

**marx • ism:** a socio-political and economic theory developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels that analyzes class relations and critiques capitalism, later developed by their followers to form the basis for the theory and practice of communism.

## MODERN DEFINITION:

The goal of marxism is to abolish private property and end this exploitation by replacing capitalism with a classless society where the workers collectively own and control production instead of the few. A system where goods are made to meet the needs of the people rather than profit.

Over time, this system breeds inequality, exploitation of the working class, where workers receive disconnected from their work, each other, and themselves.

Marxism argues that capitalism is built on the exploitation of the working class, where workers receive more value than they are paid for, and the surplus becomes the profit of the ruling class.

Marxism sees history as a constant struggle between those who own the means of production and those who work for them.

## WHY MARXISM?

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## MARXIST LITERATURE:

**The Communist Manifesto**  
Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels

**Wage, Labour, and Capital**  
Karl Marx

**Socialism: Utopian and Scientific**  
Friedrich Engels

**Value, Price, & Profit**  
Karl Marx

**State & Revolution**  
Vladimir Lenin

**Imperialism: The Highest Stage Of Capitalism**  
Vladimir Lenin

**On Practice & On Contradiction**  
Mao

**The Revolution Betrayed**  
Leon Trotsky

**The ABC Of Materialist Dialectics**  
Leon Trotsky

A classless society is one where social and economic inequalities are eliminated, and the means of production are collectively owned so that no group has power or privilege over another.

## A Classless Society

Class struggle will eventually lead to the workers seizing the means of production, overthrowing capitalism, and establishing a classless society.

## Revolution

Marxism calls for the abolition of private ownership of the means of production, so that workers collectively control them and produce to meet social need rather than generate profit.

## Private Ownership

Under capitalism, workers become alienated from their labor, the products they make, and their own humanity because their work serves capital, not themselves.

## Alienation

Under capitalism, workers create more value than they are paid for in wages, the difference, or surplus value, is taken by capitalists as profit, forming the basis of exploitation.

## Surplus Value & Exploitation

## IN THE WORDS OF MARX:

The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains.

— Karl Marx

The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.

— Karl Marx

The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honored and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage laborers.

—Karl Marx

The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation.

—Karl Marx

To say that "the worker has an interest in the rapid growth of capital", means only this: that the more speedily the worker augments the wealth of the capitalist, the larger will be the crumbs which fall to him, the greater will be the number of workers than can be called into existence, the more can the mass of slaves dependent upon capital be increased.

— Karl Marx

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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO  
THE IDEAS OF KARL MARX