

Essay on Social Conflict

Bourgeoisie and Proletarians

The Bourgeoisie and Proletarians are two groups of individuals in society where the Bourgeoisie completely control the means of productions of goods and services in society and the Proletarians are more or less dependent on them for their livelihood. This control is created through machinery, the division of labor and the meager wages given to the workers. However, even though the Bourgeoisie are controlling the Proletarians, they still depend on the Proletarians for normal and efficient functioning of society.

Sociology of Knowledge

Knowledge, like individuals is split into classes where a set of information and ideas is retained by the Bourgeoisie while other ideas are passed on to the Proletarians. This is much like the economic divide between the two groups which forms the basis of the social equation although it is not the total equation itself. Some parts of knowledge such as basic sciences and arts could be exempt from the divide but the ideology which is present in a given society is the creation of the Bourgeoisie as a further means of controlling the Proletarians.

Alienation

According to Marx, alienation is a situation where individuals in society are controlled by the forces which they themselves have created and even though the individuals are the creators of those elements, the elements become confrontational to them. For example, a person could be alienated from the majority religion of the country or the community s/he belongs to. For any individual this alienation can be a cause of conflict or of dissatisfaction with their own lives.

Dynamics of Social Change

Marx suggests that society begins with the struggle against nature and man is almost always in conflict with nature. However, as time passes social groups are formed and an inequality develops between these groups, when the inequality is realized and the Proletarians rise up against the Bourgeoisie, a revolution takes place which brings with it many social changes. However, with time, new groups form into the ones who control the means of production and the ones who work for them and the social cycle continues in this way.

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