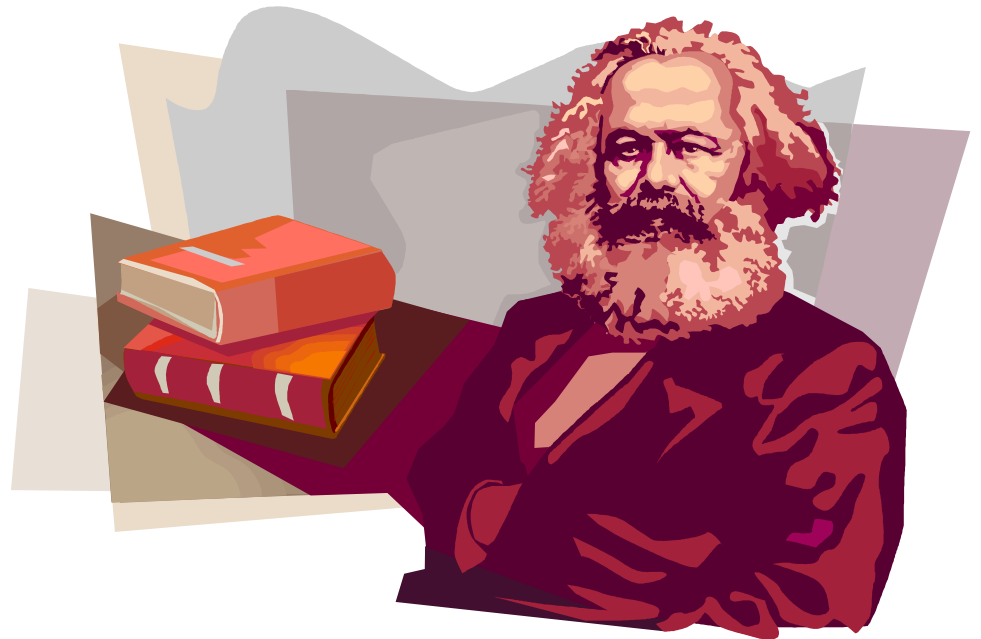




Socialism, Communism, and *Animal Farm*





- Questions
- What are these objects?
- What do they symbolize?
- Why are they associated with communism?

Socialism Defined

- System in which the people as a whole rather than private individuals own all property and operate all businesses (Ellis & Elser, p. 263)
- In the movie *Animal Farm*, this is seen when the animals share in the decision making, work cooperatively, and all share in the benefits.
- Robert Owen's ideal factory-community in New Lanark, Scotland

Robert Owen's Ideal Factory Community

- Socialist factory-community
- Workers shared in the profits of the factory
- Children went to school and did not have to work
- “I have never seen so much order, good government, tranquility, and rational happiness prevail.” ~ Visitor to New Lanark
- New Harmony, Indiana – attempt at Owen socialist community in America

The Idea Behind Socialism

- To provide a share of ownership to everyone
- Government exists to distribute goods and make sure that the welfare of all people is considered.
- Criticized as “utopian” – Why should people work harder than others if they will get the same amount as someone who works less?

Socialism: A Response to Exploiting Workers

- Socialism is a well-intentioned response to problems that were created by factories.
 - Workers who worked long hours for little pay
 - Child labor
- Owen and other socialists wanted to treat workers fairly. Owen's community provided decent housing at a reasonable cost. Workers could shop at a local store. Children were not allowed to work but attended school instead. Owen's distributed a share of the profits to the workers.

Karl Marx and the *Communist Manifesto*

- Karl Marx published the Communist Manifesto in 1848.
- It was an essay that gave examples throughout history of the epic struggle between the “haves” and “have-nots.”
- The “haves” were people who controlled property and money and therefore controlled the government and church.
- The “have-nots” were the workers who were exploited throughout human history.

Marx Supported His View with History

- Patricians vs. Plebeians of Ancient Rome
- Nobles vs. Serfs in Medieval Europe
- Nobles vs. Workers in Renaissance Era
- Gradually, businesses grew and developed especially during the Industrial Revolution. A new group, the BOURGEOISIE, developed. They were upper middle-class and owned the factories.
- The PROLETARIAT were the workers in the factories.

Communism Defined

- Form of socialism advocated by Karl Marx; according to Marx, class struggle was inevitable and would lead to the creation of a classless society in which all wealth and property would be owned by the community as a whole
- In other words, private property would cease to exist.
- Marx predicted that socialism would evolve into communism.

Major Groups in Communism

- Marx said society was divided into
 - “Haves” – the people who control the means of production. They are the ones with the wealth and power. They influence the government and organized religion too.
 - “Have-nots” – those who are deprived of their products and are exploited by the “haves”

Bourgeoisie vs. Proletariat

- According to Marx, the “haves” of the modern world were the *bourgeoisie* or middle-class. These were the capitalists, the investors, the factory owners and managers.
- Marx referred to the “have-nots” as the *proletariat* or workers.
- Marx predicted that the proletariat would eventually rise up against the bourgeoisie and overthrow their control of production.

Farmer Jones and Capitalism

- When Farmer Jones is the leader of Animal Farm, the farm is a capitalist society.
- Farmer Jones owns the farm and the animals are his workers – almost like he owns a factory.
- He sells what they produce to get rich
- In exchange, he gives them food (pay) but barely enough to survive.
- Farmer Jones would be the bourgeoisie and the animals would be the proletariat.

Capitalism, Industrial Revolution, and the Haves and Have-Nots

- According to Marx, the expansion of capitalism, the economic philosophy of private ownership and trying to become as wealthy as possible led to the Industrial Revolution. It is why people invented new machines and started factories.
- The Industrial Revolution created a wider gap between the haves and have-nots, which would lead to a revolt by the workers.

The Reality of the Class Divide

- Marx did not predict that as the bourgeoisie grew wealthier the lives of the proletariat also progressed.
- Workers began to earn more wages so that had enough money after paying rent and buying food to buy a newspaper or visit the music hall (p. 258 textbook).
- In addition, products became more affordable so that the quality of life of the working class slowly improves.

When the Animals Revolt

- The animals overthrow Farmer Jones.
- Marx predicted workers would eventually do this.
- It is a violent revolution.
- Marx predicted that the bourgeoisie would not want to relinquish its power. As a result of its wealth, the bourgeoisie has historically controlled leaders, armies, the police, and the church.
- When you have this much power, you do not give it up without a fight.

The Triumph of the Proletariat

- Despite all its power, the bourgeoisie cannot win. Why?
- There are too many proletariat and other exploited groups
- These exploited groups drastically outnumber the bourgeoisie and their forces.
- Ultimately, the proletariat will win but there will be many casualties

What else did Karl Marx predict?

- An educated few would govern after the proletariat overthrew the bourgeoisie. They would oversee the establishment of a new, economically equal society – no more “haves” and “have-nots”
- This educated few are known as the “vanguard” or watchers – they were supposed to be selfless and out to do what was best for society

The Vanguard and the Pigs

- In *Animal Farm*, at first the pigs are the vanguard. Old Major has a vision of what Animal Farm could be, how the animals could all share in the wealth without having different classes.
- Snowball wants to implement this vision.

Where Marx Was Mistaken

- Marx predicted that once the vanguard was no longer necessary, once society has stabilized after the violent revolution, the vanguard would voluntarily step down from power.
- Then, a classless society would share everything. No one would own any one thing.
- Animal Farm and history have shown that people are too corrupt to fulfill this step.

Pigs Become the Bourgeoisie

- Napoleon, Squealer, and their fellow pigs never want to give up power.
- They use the brainwashed dogs to maintain their power. In the Soviet Union, they would be like the KGB or secret police.
- Then, the pigs began to indulge in the habits of Farmer Jones. In the Soviet Union, those in power ate better, lived in better homes, drove cars, watched movies, and lived comfortable lives. Everyone else worked as usual.
- The pigs became like the bourgeoisie.

Soviet Union Was Not Really Communist

- Soviet Union never reached what Marx called communism.
- The vanguard, known as the Bolsheviks, never gave up power. They eventually changed their name to the Communist Party, but they were not true communists.
- No one else was allowed to own anything. The Communist Party ran the government, made people work, and gave them an allowance of food and other necessities.

Benefits of Life in the Soviet Union

- Free medical care, although it was not always that good
- Free schooling – usually very good because it wanted to produce better students than capitalist countries
- Low crime – thieves, robbers, rapists, murderers, etc. were dealt with harshly by the police (of course, some Communist Party members were some of the worst criminals and got away with criminal acts).
- Society was somewhat equal (except for Communist Party members – they had better standard of living)

Soviet Union as State Socialism

- The Communist Party never stepped down to allow a truly classless society. Since it continued to redistribute property to create an equal society, political scientists refer to the government of the Soviet Union as *state socialism*. It was never truly communist.
- The Communist Party members lived a better life than average people. They were like the pigs in *Animal Farm*.

Animal Farm and Life in the Soviet Union

- Like the pigs, the Communist Party did what it wanted to do and made it look legitimate just like when the pigs kept rewriting the rules on the barn.
- If anyone questioned how the Communist Party ran the country, they would be arrested and depending on the offense could be imprisoned, their family could be separated and imprisoned, sent to work in a uranium mine, or disappear (get killed), and no one better ask any questions or the same will happen to them.

Negative Aspects of Life in the Soviet Union

- Censorship
- Propaganda
- Not learning the truth in school
- No real chance to get ahead in life unless you joined the Communist Party and worked your way up
- Not free to speak your mind, had to be very careful – the Communist Party, like the pigs in Animal Farm, bent the rules to fit its agenda

Squealer and Communist Party Propaganda

- The Communist Party controlled all media – newspapers, magazines, television, movies.
- It used propaganda extensively exaggerating the achievements of the Soviet Union and vilifying the enemies of the Soviet Union – capitalist countries ex. The United States
- Remember, how after every time a rule was changed or something bad happened, Squealer would come out to tell a story to the animals?

Vera Mukhina's *Factory Work and Collective Farm Worker* (1937)

- Who is being depicted?
- How do they look?
- Why do you think this was made?
- What were common people supposed to think/feel when they saw it?



Most People Misunderstand Communism

- People often associate communism with a dictatorship – They never read Marx's *Communist Manifesto*.
- Marx did talk about a *dictatorship of the proletariat*, but remember after things settle down, they are supposed to step down from power.
- As a result of the Cold War and American propaganda, Americans came to believe that what the Soviet Union practiced was communism.

America Feared the Spread of Communism

- Some Americans were communists and some communist immigrants moved to America.
- American government and many Americans feared the spread of Soviet-style communism, which would mean
 - An end to private property
 - Religion being outlawed
 - Freedom being banned – secret police, murders
 - America experienced “Red Scares” in the early 1920s and 1950s

Checking for Understanding

- What are the major groups Marx referred to in the *Communist Manifesto*?
- What caused the gap to widen between these groups and led to the revolution?
- Why was the Soviet Union ever truly communist? Why or why not?
- What system was being used when Farmer Jones was in power? Old Major, Snowball, and all the animals? Napoleon and his crew?

Animal Farm and Communism

- Did Animal Farm ever reach what Karl Marx envisioned as communism?

Review

Establishing Order After Napoleon

- Congress of Vienna
- Age of Metternich
- Conservatism
- Legitimacy

Latin American Revolutions

- Latin America – key leaders?
- Social class pyramid (peninsulars, creoles, mulattoes, mestizos, natives, slaves)
- What nation broke away from Portugal?
- Why did these people revolt?
 - Frustration over the mercantilist policies of mother countries
 - Nationalism
 - Ideas of the Enlightenment

Industrial Revolution

- Where did it begin?
- What natural resources did that nation have to help with industrialization?
- What was the first to become industrialized?
- How did life change? To what location did people move?
- How did the factory system change the way people work?

Industrial Revolution Advancements

- Improvements in agricultural tools
- Water power replaced muscle power
- Steam power replaced water power
- Greater efficiency in producing goods ---- goods become more affordable
- Jobs working in factories (predictable income) vs. former lives working on farms (not always predictable)

Industrial Revolution – Child Labor

- Industrialization caused a shortage of workers to operate the machines
- Factory owners turned toward children as employees

Capitalism

- Laissez-faire – when government does not interfere with the economy, lets natural laws of supply, demand, and competition work freely – FREE MARKET
- Wealth, investing
- Private ownership
- Gap between the rich (businessmen, factory owners) and poor

Socialism

- Robert Owen
- Socialist factory community
- New Lanark, Scotland
- New Harmony, Indiana
- Attempt to equalize the status of people, giving everyone a share of the resources

Communism

- Karl Marx
- Communist Manifesto
- Proletariat
- Bourgeoisie
- Worldwide violent revolution against the factory owners – proletariat overthrows bourgeoisie
- Temporary Dictatorship of the Proletariat
- No private property, everyone shares, no class differences
- No religion

Where did Karl Marx's predictions come up short?

- Lives of bourgeoisie improved but the lives of the poor also improved.
- How?

Animal Farm

- Old Major – “All animals are equal”
- Which animals benefited most from the revolution?
- Which did not benefit?

1848 Year of Revolutions

- Reaction against conservatism of Metternich
- Growth of liberal ideas
- Nationalism
- France, Austria, Prussia, Italian states
- Revolutions did not last long
- Conservative dictators took over sometimes (Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte)