

A conflict theory is a theory that suggest that society is in conflict between certain groups. In the case of Marxism the conflict is between social classes.

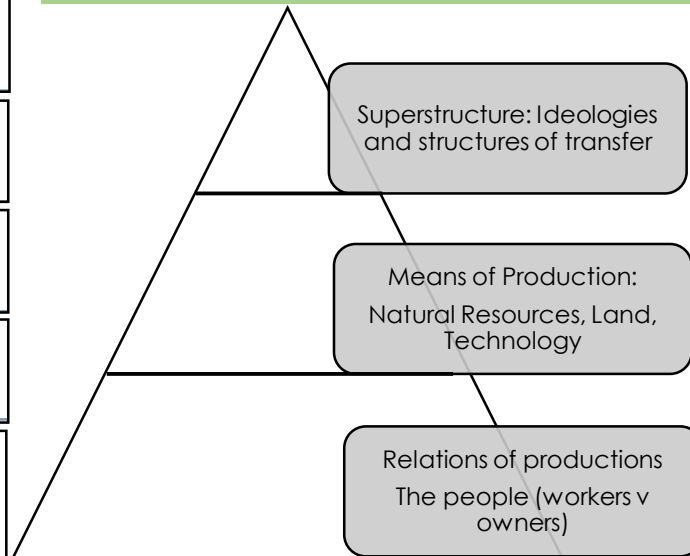
Bourgeoisie means the owners of the means of production and the ruling class.

Proletariat means the workers who are the relations of production and are oppressed by the bourgeoisie.

Alienation means the process whereby the **worker** is made to feel foreign to the products of his/her own **labor**.

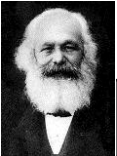
False Class Consciousness means the way that the proletariat a led to believe their oppression by the bourgeoisie is normal and that if they work hard they can become the bourgeoisie.

Marxist Structure of a Capitalist society.



Evaluation of Marxism

Over Simplified	<p>Marx focuses solely on class divisions within society but Weber suggest that inequality can be caused by power and status independently of class structures. Feminists would also argue that there is more inequality between genders then there is between classes.</p> <p>The two class system is also over simplistic – it is currently suggested that there are 7 different classes within British society.</p>
Economic Determinism	<p>Marx's whole system is based on economics, and the view that economic factors are the sole cause of everything in society, from inequality to social change.</p> <p>Weber argues that Marxism completely ignores the role of ideas in social change – e.g. Calvinism's role in the rise of capitalism.</p>
Lack of Revolution	<p>The biggest criticism of Marxism is that the revolution that he said would cause the development to a communist society has yet to occur and Marx was very vague on the conditions that would eventually lead to this revolution.</p> <p>Marx also suggested that revolution would occur in the most advance capitalist societies and yet it has been the most backward countries (Russia and Cuba) that have seen Marxist revolutions.</p>
Out of date	<p>Capitalism has become es exploitative then it was during the industrial revolution. Keynesian Economics has led to more government oversight of businesses and the development of welfare states.</p> <p>A number of social institutions have become autonomous from the bourgeoisie – e.g. the media have become critical of the elite.</p>



Five Stages of society according to Marx

1	Primitive communism – Classless society
2	Feudal Society – Landowners V Peasants
3	Capitalist Society – Bourgeoisie V Proletariat
4	Socialism – Government Owners V Workers
5	Communism – Classless Society

The features of Capitalist Society .

1	The proletariat are legally free and separated from the means of production
2	Competition between capitalists lead to the means of production becoming concentrated.
3	The proletariat do not receive the value of their goods that their labour produces, but only the cost of subsistence.

The features of Communist Society .

1	Collective ownership of the means of production and abolish of production for profit.
2	Stateless and Classless society -
3	Reclaiming control over the workers labour and products they create (end alienation)