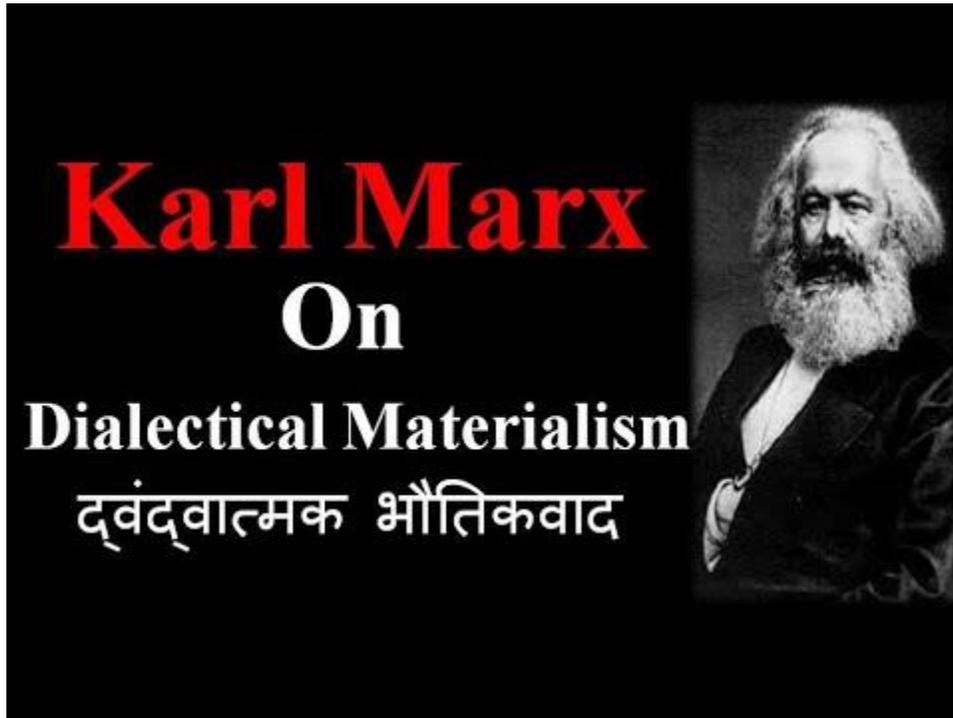


THE GREAT EVIL OF MARXISM: MARXISM IS NOT A GREAT EVIL BECAUSE IT DOES NOT PRODUCE AS MUCH WEALTH AS CAPITALISM.



ften when Capitalists and Marxists get into heated discussions, it ends up being a history lesson about which one “works” the best--i.e., creates more wealth. The Capitalist will point to the failures and massive sufferings of millions of human beings under Marxism. The Marxist, in turn, will point to the failures and immense sufferings under Capitalism (e.g., exploitation of human beings in mercantilism, imperialism, colonialism, race-based slavery, market crashes, and even the failed capitalism of Zimbabwe--or that the only reason Capitalism works is because of human exploitation, or that Capitalism only works for the wealthy, or that Capitalism only works because America has greater natural resources than Russia).

It must be pointed out that there are different kinds of Capitalism (laissez-faire, ordo/just capitalism, mercantilism); and only ordo/just Capitalism works because only it operates in justice, morality, and integrity. A Capitalism that is not undergirded with justice will always be a failure both economically and morally. Without a foundation in integrity, there really are no truly free markets as history has shown in laissez-faire and mercantilism (e.g., monopolies and oligarchies).

However, the core problem with Marxism is that Marxism as a “scientific” (as it is called) and philosophical system is inherently evil as such. So, instead of using the invalid logic known as “post hoc, ergo propter hoc” (“After this, therefore caused by this”), one can attack the core of the Marxist system as such. Consider the following: If the failure of the Marxist economy of the Soviet Union proves that Marxism does not work, then it is also true that the failure of the Capitalistic economy of Zimbabwe proves that Capitalism does not work. Of course, each side will point out their qualifications. I would argue that nothing works without justice and integrity;

and Marxism in itself, as a system as such, is void of any epistemological claim of justice or integrity or even human dignity. As a system Marxism is evil, not because it does not work, but because its philosophical foundation is inherently evil.

Marxism does not consist of just one idea--like redistribution of wealth. It is a complete or holistic system consisting of five principles.

1. The philosophical principle of Marxism is “dialectical materialism” (DM). DM is evil because it is material--all that exists is matter. There is no God, no spiritual realm, and no human soul. All that exists are molecules in motion. This materialism destroys the nature of man. Man is nothing but material brains—there are no true minds as such. There is no God, and no spiritual entity--not even love for all is matter. Justice, goodness, and even truth do not exist. Mankind has no dignity: he is just matter.
2. The historical principle of Marxism is the “economic interpretation of history.” This is economic determinism. Marx interprets everything in terms of economics. History is all about the class struggle. The problem is that man does not live by bread alone. Economic motives are not the sole factors of history. Consider the history of the original disciples of Christ or missionaries who are motivated, not by profit, but by their love for others. The tenet that everything is solely about money is evil—and is disproved by history.
3. The economics principle of Marxism is the labor theory of value. Marx so wraps up the value of labor in with the worker's activity that he ignores the risks of the capitalist. His solution to “exploitation” is to eliminate the Capitalist so the “total value” can go back to the worker. No one can deny that workers have been exploited for the “surplus value,” but this is remedied in ordo-capitalism. To displace capitalism and the free-market system with government control is to destroy man’s freedom to work and engage in the market as he wishes.
4. The sociological principle of Marxism is the progressive pauperization. Marx posited that the Capitalists would end up creating monopolies that would control the workers and increasingly reduce them to pauperization. The rich would continue to get richer and the poor poorer. The proletariat would give the workers just enough to eek out their existence to come back and make just enough the next day to get by another day. However, history shows that with ordo-capitalism this does not occur. These evils that Marx expected have not come to pass because of proper regulation and oversight in ordo-capitalism. Moreover, many have been able to work themselves up the economic ladder and thus leave poverty.
5. The political principle of Marxism is Revolution to create a classless society. As summed up in the Communist Manifesto, “In short, the Communists everywhere support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things.” The great evil of this is revolution as such. Instead of reforming the abuses, the Marxist desires to destroy the entire system so as to get to a classless society. However, unlike "capitalistic" countries (which had their abuses) when they got rid of their kings, some type of republicanism/democracy followed. Not so with Marxism, we are still waiting for some type of representative democracy in Russia and China.

Does anyone believe that these Marxist totalitarians will ever give up their power and money? Can't everyone agree that this is evil regardless of whether the economics work or not—which it doesn't? Marxism as a system is evil in that it destroys the dignity of man and makes the State the Supreme--"man" is just a cog in the machine. Moreover, Marxism cannot be modified without undermining the whole system.

Capitalism can be modified to meet universal principles of justice when the system is gamed. Although there were temptations to give up Capitalism when the market crashed in 1929 when millions of American lost their savings, jobs, and were reduced to poverty, adjustments were put into place and Capitalism survived. By the way, I do not know of any leading economist that thinks we should go back to pre-1929 Capitalism.

There were two critical errors of Christians in Russia in the 20th century. One was overthrowing what they viewed as an unjust "capitalistic" system with the hope that in Marxism life would be better. The other was that their churches so aligned themselves with the Russian government that when the people rejected the Tsars, they also rejected Christianity because they thought atheism might be a better alternative than what they experienced under "Christianity." Boy were they wrong on both accounts.

In His Matchless Grace,

Pastor Don