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Notes for pg semester 2

Topic:- Brief study about Karl Marx

Karl Marx (1818–1883) was a German philosopher, economist, political theorist, historian, and revolutionary socialist. His ideas have had a profound influence on modern social and political thought, particularly through his critiques of capitalism and his vision of a classless society.

Key Concepts:

1. **Historical Materialism:**
 - Marx believed that material conditions (economic factors) shape history and social structures. According to him, human history is defined by class struggles driven by economic relationships.
2. **Class Struggle:**
 - Marx divided society into two main classes:
 - **Bourgeoisie:** The capitalist class who owns the means of production.
 - **Proletariat:** The working class who sell their labour to survive.
 - He argued that the exploitation of the proletariat by the bourgeoisie would eventually lead to revolution and the establishment of a classless society.
3. **Alienation:**
 - Marx believed that under capitalism, workers become alienated from the products of their labour, from the production process, from their own humanity, and from other workers.
4. **Surplus Value:**
 - This concept explains how capitalists generate profit by paying workers less than the value of what they produce, extracting the "surplus" for themselves.
5. **Communism:**
 - Marx envisioned a future society where the means of production would be communally owned, abolishing class distinctions and allowing for equitable distribution of resources.

Major Works:

- **The Communist Manifesto (1848):** Co-written with Friedrich Engels, this pamphlet outlines Marx's theory of class struggle and calls for proletarian revolution.
- **Das Capital (1867):** A detailed critique of political economy, focusing on how capitalism functions and exploits labour.

Legacy:

- Marx's ideas inspired numerous socialist movements worldwide, influencing revolutions, most notably the **Russian Revolution** of 1917.
- His theories laid the foundation for modern socialism and communism and continue to influence political theory, sociology, and economics today.

In essence, Karl Marx provided a framework to understand social inequalities and called for transformative action to establish a just and equitable society.