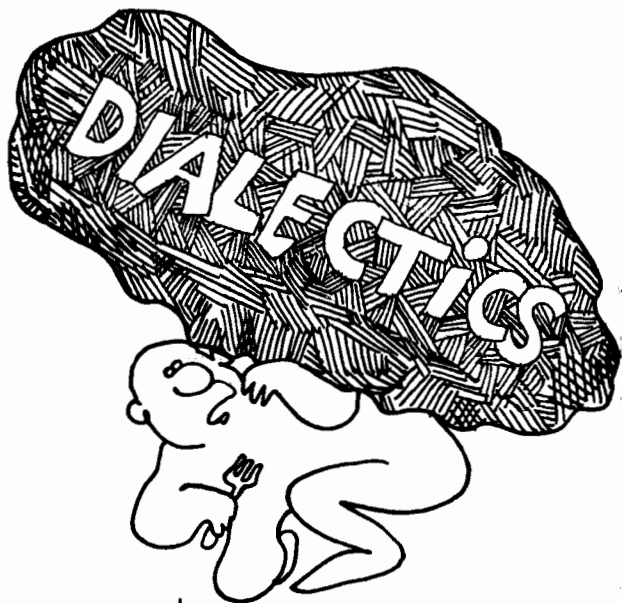
and mankind really can't do anything to change things?

HAVING RECOGNISED THE ERROR OF THE MATERIALISTS AND METAPHYSICIANS,
 MARY ASKED HIMSELF THE SAME QUESTION:



**AND
 MHN?**
 Ladies and Gentlemen...

LET'S LEAVE GOD OUT OF IT, AND ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO DRIVE THEMSELVES
 CRAZY ASKING WHETHER HE EXISTS OR NOT— SO CHARLIE SAID— AND LET'S LOOK
 AT MAN AND HIS ROLE IN THE WORLD. HOW IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE THAT NOTHING
 CHANGES?...



INSTEAD OF THE
 USUAL MECHANISTIC
 NOTION OF NATURE
 AND HUMANITY, MARY
 AND ENGELS SET OUT
 A THEORY OF
 DEVELOPMENT—OR—
 A RETURN TO
DIALECTICS

Supposing it's edible...
 Now do you cook it?

DIALECTICS:
 From the Greek,
 "dialogue", to argue,
 to contend



WAY BACK IN ANCIENT TIMES, SOME
 PHILOSOPHERS HAD ALREADY APPLIED THIS STRATEGY
 TO ARRIVE AT THE TRUTH, A SYSTEM OF
 ARGUMENT WHICH BRINGS OUT THE CONTRADICTIONS
 IN YOUR
 OPPONENTS
 REASONING...



RELIGION (CATHOLICISM ESPECIALLY)
 OPPOSED DIALECTICS BECAUSE IT DIDN'T
 PERMIT ARGUMENT. THINGS WERE
 JUST AS THE BIBLE SAID—AND NO
 DISCUSSION...



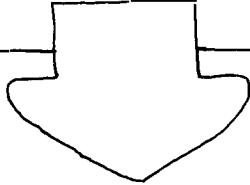
(...or else you
 discussed it
 with me!)

KANT AND HEGEL BEGAN TO RE-EMPLOY
 THE DIALECTIC METHOD.
 BUT HEGEL NEVER BROUGHT IT DOWN
 TO EARTH; AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS:

"... HIS HORIZON WAS FUNDAMENTALLY
 RESTRICTED BY THE KNOWLEDGE AND
 CONCEPTS CURRENT IN HIS DAY.
 ONE SHOULD ADD THAT HEGEL WAS AN
 IDEALIST, AND FOR HIM, THE IDEAS WERE
 NOT MORE OR LESS ABSTRACT IMAGES
 OF OBJECTS; ON THE CONTRARY, THINGS
 AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT WERE A
 PROJECTION OF IDEAS WHICH HAD
 EXISTED, NO ONE CAN SAY HOW,
 EVEN BEFORE THE WORLD ITSELF
 EXISTED. HEGEL'S SYSTEM WAS A
 GIANTIC MISCARRIAGE, BUT THE
 LAST OF ITS KIND. WHILE ON ONE
 HAND IT AFFIRMS A FORMULA
 ESSENTIAL TO THE CONCEPT OF
 HISTORY, ACCORDING TO WHICH HUMAN
 HISTORY IS A PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT
 WHICH CANNOT, GIVEN ITS NATURE...



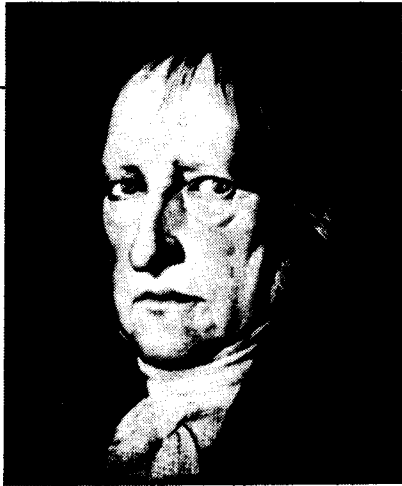
IN ESSENCE:



HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY CONTAINS LOTS OF VALUABLE IDEAS, SUCH AS HIS THEORY OF ETERNAL MOTION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL SPIRIT, AND ESPECIALLY HIS METHOD OF

Dialectics

HE WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THE LAW OF DIALECTICS GOVERNS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRIT (MIND). BUT HE DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH AND APPLY IT TO NATURE AND SOCIETY...!



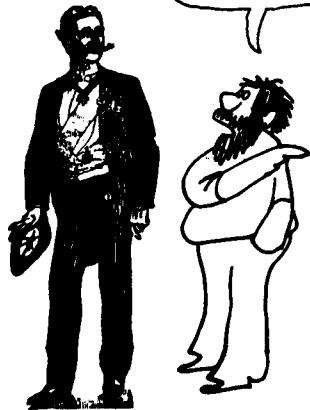
Heberich's translation

Ma trix thio am.

C'est un antique leçon, qui me force la main pour arriver au but. qui l'introduit après le Vau. Vau

What's all this?

Well... Just look



FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE DIALECTICAL METHOD, NOTHING IS ETERNAL OR UNCHANGING... BUT IN SPITE OF THIS HEGEL DENIES THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURE AND SOCIETY, THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS CONTRADICTION IN HIS USE OF THE METHOD...

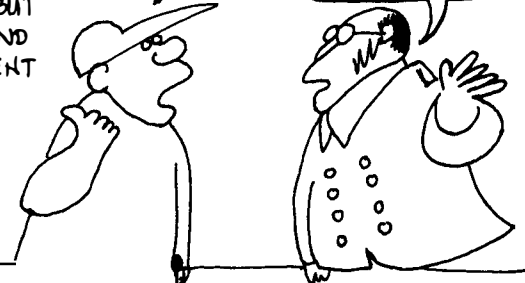
Now how's about an example even I can understand!



HEGEL (AND I'LL TRY HARD TO BE CLEAR) WAS AN IDEALIST. "THE ESSENCE OF REALITY," HE SAID, "ISN'T MATERIAL, BUT SPIRITUAL (OR MENTAL), AND IS THEREFORE INDEPENDENT AND THUS FREE..."

Great! Now explain that...!

Sure! Hegel says that you can feel free even in chains...



HEGEL'S ADVICE TO ANY WORKER EXPLOITED BY HIS BOSS WOULD BE: DON'T WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT MATERIAL OPPRESSION, BUT ONLY ABOUT THE "SPIRITUAL" KIND. BY OBEYING THE STATE (GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE ON EARTH) YOU WILL FIND HAPPINESS AND FREEDOM (OF THE SPIRIT...)

TODAY, HEGEL'S IDEAS SEEM ABSURD. BUT IN HIS DAY, THEY SOUNDED PRETTY DARING AND THEY WERE ATTACKED JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE (IN THEIR OWN WAY) DIALECTICAL...

Dialectic... yes, but idealist...

What the 'ell's he saying?



THIS LED MARX TO SAY THAT HEGEL'S METHOD WAS "INVERTED", UPSIDE-DOWN, AND IT NEEDED TO BE STOOD ON ITS FEET AGAIN...

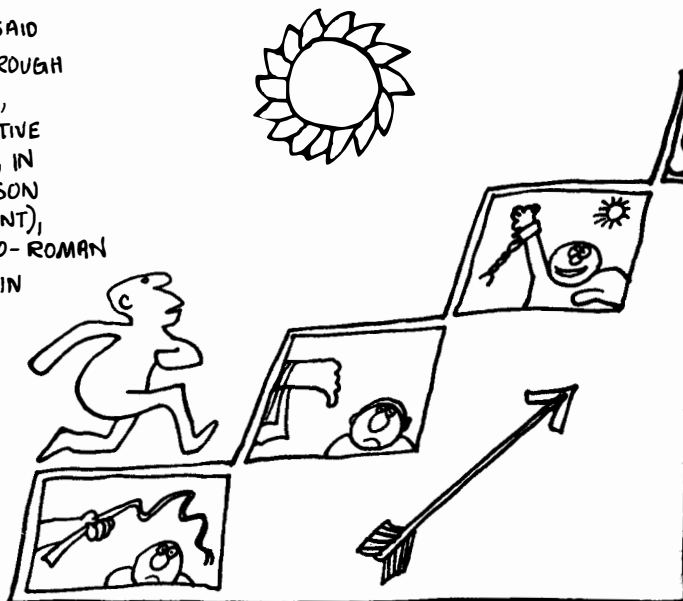
...in short, to make it Materialist...

But what does Hegel's theory say about Development?



Well, Let's take it step by step:

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT- SAID
 HEGEL- HAD GONE THROUGH
 CONSTANT EVOLUTION,
 STARTING WITH PRIMITIVE
 ORIENTAL DESPOTISM, IN
 WHICH ONLY ONE PERSON
 WAS FREE (THE TYRANT),
 AND NEXT THE GRAECO- ROMAN
 ARISTOCRATIC SYSTEM IN
 WHICH MANY MORE
 WERE FREE ...



LATER STILL, SLAVERY AND SERFDOM DISAPPEARED, AND EVEN MORE
 PEOPLE WERE FREE... AFTER THE HOLY ROMAN- GERMAN EMPIRE,
 FEUDALISM, MONARCHY, THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, AND FINALLY WITH THE
PRUSSIAN STATE HUMANITY REACHES (ACCORDING TO HEGEL, ANYWAY)

ABSOLUTE
 LIBERTY

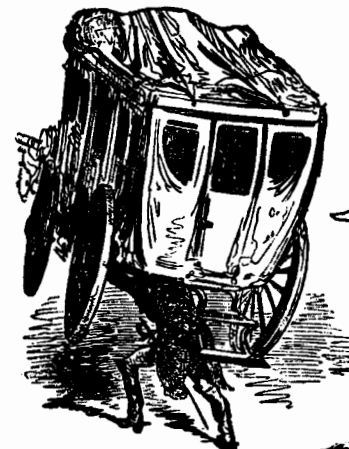


My, I DO like this
 chap Hegel.
 Give him the
 National Award.



PRUSSIA HAD AN EMPEROR, AN ARMY, A VERY RICH CHURCH AND SOME BIG
 LANDOWNERS. THE PEOPLE WORKED FOR THEM, WITHOUT BEING SLAVES MAYBE, BUT
 OPPRESSED ENOUGH. HEGEL DIDN'T NOTICE THIS OPPRESSION. HE IMAGINED ABSOLUTE
 LIBERTY EXISTED JUST BECAUSE SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED...

WHAT WAS REALLY
 HAPPENING WAS
 THAT FEUDALISM HAD
 GRADUALLY GIVEN
 WAY TO
CAPITALISM
 A MORE MODERN
 AND SUBTLER
 FORM OF
 EXPLOITATION.

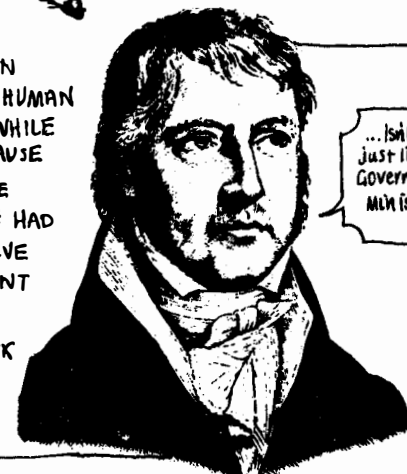


... Doctor Hegel
 didn't take any
 notice of this...

BUT
 MARX
 did!!



HEGEL WENT ON
 TALKING ABOUT HUMAN
 DEVELOPMENT WHILE
 DENYING IT, BECAUSE
 HE CLAIMED THE
 PRUSSIAN STATE HAD
 BEGUN TO ACHIEVE
 THIS DEVELOPMENT
 ALREADY. SO HE
 TOO SINKS BACK
 INTO
 METAPHYSICS...



... isn't that
 just like a
 Government
 Minister!!

HEGEL'S ARGUMENTS REMAIN VALID AND
 DIALECTICAL, EVEN THOUGH MISTAKENLY APPLIED
 BY HIM TO REALITY... LET'S SEE, FOR INSTANCE,
 WHAT HE MAKES OF THE
 "CONFLICT BETWEEN CONTRARIES?!"



"Each thing is a combination
 of contraries because it is
 made up of elements which,
 although linked together, at
 the same time eliminate
 one another..."

DON'T HAVE A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
 YET, THERE'S AN EXAMPLE COMING:



SOCIETY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS A COMBINATION OF CONTRARIES (THE RICH AND WELL-OFF *VERSUS* THE POOR AND MISERABLE) HITCHED TOGETHER, YES, BUT OPPOSED...



If ya wanna stick with me, TOIL, MAN, TOIL!!

WITH VERY GOOD REASON, HEGEL SAID THAT WHAT MAKES HUMANITY EVOLVE IS THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN CONTRARIES. THE TRIUMPH OF ONE OVER THE OTHER PRODUCES CHANGE...

But this dialectical law wasn't supposed to apply to REALITY...



FUNNY, HOW IN HEGEL'S PRUSSIAN STATE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN CONTRARIES WASN'T GOING TO LEAD TO TRANSFORMATION, BUT RATHER AN IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIETY. THIS SUITED HEGEL, NATURALLY... THAT'S WHY!...

AT THIS POINT, MARX STEPS IN TO PUT HEGEL (AND HIS METHOD) THE RIGHT WAY UP...



HEGEL



... Between real contraries, such as capital and labour, no reconciliation is possible.

Is that clear...?

IF HEGEL'S DIALECTICAL METHOD INFLUENCED MARX, LUDWIG FEUERBACH (PRONOUNCED "FOY-ER-BACK") TURNED HIM INTO A MATERIALIST.

BUT MARX TOOK OVER FEUERBACH'S THEORY AND CHANGED IT...

What did this bloke Foy-er-back say and how did Marx change it?



FEUERBACH, A DISCIPLE OF THE IDEALIST HEGEL, GAVE UP HEGELIAN IDEALISM TO SWITCH OVER TO MATERIALISM, BUT OF A METAPHYSICAL BRAND, BECAUSE HE SAW NATURE (AND SOCIETY TOO) SUNK IN SLEEP, MOTIVE-AND-MOTIONLESS, WITH NO IMMEDIATE CHANCE FOR CHANGE **THAT IS:**



Hegel was dialectical, but idealist... Feuerbach was materialist, but metaphysical (non-dialectical)

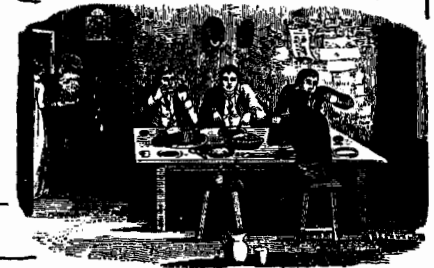
IT WAS UP TO MARX TO RE-SHUFFLE THE DECK: TO AMALGAMATE THE THE BEST OF THIS ONE AND THAT ONE AND COME UP WITH HIS OWN FAMOUS, UNIQUE VARIETY OF

oargh! Marx made a merger

No! He improved, corrected and enriched them...

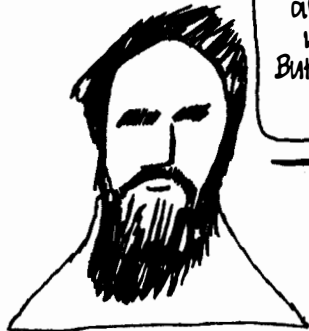
DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

(Dialectics by G.W.F. Hegel and Materialism by L. Feuerbach)



AS WE'VE NOTED, HEBEL DIDN'T SEE OR DIDN'T WISH TO SEE THE EXPLOITATION OF THE MAJORITY BY A MINORITY OF THE PRIVILEGED RICH. HERE'S THE FIRST QUESTION THE YOUNG MARX ASKED HIMSELF...

Work alienates the worker... But how and why?

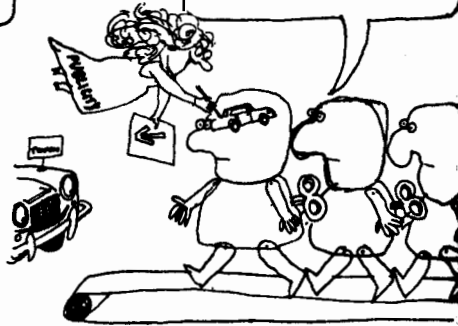


UNFREE LABOUR, (I.E. WHAT'S DONE FOR A BOSS) MAY EARN THE WORKER A WAGE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME IT "ALIENATES" HIM. IT DEPRIVES HIM OF SOMETHING WHICH GOES INTO THE BOSS'S POCKET.

But is this "something" money or what?



(ALIENATION means 'to disturb; to seize possession of something, to extort from others what belongs to them'.)



IN HIS FIRST WORK, MARX BEGINS TO INVESTIGATE ALIENATION - OR BETTER, THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ALIENATION: POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC



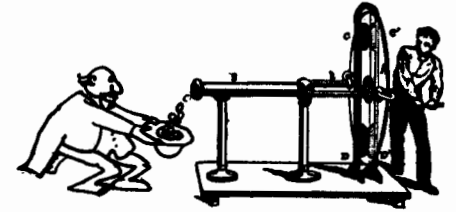
This work's called "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844"

Marx wonders: where does the product of the workingman's labour end up?



BY HIS LABOUR, A WORKER MAKES SOMETHING (CLOTH, MACHINERY, TYRES, BOOKS, HOUSES...). BUT THIS OBJECT, BY THE FACT OF REMAINING THE BOSS'S PROPERTY, TURNS HEY PRESTO! INTO MERCHANDISE (A COMMODITY)...

LABOUR OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T PRODUCE THINGS FOR THE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT OF THE WORKER WHO MAKES THEM. RATHER, IT IS GRIST FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S MILL...



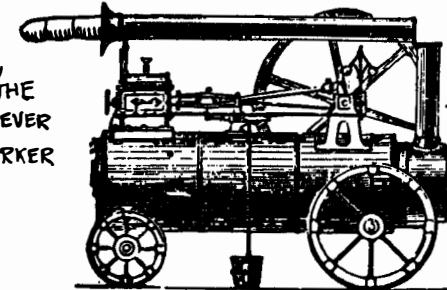
Alienation begins with the worker being squeezed dry...

"...THE ALIENATION OF THE WORKER IS EXPRESSED THUS: THE MORE HE PRODUCES, THE LESS HE CAN CONSUME; THE MORE VALUE HE CREATES, THE LESS VALUE HE HAS... LABOUR PRODUCES FABULOUS THINGS FOR THE RICH, BUT MISERY FOR THE POOR, MACHINES REPLACE LABOUR, AND JOBS DIMINISH, WHILE OTHER WORKERS TURN INTO MACHINES..."

(This is how alienation makes its victims...) (Marx: "Manuscripts of 1844")

ALIENATION NOT ONLY DEGRADES MAN, BUT ALSO DE-PERSONALISES HIM. WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

MARX STATES: THE BOSS IMPOSES THE KIND OF WORK, THE METHOD AND THE RHYTHM, BUT HE NEVER BOTHERS IF THE WORKER ENDS UP AS:



A mere appendage of flesh on a machine of iron...

(Marx)

MARX GOES EVEN FURTHER AND AFFIRMS: THE COMBINED MEANS OF PRODUCTION NOW IN EXISTENCE HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE LABOUR OF PREVIOUS GENERATIONS WHO HAVE THOUGHT, CREATED AND GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO ATTAIN SOMETHING...

So? Who owns the inventions of Galileo, Newton, Leonardo, and thousands of others?



IS IT RIGHT THAT ALL OF THIS SHOULD REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF THE FEW? THAT THE INVENTION AND LABOUR OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS SHOULD BE THE EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE OF THE WEALTHY FEW? NO, IT'S NOT RIGHT!



PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION IS THE MAXIMUM FORM OF ALENATION...

"SOCIAL POTENTIAL HAS BECOME THE PRIVATE POWER OF THE FEW." MARX ALSO SUBMITS: THE LABOUR OF THE MANY TRANSFORMS ITSELF INTO THE CAPITAL OF A PRIVILEGED FEW.

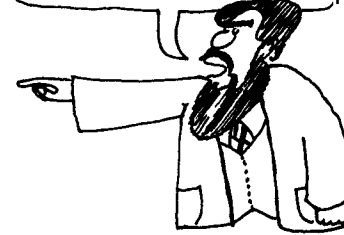
THE ROOTS OF CAPITALISM

AND SO - MARX CONCLUDES - THE DEEPEST ESSENCE OF MAN, HIS CREATIVE ACT, HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A POSSESSION...

THE WORKER'S LABOUR BECOMES MERCHANDISE IN THE HANDS OF THE OWNER, DEAD LABOUR, POSSESSION, WEALTH, AND THE GREATER THE CAPITALIST'S PROPERTY BECOMES, THE MORE IMPOVERISHED THE WORKER'S BEING...



"The less you are, the more you'll have. To have more, you must alienate yourself. You good-for-nothing!!!"

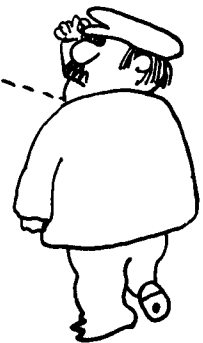


Which changes into a thing...

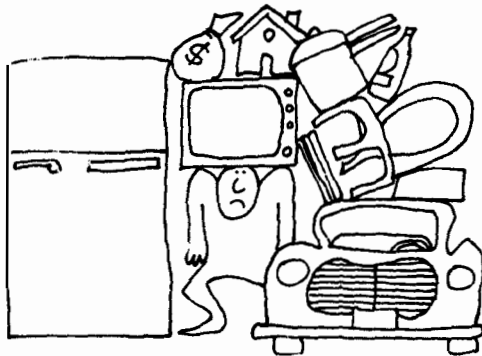


THAT BLESSED "LIBERTY" HEGEL TALKED ABOUT, JUST DOESN'T EXIST. MONEY OBLIGES THOSE WHO HAVEN'T GOT ANY, TO SELL THEMSELVES BODY AND SOUL - THAT IS, TO SELL THEIR LABOUR-POWER (WORKER, PEASANT, INTELLECTUAL)... THIS IS ALIENATION:

EXPLOITATION...



TO POSSESS POSSESSIONS, A MAN WILL "SELL HIMSELF" TO HAVE WHAT ANOTHER HAS. BUT IT NEVER DAWNS ON HIM ~ THAT THE MORE HE GETS, THE LESS HE KEEPS OF HIMSELF...



This guy too aspires to own property. The purpose of his life is to possess more and more and more and...

Bye-bye homo sapiens...



THE COUNTLESS EVILS OF THE WORLD STEM FROM THE "DEFENCE" OF PRIVATE PROPERTY: THE EVILS OF ENVY, WAR, EGOTISM, CRIME, INJUSTICE, THE MISERY OF THE MASSES AND LUXURY FOR THE VERY FEW...

I have a hunch that this fellow Marx is going to cause us many a headache...



HOW CAN THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS BE CHANGED?



In no way!! Who's going to tangle with the rich, the powerful, the church...?

MARX SINGLED OUT THE EXISTENCE OF A "NEW" CLASS:

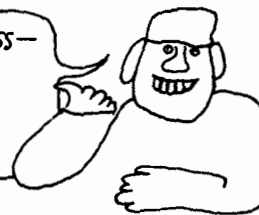
The Proletariat

WHICH CAME TO LIFE WITH THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WHEN MACHINES BEGAN REPLACING THE CRAFTSMEN OF THE PAST...



a proletarian: someone at the beck and call of the boss's machines...

Marx predicted that this class—the working class—was going to change things...



HOW, AND WITH WHAT POWERS??



UNLIKE THE SMALL-SCALE ARTISANS WHO USED TO OWN THE TOOLS OF THEIR TRADE, THE PROLETARIAT OWNS NOTHING AT ALL—NEITHER THE MEANS, NOR THE END-PRODUCTS...

AND STILL LESS OUR LABOUR...

UNLIKE ALL OTHER SOCIAL CLASSES, THE WORKING CLASS POSSESSES ONLY ITS LABOUR POWER, I.E. WHAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "WORK FORCE".



DIALECTICALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS WHAT SPECIFIES THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE CONTRARIES: CAPITAL ON ONE SIDE, LABOUR ON THE OTHER. THEY LIVE TOGETHER, SURE, BUT WITH OPPOSED INTERESTS...