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World Civilizations

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*The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx (1848)*

1. According to my understanding of Marx's ideas, he believed that historical development was determined by social and economic circumstances, a concept he referred to as historical materialism. According to him, the rise of the industry was a natural consequence of the development of capitalist economies, which he saw as a transitional phase in the evolution of human society. In Marx's view, capitalism's focus on profit and capital accumulation led to the creation of new technologies and the expansion of production. This, in turn, generated a demand for raw materials and a market for manufactured goods, which drove the growth of international trade and imperialism. Marx also argued that the emergence of industry brought about a new class of industrial capitalists who controlled the means of production and exploited the working class for their benefit. On a global scale, Marx considered the rise of industry a transformative force that would overthrow the old social order and establish a new socialist society. He maintained that the concentration of capital and the exploitation of the working class would eventually result in a crisis of capitalism and a revolution where the working class would take control of the means of production to create a socialist economy.

2. According to "The Communist Manifesto," the final section proposes a set of ideas that include eliminating private property, introducing a heavily progressive income tax, and centralizing credit and transportation means under state control. While some of these ideas may

still be considered extreme today, -such as the abolition of private property-, others, such as free education for all children and the elimination of child labor in factories, have become more widely accepted. The reason why communism was considered a "spectre haunting Europe" in the mid-19th century was that it posed a significant challenge to the current social and economic order built upon capitalism and private property. The Communist Manifesto imagined a society where the state or the community managed the means of production, which represented a significant departure from the individualistic and free-market capitalist mindset. As a result, it was seen as a potential source of rebellion and revolution, causing worry and unease among the ruling classes.