

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____



ACTIVITY 2: Recognizing Ideologies

The Communist Ideology

As you have learned, after World War II the Soviet Union set up Communist societies throughout Eastern Europe. In theory, these societies were based on the principles of Karl Marx, a German philosopher and political activist, who with Friedrich Engels founded the world Communist movement.

Directions: Read the excerpt below from the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*, written in 1848 by Marx and Engels. Then complete the activities that follow on the back of this paper or on a separate sheet of paper.

Bourgeois and Proletarians.

The history of all . . . existing society is the history of class struggles.

Freeman and slave, . . . lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another. . . .

Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other: Bourgeoisie [middle class] and Proletariat [working class]. . . .

Modern industry has converted [changed] the little workshop of the patriarchal [fatherly] master into the great factory of the industrial capitalist [wealthy investor]. Masses of laborers, crowded into factories, are organized like soldiers. As privates of the industrial army they are placed under the command of a perfect hierarchy of officers and sergeants. Not only are they the slaves of the bourgeois class, and of the bourgeois State, they are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine . . . and, above all, by the individual bourgeois manufacturer himself. . . .

No sooner is the exploitation [unfair use] of the laborer by the manufacturer, so far at

an end, that he receives his wages in cash, then he is set upon by the other portions of the bourgeoisie, the landlord, the shopkeeper, the pawnbroker, etc. . . .

The modern laborer . . . instead of rising with the progress of industry, sinks deeper and deeper below the conditions of existence of his own class. He becomes a pauper [very poor person], and pauperism develops more rapidly than population and wealth. And here it becomes evident that the bourgeoisie is unfit any longer to be the ruling class in society as an over-riding law. It is unfit to rule because it is incompetent to assure an existence to its slave within his slavery, because it cannot help letting him sink into such a state that it has to feed him instead of being fed by him. Society can no longer live under this bourgeoisie, in other words, its existence is no longer compatible with society. . . . The development of modern industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces . . . products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.

1. According to Marx and Engels, into what two classes had modern industry split society?
2. Describe the economic function of each class in society.
3. Why did Marx and Engels say that the modern working class was sinking into levels of greater misery?
4. How did Marx and Engels view the history of society? What evidence did they give to support their theory?
5. Why did Marx and Engels think that the fall of the bourgeoisie was inevitable?