

MARXISM

AND

**MARXIST LITERARY
THEORY**

**Presentation prepared
by
Pelin Doğan**





- ✚ scientific socialism
- ✚ environment and material circumstances.
- ✚ class distinctions & social inequalities.
- ✚ economic structure
- ✚ class struggles.
- ✚ history is progressive.
- ✚ change

Karl Marx (1818-1883)



Friedrich Engels (1820-1895)

Consciousness does not determine
life: life determines consciousness.

MATERIALISM

X

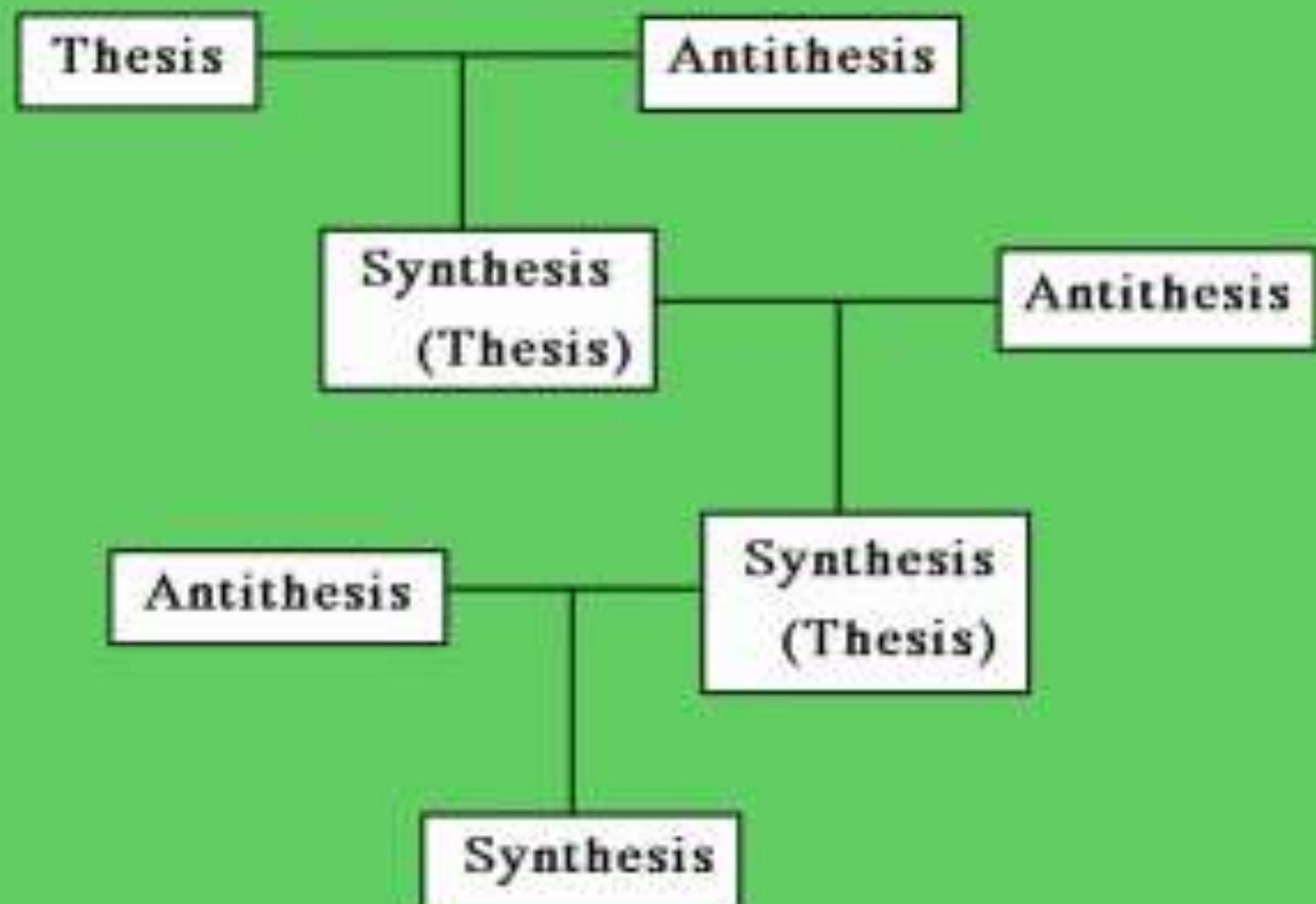
IDEALISM

What is the reason for the fact that aristocracy is so weak in the face of monarchy in France when compared to England ?

Influences on Marxism

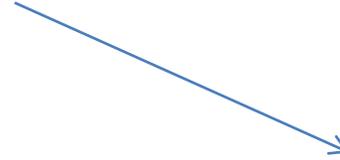
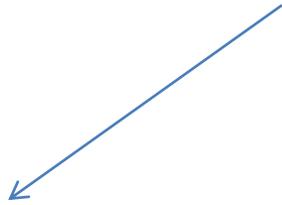
- + French Revolution
- + English Economy (Industrial Revolution)
- + German Ideology (G. W. Hegel 1770-1831)

The Dialectic



- A specter is haunting Europe--the specter of Communism.
- Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to Win. Workingmen of all countries, unite!

CLASS STRUGGLE

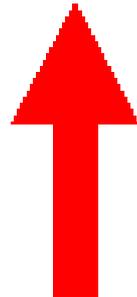
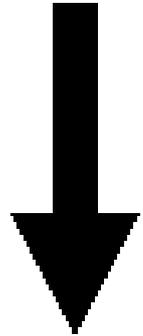


The ones who hold
the means of production

The ones who donot have
the means of production

**Capitalist
Class**

**Maximize
profit;
reduce
labor
costs**



**Maximize
wages;
improve
working
conditions**

**Working
Class**

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CAPITALISM

WE MILK YOU

WE IDOL YOU

WE SHOOT AT YOU

WE EAT FOR YOU

WE WORK FOR ALL

WE FEED ALL

PYRAMID OF CAPITALIST SYSTEM



MARXISM

- ✚ the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange.

WHERE DOES WEALTH COME FROM?

WAGE LABOUR AND CAPITAL

WHAT IS SURPLUS VALUE?

Use Value
and
Exchange Value

Four types of alienation

- + From the product
- + From productive activity
- + From Species' Being
- + From other human beings

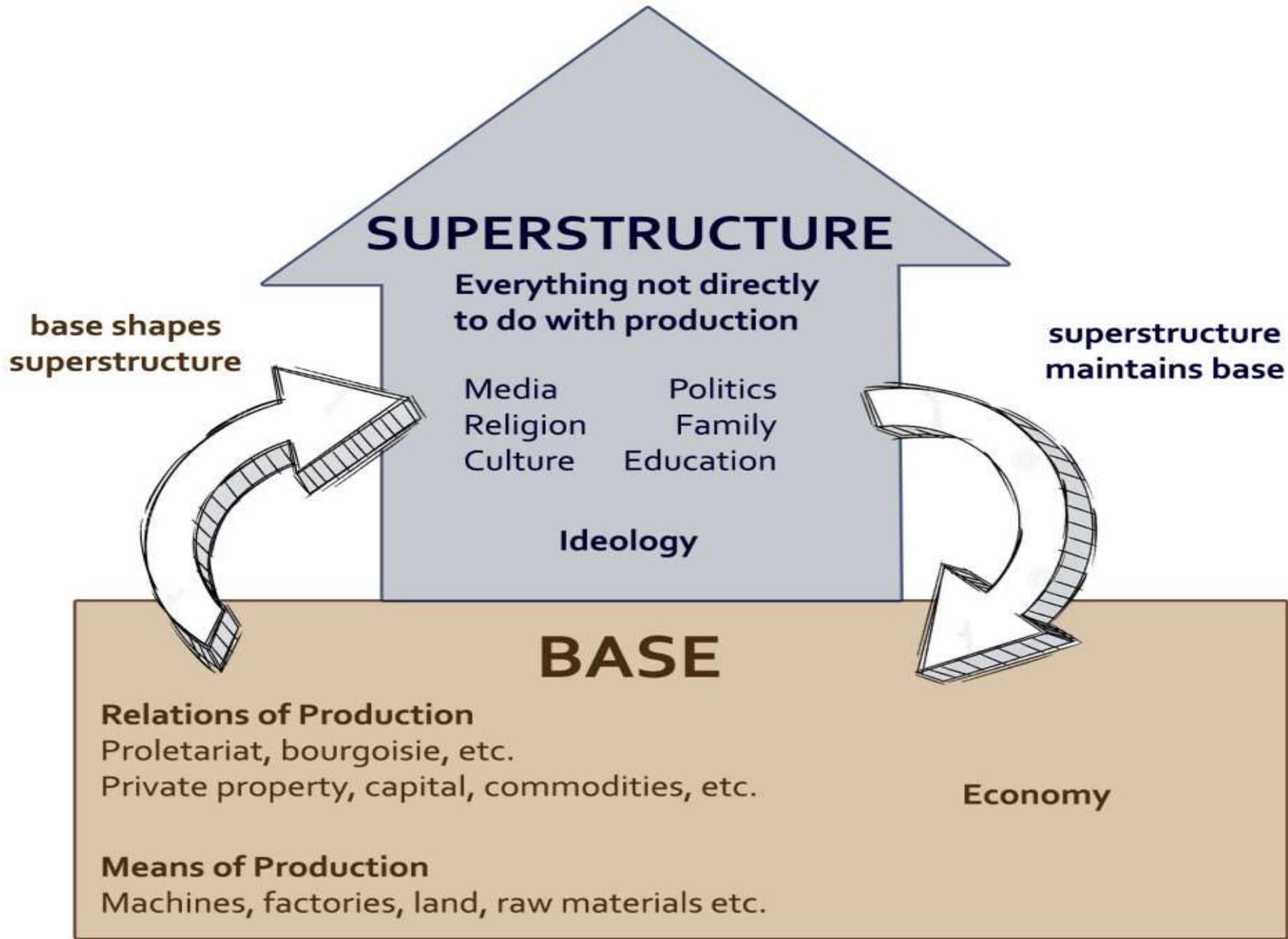
Four types of alienation

- ✚ From the product (As soon as it is created, it is taken away from its producer)
- ✚ From productive activity (which is experienced as torment)
- ✚ From Species' Being (Humans produce blindly and not in accordance with their needs and power)
- ✚ From other human beings (where the relation of exchange replaces mutual needs)

False Consciousness and Class Consciousness

TABLE 5-1. Marxist Characterizations of Three Historical to Posthistorical Periods

	Capitalism	Socialism	Communism
<i>Human Nature</i>	Alienated.	Alienation is being overcome.	Community-oriented creative workers.
<i>Society</i>	Bourgeoisie dominate proletariat.	Proletariat dominate bourgeoisie.	Classless.
<i>Structure</i>	Dominance of private industry.	Dominance by centralized state.	No coercive institutions; only voluntary associations.
<i>Rulers</i>	Dictatorship of bourgeoisie.	Dictatorship of proletariat.	Self-management.
<i>Authority</i>	Government is the instrument of capitalism.	Government socializes property, plans the economy.	Government withers away.
<i>Justice</i>	Capitalists exploit workers.	To each according to his labor.	To each according to his need.
<i>Citizenship</i>	Citizens are mostly subjects.	Citizens are both participants and subjects.	Citizens are mostly participants in making their collective history.



Russia and Marxism



Theodor Adorno
(1903-1969)



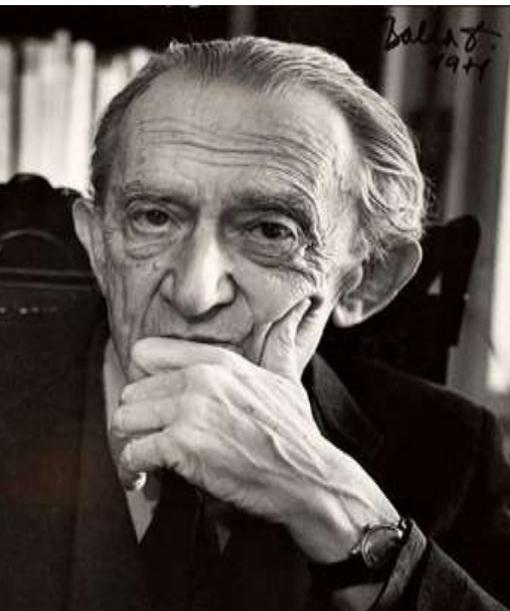
Herbert Marcuse
(1898-1979)



Walter Benjamin
(1892-1940)



Max Horkheimer
(1895-1973)



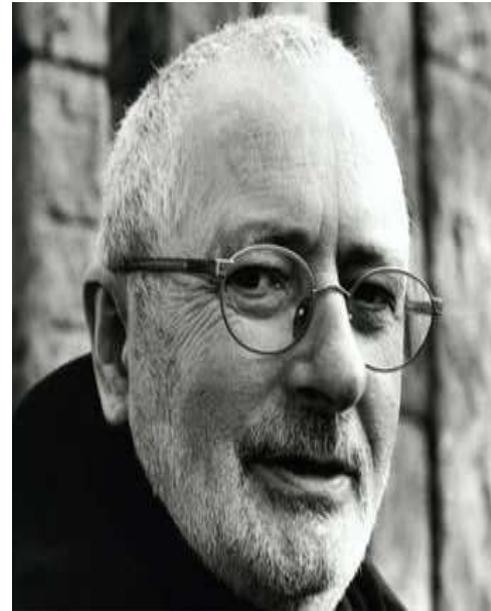
Georg Lukács
(1885-1971)



Antonio Gramsci
(1891-1937)



Raymond Williams
(1921-1988)



Terry Eagleton
(1943-)



Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) and Epic Theatre

Instead of blindly accepting bourgeois conventionality as established through dramatic conventions, dramatists must revolt and seize the modes of production.

The Chimney Sweeper

When my mother died I was very young,
And my father sold me while yet my tongue
Could scarcely cry 'weep! 'weep! weep! 'weep!
So your chimneys I sweep, and in soot I sleep.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried when his head,
That curled like a lamb's back, was shaved: so I said,
"Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when your head's bare,
You know that the soot cannot spoil your white hair."

And so he was quiet; and that very night,
As Tom was a-sleeping, he had such a sight, -
That thousands of sweepers, Dick, Joe, Ned, and Jack,
Were all of them locked up in coffins of black.



And by came an angel who had a bright key,
And he opened the coffins and set them all free;
Then down a green plain leaping, laughing, they run,
And wash in a river, and shine in the sun.

Then naked and white, all their bags left behind,
They rise upon clouds and sport in the wind;
And the angel told Tom, if he'd be a good boy,
He'd have God for his father, and never want joy.

And so Tom awoke; and we rose in the dark,
And got with our bags and our brushes to work.
Though the morning was cold, Tom was happy and warm;
So if all do their duty they need not fear harm.

by William Blake

THE UNKNOWN CITIZEN By W. H. AUDEN

(To JS/07 M 378

This Marble Monument

Is Erected by the State)

He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint,
And all the reports of his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of the old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the war till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
For his union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report of his union shows it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper every day,
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.

Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health-card shows that he was once in hospital but left it cured.
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Installment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
A gramophone, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of the year;
When there was peace he was for peace; when there was war he went.
He was married and added five children to the population,
which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his
generation,
And our teachers report he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

by W. H. AUDEN