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Political Theory

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Reading Response – Marx's Communist Manifesto

In Marx's Communist Manifesto, it is looked at how societies develop and why inequality exists. Marx's main points consisted of class struggles, where in history class has always been a conflict. He uses the bourgeoisie, who are the rich owners, and the proletariat, the workers to explain the different class struggles between the two. He also points out that capitalism makes the rich richer by exploiting the workers, who are the ones doing all of the work, yet they create the wealth that they barely can enjoy because they are usually overworked and underpaid. Lastly, he makes one big point about the working class joining together to overthrow the rich and set up a much better society without classes or private property, to ensure equality.

I found it interesting how Marx's thinking can still be compared to things in today's society. The wealth gap in the U.S. and unstable work situations kind of mirror what he disagreed with in the book. I like that he looks at problems more in a systemic way rather than being a moral failing. However, his idea of revolution feels unrealistic more now than it probably was back then. I personally really enjoyed the idea of property not being privately owned so that everything was considered equal, which would hopefully push away the rise of greed or envy since no one would have more or less than their counterpart.

I have two discussion questions, one of which being that if Marx were alive today, do you think that he would like big corporations that don't necessarily care for their employees like Amazon? Secondly, if this book was written now, do you think that based on the way communism is looked at today, it would become a banned book and anyone who did read it would possibly be looked at as a traitor or outsider?