

**AIM:** How did social reformers, socialists, and Marxists address the problems of industrialization?

**DO NOW:** Please read your assigned passage and take notes into the chart on the notes sheet.

In contrast to laissez-faire philosophy, which advised governments to leave business alone, other theorists believed that governments should intervene. These thinkers believed that wealthy people or the government must take action to improve people's lives.



*Q1: Take notes about the key people, goals, and actions of Utilitarians.*

By 1800, English philosopher Jeremy Bentham introduced **utilitarianism**, the idea that the goal of society should be “the greatest happiness for the greatest number” of citizens. A government policy was only useful if it promoted this goal. **John Stuart Mill** led the utilitarian movement in the 1800s. Although he believed strongly in individual freedom, Mill wanted the government to step in to improve the lives of the working class. He and other utilitarians worked for reforms in many areas, from child labor to public health.



*Q2: Take notes about the key people, goals, and actions of Utopians.*

Shocked by the misery of the working class, a British factory owner named **Robert Owen** improved working conditions for his employees. Near his cotton mill in Scotland, Owen built houses, which he rented at low rates. He prohibited children under ten from working in the mills and provided free schooling. Owen showed that an employer could offer decent living and working conditions and still run a profitable business. Those who shared his beliefs were called **utopians**. They tried to establish communities in which the residents contributed to and shared in the economic success equally.

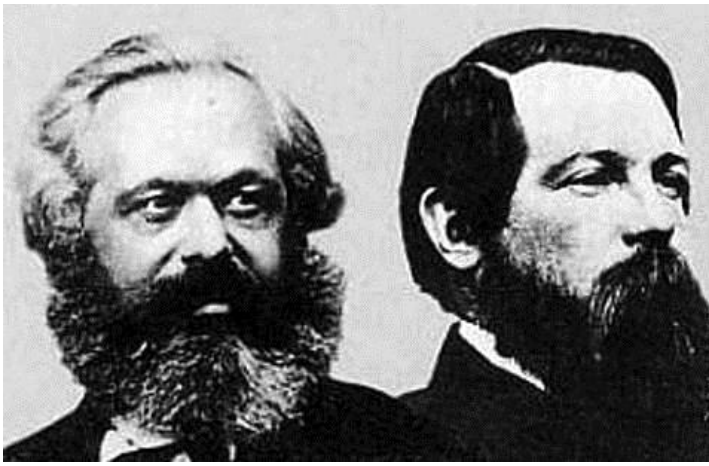


*Q3: Take notes about the key people, goals, and actions of Socialists.*

French reformers such as Charles Fourier and Henri de Saint-Simon, sought to offset the ill effects of industrialization with a new economic system called **socialism**. Under socialism, farms, factories, railways, and other large businesses would be owned by the public and operated for the benefit of all. Socialists argued that the government should plan the economy rather than depend on free-market capitalism to do the job. The goal of socialists was a society that operated for the welfare of all the people.

**ACTIVITY:** Discuss the following questions with your group members.

- 1) What do the Utilitarians, Utopians, and Socialists all have in common?
- 2) Which class of people would be most likely to support these ideas?
- 3) How were these ideas different from the ideas of laissez faire economics and Malthusian economics? (Review Notes 3.4)
- 4) Which of these groups (Utilitarians, Utopians, Socialists) do you think held the most radical (extreme) views? Defend your answer.



Q4: Who was Karl Marx? What famous pamphlet did he and Friedrich Engels publish in 1848?

In the 1840s, **Karl Marx**, a German philosopher, condemned the ideas of the Utopians as unrealistic idealism. He put forward a new theory, “scientific socialism,” which he claimed was based on a scientific study of history. Marx and Friedrich Engels, a German whose father owned a textile mill in Manchester, outlined their ideas in a 23-page pamphlet called *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) that introduced the world to a radical type of socialism called Marxism.

### Document 1

Q: According to Marx and Engels, what has repeatedly happened throughout human history?

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guildmaster and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. - *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Q5: Who did Marx predict would rise up in revolt? What did he say would be the result of this revolt?

According to Marx, the modern class struggle pitted the bourgeoisie against the **proletariat**, or working class. He predicted that the proletariat would revolt, seize the factories and mills, and produce what society needed. Workers would share in the profits and bring about economic equality for all people. The workers would control the government in a “dictatorship of the proletariat.” Eventually, the government would wither away as a classless society developed. Marx called this final phase pure communism. Marx described **communism** as a form of complete socialism in which all land, mines, factories, railroads, and businesses would be owned by the people. Private property would cease to exist. All goods and services would be shared equally.

Q6: What was the global impact of Marxist ideas?

At first, Marxist ideas had little impact. In time, however, they would have worldwide effects. They were especially attractive to those who saw no other solution to problems such as poverty and unemployment. In Western Europe, many socialist political parties absorbed Marxist ideas. In the 1900s, Marxism inspired revolutionaries such as Russia’s Lenin, China’s Mao Zedong, and Cuba’s Fidel Castro. These leaders adapted Marx’s beliefs to their own specific situations and needs. At the peak of Communist expansion in the 1980s, about 20 nations were Communist-controlled. Marx predicted that the misery of the proletariat would touch off a world revolution. Instead, by 1900, the standard of living of the working class improved. As a result, Marxism lost much of its appeal in industrially developed western countries.

