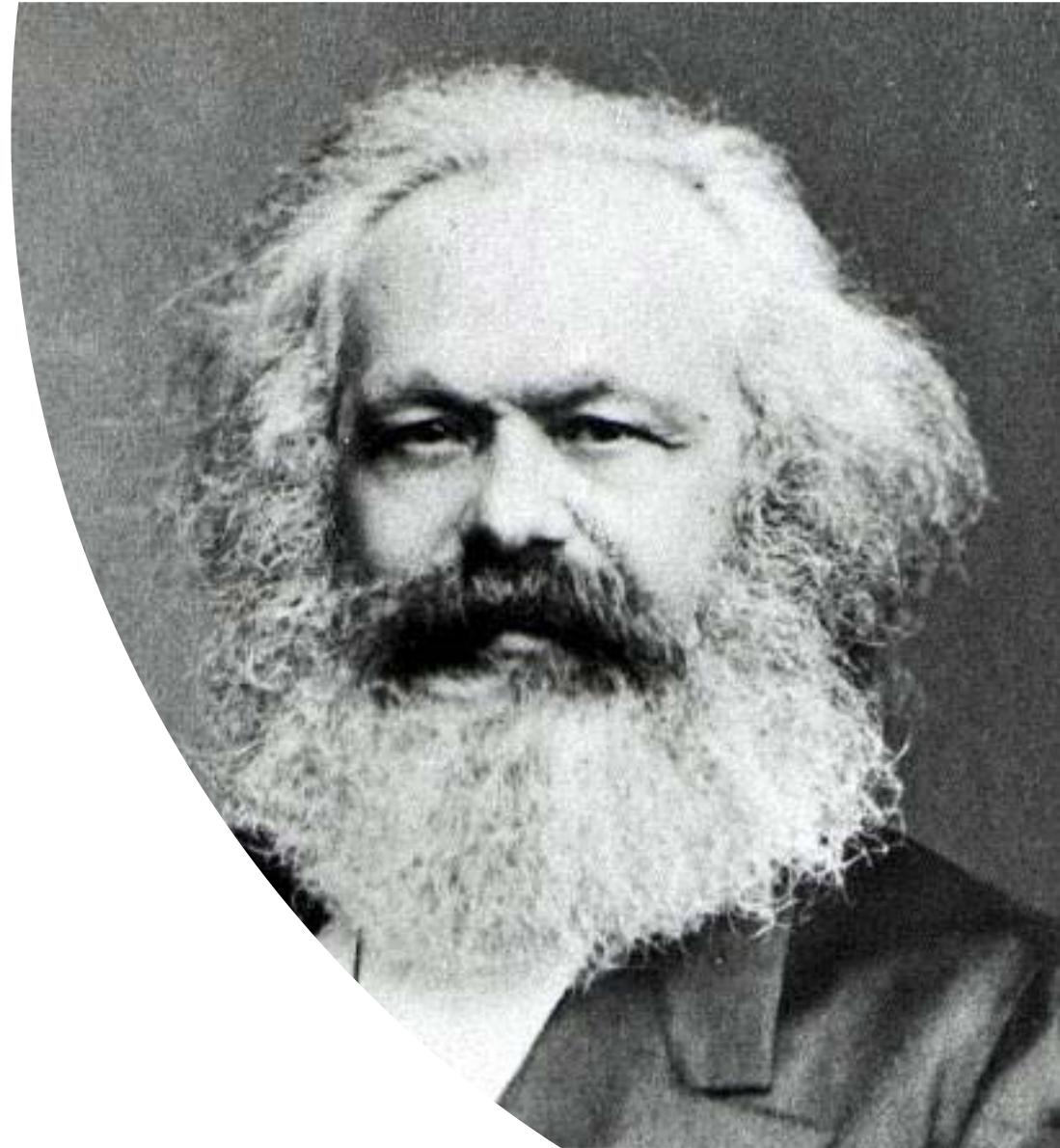


The Communist Manifesto (1848)

Eight Readings



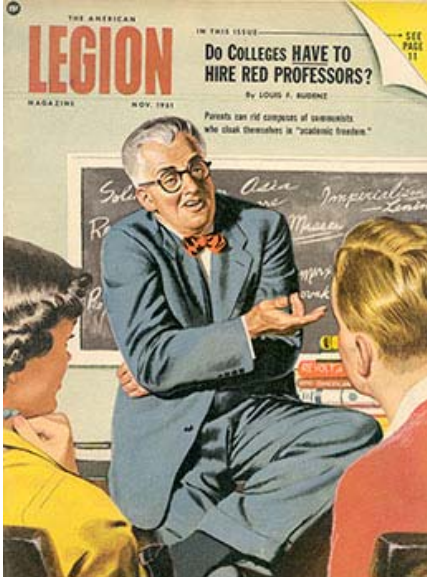
Preliminaries: On Dangerous Ideas

“A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of Communism” (63).



A warning from former Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper

“Where is the party in opposition that has not been decried as Communistic by its opponents in power?” (63)



Manifest

der

Kommunistischen Partei.

Veröffentlicht im Februar 1848.

Proletarier aller Länder vereinigt Euch!

London.

Gedruckt in der Office der „Bildungs-Gesellschaft für Arbeiter“
von J. E. Burghard.

46, LIVERPOOL STREET, BISHOPSGATE.

The pamphlet that
changed the world?



战无不胜的马克思列宁主义、毛泽东思想万岁!

Part 1: Unlikely Revolutionaries

“Just as...at an earlier period, a section of the nobility went over to the bourgeoisie, so now a portion of the bourgeoisie goes over to the proletariat, and in particular, a portion of the bourgeois ideologists, who have raised themselves to the level of comprehending theoretically the historical moment as a whole” (76).



Jenny, Karl and Friedrich bond in Cologne, 1844. A scene from “The Young Marx” (2018).

Karl Marx (1818-1883): philosopher, historian, political economist, agitator

- Born and educated in Germany, initially in law and then philosophy; begins long career as radical journalist
- 1843-44: meets Engels, begins lifelong collaboration
- 1845-48: exiled to Brussels, prohibited from publishing on politics
- 1847-48: composes *Communist Manifesto*
- 1848-50: moves to Paris and Cologne, harassed by government
- 1850-83: settles in London, supports his family as correspondent for New York *Daily Herald* while researching economic history at the British Library
- 1867: Publishes first volume of *Capital*

Part 2: The Context

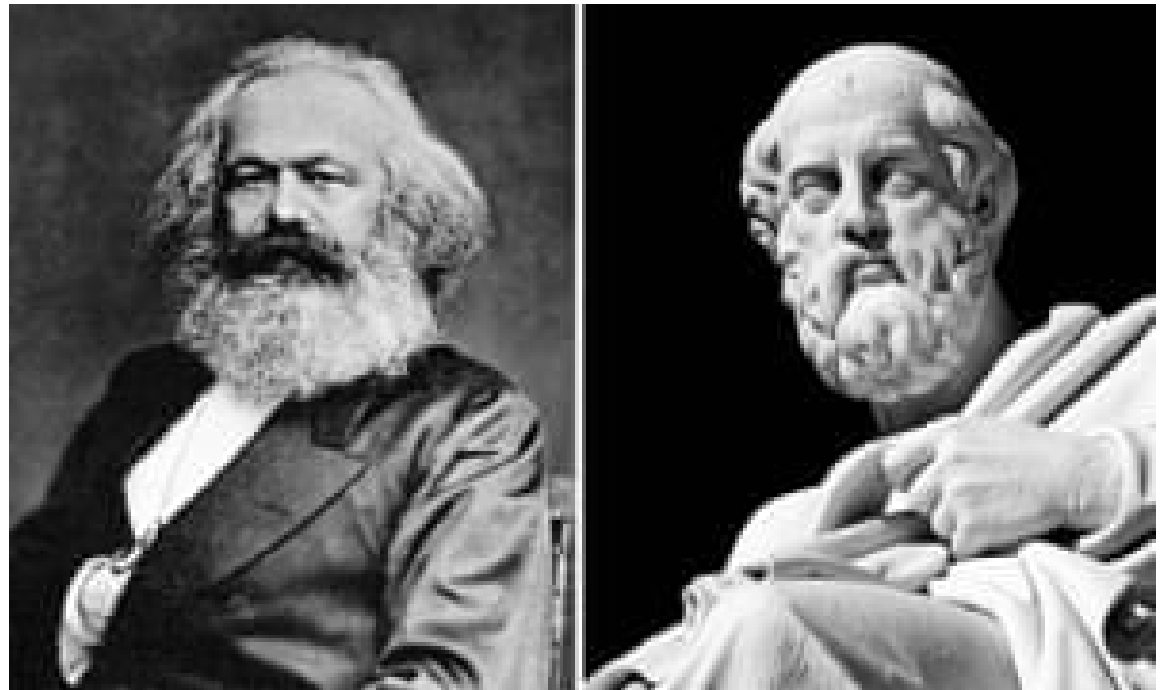
“Modern industry has established the world market, for which the discovery of America paved the way” (66).



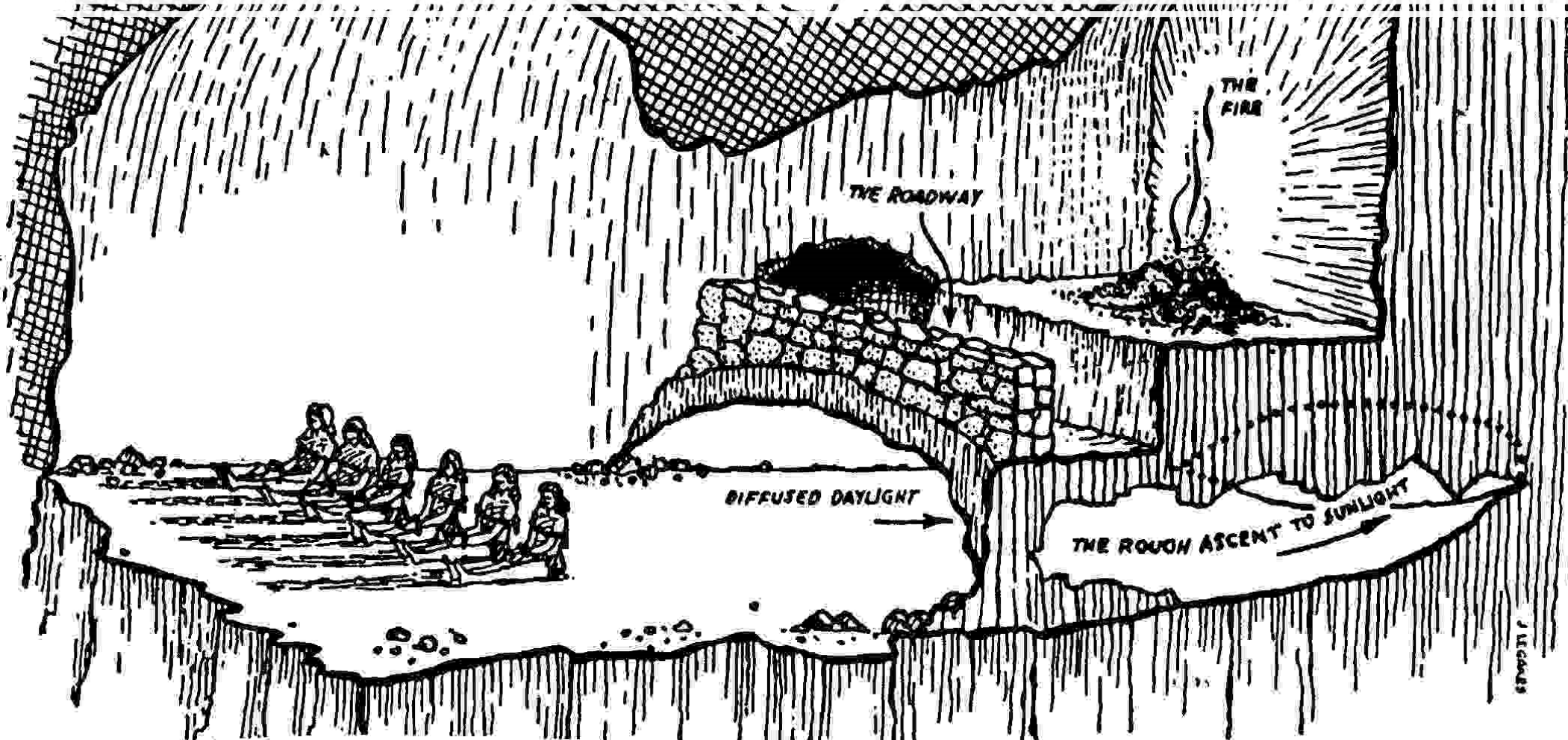
The Engels factory in Manchester, where Friedrich was introduced to the misery of the emerging working class.

Part 3: Marx as Philosopher

“Does it require deep intuition to comprehend that man’s ideas, views and conceptions, in one word, man’s consciousness , changes with every change in the conditions of his material existence, in his social relations and in his social life?...The ruling ideas of each age have ever been the ideas of its ruling class” (86).

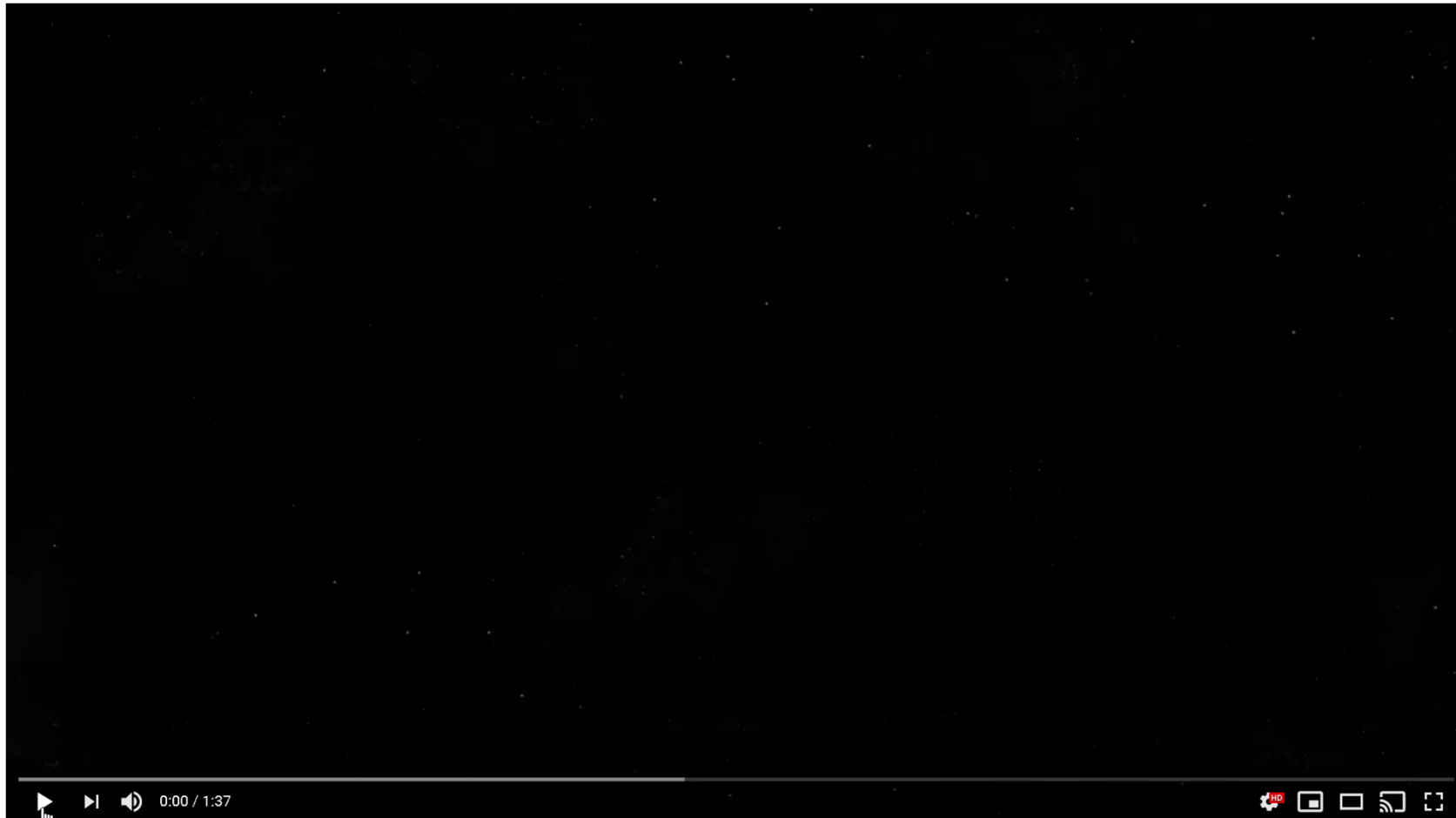


Karl's Cave (materialism vs idealism)



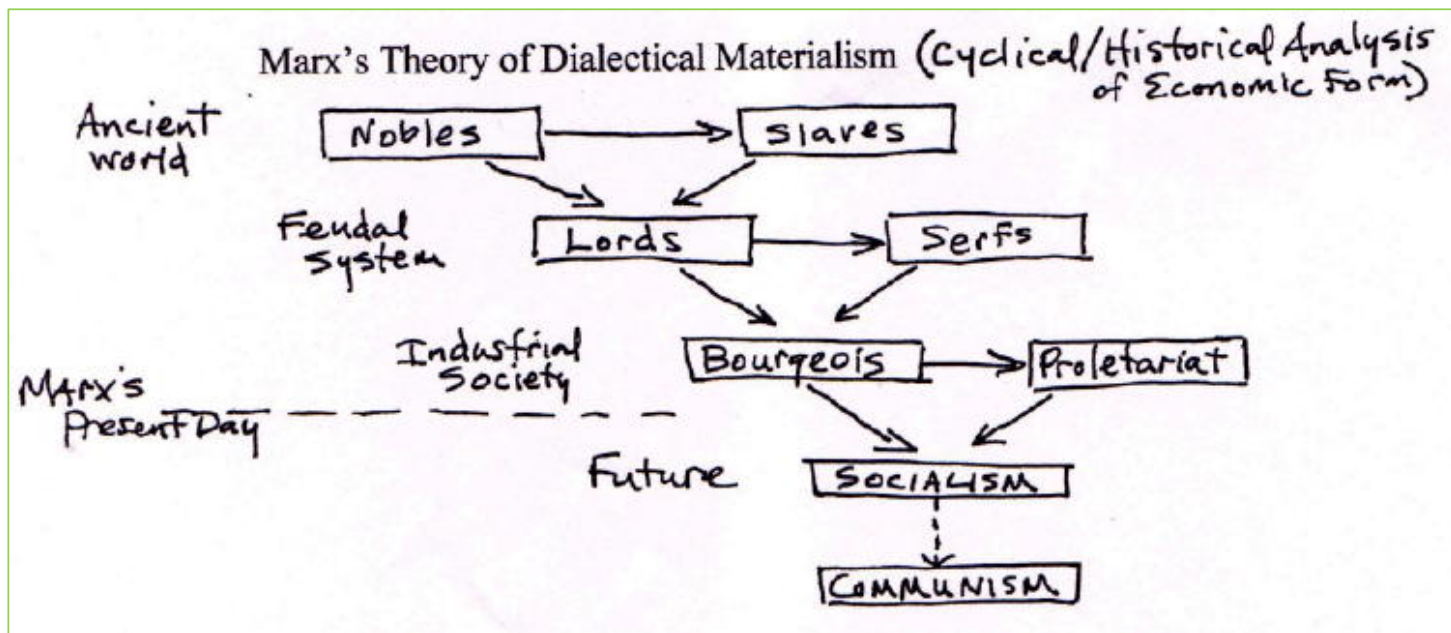
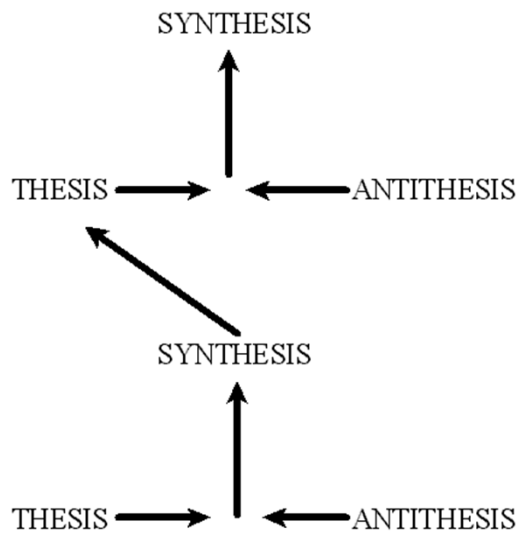
Part 4: Marx as Historian

“The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle” (64).



Dialectical Materialism

HEGELIAN DIALECTIC



Part 5: Marx as Political Economist

“The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society” (67).

Alienation

The workers loses the ability to determine his/her life & destiny in the capitalist mode of production. There are 4 types of alienation:
Alienation of the worker from

- The work
- Working
- Himself as a provider
- Other worker



Coming to Marxian terms:

- *Means of production*: tools, ideas, etc. used to produce things
- *Mode of production*: a type of productive system (feudalism, capitalism)
- *Alienation*: the separation of parts of a productive process such as the worker from their labour or the product of their labour

Capitalism's Magic Trick

“In bourgeois society capital is independent and has individuality, while the living person is dependent and has no individuality” (82).

“[Capitalism] has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage-labourers” (67).



Capitalism's Contradictions

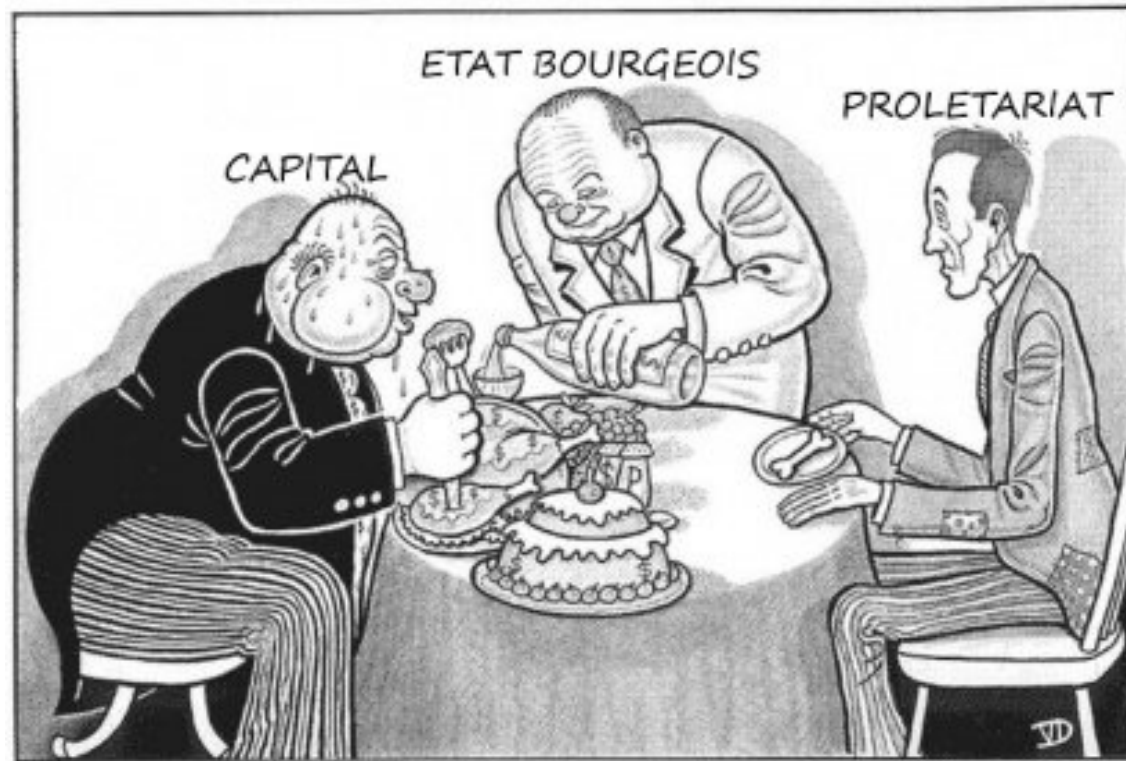
“Modern bourgeois society with its relations of production, of exchange and of property...is like the sorcerer, who is no longer able to control the powers of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells.... In these crises there breaks out an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity—the epidemic of overproduction” (70-71).



Bourgeois vs Proletariat

“These labourers, who must sell themselves piecemeal, are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to all the vicissitudes of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market” (72).

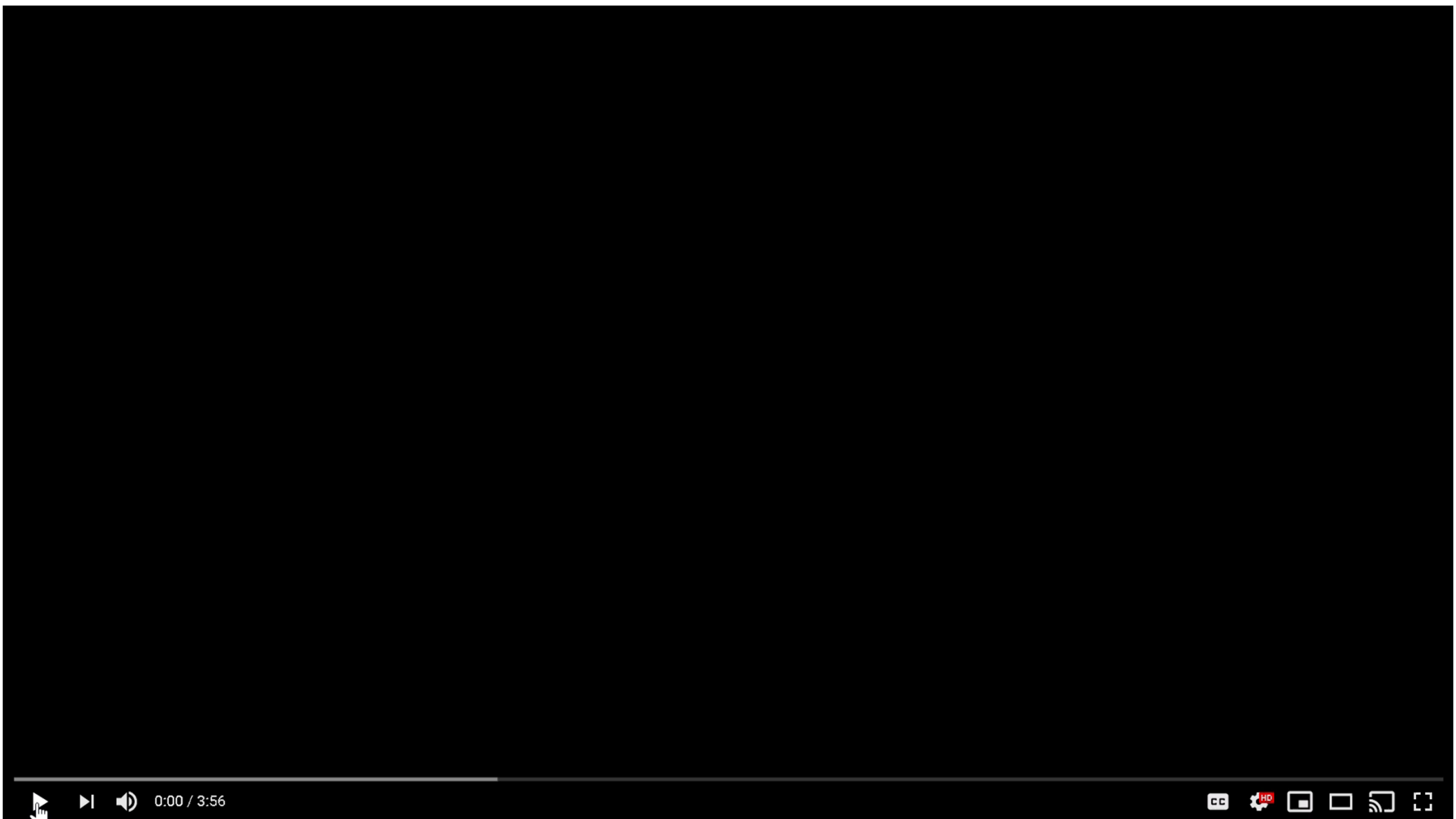
“Every class struggle is a political struggle” (75).





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Part 6: Marx as Sociologist

“The working men have no country” (85).

“Bourgeois marriage is in reality a system of wives in common and thus, at most, what the Communists might possibly be reproached with, is that they desire to introduce, in substitution for a hypocritically concealed, an openly legalized community of women” (85).



Part 7: Marx as Political Agitator

“You are horrified at our intending to do away with private property. But in your existing society, private property is already done away with for nine-tenths of the population...” (82)

“The proletarian movement is the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interest of the immense majority” (77).



Part 8: Marx as Prophet

“The Communist revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional property relations; no wonder that its development involves the most radical rupture with traditional ideas” (87).

“In place of the old bourgeois society, with its classes and class antagonisms, we shall have an association, in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all” (89).

The word "MONEY" is displayed in large, bold, capital letters. Each letter is filled with a different, vibrant, and somewhat abstract pattern or color, including shades of yellow, orange, red, and blue. The letters are set against a plain white background.

Part 9: Marx as Polemicist

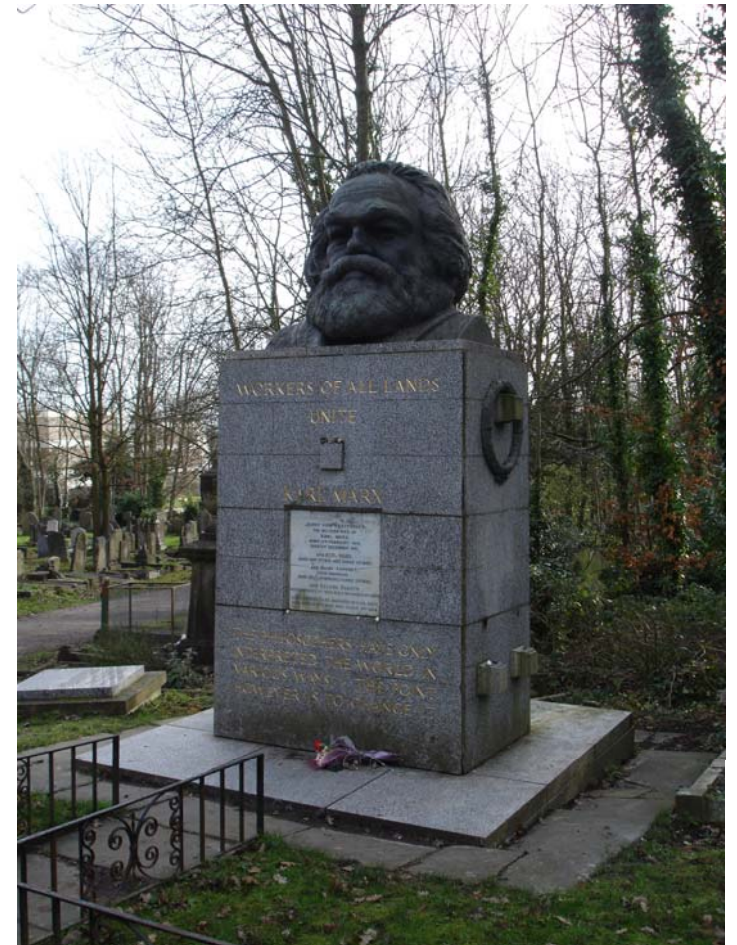
“The Socialistic bourgeois want all the advantages of modern social conditions without the struggles and dangers necessarily resulting therefrom. They desire the existing state of society minus its revolutionary and disintegrating elements. They wish for a bourgeoisie without a proletariat” (97).



Part 10: Marx as Literary Stylist

“All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned, and man is at last compelled to face with sober senses, his real conditions of life, and his relations with his kind” (68).

“The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win” (104).



Epilogue: The Many Afterlives of *The Communist Manifesto*

“The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win” (104).

