Karl Marx and the Rise of Communism

What is Communism?
Who is Karl Marx?
What was Marx’s “perfect” society?
What is “communism”?

- Communism is a philosophy of government / society
  - Based on the ideals of Marxism / Socialism

- Stresses the following:
  - Classless / stateless society
  - Common ownership of all resources
  - No private property
  - Social equality
Who came up with the basic ideas of Communism?

• Karl Marx (1818 – 1883)
  – German by birth
  – Former college professor
  – Author / philosopher

• Hated the conditions that the Industrial Revolution had brought to workers
  – Created “Marxism” = aka “Communism”
Who came up with the idea of Communism?

- Frederick Engels (1820 – 1895)
  - German by birth
  - College educated
  - Journalist / Social critic

- Had reported on the conditions of working people in Europe during the Industrial Revolution
  - Financially supported Marx & his writings
Marx’s Early Life
Marx & Friedrich Hegel

Dialectics
Marx’s Disagreement with Hegel

Lives = Ideas

Ideas = Lives

Hegel, Marx and Dialectic
A Debate
Richard Norman & Sean Sayers
How did Marx and Engels meet?

- Marx and Engels met in Paris in 1844
  - Shared a hatred of current European industrial society
  - Shared an interest in reform

- In the 1850’s both moved to London and lived together
  - Began collaborating on writings / philosophy
Marx & Engels’ home in the Primrose Hill neighborhood of London. Live here together with their families from 1852 until Marx’s death in 1883.
During their close friendship / partnership of over 30 years, Engels and Marx wrote several books and over 1,500 letters to one another
What is *The Communist Manifesto*?

- The Communist Manifesto was Marx and Engels’ greatest work
  - Published in 1848

- Not widely read in Europe until after Marx’s death in 1883
  - Marxist “Bible”
Who are the major players in Communism?

- Two (2) groups:
  
  1. Proletariat = Working class / lower classes of society
  
  2. Bourgeoisie = Upper classes / the ones who gain wealth off the proletariat
Development of the “factory culture”
Stereotype of the Factory Owner
“Upstairs / Downstairs” Life
What is Marx / Engels’ theories?

- Marx and Engels studied the history of the world’s economies and the way that power, industry and finance are controlled.
- They saw the way countries developed in stages over world history:
  - Primitive Communism
  - Feudalism
  - Capitalism
  - Socialism
  - Communism (Marxism)
What is Primitive Communism?

• This is how humans first lived together - in small tribes.

• Everything was shared amongst the tribe - food, jobs, belongings. No-one owned land.

• Eventually a group comes to power - this leads to Feudalism...
What is Feudalism?

- Under feudalism, a king or emperor or chief becomes the ruler over all the people.
- He gives land and privileges to 'nobles' who rule the people for him.
- The people are kept uneducated and told that God chose the king to rule. The church helps the king this way.
- As trade develops, some people get richer. This leads to Capitalism.....

Primitive Communism
Feudalism
What is Capitalism?

• The business owners or capitalists get richer while the workers do all the hard work.

• The capitalists get more power to serve their own interests.

• Capitalism creates a huge working-class of people who soon get angry at the way they are treated.

• Eventually they begin to demand changes. This will lead to a revolution and Socialism...
What is Socialism?

- In the Socialist revolution all the rulers – kings, churches, capitalists are got rid of.
- The workers take control of the country to produce things for everyone.
- Because nothing is made for profit, all people benefit from education and health.
- These ideas spread across the world to create Communism....
What is Marxism (Communism)?

- As everyone now works together, war is a thing of the past - armies are not needed.
- Sharing means no police are needed.
- Everything is provided by the people - so money becomes a thing of the past.
- All human activity goes towards benefiting each other - allowing all to live their lives to the full.
Communism (Marxism) = “Short Version”

Step #1
- The Proletariat classes will rise up in a great uprising against the Bourgeoisie (civil war)

Step #2
- A “temporary” dictatorship will step in and help to re-develop society (re-build industry, create laws, etc.)

Step #3
- The “temporary” dictatorship will voluntarily give up power, thus creating a classless, borderless utopia
The Communist “Utopia”
How did Marx / Engels’ work influence European society?

- Marx / Engels’ work is going to influence a new generation of revolutionaries
  - Tired of corruption
  - Desiring a new society

- Marx / Engels’ works are feared by many European leaders
  - Arrest, imprison, or exile many Communist leaders