

Marx and Weber

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Capitalism is characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, investments that are determined by private decisions, and prices, production, and distribution, of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market. Capitalism is an economy in which business owners can make their own decisions regarding their own products. The system of capitalism is based on the production of inequality. In capitalism, many people have had unequal opportunities and disparities in the distribution of resources. There were two men that were heavily involved in the concept of capitalism which was Karl Marx and Max Weber. These two men had strong opinions on how capitalism can harm society and how it can help society. While most people have positive or negative viewpoints of the economic system of capitalism Marx and Weber have viewpoints that the beliefs are clear for others to understand.

Karl Marx was born May 5, 1818, in Germany and later died March 14, 1883, in London, England. Karl Marx had many emotions against the concept of capitalism, he stated that capitalism is a mode of production based on inequality. What he meant by that is that it lacks people from having their own decisions. Marx was against capitalism and how it forces other nations into capitalism in order to make a profit. The capitalist system is run by the bourgeoisie and proletariat. Marx was not a fan of this because the bourgeoisie had so much more than others including factories, land, oil wells, and railroads. On the other hand, the proletariat which was the wage workers were the ones that were making a profit for the bourgeoisie. The proletariats were doing the work so the bourgeoisie can expand and continue to grow. Marx would eventually predict contradictions that the wage workers would move up to the ruling class meaning that the proletariats would have more power.

Max Weber was born on April 21, 1864, in Germany and later died on June 14, 1920, in Munich, Germany. Weber believed that cultural influences and religious beliefs are what lead to

capitalism. According to Giddens 1982, weber focused mainly on how the positively privileged sustain closure, but we can also apply the concept to the strategies of the "outsiders" or the subordinated groups themselves. Weber's idea of capitalism was built around the concept of rationalization. Rationalization is the success in this world and a sign of salvation in the next world. Weber was preparing a new introduction and footnotes for the reissue of *The Protestant Ethic* among his collected religious writings, in which he defended his original thesis about Calvinism. But his claims for its importance in the overall scheme of things were not large, and the well-rounded model which he presents in *General Economic History* does not even mention the doctrine of predestination. Instead, what we find is a predominantly institutional theory, in which religious organization plays a key role in the rise of modern capitalism but especially in conjunction with particular forms of political organization (Collins, 2018).

Marx and Weber had one thing in common when it came to capitalism. The one thing they had in common was focusing on the structure of capitalism and the inequality of capitalism. They both point out the negative aspect of capitalism from both viewpoints. Marx and Weber both knew that capitalism would be new to the modern world, and they knew how it could potentially harm human societies. They both had a way of getting through to the people, however, most people would lean more on the side of Weber's viewpoint of capitalism. Marx and Weber try to come up with different ways of capitalism because they both did not like each other views of capitalism and how it was presented.

Capitalism is still relevant today because the rich are going to continue to get rich because the government is not allowing the lower classes equal opportunities. The lower-income people have fewer chances rather than people of the working class and the middle-class have more to get from the government. Capitalism is all about competition in the free market and that

is why we see a lot of businesses competing to get more customers. Change is very important when it comes to capitalism because businesses have to learn how to adapt to them. Capitalism allows business owners to pass their business down to others and for them to keep the businesses going. Capitalism is still relevant because of all the freedom private owners have in the business industry. People with a higher class have more freedom because they do not have to work as much as the lower-income people. When it comes to capitalism the government supports the best business that has more profit coming in than others. Being that capitalism is such a powerful tool used in society it will never end because once it does money would mean nothing in this world.

In conclusion, Marx, and Weber both made major contributions to capitalist society. They both provided a scientific study to society for others to learn how capitalism functions. Weber viewed capitalism through the religion of Protestantism and Marx saw capitalism as an economic system. They both talked about how there are different viewpoints on the economic system and how they present society. Marx and Weber made it aware that there were many inequalities in the economic system of capitalism. Most people know how the capitalist system operates, but Marx and Weber made their viewpoints very clear and vague. Capitalism is a major part of how we are able to buy things and how we get paid for our jobs. As a society, we should try to come up with a solution to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity in the free market. Capitalism is a way for how business owners to keep making a profit and making money. But there should be a way for lower-income people to have a fair opportunity for jobs and government assistance rather than them doing everything on their own. Lower-income people should have as much opportunity as the higher class and should not be punished for the lifestyle they have. Some people are born into poverty, and they are nothing that anyone can do about it. So, we need to have more resources for lower-income people.

## References

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