

Review Sheet for Exam 1

Marx:

A Economy, according to Marx,

- is a historical form of how societies reproduce themselves and how they organize themselves
- is essentially [a] tied back to human nature (labor), and [b] essentially social (mode of cooperation, mode of production, mode of ownership)
- Consequently, economy is how human beings organize their lives centered in labor and nature

In addition, Marx claimed that

- Capitalism can only be properly understood by a materialist theory of society and history

B Capitalism, according to Marx,

- leads to an alienated human life in relation to labor, sociality, and nature (reading 1 and 2)
- destroys social and human relationships by transforming them into exchange relations (credit and exchange, reading 2)
- leads to an exploitation of labor and human beings (surplus value, reading 3)
- leads to a depersonalization of labor and sociality (co-operation, jobs, exchange)
- leads to divisions in society produced by private property and labor exploitation (classes, poverty, workers, etc.)

Topics we covered and concepts I expect you to be able to explain:

1. Alienation
2. Exchange and human morality
3. Materialistic theory of history
4. Surplus value

Weber:

A Capitalism, according to Weber

- is a historical form of how modern societies rationalize their structures
- is based on the application of scientific knowledge and the rationalization of all social structures
- is based on a certain form of Christian asceticism, the purest form of which he finds in Protestantism
- is based on a specific ethic that Protestantism introduced, namely a mixture of [a] neglect of enjoyment, [b] saving money, [c] taking oneself to be selected, [d] a strong notion of calling
- is based on a specific Protestant/Puritan character, which he describes as [a] being fully rational, [b] "cold", [c] instrumental, [d] in full self-control, and [e] non-sensuous

Topics we covered and concepts I expect you to be able to explain:

1. Modern culture
2. Weber's anti-Marxism
3. Weber's main claim that Capitalism is based on an *ethos*
4. The main elements of Calvinism
5. The Puritan ascetic character