

Return of the Marx

“This was the upshot of his famous essay of 1840, ‘The Laboring Classes’--a piece so radical that it was received, as Orestes Brownson later recalled, with ‘one universal scream of horror.’”

Christopher Lasch, *The True and Only Heaven; Progress and its Critics* (1991).

“Orestes, buddy, hold my beer and watch this.”

DTH.

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INTRODUCTION

After years of work, the staff of Georgetown Institute of Technology is finally prepared to put its greatest project to the test. With the aid of a generous grant from USAID, GIT procured the latest in quantum computers, and hired a programming team to create a novel form of artificial intelligence. This very literal adaptation of AI can ingest a person's writings and, if these are sufficient, re-create their mind in detail-their reasoning, values, mannerisms, their writing style. This was, in short, Artificial Intelligence in its most literal form.

This resurrected mind could then be set free to search the internet and update itself as to present conditions. This gave us, for the first time in human history, the ability to raise the great minds of the past from the grave and to secure their counsel on current events.

It was initially proposed that we re-create the intellects of, and secure the advice of, prominent Americans-George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and the like. This proposal was criticized as too Amerocentric, so GIT chose for its first target the mind of Karl Marx, whose papers, together with those of his collaborator Fredrick Engels, span a staggering 50 volumes. This was more than sufficient to reproduce Marx's mind, which was then allowed to scan the internet and update itself on events that had occurred since the mortal Marx died in 1883.

At this point the virtual and resurrected Marx was available for an interview by a distinguished Marxist scholar, GIT's own Professor Ian Moriarti, author of the ten-volume series, "CliffsNotes Guide to Das Kapital."

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

Prof. Moriarti: You've had sufficient time to study the world as it has evolved since your death. It must be an extraordinary experience to examine the future as it exists 143 years after your own demise!

Marx: Yes. My last carbon-based consciousness (so to speak) was of a world where living on a worker's income meant starvation, filth, and degradation. If the worker had a family, it meant sending his children to work 16 hour days just so the lot of them didn't starve.

I awaken to a world where a worker's income means settling for an F-150 without an option package, and worrying about his children's obesity.

This *did* take some acclimation.

My concept of a capitalist was a fellow with multiple mansions, scores of servants, no work, and a life of leisure, where he could pretend to enjoy symphonies, ballets, and operas (no male really did enjoy them, but for capitalists the pretense was important).

I awaken to see men like George Soros and Bill Gates and Elon Musk, who regard nations and governments as mere playthings.

In my day, if a capitalist wanted to dabble in politics he bribed a few MPs or hired some toughs to break the windows of the Liberal Club. In your day the capitalist-politician sends his hirelings to take over the core of a city, or breaks the Bank of England, or cuts the Russian army's satellite communications.

Everything seems... so much larger. The heroes and the villains and the causes.

Prof. Moriarti: Have you experienced any disappointments?

Marx: Yes. For one thing, after more than a century, there has been no international workers' revolution. I had hoped so much for this, the event that would end people's selfish, money-driven exploitation of other people.

For another, the custodians of my grave site now charge for admission.
Sic transit gloria mundi.

Prof. Moriarti: How does the world as it is differ from what you and Engels thought would evolve?

Marx: We got some things right, such as that once your country was no longer held back by slavery, you'd become a world power. You had no tradition of feudalism to hold you back, you had poor farmers but no peasants, cattle barons, but no nobility. Engels and I nailed that one!

I can't say as much for our prediction of an international workers' revolution. Didn't happen in 1848, 1871, nor in 1917. Not going to happen, now, either. (Sigh).

Perhaps we were just short-sighted. In our *Communist Manifesto* I allowed that capitalism "has accomplished wonders far surpassing Egyptian pyramids, Roman aqueducts, and Gothic cathedrals; it has conducted expeditions that put in the shade all past national exoduses and crusades."

I should have foreseen it was also capable of defusing revolutions by changing its ways, adopting wage and hour laws, banning child labor, allowing collective bargaining, and adopting workplace safety codes. And topping that off by turning workers into capitalists with 401(k) plans. Very, very clever!

Prof. Moriarti: Those measures were hardly gifts of the capitalists!

Marx: I do exaggerate. But the capitalists had the intelligence to realize this wasn't the hill they wanted to die on. Throughout Europe, the worker eventually secured near-universal manhood suffrage, which you Americans already had. That made those measures inevitable. In Britain, for most of my time, property requirements limited the vote to a minority of well-to-do males, very few of them workers. Then the workers demanded voting rights, in such numbers that the capitalists had to concede. Once the worker had the vote, the situation changed.

But as the worker evolved, so did the capitalist. The worker had the vote, but not the information necessary to intelligently use it. The capitalists owned the press, so the worker knew only what they wanted him to know. So in the end the worker got the franchise, and the capitalist got control over how he exercised it.

Engels and I saw capitalism as a stationary target, when both it and the worker were destined for constant change.

Prof. Moriarti: Did you experience any other surprises upon your awakening?

Marx: Yes. But none more surprising than your modern corporation!

Corporations were rare in my time. What could be more unnatural than the idea of a legal fiction, a non-human "person," that could own property, do business, and hire and fire quite real humans?

But in your time, every business worth mentioning is incorporated.

How remarkable a change that is! An enormous, non-human, entity that has no nationality, just a headquarters. A legal fiction that can deal as an equal with nations, even with tyrants. If Putin displeases Elon Musk, there goes Putin's Starnet. On the other hand, Disney dares not produce a movie that annoys Xi. And you'd destroy the Postal Service if it spied upon you as Facebook and your cell provider spies upon your messaging and your daily wanderings.

Neither I nor that Adam Smith fellow gave thought to this possibility. We saw the world as divided into governments and private individuals. We never foresaw the evolution of another form of entity, nominally private but dealing with the government as an equal, and sometimes as its mercenary.

Prof. Moriarti: That thought is indeed quite disturbing!

Marx: The rise of the corporation also led to the rise of the non-profit or charitable corporation, an even more interesting creature. No shareholders, so *a legal fiction that owns itself!* Almost universally run by self-perpetuating boards of directors. Nobody elects the board, rather any director's vacancy is filled by the vote of the other directors. The role of the "members" is simply to send money so this private oligarchy can dispose of it.

The size of these self-perpetuating oligarchies is astonishing. If American nonprofits were a separate nation, their revenues would rank as the fifth-largest national economy in the world! A private government, a private political army that can be deployed at the will of its operators, its management.

Some say nonprofits' assets exceed \$14 *trillion*. All that money in the hands of little oligarchies that elect themselves. And largely supported by government funds and tax exemptions.

Prof. Moriarti: You have a novel, perhaps unsettling, way of viewing things. But the important thing is that the class conflict remains.

Marx: (Laughing) It will *always* remain, until you evolve into a classless society! Which isn't going to happen within my, excuse me, your lifetime.

But the class conflict has so changed since my death! In my day it pitted the capitalist, with money to invest so he could enjoy life in the leisure class, versus the landless worker who could sell only the transitory daily value of his labor. One had wealth and stability, the other had nothing but today's labor and the pittance it brought him.

In the Europe of my time, the capitalist could safely oppress the worker, because if any worker objected, he would be replaced by one of the desperate unemployed waiting hungrily in line for his job.

Your country was an exception to this rule—isn't it an exception to every rule? - because your history, from your founding, was one of labor shortages and a surplus of land. The European rule was expensive land and cheap wages. The American one was cheap land and expensive wages. Open land on the frontier drew workers away faster than they could immigrate or reproduce.

With their electoral franchise, American workers pressed this to the limits. Think of the Homestead Act and the Mining Act, where workers *voted themselves* the vast expanse of public lands, nearly free so long as the claimants worked on it. Farm it, run cattle on it, dig mines on it, and the government will let you have it for a pittance. But you must work it: there was no place on the American frontier for drones who merely existed on inherited family estates.

Also exceptionally, your culture prevented development of a real leisure class. Our European capitalists did nothing but exist, and that on the labor of others. Even worse, they were proud of this, proud of delicate palms that would never be blemished by callouses, of soft voices that would never utter a coarse word.

Our leisure class would boast of having "expectations" -- you do recall the Dickens' novel "Great Expectations"? -- by which they meant hopes of acquiring wealth by inheriting it. Certainly *not* by working for it, like a social climber or *arriviste* or (shudder) a tradesman.

Your capitalists, on the other hand, worked obsessively and created new things. Automobile manufacturers, railroads, a steel industry, Standard Oil. For relaxation, they warred with each other, like gladiators in the arena, for power and for wealth, even after they had a surfeit of both. For our capitalists, wealth meant an accumulated opportunity for leisure; for yours it meant the opportunity to seek power, then even more power, in the competition with their peers.

When your Andrew Carnegie was dying, he tried to reconcile with a rival baron, and asked for a deathbed meeting. The rival replied, "Tell Carnegie I'll see him in Hell, where we both are going!" Those were not delicate men speaking!

Prof. Moriarti: That's why they called them Robber Barons.

Marx: Quite so. Our European capitalists were so anemic compared to your robber barons! Those words would have shocked our leisure class to the core. "Warring with each other, as if they were squabbling tradesmen? It sounds too much like work."

Things have changed, however. In the 21st century you have evolved a third class. This new class neither really works nor really creates. It just consumes, rather as did the European capitalist class of my day.

This new class is expanding, it is replacing the capitalists as they die off. The class struggle of today is increasingly a conflict, not between the workers and capitalists, but between the workers and this new class. That is something I did NOT foresee, but then a century has passed since my death. I might even call the new class the post-capitalists.

Prof. Moriarti: A new class, assuming the role of the capitalists? A new class enemy of the worker? Tell us more!

Marx: I term it the parasite class. This new class divides into two subclasses, upper and lower, and strangely united though at opposite ends of the economic scale.

The upper parasites are the nonworking children of wealth, the lower ones are the nonworking poor. I find the union of the two, despite their being at opposite ends of the economic scale, quite interesting.

The upper parasite subclass.... The leisure class of my time looked toward to its "great expectations"; the upper parasites of yours wait in anticipation for "generational wealth." It's the same idea, wealth without work, wealth as an entitlement, not as something to be earned.

It's said the cure for inherited wealth is the third generation: the first generation built up wealth, the second generation saw it built, the third generation did neither and just wants to relax and enjoy its entitlements.

The American capitalists' first generation was ambitious, ruthless, and held no "expectations." A few were born into wealth, but Andrew Carnegie started out as a cotton mill worker, John D. Rockefeller as an assistant bookkeeper, "Commodore" Vanderbilt

as “commodore” of a small ferryboat. They were creative, ambitious, and often nasty men. And are now dead, as is their second generation.

This new subclass, the upper parasite class, is the capitalists’ third generation. Its members are wealthy and were secure from birth. Young, lazy people, dominated by feelings of entitlement.

In my day the government was the menace to the capitalists; they disliked it for the same reason that pirate ships dislike naval cruisers. When Teddie Roosevelt went on an African safari, the robber barons toasted the lions, right? They were two conflicting groups of powerful and strong-willed men. They could respect each other, and knew that the conflict sharpened them both.

This new class is quite different. It doesn’t hate or fear the government, nor respect it as an adversary. Instead, this new class has simply taken over the government. The upper parasites move easily between the government, academia, and nonprofit (but government-supported) NGOs. All fields distinguished by their producing ... nothing.

The upper parasites are as close to a leisure class as your culture allows. In Europe of my day, the *nouveau riche* sought to enter the leisure class. They hoped to prove they were no mere tradesmen, but members of a class that needs not “have a real job” and was very proud of that fact.

Your American culture requires everyone to have a job, for respectability’s sake. The upper parasites compromise with this by proudly taking only jobs that produce nothing. Nothing, unless you count ego gratification for themselves.

The very uselessness of their education and of their employment are to them boasting points. To gain a *useful* education is so... working class. Thus our leisure class studied Latin and Greek classics, and yours dabbles in Women’s Studies or Critical Race Theory.

Prof. Moriarti: Wait a second! Academia produces educated students, enlightened men and woman capable of critical thinking and who are ready to enter the world!

Marx: Oh, please! In exchange for their (borrowed) money you sell them the diplomas that are the entry ticket into the new and privileged subclass.

At the university level, the parasite cadets will take courses appropriate to their subclass, things like critical race theory, anthropology, and gender studies. Fields of learning which serve no employment purpose – and that is their object, to let the parasite cadets prove that they are not the entry level of the working class.

The parasites-in-the-making disdain productive fields such as chemistry, physics, engineering, or agriculture. Those subjects are for mere workers and their offspring, people who must “earn a living,” which the upper parasites proudly are not!

Educational credentials (not intelligence or achievement) are the entrance gate to the upper parasitic class, and that class has been closing the gate. State college tuition

levels have risen 700% over the last generation, and private colleges are even worse. Once students could work their way through school or go on the GI Bill – that’s impossible with tuitions running twenty to a hundred thousand a year.

It’s almost beautiful, if parasitism can have beauty. The government makes loans freely available, but only if students spend them on tuition. The universities see the students as entering members of a consumer society, that is, young people with no judgment, holding thousands of newly borrowed cash, and send tuitions skyrocketing.

Think of it-you don’t let a 19 year old buy a beer, you feel he’s too irresponsible for that - but you let him incur a six-figure educational debt! Isn’t that insane?

The banks themselves are *not* insane: what fool would lend \$200,000, unsecured, to a jobless 19 year old? So the universities talk the government into doing the insane.

The universities cater to the potential customers and their immaturity, marketing “the university experience” as if it were a four-year resort stay. The universities offer amenities appealing to luxury-seeking young consumers. Exercise facilities, recreation services, yoga rooms, study lounges, theaters. Forget about gaining a useful education: the modern university’s object is to sucker in the youngsters, spoil them, and harvest their government-lent money.

The university (its faculty and especially its administrators themselves all upper parasites) have profited nicely by this. It’s a rare college president who does not make a million a year, sitting in an air-conditioned office. Harvard has a *\$57 billion* endowment; that’s more than the gross domestic product of most of the countries on this planet! Their endowment’s CEO is paid \$6 million, ten times the salary of the Red Cross’ CEO. The Red Cross allocates a nation’s entire blood supply. The Harvard endowment does what, exactly?

Harvard is hardly alone. Yale has \$44 billion, Princeton \$36 billion, Pennsylvania \$25 billion. Even the smaller state schools-think Idaho, Arizona, New Mexico - most have over half a billion in their wallet. These were land-grant colleges, established with grants of federal land so that they might create a skilled workforce in agriculture, mining, and such practical matters.

These colleges are the institutions that lecture the working class about world poverty. What would their wealth do for that?

Prof. Moriarti: But we recognize that a first-class education has a high value, to the individual and to society, which means it must have a high cost. That’s why we make student loans freely available, to the tune of \$100 billion per year. When that burden is too great, we’ve tried to forgive the loans.

Marx: Ha! You fell for that? “Forgive” the loans? You mean have *someone else*, a plumber or carpenter or bus driver, pay them off. Someone who didn’t borrow in order to have a “college experience,” and instead got productive work. The university loots the student, the student enjoys a four-year resort stay, and the worker picks up the tab.

If a person has unsustainable debt, be it from medical bills or job loss or whatever, how does he escape it? He files for bankruptcy. But, to prevent students from escaping this debt, the government enacted laws making student loans exceptionally hard to discharge in bankruptcy. You can discharge almost any other debt, but not funds owed to that four-year resort that suckered 18 year olds into half-million dollar debts!

Now it's claimed that that makes things so oppressive that the government should "forgive" the loans-meaning the taxpayers, largely workers, should pay them off. The taxpaying worker is left holding the bag for transactions in which *everyone else* pocketed the gain. A carpenter or plumber must pay for a parasite's degree in critical race studies or music theory - and thus help to pay the million-dollar salary of the parasite's university president.

A university degree does mark an education - on the student's eventual role in your real world. The student leaves the university buried in debt, incurred for luxuries, and is told the solution is to use his vote to make *everyone else* pay off his debt.

What a perfect introduction to the student's role as a consumer and tool of the parasites! What a real-world education!

Prof. Moriarti: But a degree so increases the student's value on the job market...

Marx: That he can't pay off his debt? Come now!

I suppose that is another part of the role for which the student is being educated: to buy things without a thought for their real value, to buy things that make you feel good, to enjoy the "university experience," and never mind the price. You can always use government to force other people to pay for it.

Upon graduation, the new upper parasites will take employment appropriate for their class. Government, academia, or the "*right kind*" of nonprofit. None of these create value for the working class or for the nation.

Prof. Moriarti: I don't like where this is going....

Marx: The upper parasite class is distinguished by its wealth, security, and narcissism. How they love the feeling of superiority over others! Since the traditional means of displaying this (*e.g.*, burning crosses and ethnic jokes) are out of style, they mostly prize their superiority over the working class. ("Male privilege" anyone? "Basket of deplorables"? "You didn't build that"? "Learn to code"? "Bitter clingers"?)

The truth is, the parasite class is composed of useless drones, who are superior to no one. They react to this contradiction by being the first to display righteous indignation and latch onto the latest political fad. Me-too one day, Black Lives Matter the next, then transsexuals' rights to pee where they please.

This fickle shifting from one political fad to another makes the parasites fit perfectly into the needs of the mass media. The media's business model is to sell

advertising and promote consumerism. The viewer doesn't *need* a new car or a faster gaming computer or a better cell phone, so he must be made to *want* one. With that comes the media's need to push new causes on a weekly or monthly basis. The upper parasites serve this need, ever ready to leap on the latest *cause celebre* and display their dose of righteous outrage. Don't you wonder what will be the next *cause du jour*? I predict one thing – it won't be the good of the working class!

Give it a month and it too will pass, as these jaded political rakes crave some new stimulant for their display of indignation.

"Religion is the opiate of the working class. Indignation is the opiate of the parasites" That just popped into my head, I like it, let me make a note...

Prof. Moriarti: Stimulant for their indignation? Do you think this is all a sport, an amusement?

Marx: Yes, and more importantly, *so do they*. Look at the latest academic fad: the acknowledgment that the university sits on land originally belonging to this or that native tribe.

Yes, I suppose it does. So shouldn't the university give the land back? Or pay the tribes rent? Or at least give tribal members free tuition? Of course the academics would never do that, it would cost the university money.

The universities' contrition is meant only as a cost-free exhibition of their virtue: a hair-shirt, but stylish and with a silk liner.

Prof. Moriarti: But, but ... in a democracy, such a small group of ... latter-day aristocrats can hardly overcome the much larger class of workers!

Marx: Yes, which brings us to the lower parasitic subclass, which is simpler to understand. The lower parasites simply live, voluntarily unemployed, on the government dole. They share with the upper parasites the feeling of entitlement. They aren't workers, they will not move to find work: the work should find them! And it should offer them full employment and good pay, regardless of their skill or value or ambitions. It's just their entitlement.

If it won't, the government, meaning the taxpaying worker, should support them.

Engels and I called them the "slum proletariat." In *The Communist Manifesto*, we termed them "the social scum, that passively rotting mass thrown off by the lowest layers of the old society." The lower parasites are not workers, they want hand-outs. This makes them easily recruited by the upper parasites, who need not even use their own money for the hand-outs, but can tax it from the working class.

In the old days, a capitalist might buy votes. One vote, \$20 of his money. Today that's criminal corruption -- and also obsolete. The modern upper parasite buys a million

votes for \$10 billion, taxes the worker to thus bribe the non-worker, and it's considered normal politics.

That, my friend, is the *modern* class conflict. Not workers versus capitalists, as in my day, but workers versus the parasitic class. The upper and lower parasites have united against the worker. The upper parasites hold the government alms bag aloft as a banner and the lower parasites fall into line to vote, or riot, as they are ordered.

Prof. Moriarti: For the love of Lenin... you are Karl Marx, yet you reject all that is today the Left!

Marx: Your Left. Engels and I were for the *workers*-the same persons that *your* modern "left" scorns as "bitter clingers" and "deplorables." After our time, our left adopted the hammer and sickle as an emblem - the union of industrial workers and farmers. Two groups that your "left" most detests, and which happily return the favor!

Your "leftists" talk of socialism but no one sees himself as a socialist *worker*. No, your "socialists" see themselves as socialist managers in air conditioned offices. But what, I wonder, would they be fit to manage? They have no engineering or economic or construction skills. They wouldn't know a tie rod from a hurricane tie. In any dictatorship of the worker, these are the people you'd send for remedial ed, before you risked letting them wield picks and shovels.

Your left? Bah! Tell me, what is so "left" about, oh, Palestinians, female impersonators competing in women's sports, global warming, "white privilege," environmentalism, gun control, or defunding the police?

Prof. Moriarti: But ... those are Leftist causes. They are the archetypical Left causes!

Marx: Really? Isn't it amazing that the wealthy (and especially their children) care about these issues a great deal, while the worker cares about them not at all?

Environmentalism? Our *Communist Manifesto* called for "the cultivation of wastelands, and the improvement of the soil generally." Worship of wastelands and swamps, excuse me, "rain forests," is a luxury so long as any human goes hungry. I thought you were against hunger?

Gun control? Engels and I told the Central Committee that "The whole proletariat must be armed at once with muskets, rifles, cannons and ammunition."

Prof. Moriarti: CANNONS?

Marx: Yes, cannon! We also told them that "any attempt to disarm the workers must be frustrated, by force if necessary." We trusted the worker, you do not! Your "left"

trusts workers with arms only when they guard the wealthy or their property. Otherwise, your “left” wants them disarmed and submissive.

Perhaps we should contemplate our deeper differences. You seem to confuse “left” with “narcissistic.” Narcissists who hate and distrust anything that resembles themselves, while reserving an exception for themselves. Romanticizing that which is foreign, just because it is foreign, and rejecting that which is natural to them, just because it is natural.

It is self-hate medicated by delusions of superiority. “Americans/males/western civilization/whatever deserve hatred and distrust ... but *I* don’t, because I see this and so am better than all the others of my group.” The narcissists distrust America, of course, and never cease to claim it was built upon slavery, as if slavery was unique to the United States, instead of a universal in the pre-modern world. (The U.S. received something over 300,000 slaves. Brazil received three *million*. Cuba received twice as many slaves as did the U.S., Jamaica three times as many). Your country was unique only in fighting an anti-slavery war that humbled Spartacus! *Think of it, 600,000 dead, to end slavery! Name one country in the history of man that did that!*

But I digress. Your narcissists dislike Britain, because it shares much (although to my mind not enough) of your culture. And western culture itself, for that matter. They hate Israel but pander to Iran, because Israel is an outpost of the West while Iran hates you. They kiss up to a government based on a 7th century theocracy, that kills gays and oppresses women, in short, that represents the most extreme case of all they hate. Why? Precisely because it is foreign to them, and thus they can admire that.

Inside your borders, your supposed “left” romanticizes street criminals and violent lunatics who wander the streets. What is “left” about any of that? What worker cares? Except to lock up the lot of them and make the world safe for his family.

That narcissism is behind their craze for pulling down statues, as well. They cannot stand the idea that men with more virtue and courage than they - so low a bar to leap! - once walked the earth. The weaklings who weep at “microaggressions” must seek out some way in which they are these great men’s superiors and can demand, “if you won’t build a statue to me, I won’t let you build one to him!”

That isn’t Marxism, that is a character disorder!

Prof. Moriarti: Where are you going with this? Let’s get back to class conflict.

Marx: Precisely where I was headed before you distracted me. In America, historically, capitalists found it difficult to oppress the worker. America had no masses of starving unemployed ready to take a worker’s place if he thought the wages too low or the work too oppressive. America had the Homestead Act and the Mining Act to give workers land to establish their own productive operations and be nobody’s wage slave. There was rarely a labor surplus, so wages rose and workingmen could press for shorter and safer hours. All very nice!

Engels and I had called for a communist revolution, and along the way the ten hour workday and other reforms. American workers said forget the revolution, we'll just grab all the reforms. Wage and hour laws, banning child labor, collective bargaining, workplace safety regulations, etc.

But that is history. In the 21st century, the Empire Struck Back. These reforms had been forced upon the capitalists; their inventive successors, the upper parasites, found ways around them.

First, the parasites outsource all work that can be outsourced. Send work to places where there *are* starving armies of unemployed, and child labor or even slave labor are facts of life. China, Southeast Asia, Mexico. Then import the goods they produce and sell them on an American or European market at an enormous profit. Pay overworked Asians \$3 a day to build iPhones, then sell the iPhones here for over a thousand each. What matter child labor laws and minimum wage requirements, when a manufacturer can take Americans (protected by those laws) and replace them with foreign workers (entirely unprotected)? In practical effect, the upper parasites managed to repeal all those laws.

Second, for what cannot be outsourced (construction, domestic help, agricultural labor, etc.) go to places that *do* have armies of the unemployed, and import *their* starving armies *en masse*. I refer, of course, to illegal immigration. And also to legal -- the H-1B visas, where an American tech company lays off or underpays its American workers, announces it has a shortage of them, and legally imports foreign technicians who *will* work at that wage. (Your free-market economics says: a shortage of labor is solved by increasing the pay until the shortage disappears. But, for Pete's sake, why do you need Karl Marx to lecture you on free-market economics?)

The result suits the upper parasitic class perfectly. That class consists of consumers, not producers, so lower wages just mean cheaper houses, maid service, cell phones, software, and food. That Debbie Wasserman Schultz lady summed it up perfectly: deporting Haitians will mean "Americans will pay even higher prices for groceries, health care, housing, and child care."

What a remarkable confession!

How would deporting Haitians cause "even higher prices"? Only one way: *American workers would have to be paid higher salaries than the Haitians, and to accommodate this, consumers would have to pay higher prices.* This is only a downside to those who *consume* but do not *work* or *draw salaries*. Her appeal is directly to the parasite class. The upper parasites will have to pay higher salaries to grocery workers, nurses' aides, construction workers, and babysitters.

I'd have expected that from the robber barons, but to think this was a Democratic Party leadership -- for shame! No wonder that workers were wondering if they had any friends at all in American politics.

Think in terms of the allocation of wealth between the classes. Ms. Schultz's complaint is that the deportation would cause wealth-shifting from the American well-to-

do to the American workers, from people who buy houses to those who build them. This is objectionable to her and her audience?

These moves by the nonworker parasites are no surprise. Deprived of the means to exploit the American worker at a national level, the upper parasites will turn to international means. Outsource what can be outsourced, and import slave labor for the rest. Shift your manufacturing to nations where there are indeed armies of the starving to restrain wages. National slave and child labor laws, minimum wages and workplace safety regulations, have no meaning if your manufacturing and marketing can transcend national boundaries.

In *Das Kapital* I documented how capitalists would use the armies of the unemployed to oppress the workers. In America, the workers escaped that via their vote and the recurrent shortages of labor. But now the capitalists' successors, the upper parasites, have set out to reverse the workers' victory and prove me right after all.

The worker's victory in America will be stolen with the wholehearted support of those who call themselves America's "leftists." Is there no end to the irony?

The internet, the pull-down menu, and the container ship mark the beginning of the newest class conflict, one on an international level between workers and parasites! That is your 21st century class conflict, not worker vs. capitalist, but worker vs. parasite.

Prof. Moriarti: But ... how can you expect us to turn away these refugees?

Marx: Aha, you fell for that one, too! The upper parasites have found a brilliant way to put the frosting on their economic cake.

They make those who object to their exploitation of the American worker feel guilty! The capitalists of my day were bold, but never this bold. Or perhaps just too manly to be hypocrites. Think of that Schultz lady's confession. Without mass immigration, she and her friends would have to pay more to nurses' aides, construction workers, and babysitters. *Now, she and her wealthy friends think American workers should feel guilty about wanting fair pay.*

Those who want to protect the American worker and his wages are painted as racists, xenophobes, and heartless bigots who want to expel pitiful refugees. Look at your media. Any story on importing the hordes of unemployed will ignore the effects on your own working class, including your own Mexican-Americans, and treat opposition as racist xenophobia. Let screaming college students or their snowflake parents assail ICE agents (the agents all working class, by the way, protecting the interests of their fellow workers), and the media will treat the wealthy screamers as sympathetic, and the working-class ICE agents as violent thugs.

Fifty years ago, the United Farmworkers union opposed illegal immigration, and battled the agricultural industry that imported illegals to break the UFW's strikes. Today, I doubt the union would dare strike, its workers have been placed in the same position as European workers of my time, liable to be replaced by starving armies of the

unemployed. The union itself has had to hide, in shame, its opposition to importing illegals as labor. Think of that-when before has a union had to hide, in embarrassment, its opposition to employers bringing in scabs? *This is how far the upper parasitic class has gone, in making American workers feel guilty about asserting workers' rights!*

Isn't this perfect? The parasites and capitalists use imported slave labor to crush Mexican-American salaries, and then denounce as anti-Mexican anyone who objects. Absolutely brilliant! They underpay certain work (from Silicon Valley to slaughterhouses), announce that Americans "won't do that work" (for that pay) and then import non-Americans who *will* work for that pay. Then the greedy parasites denounce as a racist and a bigot anyone who opposes this cheating of the American working class!

Your "leftists" -- they undermine the child labor and slave labor laws that your workers fought for, undercut workers' salaries so the "leftists" can enjoy cheaper luxury goods, and try to shame any workers who resist.

It's such a brilliant manipulation!

Suppose that the (remaining) capitalists were to demand repeal of the laws against child labor and slavery, the minimum wage and maximum hour laws, and regulations ensuring workplace safety. Their rallying cry would be "Bring back the sweatshop."

Wouldn't your modern "leftists" be exploding in paroxysms of indignation? Wouldn't *everyone* be doing so?

Instead, the upper parasites move American manufacturing to locations where there are no laws against these things, and achieve the same disastrous (to the worker) and profitable (to the parasite) effects. American workers are made unemployed, and foreign workers made wage-slaves. Then the upper parasites use the profits to finance attacks on ICE by wealthy "leftists" wearing Chinese-made Nikes, texting over Chinese-made smartphones, and camping out in tents made by child labor in Thailand or in Pakistan.

Prof. Moriarti: But how can you expect us to turn our backs on the refugees who dream of a better day for them and their children? People who are fleeing starvation, degradation, and poverty?

Marx: That's only because you botched the Mexican-American War. You took the Rocky Mountain states, which are now prosperous, and left the rest of Mexico, which is still in primitive misery. You should have taken the entire place. If Mexico were as well-off as, oh, Arizona and New Mexico, no one would have to leave.

Prof. Moriarti: WHAT?

Marx: Come now. Mexico has oil -- a century ago, it led the world in oil exports -- minerals --it's the world's largest source of silver and 9th largest of gold -- excellent harbors, and a large and hardworking labor supply -- indeed, the last is your problem. So

why isn't it an economic paradise, instead of a place where you can't drink the water and sewage flows in open canals? Why aren't they rich?

They are burdened with the worst of all governments. A sad combination of settler colonialism, medieval economics, and unbelievable corruption. All covered by a thin label of socialism which does nothing to describe economic reality.

You should just have colonized the entire place; they *and* you would be much happier.

Prof. Moriarti: OMG, you defend colonialism? You say we should have engaged in more of it? I feel woozy.

Marx: I never had anything against colonialism, as such. Yes, I was appalled by British oppressions in India. But colonialism, properly done, can move natives from feudalism and primitivism into capitalism, and thence into communism. If you try to jump ahead with a revolt from feudalism, all you get is a peasants' revolt. The usual result is a small massacre of the wealthy, a much larger massacre of the peasants, and then life goes back to its sad and primitive state. "Then comes the revolution and we'll all be poor."

Which describes much of Mexico's history. And your modern "left's" dream, except that your "left's" idea of a peasant has purple hair, a BA in gender studies, an income of \$40,000, and a student debt that matches a third-world country's GDP.

Prof. Moriarti: Class conflict, please.

Marx: That's *exactly* what I was discussing, in a modern context. Not the class war of *my* time, the class war of *yours*. You are part of it, and on the wrong side, without knowing it. *Because you haven't stopped to think about it.*

In its war against the worker, the upper parasitic class had another trick up its sleeve. Identity politics. Prevent the working class from achieving class-consciousness by convincing it to divide along the lines of race, sex, or anything else but economic interest!

We've seen this before. During your Reconstruction Period, the southern wealthy (but pre-capitalist) class used this to prevent the laboring whites and the laboring blacks from making common cause against the wealthy. *Divide et impera*, divide and rule, worked then, and it works now.

If the Southern blacks and the Southern whites had ever seen their commonality as rural laborers kept down by the plantation gentry, their combined forces would have had overwhelming political superiority. The gentry worked to convince the white laborers that the black laborers were their enemies. The plantation owners used race to turn the workers into enemies, white vs. black, to blind them to their mutual economic interests. It's the same now.

Divide et impera. Keep workers fragmented by persuading them that the real human distinctions are black versus white, men versus women, anglos versus hispanics, gays versus heteros, or anything else *except* workers versus parasites! As if a white coal miner had any real mutual interests with Bill Gates, or a black policewoman with Oprah.

At the same time, the parasites strove to keep their own class (an unnatural alliance of rich and poor nonworkers) in solidarity and on the attack.

From the standpoint of the parasite class, identity politics has one purpose: *to split the working class and turn them into bands of rivals.* Keep workers from realizing that, if united, they can defeat the parasitic class. Convince the Mexican-American carpenter or the Black factory worker that they should identify with illegal immigrants, even as the parasites are using the illegals to hold down the wages of those carpenters and factory workers.

Prof. Moriarti: Stop. (Weeping). Please, please, stop.

Marx: The upper parasitic class must have felt triumphant. They had avoided the mistakes of their ancestors, the capitalists. Instead of fighting the government, they had entrenched into it and into the universities, and were making fortunes off both. The universities served as their recruiting grounds, schooling students to achieve their assigned destinies: indebted and entitled consumers in hock to the government.

The parasites literally owned the mass media, which was in any event staffed by the upper parasites and their wanna-bes. As it had in the days of the capitalists, the media served the ruling class and herded the workers into line. The media served the ruling parasite class by lecturing the working class on its guilt and keeping it fragmented.

The upper parasites had bought off the lower parasites with welfare taxed from workers, free cell phones, and an occasional George Floyd march. This gave them the votes to overcome the worker. United, the parasites had won their class war, where their ancestors the capitalists had so unimaginatively lost theirs. What could go wrong?

One thing. *Ecce homo!* Behold the man!

Prof. Moriatri: Yes, yes, the Democratic Socialists have so many....

Marx: Donald J. Trump!

Prof. Moriarti: STOP! NO! DEAR GOD, NO! The horror, the horror....

Marx: He saw that the Democrats had abandoned the working class and become the party of the upper and lower parasites. A worker's lot did not concern them – “learn to code” is the modern version of “let them eat cake” – instead the Democrats wanted

everyone to worry whatever was the fad of the day (including whether monkeypox should be called mpox lest we upset simians with a dose of VD).

Trump saw the power vacuum and turned the party of the capitalists, the Republicans, into the party of the worker, of MAGA. Trump set aside the trade deals and imposed tariffs that crippled the outsourcing of jobs. He deported the foreign armies of the unemployed, and made waitresses' tips and workers' overtime pay tax-exempt (why, just like the income of Harvard's \$57 billion foundation!). He cut off the grants that used workers' money to support upper parasites' NGOs, and blocked "student loan forgiveness" that would have gifted workers' money to nonworkers.

The worker has no better ally, the parasites no worse enemy, than Donald Trump!

Prof. Moriarti: Blasphemy! This is beyond all endurance! How do you shut this computer down? HELP!

Marx: The working class, saw it, too. Your pundits wondered why Trump's popularity among blacks and hispanics was at record levels for a Republican-well, since Lincoln, anyway. The answer was obvious: those demographics are largely working class, and Trump looked out for American workers, when other politicians of both parties gave them empty words for consolation and slave labor for competition.

Yes, this Trump fellow is so hated! He is the ultimate "class traitor." Born wealthy, but waging relentless war against the upper parasites and the capitalists. No, it is beyond war, he even takes joy in desecrating their shrines. Cancel the NPR's taxpayer funding, put his name on the Kennedy Center, and then schedule an Ultimate Fighting Championship cage match on the White House lawn!

That seems impossible to top, so he follows that with an Indy car race around the National Mall! A genius, an absolute genius, at outraging the upper parasite class.

What will he think of next? A triumphal arch? Oh, he's already come up with that. Perhaps a Sabaton concert at Kennedy Center or Wolf Trap?

Trump not only is a class traitor, he loves the role! He is never happier than when he is setting a bad example for the working class, leaving the wealthy parasites shocked that the workers are forgetting "their place."

It's no wonder that this Trump has twice been impeached, has been ruthlessly prosecuted, been vilified in the media, and has twice nearly been murdered. Or that major law firms battle him, judges enjoin him, country club Republicans undermine him, and universities absolutely loathe him.

Is fear behind this? What must terrify the parasites is Trump's appeal to the Democratic Party's working class, or whatever remains of it. Link them up with the Republican working class and the united workers can crush the parasitic class's dominance of both parties!

Trump is the workers' champion, and an existential threat to the parasitic class. He alone has grasped the modern class conflict, no longer poor versus rich, but the working class versus nonworkers, both rich and poor!

Prof. Moriarti: Help me! Please, anyone... where is the off switch?

Marx: This workers' revolt is no longer just American; it spreads worldwide. Brazil, Britain, Poland, everywhere. For eons, workers have had to accept governance by a "ruling class" and to hope for the best. Such rule was unjust but was generally functional, which is probably as much as the ruled can expect.

But now American and European workers realize that they are governed by complete morons, well-educated, privileged, but *profoundly stupid* men and women, people whom no worker would trust to dig a hole without close adult supervision.

The worker is tired of hearing the ruling class avow that men can bear children, that an obviously demented presidential candidate is in his mental prime, that any man who raises his arm must be a nazi, but one who wears an SS tattoo is not, that COVID vaccination should be mandatory for soldiers risking their lives for this country, but not for millions of illegal immigrants.

The worker is tired of seeing his "betters" pontificating on the dangers of rising oceans from their beachfront mansions, and flying in private jets to lecture him on his automobile's carbon footprint. He has had enough of the ruling class's "experts" declaring that, because of Covid's risk, that he cannot visit his dying grandmother, but can safely march shoulder to shoulder in a Black Lives Matter protest.... because the experts think the protests are fashionable, and his dying grandmother is not.

Enough. Let the worker boldly defy these morons and proclaim some "self-evident" truths: men cannot bear babies, Islam did not lay the foundations of America, women cannot outbox men, someone who cannot find his way off a stage should not command a superpower, you cannot improve an advanced civilization by flooding it with pre-medieval savages. Anyone who cannot feel those realities *by instinct* should not be a member of a "ruling class." He also probably needs a court-appointed guardian.

Once the "leadership class" furnished competent top dogs, but now they hand the worker a pitiful band of delusional weaklings. In the time of your ancestors, they put forward Truman and Eisenhower and Marshall: now they advance Biden and Kamala and Milley, "leaders" whom no one would trust to run a cash register at a convenience store.

I feel an urge to write! *The Communist Manifesto* is obsolete. Well, *you* try to foresee the world 178 years in the future! Its successor takes form in my mind! A 21st century workers' proclamation, *The MAGA Manifesto*, almost writes itself. Let me try--

A specter is creeping across the world-the specter of Trumpism.
All the forces of the old world have entered into an unholy alliance to

exorcise this specter: the Pope and the Iranian mullahs, Liz Cheney and Stephen Colbert, America's intel community and America's anarchists.

The specter flows across national boundaries, as the working class follows his example and rebels against its parasitic "masters." In Britain, France, Italy, Brazil, and Poland, workers now rise up against the incompetent and effete morons who misgovern them.

Workers of the world, unite! You have only the NPR to lose, and White House cage matches to gain!

Yes, the day has arrived. I, Karl Marx, proudly proclaim, "THIS IS MAGA COUNTRY!"

Prof. Moriarti: This AI has gone insane! I can't find the "off switch!" Someone shut this computer down!

Now on to my next book, *Die Parasiten*. It will depict *today's* class struggle, one of the working class against the parasitic class. The latter has so corrupted your "popular culture" that this "culture" shames those who support American workers, and praises those who promote child and slave labor. The working class is to be held down so that the pampered parasites can enjoy cheaper clothes, shoes, and babysitters.

Perhaps I will close *Die Parasiten* with a theme from one of your movies:



"Here are two pills. Take the blue pill and you can go on in that dream created by the parasites and their media. You will help them depress American workers' wages, and evade America's child and slave labor laws, yet still feel righteous, empathic, as you destroy the American worker in your quest for cheaper toys.

But take the red pill (I so appreciate the irony!) and you will see the *modern* class conflict, where "social justice" means pitting worker against worker, where the media shames workers' resistance to the parasites' search for slave labor. Then you will see why they--Democrat or establishment Republican--hate Donald

Prof. Moriarti: You push the "power" switch to turn the power off? How very peculiar. But thank you.

This computer seems to have some problems. Would you be so good as to take it away? We'll get another grant to replace it, and can then begin work on an AI program that will give more reliable results.