
7 Men Who Rule the World From the Grave

A Book Study based on the book by Dave Breese

#2: Karl Marx

Karl Marx: No greater failure, yet so many followers.

- Marxism is built on a single philosophy: *man has to have food and shelter before he will do anything else.*
 - Similar statements and philosophies:
 - Maslow's hierarchy of needs (physiology was at the bottom level)
 - "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."
 - Marx believed that if you feed the world, the class structure will go away and utopia will emerge.
 - Question the assumptions:
 - Are the physiological needs really our greatest needs?
 - Will the class structure go away and utopia emerge if everyone is "fat and happy?"
 - The great failure of Marxism: *it imagines the selfless man rather than the sinful man.*
- The Marxist method:
 - Marx believed that value was determined by the cost of raw materials plus the cost of labor.
 - He further believed that *profit* was the amount of money that was beyond raw materials plus labor.
 - He believed that those who retain these profits for themselves were the source of all problems.
 - He called for the workers of the world to unite in order to overcome these selfish profiteers.
 - He believed that when the workers united, utopia would be the result.
 - He believed that in the interim time, a collective group of workers would have to exert control of the economy, forcing the profiteers away from their profits.

The Communist Manifesto (Six of 10 Principles)

1. Abolition of property and land and application of all rents of land to public purposes
 - Today the ability of private owners to *use* their land is becoming severely restricted "for the public good" as defined by unelected judges and special interest groups.
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax
 - The "tax the rich" concept is increasingly popular
3. Abolition of all right to inheritance
 - Death taxes on the rich are 40%
4. Confiscation of all property of all emigrants and rebels
 - The ability to move your wealth outside of state control is decreasing rapidly
5. Centralisation of credit in the hands of the state, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly.
 - The creation of Bitcoin has brought new regulations to control the monopoly of credit.
6. Free education for all children in public schools.

- This is quickly expanding to children as early as 3 years old through college.

The Four Errors of Marxism

1. It is poor economics. Marx fails to understand that *value* is not raw material + labor cost, but rather *what someone will pay for a product or service*.
 - a. This error of thinking led to state control of wages and prices.
 - b. The USA has strong and growing state control of wages and quickly increasing state control of prices through targeted taxation.
2. It is poor psychology. "*From each according to their ability, to each according to their need*" assumes an altruistic motivation in the heart of every individual.
3. It is "bad futurism." It envisions a utopia rather than a dismantling of society due to godlessness.
4. It is bad theology. It replaces God with "the Party."

You are a Marxist if...

- You believe that the problems of society could be overcome by overthrowing *owners and ownership*.
 - Limiting the ability to *own* is a Marxist idea.
- You believe that government should solve our economic or physiological problems.
- You believe that Christ came to set people free from economic poverty.
 - Sin becomes "holding wealth while others are poor."
 - Thus Capitalism becomes the "sinful system."
 - Righteousness becomes wealth distribution.
 - Evangelism becomes *provision of physiological needs*.

Next Week: Julius Wellhausen