

## The Communist Manifesto

*Outline the ideas in the section bourgeoisie and proletarians in the communist manifesto and consider if they have any relevance to contemporary society.*

The Communist Manifesto was first published in 1848 and was written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Fundamentally, the book deals with the program of the communist party as well as the purposes of its foundation. The book recommends a course of action which should be employed to bring about a revolution from the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. The aim of this revolution would be to overthrow a capitalist system which exploits workers and controls the means of production. The eventual aim of the revolution and of the party itself is to create a society that remains classless. Even though the book was written more than a hundred years ago, it still remains relevant today since the class struggle and the negative effects of capitalism remain present.

There are four distinct sections of the manifesto which include the preamble to the document, the section concerning the bourgeois and Proletarians, and another section about the Communists and Proletarians. The last two sections concern socialist and communist literature as well as the position of the communists with regard to existing parties. For the purposes of this paper, the importance of the preamble and the first section concerning the Bourgeois and the Proletarians is very significant. This is because the relevance of the ideas presented in those sections can be shown as applicable to the developments taking place today.

For example, the Preamble begins with the comparison of communism to a monster which is feared around the world but that which is understood by only a few. The situation remains true even today since there are considerable enemies to the American way of life which we are told exist everywhere. These enemy combatants, terrorists or any other name given to them applies to people who may be living within our cities. The threat of harm therefore is not from external sources but also domestic. It can certainly be asked how much do we know about the ideas and motives of the enemy and what misunderstandings exist between us and them. Much in the same manner as communism was thought to be a threat, but not understood at all, particularly during the cold war.

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