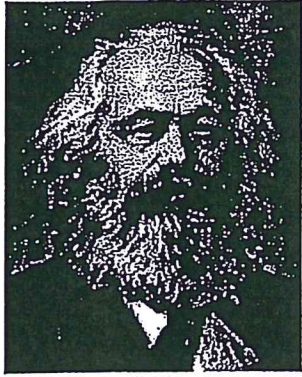


Marxism (Communism)



Karl Marx (1818 - 1883)

Primary Writings

- *Communist Manifesto* (1848) *Das Kapital* (1861)

Basic Ideas

- A materialist concept of history
- Discusses the primacy of the economy
- Debates the history of class struggle
- Concludes that a communist society is the end of class war and the true beginning of human history.

The Capitalist Era

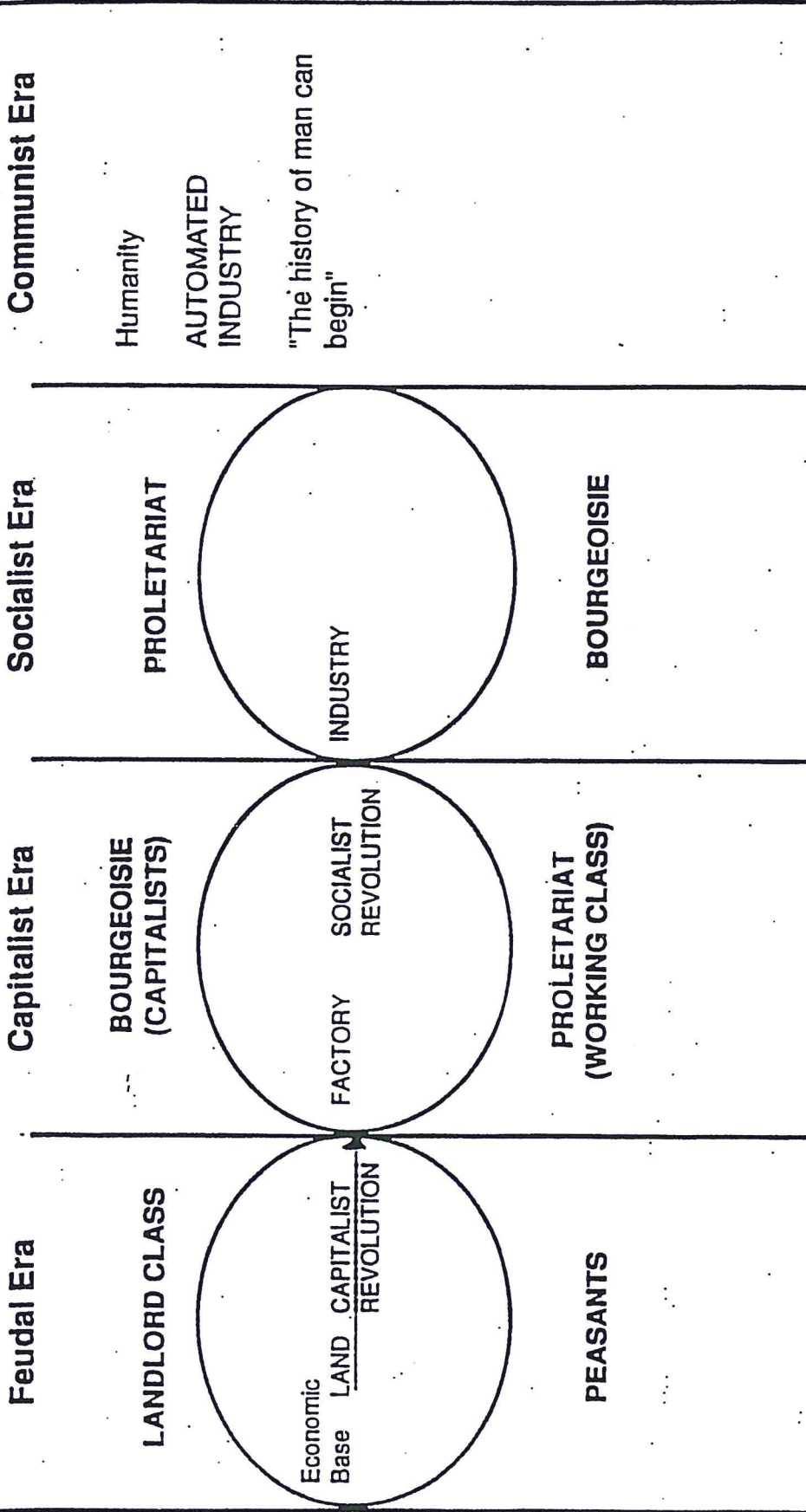
- Divided into two major classes - the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.
- The bourgeoisie try to maximize profits by exploiting the proletariat and other classes.
- Cut throat competition and economic recessions mean that few people control the means of production, therefore, this results in the monopoly of capitalism.
- Strikes and other forms of labor unrest will continue until the Socialist Revolution occurs.
- The proletariat will then take control of society.

The Socialist Era

- There will be increased development of industry.
- There will be an end to the bourgeoisie and their "selfish" ideas of ownership.
- Society will operate on the principle, "from each according to his work, to each according to his need".
- This will provide the basis of a cooperative type of society.

KARL MARX'S CONCEPT OF HISTORY

PRIMITIVE SOCIETY



MARXISM - LENINISM

MARXISM

-assumed the working class would spontaneously develop its class consciousness through daily struggle for economic existence

-leadership to come from its ranks

-secular, polemicist

* polemic: the art or practice of disputation

~~~~~  
In the 19th century Russia, conditions for the acceptance of Marxism were more favorable~

-of all the major states in Europe, Russia placed first in:

illiteracy, economic backwardness, religious obscurantism, oppression of minorities, political despotism, social inequality

Marx's prophecy, couched in scientific terms, spoke of the eventual liberation of humanity from bondage and oppression through revolutionary action.

### LENINISM

-saw 2 steps:

1. workers to form labour organizations, and, if possible, communist parties to operate openly, publicly, legally

2. small groups of professional revolutionaries -> select and secret. to infiltrate existing social, political, economic circles

-considered himself to be a faithful follower of Marx, there were some differences  
> his ideas about application had to be more practical since they were actually going to happen

>the concept of a professional revolutionary introduced a new approach to class war and communist strategy

-organizer, politician, leader

## MARXISM

- sought to change the world with his ideas
- a product of the 19th century, his world view and bias typical of this century
- PRIMACY OF ECONOMICS OVER POLITICS  
>his economic interpretation of history
- unlimited faith in economic forces = social and economic progress
- his idea was that right economic policies= domestic stability and progress
- saw revolution as inevitable after the rise, through stages, and fall of capitalism

## BOTH BELIEVED IN THE INEVITABLE VICTORY OF COMMUNISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

- expected that a communist revolution would lead to "the dictatorship of the proletariat" over the bourgeoisie

economic entity  
economic category

- a variety of parties and groups united in destroying the remnants of capitalism
- believed communism would be preceded by internal economic crises

## REACTIVE

## LENINISM

- one fixed and limited goal: to seize power in Russia and reshape it according to his communist principles
- Lenin developed to maturity and stature in the 20th century
- PRIMACY OF POLITICS OVER ECONOMICS
- spent his energy organizing an organization in Tsarist Russia
- said to attack and destroy the existing social and political system where it was weakest ie economically underdeveloped areas
- he understood the importance of this role in the balance of world power
- was the first leader of the 20th century to see the world as more than Europe

- Lenin saw it differently:  
the dictatorship of the Communist party over the proletariat

- he had little faith that the working class had the understanding or ability to secure a communist state

- took a more activist and worldwide view

- a combination of ideology and Russian national interest

## PROACTIVE