

Marx, and the Illusions of Liberalism (cont.)



Quote of the Day:

- "The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal, patriarchal, idyllic relations. It has pitilessly torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his "natural superiors", and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous "cash payment". It has drowned the most heavenly ecstasies of religious fervour, of chivalrous enthusiasm, of philistine sentimentalism, in the icy water of egotistical calculation. **It has resolved personal worth into exchange value**, and in place of the numberless indefeasible chartered freedoms, has set up that single, unconscionable freedom — Free Trade. In one word, **for exploitation, veiled by religious and political illusions, it has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation.**"
- --Marx and Engels, Communist Manifesto, Chapter 1

Today's Menu

I. Review Base and Superstructure

A. The state, bourgeois economics, Education

B. Nationalism as bourgeois ideology (Manifesto, Chapt. 2)

II. Method of Historical Materialism (Cont.)

III. Marx and Engels' Interpretation of History

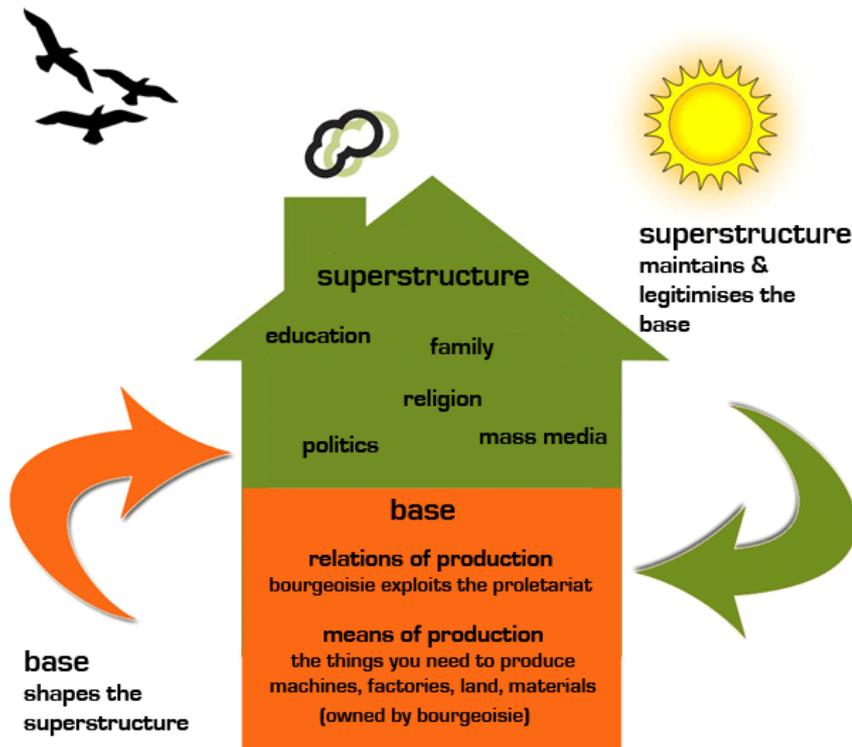
IV. Three "Laws" of Capitalism

A. Exploitation: 5 ingredients

B. Grow or Die: Why? 2 Reasons and 7 comebacks

C. Inevitable Death: Two ways

Review Base and Superstructure: Class Ideas (Ideology) to defend Class Rule



1. Base (Mode of Production) gives rise to superstructure (ideology and religion)
2. Superstructure supports the base

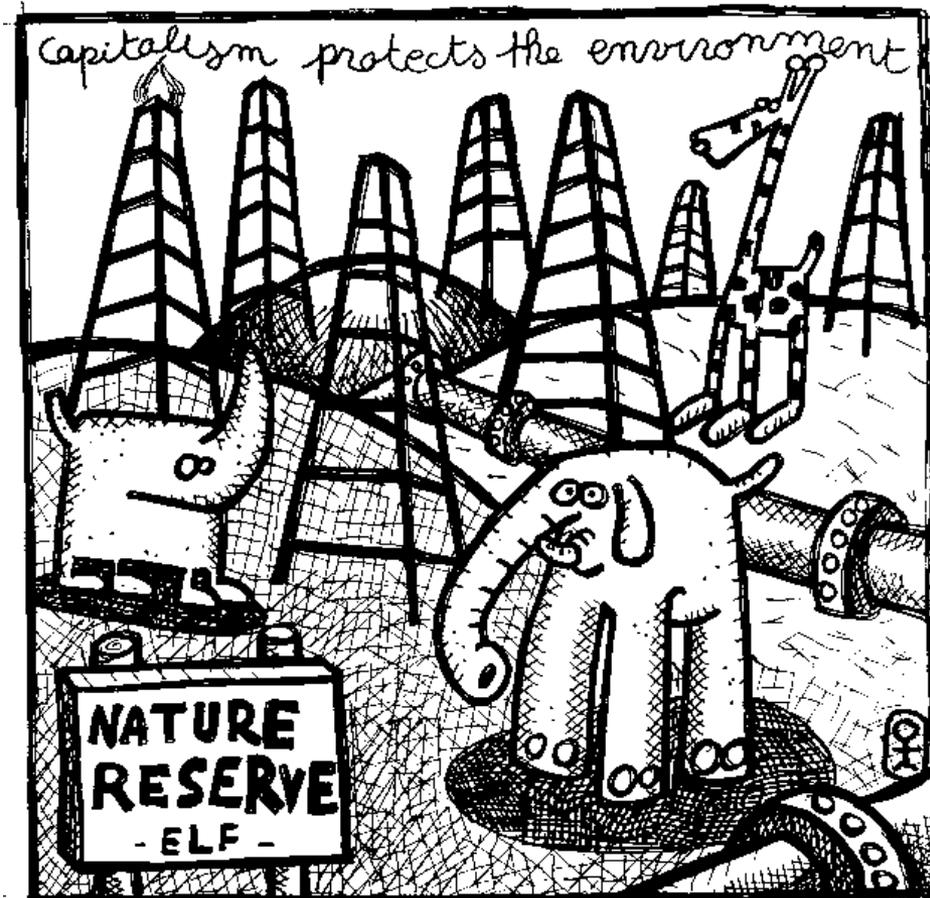
This is why Marx said, that religion is
the opiate of the people



Illusion of freedom....reality of the sweatshop



example: Bourgeois Economics:” an Ideology to Defend Capitalism



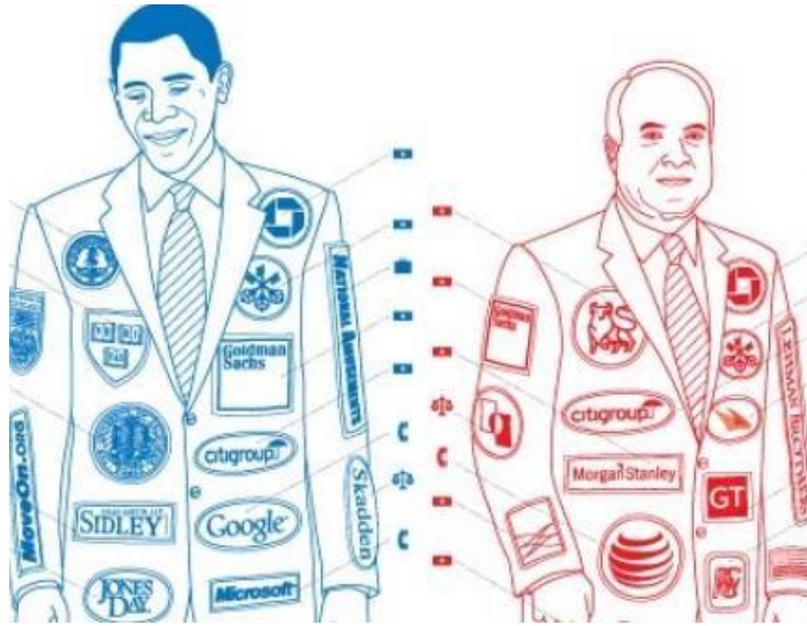
Another view of Base and Superstructure:



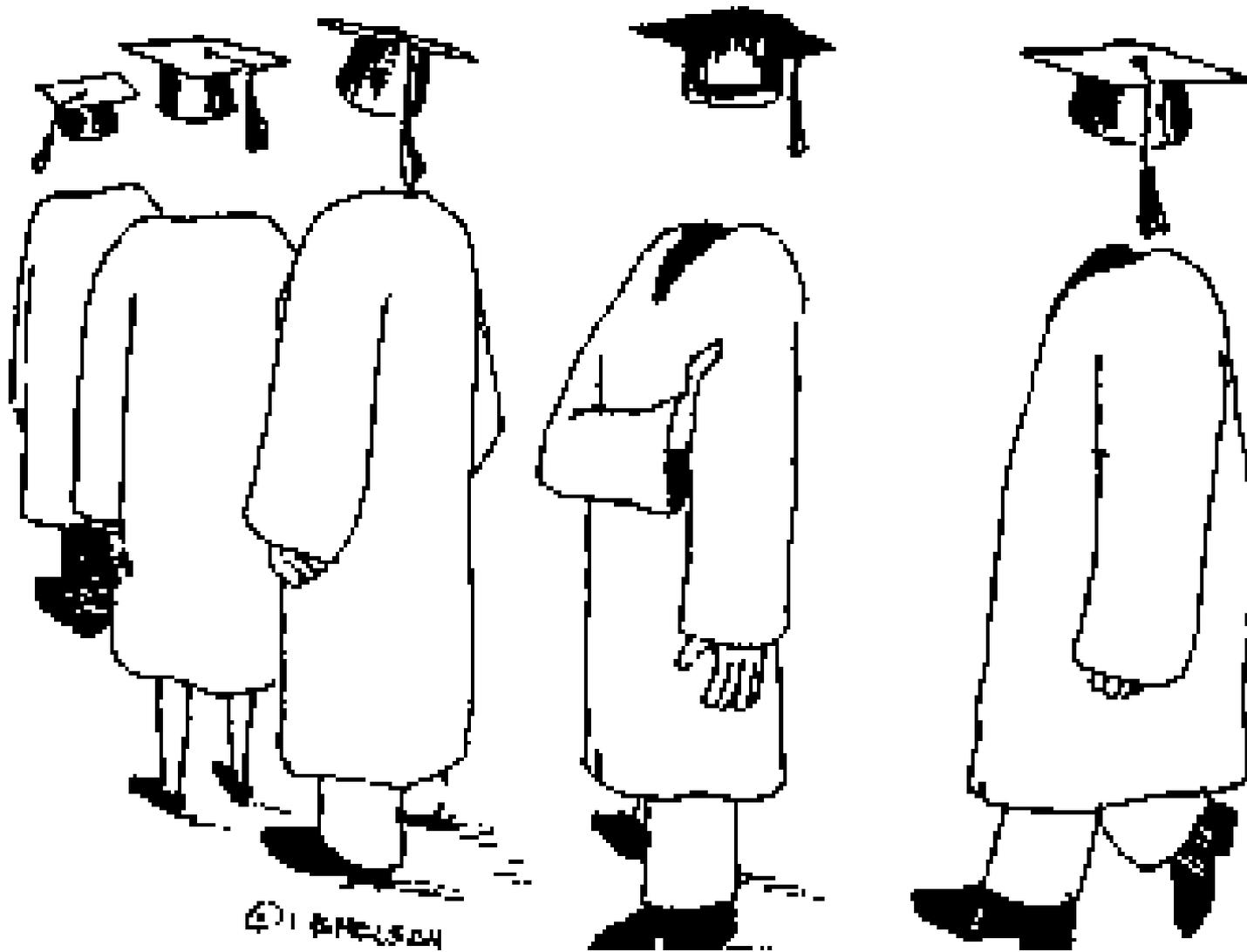
Theories of the “state” and Theory of the “neutral” state as Ideology defending the Ruling Class



Marx believed that American politicians are “subordinated” to capitalism



Example: Ideology of Education



Summary: Base and Superstructure

A. Why does the “base” need a superstructure?

1. Religion: Protestant Ethic as an example
2. Democracy as an illusion
3. The creation of the “individual”
4. The idea of “merit”

B. Where do ideas come from?

1. Radicals, Progressives, Conservatives
2. Economic Hierarchies determine our consciousness

II. Methods (cont.) and Interpretation of History

A. "Law of Change"

Change in the "forces" (means/technology) of production → change in relations of production

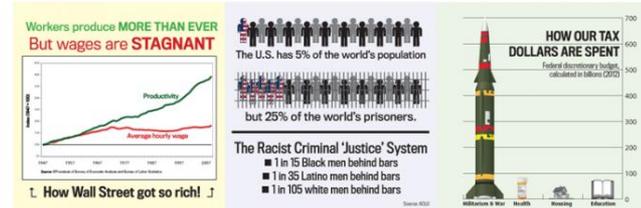
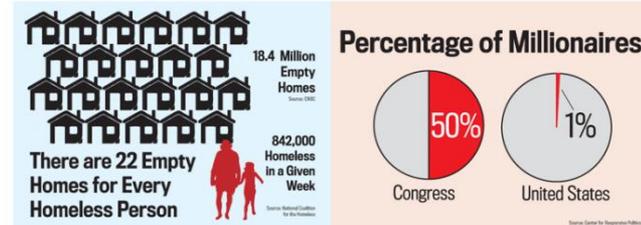
B. The "Law" of Progress

C. Class contradictions



THE ABSURD CONTRADICTIONS OF CAPITALISM

by LiberationNews.org



III. Marx and Engels Interpretation of History

A. Primitive Communism

B. Private Property → agriculture
(empire→feudalism)→

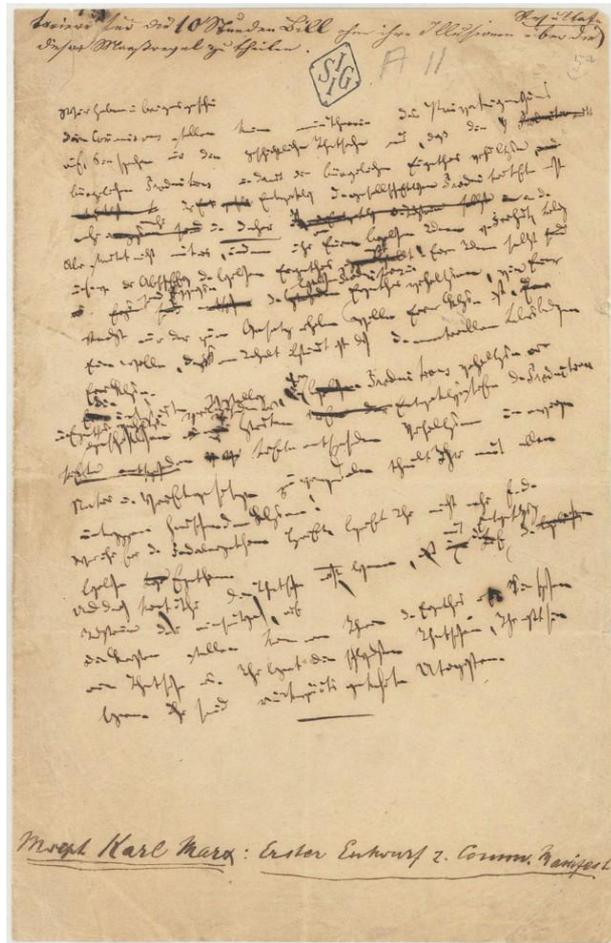
C. small industry (commercial capitalism)→industrial
revolution (capitalism)

D. Capitalism→workers revolution→

Communism



What is Capitalism?



- A market system in which the means of production are in private hands.
- Profits of that production accrue to those who own the means of production
- **Capitalism is historically progressive as a system for producing and allocating resources.....it has rescued the population from the “idiocy of rural life”**

Marx on the glories of capitalism:

- "It has been the first to show what man's activity can bring about. It has accomplished wonders far surpassing Egyptian pyramids, Roman aqueducts, and Gothic cathedrals; it has conducted expeditions that put in the shade all former Exoduses of nations and crusades... .
- The intellectual creations of individual nations become common property. **National one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more impossible**, and from the numerous national and local literatures, there arises **a world literature.....** **has thus rescued a considerable part of the population from the idiocy of rural life..**