

Consciousness

"consciousness can sometimes appear further advanced than the contemporary empirical conditions, so that in the struggles of a later epoch one can refer to earlier theoreticians as authorities." – Marx and Engels, *The German Ideology*, Marx Engels Collected Works, Vol. 5, Progress Publishers, Moscow 1976, p. 83. Also see:

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01d.htm>

“Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past. The tradition of all dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brains of the living. And just as they seem engaged in revolutionizing themselves and things, in creating something that had never yet existed, precisely in such periods of revolutionary crisis they anxiously conjure up the spirits of the past to their service and borrow from them names, battle cries and costumes in order to present the new scene of world history in this time-honored disguise and this borrowed language.” – Marx, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, Marx Engels Selected Works, Vol. 1, Progress Publishers, Moscow 1969, p. 398, Also see:

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1852/18th-brumaire/ch01.htm>

It is for this reason that I like to quote appropriately from Marx and Engels most. Actually, Marx and Engels are more relevant today than ever before.

Marx argued that the workers would eventually become aware of their shared experience with other workers of their exploitation under capitalism; workers would collectively develop class consciousness from their experience of the capitalist *relations of production*.

The whole case for revolution rests on this assumption.

“In countries where the bourgeoisie has already conquered political power and political rule is none other than the rule, not of the individual bourgeois over his workers, but of the bourgeois class over the whole of society, Herr Heine’s dictum [“Power also controls property!”] has lost its meaning.” – Marx, *Moralising Criticism and the Critical Morality*, CW 6, Progress, p.318.

See: <http://marxists.anu.edu.au/archive/marx/works/1847/10/31.htm>

Class consciousness

Workers will eventually become class conscious through organisation, socialist education, mutual exchange of experience and interactive theoretical reflection and analysis; they will turn themselves from a *class-in-itself* into a *class-for-itself*.