

THE MARXIAN CONCEPT OF THE CAPITALIST

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1. *Foundation of Marxian capitalist institution*

THE INSTITUTION of capitalism has been subject to numerous onslaughts and among them Marxian condemnation is in no uncertain terms. Capitalism and its central figure, the capitalist, have drawn the attention of many scholars. While it is true that there is a significant difference between the many prolific writings on this subject and the ingenuity of Marx which has given a characteristic treatment to the same, it has got to be admitted that his reasoning is also subject to many loopholes, while his logic might command simplicity and brilliance of exposition.

The logical and philosophical foundations of the Marxian concept of the capitalist institution were laid in his theories of dialectical materialism and materialistic interpretation of history. It was not the pervasive philosophy of materialism as is uncritically said of him, but the purposive disquisitions in the origin, instruments, and course of poverty which absorbed the attention of his impressionable mind. The French socialists during his stay in France left an indelible mark on his mind.

Neither materialist nor the philosophic approach of Hegel, Bruno Bauer or Feuerbach was anything but tame for him. His condemnation was on the "standpoint of the materialism" which was the *bourgeois* society. According to Marx, the standpoint had to be, if anything, new materialism in human society or social humanity.¹ "The philosophers have nothing more than to interpret the world in various ways; our business is to change it". After this last philosophical interruption² Marx was set on the revolutionary path to

¹ MARX, K., *Theses on Feuerbach*, quoted in Otto Rühle, Karl Marx, London, 1929, p. 92.

² After Marx and Engels wrote, between September 1845 and October 1846 the book under the title *Deutsche Ideologie*, Marx gave up all pretensions of philosophical fervour.