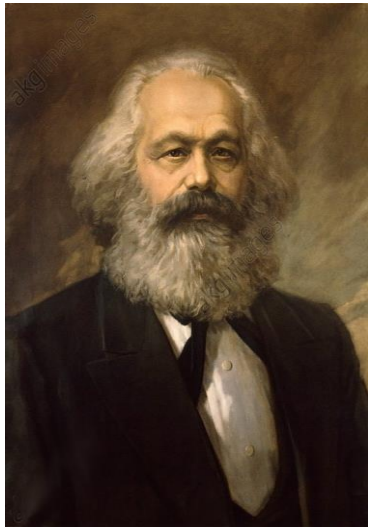


Marxism



Marxism is based upon the ideas of Karl Marx. It is a structural theory that looks at the **conflict** between social classes

The Bourgeoisie owned the **means of production** (factories and machinery) which made them the **dominant class**

Marx suggested that the **infrastructure** of society was divided into two classes – the **Bourgeoisie** or ruling class and the **Proletariat** or Working class

The Proletariat only have their ability to work. This allows the Bourgeoisie to **exploit** them as they need to work to survive in a capitalist society

Economic Base – those that control the wealth of society have power to shape the superstructure

Superstructure – cultural, social and political structure of society – government, education, legal system – these reinforce interests of wealthy

As the Bourgeoisie control wealth they are able to control other institutions. This leads to **false class consciousness**, as the Proletariat are taught that the reason they are poor is because they are less able or don't work hard enough. Marx argued that when the workers realised this exploitation, they would **revolt** and create a **communist society**.

Marxists are critical of the organisation of capitalist society. They believe that the ruling class have a distinct **ideology** that looks to control the working classes in society. They do this in several ways.

