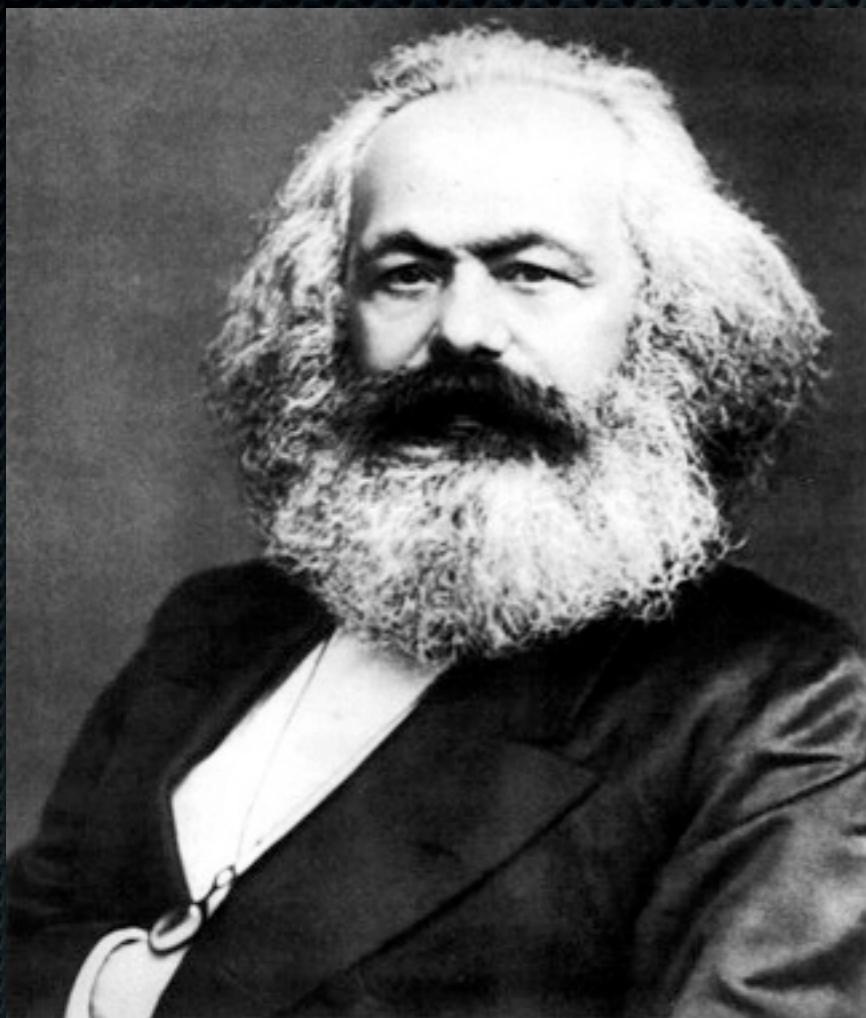


MARXISM IN A NUTSHELL:

Socialism as a response to industrial capitalism



KARL MARX

Marx wrote very many books about his theories, including the large book titled *Capital*. Much of his work criticized the extremes of industrialization.

- Socialism developed as a response to the very harsh realities of industrial capitalism. Marxism was a specific type of socialism that came later (1850s-1880s).
- Karl Marx was a philosopher of economics born in the German states in 1818.
- Marx witnessed the capitalism of the early Industrial Revolution, in which privately owned industries competed for profit with few or no government rules to protect workers or consumers.
- Such capitalist systems, Marx argued, created a **class struggle** between the rich factory owners (bourgeoisie) and the working class (proletariat).
- Marx said the inevitable (unavoidable) result (in the future) of this class struggle would be a **workers' revolt** against the owners.

MARXISM IN A NUTSHELL:

Socialism and communism

- In their pamphlet *The Communist Manifesto* (published in 1848), Marx and co-author Friedrich Engels encouraged the workers of the world to rise up as a class and defeat the wealthy capitalists who were exploiting them.
- Marx believed that the workers, once in power (after the revolution), would create a new economic system - **socialism** - in which resources would be distributed equally by the government to create a **classless society**.
- After a few generations of people living under the benefits of a socialist system focused on cooperation and sharing, people would learn to work for equality rather than for personal greed and profit.
- Eventually, he said, the need for government itself would fade away because people would live by openly sharing their resources (with very few or no conflicts). Marx called this final goal of an industrial workers' revolution - one that would naturally and unavoidably occur in all industrial societies - **communism** (a classless society without a government).

Marx's stages of society:

FEUDALISM > CAPITALISM > SOCIALISM > COMMUNISM