

Pedro Costa Silva

Professor Turk

World Civilizations

18th of February, 2023

*The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx (1848)*

1. Marx believed that the rise of industry resulted from historical materialism, the idea that social and economic conditions shape historical development. In his view, the emergence of the industry was the natural result of the development of capitalist economies, which he saw as a transitional stage in the evolution of human society. According to Marx, capitalism, with its emphasis on profit and the accumulation of capital, led to the development of new technologies and the expansion of production. This created a demand for raw materials and a market for manufactured goods, which led to the development of international trade and imperialism. Marx also believed that the rise of industry led to the formation of a new class of industrial capitalists who controlled the means of production and exploited the working class for their own gain. In terms of global effects, Marx saw the rise of the industry as a fundamentally transformative force that would lead to overthrowing the old social order and creating a new socialist society. He argued that the concentration of capital and the exploitation of the working class would eventually lead to a crisis of capitalism and a revolution in which the working class would take control of the means of production and establish a socialist economy.

While Marx's analysis of the rise of the industry was correct in many ways, his predictions about the global effects of industrialization were only partially accurate. For

example, he underestimated the ability of capitalism to adapt and incorporate new technologies. He did not anticipate the rise of consumer culture or the growth of the service sector. However, his insights into the nature of capitalism and the exploitation of the working class continue to be influential in Marxist thought and in critiques of contemporary capitalism.

2. The concluding section of "The Communist Manifesto" numbers a series of proposals, including the abolition of private property, the implementation of a heavy progressive income tax, and the centralization of credit and means of communication and transport in the hands of the state. While some of these proposals may still be considered radical today (like the abolition of private property) others, like free education for all children and the abolition of child labor in factories, have become more mainstream. The reason communism was perceived as a "spectre haunting Europe" in the mid-19th century was that it presented a significant challenge to the current social and economic order founded on capitalism and private property. The Communist Manifesto envisioned a society where the means of production were controlled by the state or the community, representing a sharp departure from the individualistic and free-market capitalist ideology. As such, it was viewed as a potential source of unrest and revolution, making it a cause for concern and apprehension for the ruling classes.