

THE FINAL STEPS IN MARX'S DIALECTIC

Thesis in the Capitalist Era

Antithesis in the Revolutionary Era

Synthesis in the post-historical perfect classless and stateless communist society

Detailed Analysis

Thesis:(Negation): The proletarian is unhappy. He feels self-alienated and in need of reintegration. His feeling of self-alienation is due to the system of production of the Capitalist era. In this system the proletarian produces products and imbues them with value through his labor. What value they have, says Marx, comes from the laborer. But instead of the worker owning the products, the bourgeois, CAPITALIST owns them. Thus the proletarian feels the things he creates are alien to himself instead of being his own. The proletarian sees his products as non-self, as opposed to self. The proletarian also sees the owner of the products, the CAPITALIST, as alien. So there is conflict between the individual proletarian and the individual capitalist for whom he works. Then Marx sees all proletarians as a class in conflict with all capitalists who, Marx says, are the exploiters and who create a veritable hell on earth for the workers by paying them only a minimum subsistence wage. So there is class conflict and misery in the era of capitalism: proletariat vs bourgeoisie.

Antithesis: (Sometimes called "the negation of the negation")

Led by the Communist Party, the proletariat becomes aware that the products it is making really belong to it and not to the capitalists, the bourgeoisie. So the Communist-led proletariat attacks the bourgeoisie. By a revolution of force and violence it "expropriates the expropriators". It takes back its own products from the bourgeoisie and eliminates the bourgeoisie. This is the era of the revolutionary "Dictatorship of the Proletariat" which Marx called the period of "Raw Communism" in his earlier writings. He described it as an era of generalized greed, a "colossal acquisitive act of greed and violence." This is the long historical era when the proletarians conquer political power from the capitalists and use that political power to (1) take all private property away from the capitalists and (2) eliminate the capitalists. Men will be made "perfect" during this period.

Synthesis: The perfect stateless and classless society when all will work according to their ability and all will earn according to their need.