

THE MARXIAN DIALECTIC

I. CLASS STRUCTURE IN MARXISM

- A. A "Class", according to Marx, is a group of people who, by their material holdings or lack thereof, form a distinct economic group, for example: aristocracy (titled holders of landed estates), bourgeoisie (capitalists - "the middle class"), proletariat (industrial workers), and peasants (small farmers often owners of their land).
- B. All power structures are based on the domination of a ruling class over all other classes in the society.
- C. The ruling class will never willingly allow power to be taken away from it. Power must be forceably taken by revolution.

II. DIALECTICAL REASONING

- A. In any dialectical process there are three components:
  - 1. THESIS: a positive condition, statement, or fact.
  - 2. ANTITHESIS: a condition, statement, or fact that is contrary to the thesis.
  - 3. SYNTHESIS: a new condition, statement, or fact resulting from the working of the antithesis on the thesis.
- B. The process continues since the synthesis of the preceding process becomes a thesis for the next.

III. DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM AND HISTORY

- A. A ruling class (THESIS) has been continually opposed by one or more oppressed classes (ANTITHESIS) which resulted in a new power structure (SYNTHESIS).
- B. In Marx's utopia, the classless society, there will be no rulers and no ruled so the dialectical process will stop.