

Response Questions to “Communist Manifesto”

1) According to Marx, economic and intellectual interdependence will become greater as a market economy flourishes. A growing market economy will also cause the creation and development of means that make the economy grow even more. These means include improved transportation, communication, etc. As the market economy grows, its influence will spread from small neighborhoods to the whole world. A growing market economy brings more people to together so that rural workers and city workers, towns and metropolitan areas, and developing and industrial countries are all intertwined. As a result, according to Marx, the independence of cities, governments, and countries will disappear as they all become dependent under the market economy. Instead, what arise will be the bourgeoisie, the capitalist. The bourgeoisie will guide the market economy, which will in turn guide the countries and its people. These people who will be under the direction of the bourgeoisie will be the proletariats, the working class. These people will be subjected to the work, conditions, and rules of the bourgeoisie. These class distinctions will lead to problems, such as the class struggle between the bourgeoisie versus the proletariat, which is what Marx alluded to when he said the interdependence of economics and intellect is bad.

The market economy, with a bourgeoisie or working class or entrepreneur class, is prevalent in today's world. With the exception of a few countries and territories, the market economy affects everything from the country's economic policies to how much workers make in the United States and in India. The leaders of the today's governments are pushing for the globalization of the market, so that commerce can flourish even more,

something that Marx mentioned. The European Union was formed and has made trade and commerce easier between member nations. NAFTA was signed a few years back to make trading easier between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Technological advances have also stimulated the market. At first, it was just railroads, highways, and then airplanes, but now, even the internet and television has made people more aware of the market.

I find it true that the market economy and globalization has had a negative impact on the world. It has negatively influenced both developing and industrial countries. For industrial countries, the flourishing market economy has taken jobs away from them. For developing countries, the increased number of low-paying jobs has kept countries from getting any better. Many workers there will continue to work low-paying jobs, barring them from ever achieving anything better for themselves and their country.

3) Karl Marx makes ten points in the excerpt from the Communist Manifesto. The first and fourth ones are related: it calls for the abolition of land ownership. The second one calls for a progressive tax, but would seem pointless, since most people would have the same economic status. Number three calls for an end to inheritance rights, and whatever a deceased person leaves behind is for public use. Numbers five and six call for a centralization of banks, transportation, and communications under the direction of the government, which will do the best to support the people. Numbers seven, eight, and nine all deal with work. They call for improving agriculture and factories, and having everyone work equally to maintain and improve both agriculture and factories. Number nine also calls for an equal distribution of people throughout the country. The final one, number ten, calls for free education for children. In addition, it calls for a combination of

education and training in the industrial and agricultural field so children will have first-hand knowledge to help them when they work in agriculture and factories.

Since the world is becoming more westernized, and therefore more democratic, the abolition of land ownership is even less likely to happen. One of the foundations of democracy, at least in the United States, is the freedom to own property, and communism would go against that. A progressive tax is something wanted by many Americans, esp. ones who make less money, but unfortunately, many taxes today are regressive. A progressive tax would help the U.S. close the income gap. An end to inheritance rights would be an attack on the freedom for people to do whatever they want with their belongings (property, money, etc.), so that wouldn't happen in the United States. Some banks, communications, and transportation have been centralized in the United States, to mixed results. Some of the principles mentioned in seven, eight, and nine are being done in the United States, such as cultivating wastelands and combining agriculture with manufacturing. However, equal obligation of work could not be done because some people want to work less, or even work more if the incentive was a higher salary. In addition, a more equal distribution of people across the country is bad, since it has caused urban sprawl. However, sprawl is also a result of not distributing commercial and industrial areas with those people. Lastly, free education is practiced in the U.S., and education with agriculture and other industries, internships, are being done. However, free education is normally not as good as private education in the U.S.

In an increasingly democratic and free world, I find these ten points hard to implement. It'll take away too many individual rights. However, I think that the ten points would be helpful in countries which are in turmoil, and would need a strong

central state to bring things together. In those countries with turmoil, if people have too many rights, they will just end up helping themselves out, at the expense of society or the country as a whole. If the government would stress using the ten principles to improve all, then everyone and the whole country benefits, just at the expense of individual rights and freedoms. Hey, it'll be the greatest good for the greatest number of people. Some points which would be the easiest to implement in today's world is the free education, a centralization of banks, and an improvement in the factories and farmland.