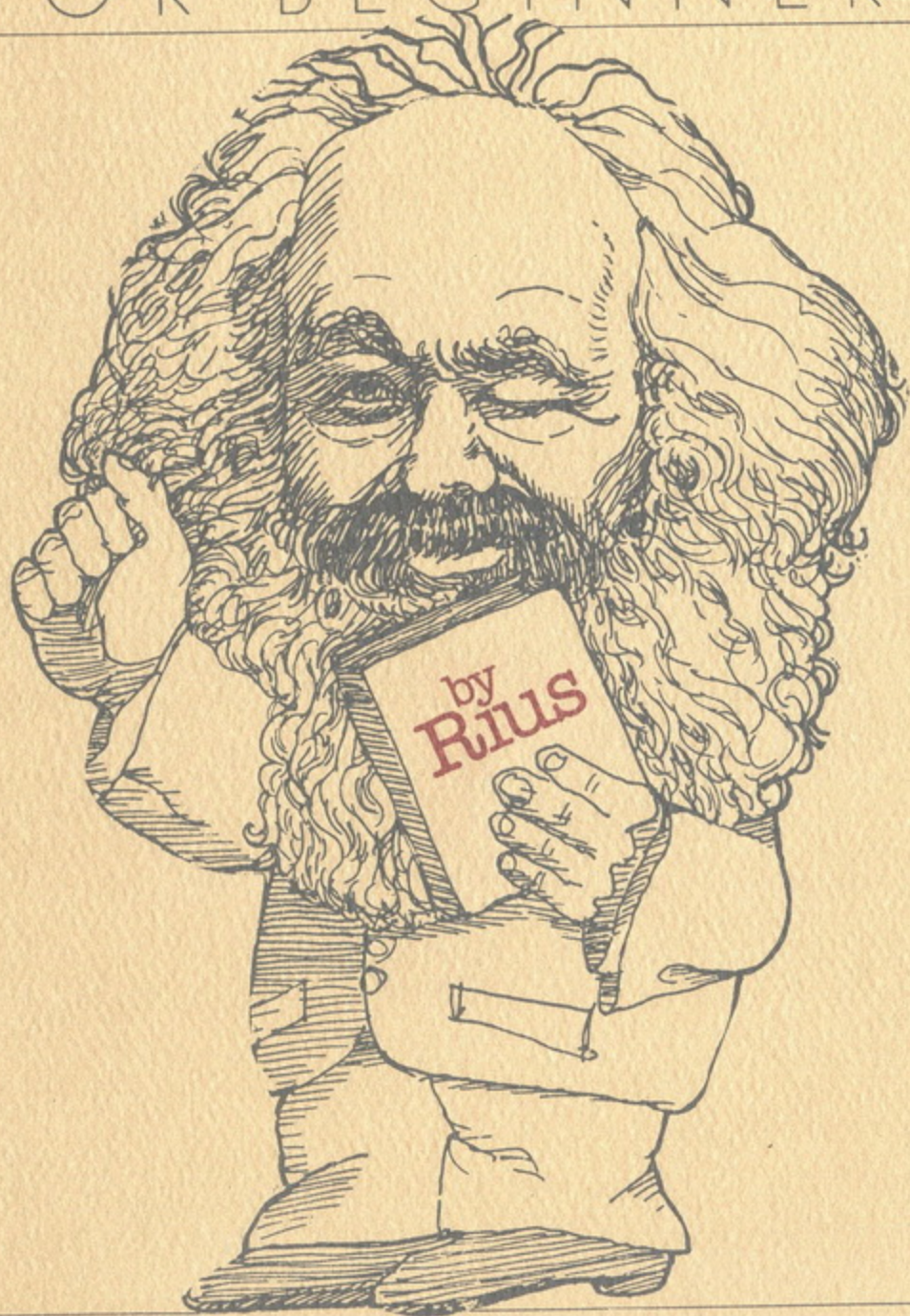


Marx

FOR BEGINNERS

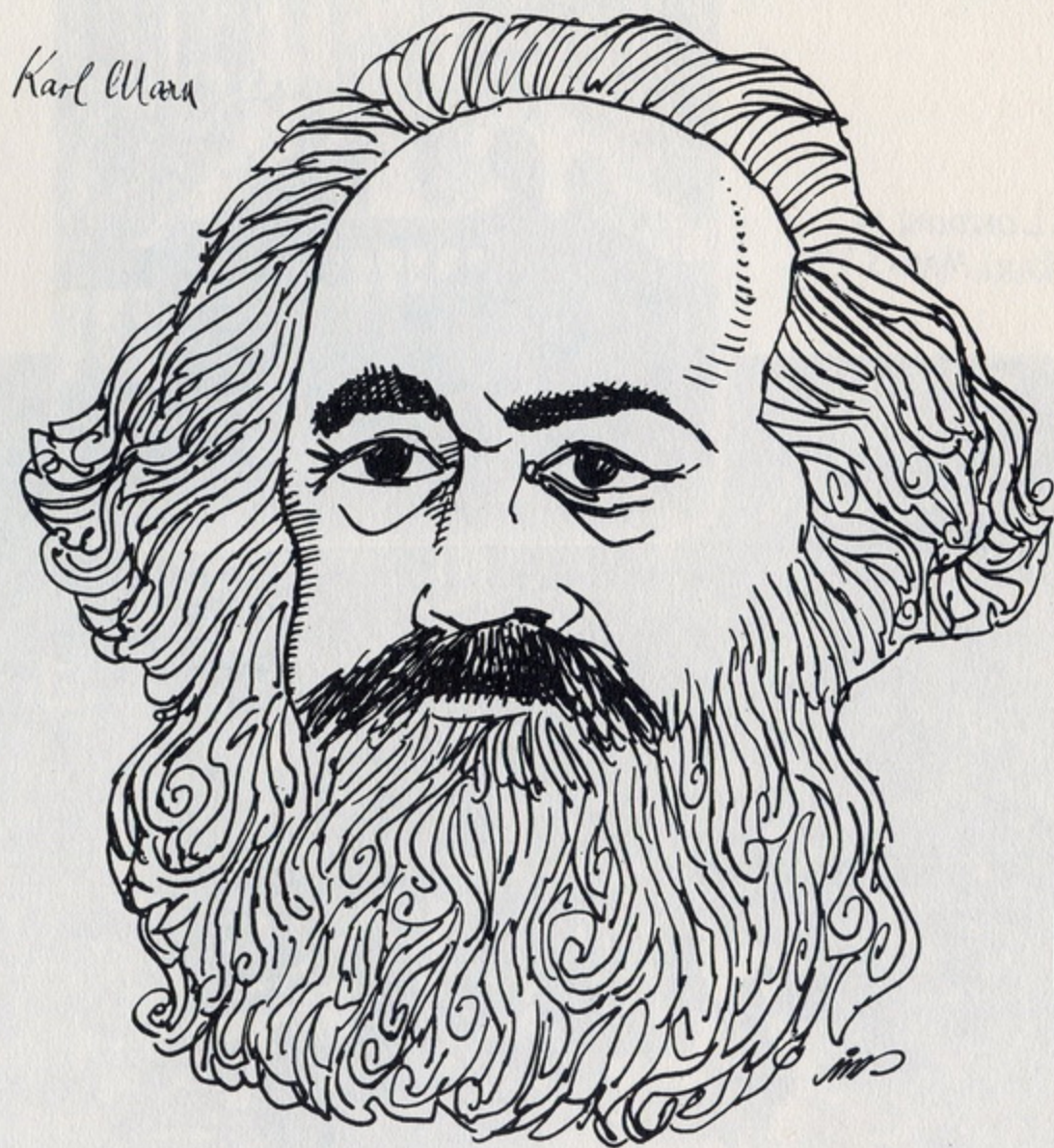


FIRST THINGS FIRST—
THE READER WOULD
LIKE TO KNOW WHO
THIS
CHARACTER

MARX WAS!!



Wasn't he one
of the MARX
Brothers?



Karl Marx

Hmm... well... not exactly...

CHARLES MARX ('KARL'
AS HE'S CALLED IN GERMAN)
WAS A JEWISH-GERMAN
PHILOSOPHER WHO LIVED
AND STRUGGLED FROM
1818 TO 1883.

EVERYWHERE IN THE
WORLD HE'S BLAMED
FOR HAVING INVENTED

COMMUNISM.....



Holy Jesus!
The Anti-Christ!

BASED ON HIS WRITINGS AND IDEAS, ONE THIRD OF HUMANITY
PRACTISES COMMUNISM, WHILE THE OTHER TWO THIRDS KEEP
ARGUING ABOUT THEM...



ANYWHERE YOU GO, WORDS LIKE BOLSHEVIK, MARXIST, SOCIALISM,
LENINISM, RED, FIDELISTS, MADIST, MATERIALIST, COMMUNIST AND SO ON
RUB LOTS OF PEOPLE UP THE WRONG WAY...



Capital,
class-struggle, labour-
power, proletariat...

ACTUALLY, MARXISM TODAY DIVIDES THE WORLD INTO TWO CAMPS; THOSE WHO HATE HIM AND THOSE WHO PLACE ALL THEIR HOPES IN HIM...

and I'd mention a third group: those who don't know him...



BECAUSE CHARLIE MARX IS JUST LIKE THE BIBLE OR THE KORAN: MANY QUOTE HIM, BUT VERY FEW KNOW HIM, AND EVEN FEWER UNDERSTAND HIM... (OR BETTER... MAKE HIM OUT...)

MARX HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO EVERYBODY: THERE'S NOT A MAJOR CHANGE IN THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS WHICH DOESN'T OWE SOMETHING TO COMRADE CHARLIE'S INFLUENCE...

ECONOMY, LITERATURE, SPACE TRAVEL, THE ARTS, HISTORY, HUMAN RELATIONS, THE VATICAN, THE UNIONS, REVOLUTIONS, SOCIAL CHANGES, EDUCATION, MEDICINE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, JOURNALISM... EVERYWHERE YOU'LL FIND A HAIR OR TWO OF CHARLIE'S!!

Boy! He sure had lots of interests, the hairy old guy!



And he wasn't short of hair...!



KNOWLEDGE - AND PRACTICE - OF HIS IDEAS NOW MAKES POSSIBLE WHAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR TWENTY CENTURIES: FREEDOM FROM THE EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN...

IN SHORT: IF IN EVERY SENSE WE'RE BETTER OFF TODAY, WE OWE THAT TO MARX ESPECIALLY...



(SOCIAL SECURITY, PENSIONS, PAID HOLIDAYS, UNIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND MANY OTHER VICTORIES ARE INDIRECTLY DUE TO MARX!)



ALL REVOLUTIONS, EVEN THOSE WHICH CLAIM TO BE SPONTANEOUS AND WITHOUT "PUTATIVE" FATHERS, HAVE A MARXIST ORIGIN...

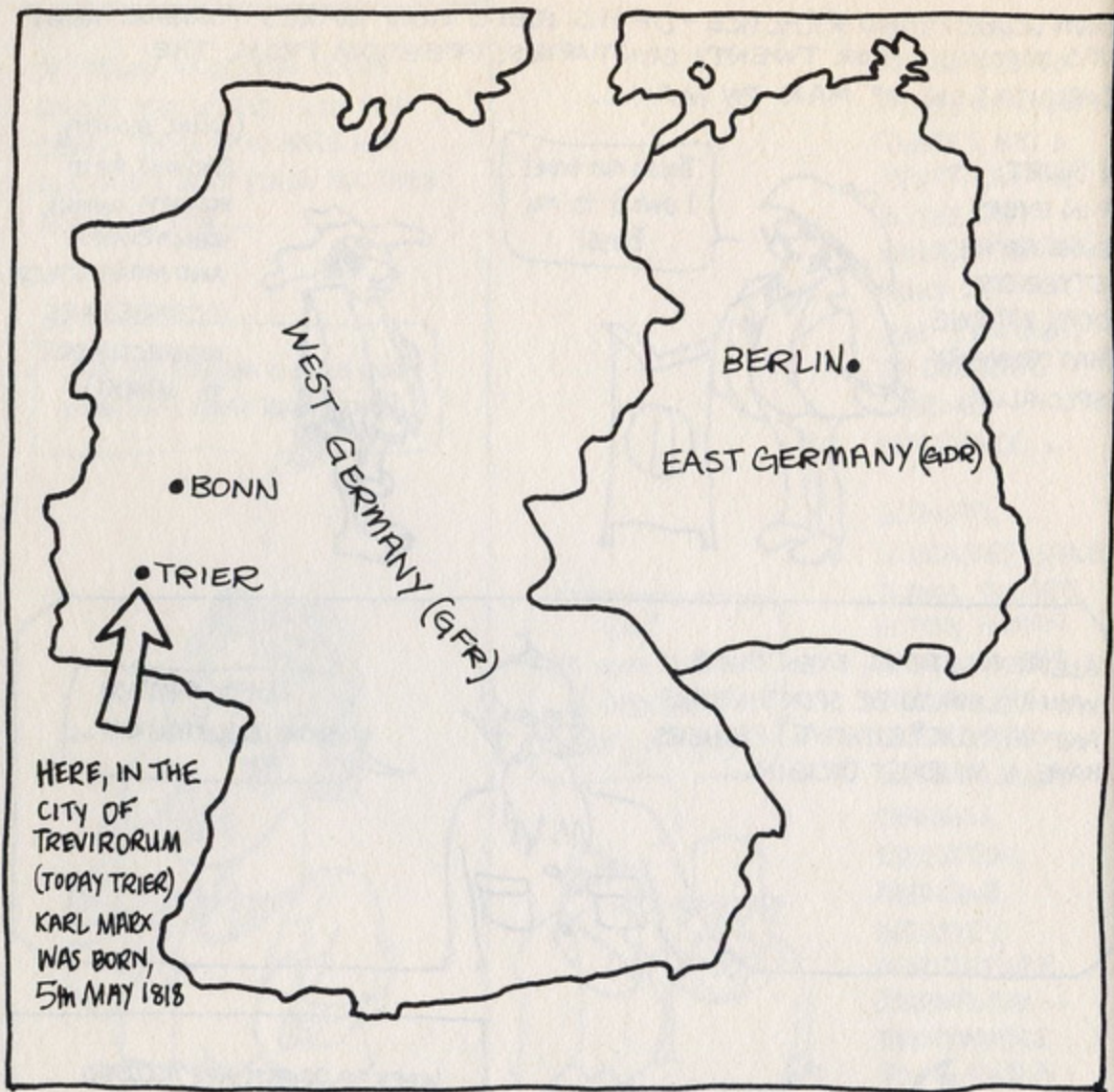
Not to mention some constitutions...



You hear talk of that **** Marx even in the Vatican Council!!!



WORKER PRIESTS ARE ACCUSED OF BEING MARXISTS, SOUTH AMERICAN GENERALS TALK ABOUT HIM. HE'S STUDIED IN JESUIT SCHOOLS. OTHERS HAVE FLED CUBA WHEN IT DECLARED ITSELF THE FIRST MARXIST COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA... BUT STILL YOU HEAR IT SAID THERE'S NO INTEREST IN MARX...

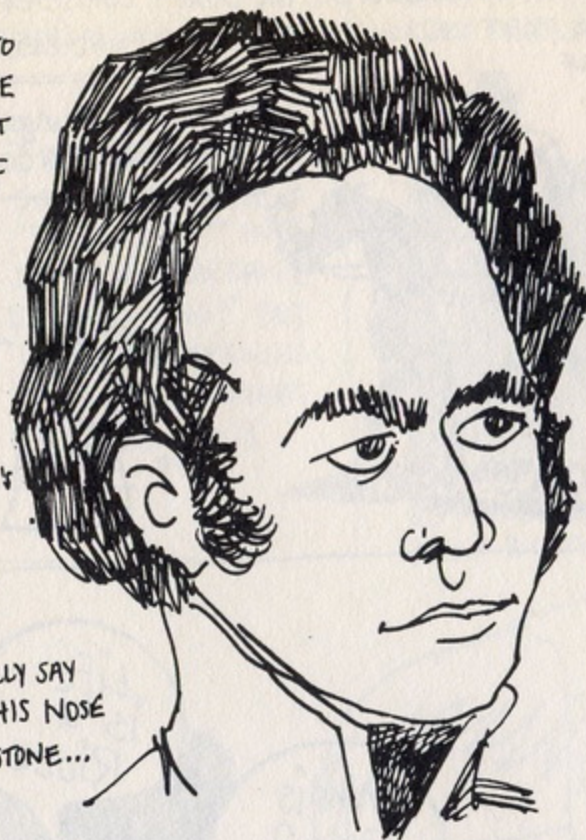


HIS FATHER WAS A WELL-TO-DO LAWYER, WHICH ALLOWED THE YOUNG MARX TO STUDY WHAT WAS IN FASHION THEN:

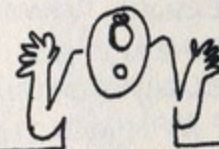
LAW.



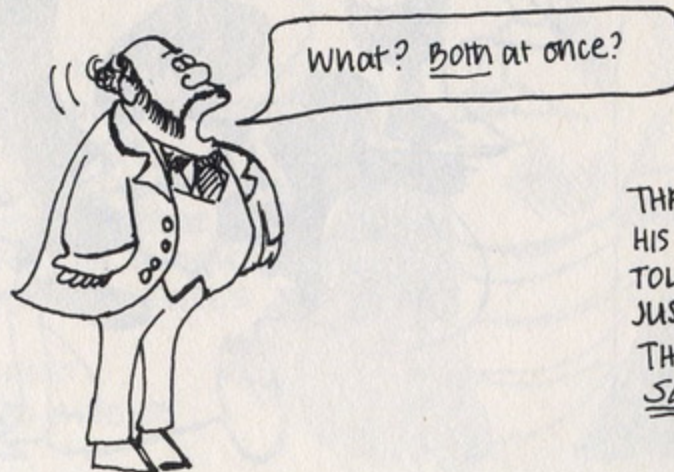
BRIEFLY: MARX WENT TO BONN UNIVERSITY TO STUDY LAW. BUT HE WORKED HARDER AT RAISING HELL AND (SO HIS TEACHERS SAY) PURSUING WINE, WOMEN AND SONG... TO SUCH A POINT THAT HE ENDED UP FIGHTING A DUEL FOR A LADY'S FAVOURS, WHICH EARNED HIM A WOUND ON THE EYEBROW! YOU CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT HE KEPT HIS NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE...



Well, what do you expect of a 19-year-old?



FROM BONN HE WENT TO BERLIN WHERE HE FINISHED HIS STUDIES. THEN HE RETURNED TO BONN TO TRY TEACHING, BUT HIS BAD NAME DIDN'T OPEN ANY DOORS: IN BERLIN HE'D TURNED ATHEIST AND SUBVERSIVE...



THAT WAS TOO MUCH! HIS SOCIETY BARELY TOLERATED ARTISTS, SO JUST IMAGINE WHAT THEY MADE OF SUBVERSIVES!!!

IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS POINT TO CLEAR UP A DETAIL ABOUT MARX'S LIFE: ALTHOUGH HIS ORIGINS WERE JEWISH, HE DIDN'T CONSIDER HIMSELF JEWISH, OR EVER PRACTISE THAT RELIGION. HIS FATHER HAD BECOME A LUTHERAN AND MARX HIMSELF WAS ONE, BUT ONLY IN HIS YOUTH...



How true! Youngsters today don't believe a damn thing!

Blame the ideologies, your lordship, the ideologies...

THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN WAS IN A TERRIFIC TURMOIL OF NEW IDEAS. RELIGIOUS EXPLANATIONS OF MAN AND THE UNIVERSE HAD BEEN CHALLENGED AND THINKERS WERE LOOKING ROUND FOR OTHER ANSWERS TO THE ETERNAL QUESTIONS OF MANKIND...

The same old eternal questions



What's to be done?



THE YOUNG MARX DIDN'T ASK HIMSELF "WHAT TO DO?" IN THE SENSE OF "HOW CAN I EARN A LIVING?" BUT "WHAT IS THE MEANING OF MY LIFE AND WHAT PURPOSE SHOULD IT SERVE....?"

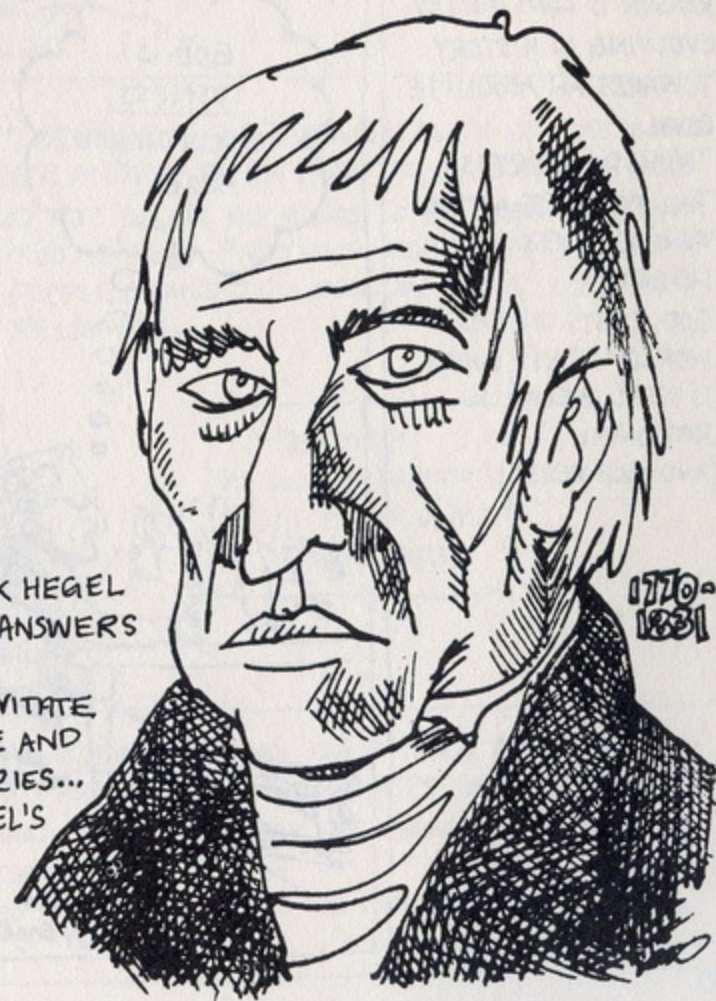
TO ANSWER THIS THORNY QUESTION, MARX DECIDED TO STUDY PHILOSOPHY...

Is he crazy, Mum??



HIS FATHER GROWS ANGRY WORRYING ABOUT HIS SON'S FUTURE...

SOMEONE CALLED FREDERICK HEGEL SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND THE ANSWERS TO THE BIG QUESTIONS. GERMAN PHILOSOPHERS GRAVITATE ROUND HIM, SOME TO OPPOSE AND OTHERS TO SUPPORT HIS THEORIES... MARX BEGINS STUDYING HEGEL'S IDEAS. TOO BAD THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER HAD ALREADY DIED, ALAS!...



"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 Henry 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...

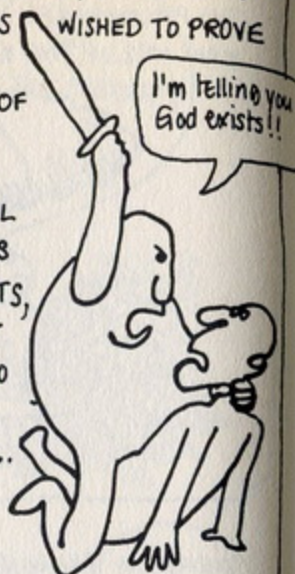
MATERIALISTS EXPLAIN WHAT'S WHAT ON THE BASIS OF SCIENCE...

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!
Ah! 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...



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...



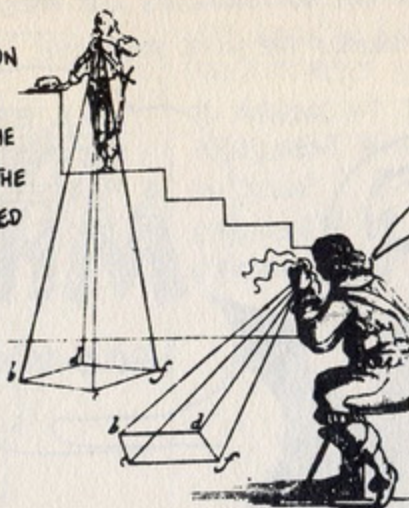
And that's why Diderot, Descartes and others are called "mechanists"...



DIDEROT

DESCARTES

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...



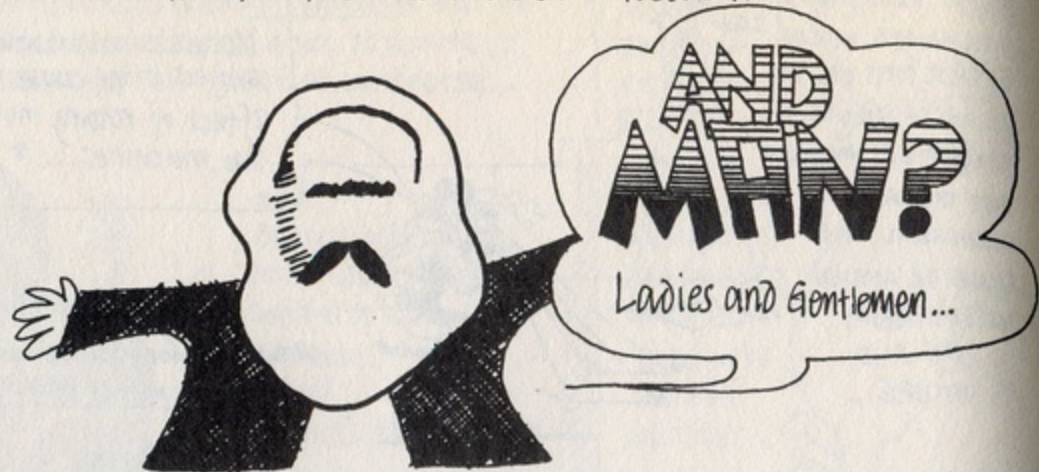
* ORIGINALLY, THOSE WORKS OF ARISTOTLE PLACED AFTER HIS "PHYSICS"

(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...)

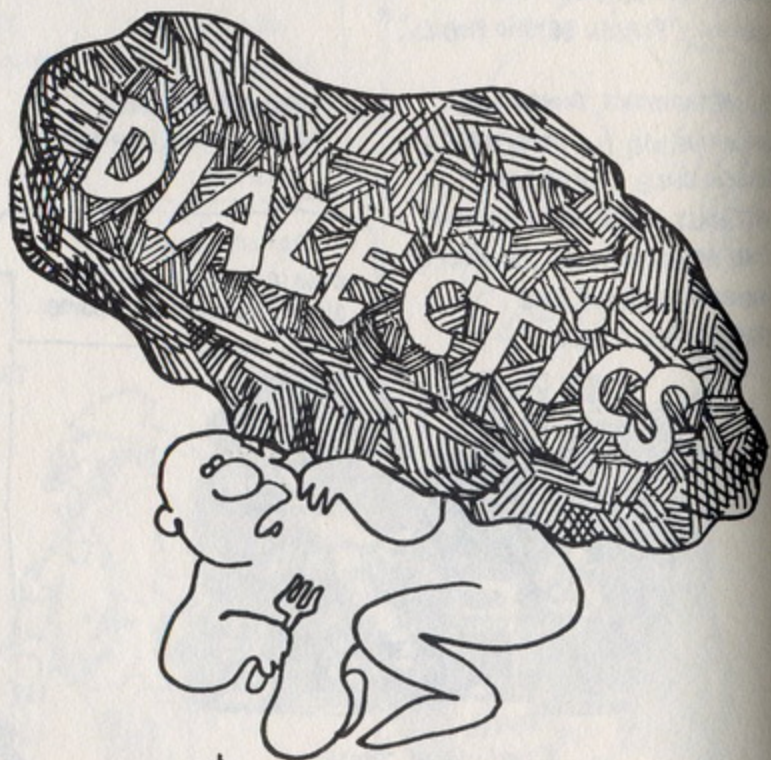


and mankind really can't do anything to change things?

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



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, MARX
AND ENGELS SET OUT
A THEORY OF
DEVELOPMENT—OR—
A RETURN TO
DIALECTICS

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...

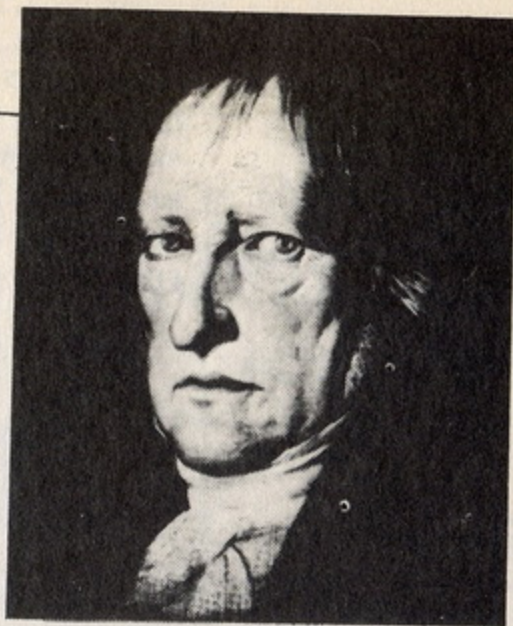


KANT AND HEGEL BEGAN TO RE-EMPLOY
THE DIALECTIC METHOD.
BUT HEGEL NEVER BROUGHT IT DOWN
TO EARTH; AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS:

"... 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
GIGANTIC 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

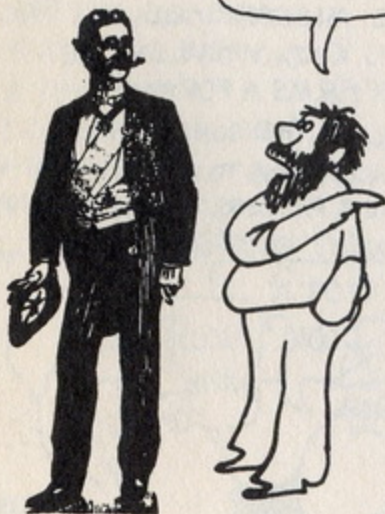
HE WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THE LAW OF DIALECTICS GOVERNS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRIT (MIND). BUT HE DIDN'T GO FAR ENOUGH AND APPLY IT TO NATURE AND SOCIETY...!

Berlin 12 of Nov. 1831.

*Ma très cher ami,
C'est mon collègue Kammor, qui me
force la main pour avoir une lettre,
qui l'introduire auprès de Vous. Vous*

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...

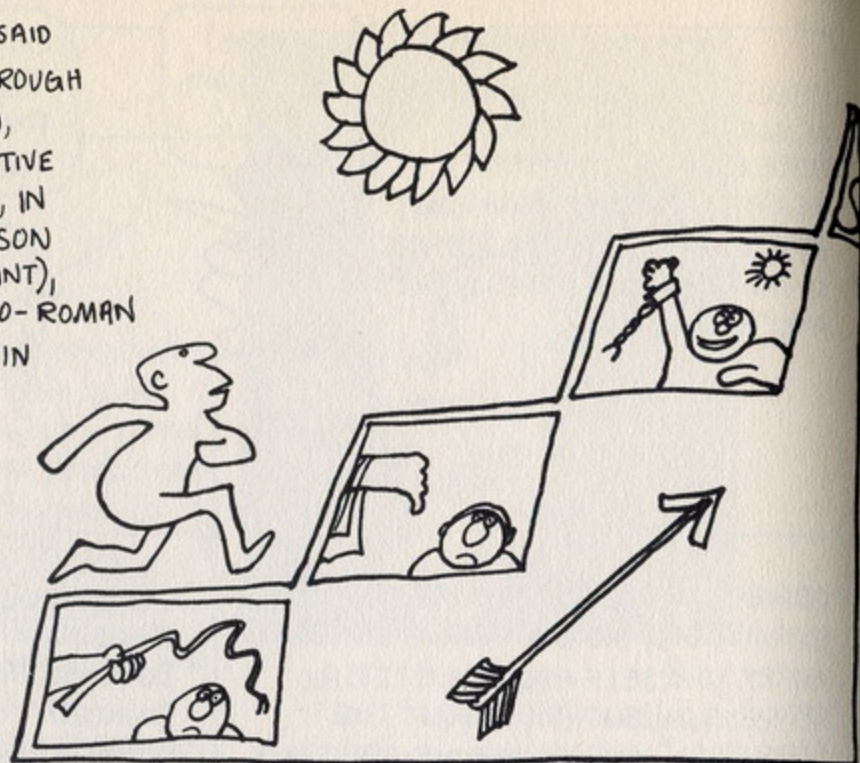
...in short, to make it Materialist...

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

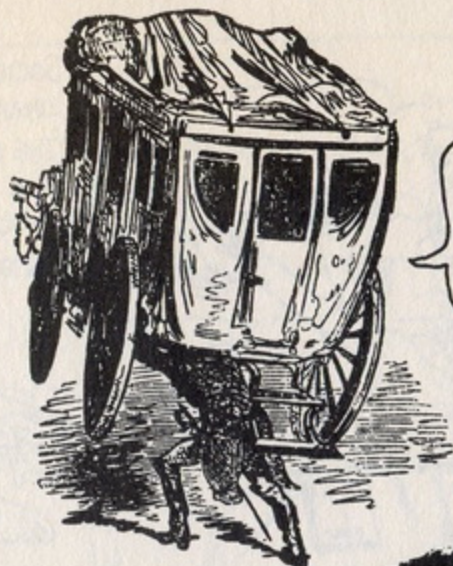


My, I do like this
chap Hegel.
Give him the
National Award.



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...

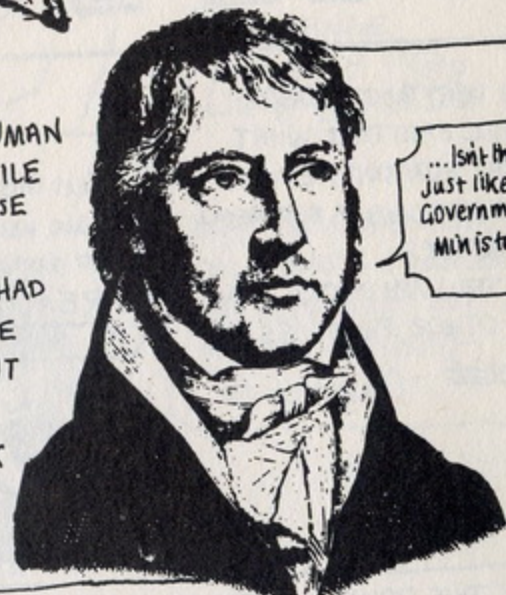
WHAT WAS REALLY
HAPPENING WAS
THAT FEUDALISM HAD
GRADUALLY GIVEN
WAY TO
CAPITALISM
A MORE MODERN
AND SUBTLER
FORM OF
EXPLOITATION.



... 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...



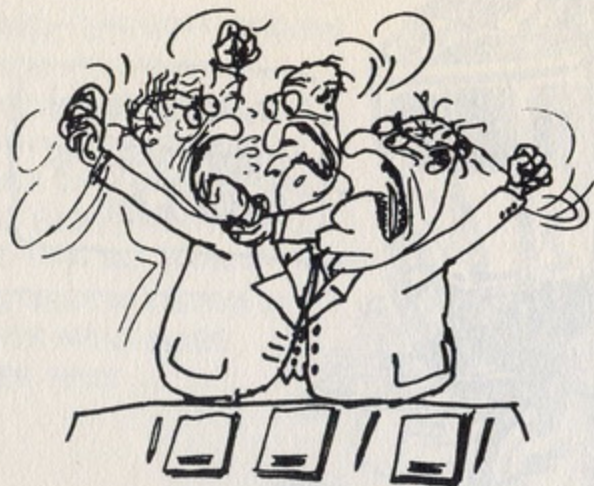
... Isn't that
just like a
Government
Minister!!

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 SAWNATURE (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

DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

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

oargh! Marx made a merger

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



CAPITALISM HAS PROVEN ITSELF UNABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE PEOPLE LIVING UNDER IT (NOT TO MENTION PROBLEMS IN GENERAL OF HUMANITY) ... AND IT'S WELL ON THE ROAD TO FINAL CRISIS AND EVENTUAL COLLAPSE.



(Just as Charlie Marx "prophesized" it a century ago...)

THE PURPOSE OF MARX'S THEORY OF

HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

IS TO SHOW US THAT HISTORY IS MADE BY MAN, NOT BY "DESTINY" OR THE SO CALLED "HAND OF GOD"...



History is the life of people-period-that's all.

HUMANITY-THOUGHT MARX- DID NOT REQUIRE 'OUTSIDE' HELP TO INVENT ITS TOOLS. NO ANGEL APPEARED FROM HEAVEN TO TEACH MAN HOW TO CONSTRUCT PLOUGHS AND WHEELS...

Wheel?!??

What I want to invent is the lifebuoy!!



EACH GENERATION COMES ALONG TO CREATE, AND GRADUALLY PERFECT NEW TOOLS - BY WORKING AND NOT THANKS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT! (EVEN IF NOT ALL THE GREAT INVENTORS WERE ATHEISTS...)

BUT TOOLS CANNOT WORK ALL BY THEMSELVES.

PEOPLE HAVE TO SWEAT TO KEEP THEM OPERATING...

THESE INSTRUMENTS OF PRODUCTION, AND THE MEN WHO PRODUCE THINGS WITH THEM, ARE WHAT MARX CALLS...

The moving forces of society



BUT NOTHING IS PRODUCED IN ISOLATION. HUMAN LABOUR ALWAYS HAS A SOCIAL CHARACTER. SOCIETY WAS FORMED BY MEN AS A HELP, AS A PROTECTION AGAINST WILD ANIMALS, TO GET BETTER RESULTS FROM WORK...



(and to pull the wool over our eyes...)

EXACTLY. BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT EVENTUALLY HAPPENED. THE OWNERS JOINED FORCES TO SQUEEZE PRODUCTIVITY OUT OF THE NON-OWNERS (I.E. THOSE WHO HAD NOTHING BUT THEIR LABOUR-POWER...)



THESE RELATIONS, WHICH PEOPLE ESTABLISH (LIKE 'EM OR NOT) DURING THE PROCESS OF PRODUCTION, MARX CALLS:

The relations of production

(AND THAT'S HOW, AS WE'VE SEEN, THE LEVELS OF SOCIAL CLASS AROSE, AND HOW THE PRECISE KINDS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM WERE SET UP. ONE EXPLOITERS, THE OTHER EXPLOITED...)

THE COMBINATION OF "PRODUCTIVE FORCES" (OR UNITS OF PRODUCTION) AND THE RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION, MARX DEFINES BY THE CONCEPT OF

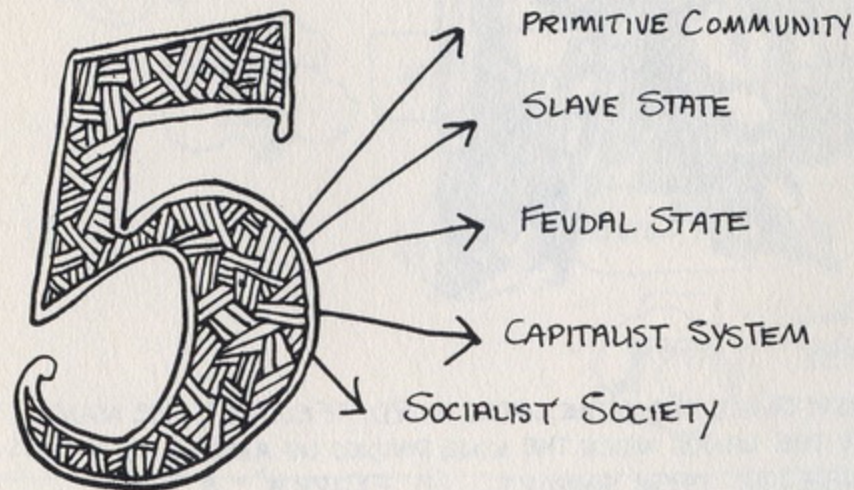
MODE OF PRODUCTION

Indeed, Marx says - History becomes the history of the modes of production...



HISTORY ISN'T JUST THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NOBLES, KINGS, PRIESTS AND SUCH, BUT IT REVEALS THE SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF THE DIFFERENT MODES OF PRODUCTION BY WHICH MANKIND GAINED POWER OVER NATURE.

MARX DISTINGUISHES 5 SYSTEMS OR MODES THUS:



PRIMITIVE
COMMUNITY...



... AND THE SLAVE STATE
ARE KNOWN AND CLEAR
TO EVERYONE...



THE SYSTEM WE'LL NOW TRY TO EXPLAIN IS...

Feudalism (hoping everybody'll understand it!)



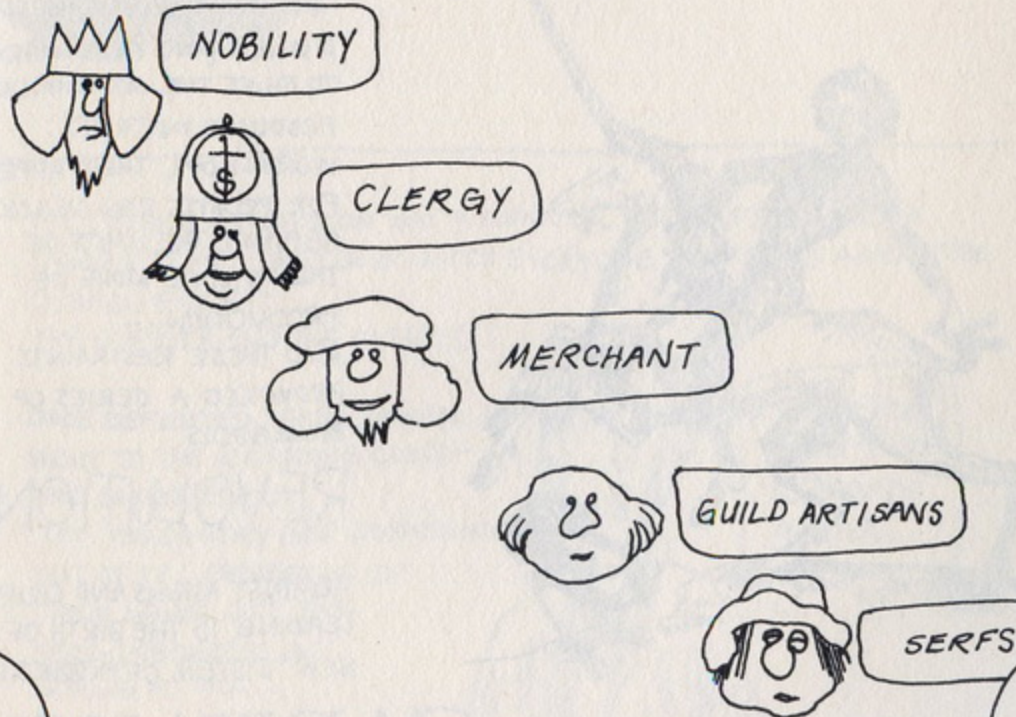
Now then my lad,
What's this 'Feudalism' then?

FEUDALISM COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD, "FEUDUM", THE NAME
GIVEN TO THE LANDS WHICH THE KING DIVIDED UP AMONG HIS NOBLES IN
EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SUPPORT... (A "FEUDUM" = A "FEE")

THOSE WHO ACTUALLY
LIVED ON THE LAND HAD
SOME CLAIM TO THEIR BIT
OF EARTH. BUT THEIR
LABOUR BELONGED TO
THE FEUDAL OVER-LORD
TO WHOM THEY PAID
TAXES AND WHO USED
THEM WHENEVER HE
WENT TO WAR...
WHEN I SAY "KING" BY
THE WAY, YOU CAN JUST
AS WELL READ "POPE",
BECAUSE THE CHURCH
OF CHRIST WAS ALSO A
FEUDAL SYSTEM LIKE
ANY OTHER (AND
PROBABLY WORSE...)



WITHIN FEUDALISM, THE SOCIAL CLASSES SEEN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM WERE:



AS TIME WENT ON, THE MERCHANTS AND GUILD ARTISANS GREW IN NUMBERS AND POWER. THEY BEGAN TO SHRUG OFF THE BURDENSOME YOKE IMPOSED ON THEM BY THE NOBLES AND CLERGY. THE FIRST INTELLECTUALS AWOKE, BRINGING NEW IDEAS INTO DAYLIGHT. A NEW CLASS IS BORN, THE

BOURGEOISIE



I'm really fed up with paying taxes to those lay-about bishops and kings. Long live Liberty, Damn it!!!



COMMERCE THIS BEGAN TO CHANGE THE FORM OF PRODUCTION. THE BOURGEOISIE NEEDED BIGGER (AND FREE) MARKETS TO SHIFT THE MERCHANDISE PRODUCED IN THEIR WORKSHOPS. THEIR APPETITE FOR PROFITS ~~FAN~~ SMACK AGAINST THE LIMITS OF THE FEUDAL MODE OF PRODUCTION... AND THESE RESTRAINTS PROVOKED A SERIES OF BOURGEOIS

REVOLUTIONS

AGAINST KING AND CHURCH, LEADING TO THE BIRTH OF A NEW "SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION":

CAPITALISM...

CAPITALISM IS ALREADY IN ITS VENERABLE OLD AGE. IN PRACTICE, IT SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY IN PARIS, 1789, WITH THE FRENCH REVOLUTION...



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WAS PRIMARILY A LIBERATION MOVEMENT. 'LIBERATION' FROM WHAT? FROM THE POWER OF THE MONARCH AND THE CLERGY. FOR WHAT? TO DEFEND PRIVATE PROPERTY AND FREE ENTERPRISE. FOR WHOSE BENEFIT? THE BOURGEOISIE, I.E. THE RICH WHO WANTED THE LIBERTY TO MAKE MORE MONEY AND THE LIBERTY OF THE SERFS SO AS TO BUY THEIR LABOUR FREELY.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WAS A GENERAL CLASS STRUGGLE, A TOUGH PITCHED BATTLE IN WHICH EVERYONE TOOK SIDES AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY: THE NOBILITY AND THE CLERGY.

ONCE DEFEATED, THEIR POWER WENT TO THE ASCENDING CLASS - THE BOURGEOISIE. THE PEASANTRY GOT SOMETHING OUT OF IT: OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LANDS. BUT THE SERF-LABOURERS GOT NOTHING AT ALL...



Except the "liberty" to exchange masters...

THE BOURGEOIS REVOLUTION
(OR THE FRENCH: SAME DIFFERENCE)
WAS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER
REVOLUTION - THE INDUSTRIAL,
HUMANITY INVENTED MACHINES
WHICH TOOK THE PLACE OF
MANUAL CRAFTS. THIS
COMPLETELY REVOLUTIONIZED
THE MODE OF PRODUCTION...



Oh sure!
But these 'effin'
machines won't
work 'emselves!!

THE APPEARANCE ON THE SCENE OF MACHINE-PRODUCED GOODS BRINGS
WITH IT A COUPLE OF NEW SOCIAL CLASSES: CAPITALISTS, OR
OWNERS OF THE MACHINES, AND WORKERS, OR THE OPERATORS
TIED TO THESE INFERNAL MACHINES. WITH MACHINERY
COMES A NEW MODE OF PRODUCTION WHICH MARX
CALLS

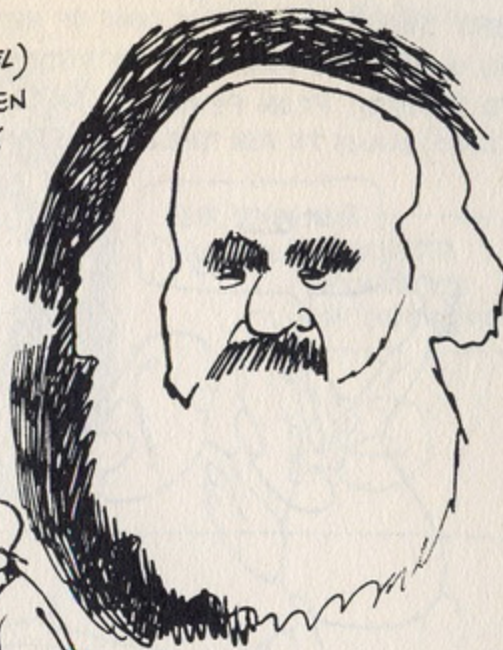
CAPITALISM

NOW THE WORKER ISN'T THE
SLAVE OF A FEUDAL LORD.
HE'S A "FREE CITIZEN"
(I.E. FREE TO SELL
HIMSELF TO THE
"HIGHEST" BIDDER...)



Right! Anyone feel
like paying me more...?

JUST AS EVERYONE WAS SETTLING DOWN
HAPPILY WITH CAPITALISM (AND LIKE HEGEL)
THINKING THAT SOCIETY HAD FINALLY TAKEN
THE RIGHT ROAD, ALONG COMES MARX
AND SPOILS THE PARTY...



'Ere!
Who the 'ell
invited yon
hippie??



MARX'S THEORY OF CLASS STRUGGLE -
INEVITABLE AND HISTORICAL -
REALLY HIT CAPITALISM BELOW
THE BELT. SOONER OR LATER,
SAYS MARX, CAPITALISM IS GOING
TO HAVE TO RETREAT BEFORE A
NEWER AND FAIRER SYSTEM...

Socialism

