



AN OVERVIEW OF ENGELS' PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNISM

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Abstract

Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx are the greatest pillars of communism, these philosophers contributed their lives for the formation of classless society. They had composed many writings, which are still considered as the relevant and remarkable writings of all times. "Principles Of Communism" was one of those writings by Friedrich Engels. This meticulous work gives a clear idea of communism and its concepts. "The Communist Manifesto" which is the bible of communism was based on this writing of Friedrich Engels.

Keywords: Communism, Proletariat, bourgeoisie, workers, capitalist, revolution.

Introduction

The Industrial Revolution sparked the imaginations of utopian socialists such as Charles Fourier and Robert Owen in the early 19th century, who imagined alternative social systems that prioritised collaboration over market rivalry. Because of the terrible working circumstances, radical organisations like the League of the Just aimed to topple the European social structure at the same time. Following their individual interactions with the League, Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx founded the Communist Correspondence Committee in 1846. The League and the Committee united to establish the Communist League by 1847. After Engels produced political platforms, Marx authored the ultimate program, the "Communist Manifesto," in early 1848, using his advice to do away with the catechism structure. Marx was the main author, but the concepts came from "Principles Of Communism" by Engels, hence both philosophers are jointly credited with creating this groundbreaking manifesto. This article focuses on Friedrich Engels' "Principles Of Communism".

He makes a distinction between proletarians and industrial workers from the 16th through the 18th century. Proletarians lacked the means of production that factory employees held, such as looms and domestic spinning wheels. He draws attention to the disparities between these two groups' environments and living arrangements. He states that Factory employees sometimes resided in rural regions and interacted with their bosses or landlords in a more patriarchal manner and Proletarians mostly lived in urban areas and developed relationships with their employers centred on money. As large industries grew, factory employees began to lose their possessions and finally became proletarians. This shows how factory employees became proletarians.

He talks about the direct effects of the Industrial Revolution by saying that the reduced cost of industrial goods challenged traditional manufacturing, which sparked an international revolution.

He highlights how traditional manufacturing was replaced by big industry, which resulted in the bourgeoisie becoming the dominant class. and Traditional authorities like the nobility and guildmasters lost their sway, and privileges were replaced by competition. This shows large-scale industrialization has transformed society.

He emphasises how the proletariat and bourgeoisie co-evolved. Because proletarians were necessary for industrial work, the expansion of capital and industry was accompanied by a proportional rise in the population. Additionally, because of this process' urbanisation of the workforce, class consciousness was fostered.

He Describes the effects that labour-saving devices have on pay and working conditions. And the development of such machines put further pressure on salaries and made the proletariat's living circumstances intolerable. He Addresses how commercial crises in capitalist systems are cyclical and throughout the 19th century, there were sporadic crises that were marked by overproduction, unemployment, and economic instability.

He Talks about the effects of these recurring business crises. That Makes the case that big business has outgrown free competition and that these crises endanger the stability of society. And also Proposes that in order to overcome these difficulties, society needs a new organisational structure where production is planned rather than reliant on competition.

He outlines the advantages of a new social structure. And stated that those who want to do away with private property and establish community ownership of products in order to end crises and increase output, they see a society in which everyone's wants are satisfied.

By highlighting the effects of industrialization, class conflicts, and the necessity for a new social order to overcome the disparities and crises of capitalism, these principles together offer insights into the historical evolution of society and the advent of communism.

According to him, private property will be eliminated gradually and private property will progressively disappear when manufacturing tools become more widely available in sufficient quantities.

He discusses the communist revolution's likely course. By addressing the creation of a democratic constitution, which, depending on the nation, would result in the proletariat's domination either directly or indirectly. At this point, the proletariat's way of life and restrictions on private property are the key priorities.

He lays forth concrete steps to restrict and finally do away with private property. Progressive taxation, expropriation of capitalists and landowners, confiscation of emigrants' and rebels' belongings, and the organisation of labour on public lands and in industries are some of these policies.

Engels proposes to those who favour giving the government centralised authority over credit and money for the destruction of private banks and the establishment of a national bank with state capital. He highlights the significance of state regulation in determining economic policy. He suggests building more national railroads, industries, and ships. encourages the use of additional land for agriculture and the enhancement of existing land. All of these initiatives are meant to accommodate the nation's expanding labour force and capital.

Engels suggests providing all children with a quality education together with meaningful employment as a means of fostering a diverse community. And advocates for the creation of industrial armies and the equal responsibility for all members of society to labour.

He envisions a world in which production and education are interdependent.

He strongly suggests that connected groups of residents who work in both industry and agriculture build communal homes on public property. Further calls for the demolition of unsanitary and shoddy-built dwellings in cities. And aims for everyone to live in better conditions. Equitable inheritance rights for children born within and outside of marriage are proposed. As this reduces disparities and encourages equitable property allocation.

Engels advocates for the state's centralised control of all modes of transportation. And emphasises the necessity of government oversight of transportation systems for the good of society as a whole.

He predicts that the distinction between urban and rural life will disappear.

And explains how eliminating this separation will be necessary for achieving communal control over production, which will encourage the balanced and all-encompassing growth of society.

He asserts that communism will make all current faiths obsolete and lead to their extinction. He also implies that as communism takes hold, people's attention will turn away from their religious convictions.

He distinguishes between several socialist classifications. Engels identifies three groups: democratic socialists (who want socialist policies within the current system), bourgeois socialists (who want to retain the current system while making certain adjustments), and reactionary socialists (who advocate a return to feudal and patriarchal society).

He explains how communists view rival political parties in various nations. He demonstrates how the strategy differs depending on whether the proletariat or the bourgeoisie is in power. And emphasis on the need for communists to work with democratic parties whose goals are similar to those of the proletariat.

Engels acknowledges that each country's circumstances will affect how communists see other political parties. He describes the various political conditions in nations including Germany, Switzerland, England, and the United States. And emphasises the necessity for communists to modify their tactics in light of the unique characteristics of each nation.

Engels summarises the fundamental aims and principles of communists.

He focuses on how important it is to advance the proletariat's shared interests, end private property, and eventually create a classless society. He demonstrates the importance of working together with other democratic parties when their objectives line up with the proletariat's. Together, these principles shed light on the communist viewpoint on politics, socialism, religion, and the capacity of communist tactics to be used in various national settings. They also reaffirm the communists' dedication to a classless society and their willingness to work with other parties and groups that share their views when appropriate.

Conclusion

Engels presents a coherent case in his examination of the history of communism and the proletariat. Engels suggests abolishing private property as a remedy for the antagonistic relationship between the working class

and the bourgeoisie that dates back to the Industrial Revolution. He acknowledges the possibility of violent upheaval but imagines a peaceful, happy community that is not limited by class or ethnicity. Engels highlights historical technical development and the growth of the bourgeoisie prior to presenting the proletariat in the “Communist Manifesto”. In the end, his research reveals the causes of class conflicts and predicts a revolutionary path toward a society with greater equality.

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