

MARXIST THOUGHT

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels are the creators of **Scientific Socialism** and **Historical Materialism** theories:

Materialism is the theory or conviction that the only things which exist are those material things you can perceive by your senses or prove by scientific evidence. This theory denies the existence of spiritual matters.

So, the application of this **rational and empirical thinking** to socialist theories by Marx and Engels is what we call **scientific socialism**.

The implementation of this scientific socialism in History is called **historical materialism**.

When we are analyzing History through Historical Materialism, everything is explained by economic issues. Economy and class struggle would explain the different past stages of human history and also its future:

- 1- **Prehistorical socialist society**: humankind was organized in small groups or tribes without any hierarchies. They were nomads, they had to share all their food and belongings to survive. This is the primitive and egalitarian society of the Paleolithic.
- 2- **Slavery**: During the Neolithic, human societies settled down in sedentary communities, thanks to the discovery of farming. Hierarchies started because they could achieve a surplus and society started to specialize in different jobs: peasants, craftsmen, and, on the top of the pyramid, rulers were those who managed religion and the army. This situation made slavery be maintained during Ancient History empires.
- 3- **Feudalism**: These strong empires disappeared as the previous economic and social system collapsed. Kings were forced to give fiefs to lords to administrate their territories. These lords had serfs who worked their lands. As economy started to rise at the end of Middle Ages, this feudalism is going to disappear slowly (its last stage is the Ancient Regime).
- 4- **Capitalism**: In this system, rulers are those who own the means of production. It appeared thanks to the rise of bourgeoisie in the last stages of feudalism. It was fully developed due to the Industrial Revolution. The exploitation of proletariats is supposed to advocate this system to failure.
- 5- In the **future**, workers would successfully struggle to destroy capitalism and revolution would have to phases: a) a **dictatorship of workers**, in which they would rule a strong state. This state would assume the means of production property and would redistribute wealth. B) a **communist society**: social classes and the state would disappear as society is capable of ruling itself in an egalitarian and fair way.