

## How Marx, Weber and Durkheim would propose to maintain social order

*Some have argued that underlying all sociological theory is the question, "how is social order maintained?" Contrast how Marx, Weber, and Durkheim have answered this question.*

### Introduction

In the field of sociology, there are perhaps no greater influences than the thoughts and ideas presented by Karl Marx, Max Weber and Émile Durkheim. Their contribution to the understanding of social systems and the workings of society have been debated, discussed and written about ever since they first gave their ideas to the world. While their ideas may be popular to more or less the same degree, they actually take very different positions on how order is maintained in society. At the same time, there are certain similarities between the thoughts of these philosophers which can be discussed if an examination is made of each thinker's ideas.

### Karl Marx

Of the three sociologists mentioned in the question, Marx is the one who gives sociology the meaning of conflict. Even though his philosophical and moral discourses covered a wide range of topics, his ideas about class conflicts between the workers of the world and those who control the means of production were the ones which made him famous. The struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie coupled with the dominance of the bourgeoisie doesn't actually maintain social order since such a system is inherently instable according to Marx because a struggle between these classes is inevitable (McLellan, 1973).

Similar to the functionalist ideas presented by Durkheim, Marx presented the function of the bourgeoisie to control society because they controlled the means of production in the system. On the other hand, the proletariat simply has to depend on working as labor for the bourgeoisie simply because it is their natural function. While there is conflict between these classes, it is not necessarily evil or a step on the way to a revolution since the two classes can live with ease under a capitalist system which provides opportunities for all parties (Avineri, 1968).

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