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The authors point out that in defining Marxism a distinction has to be made between the writings and ideas of Karl Marx, the ideology of Marxism as a sociological perspective between his day and the present, and the politics of communism, socialism, and Labour's third way

Key words: Karl Marx, Sociological theory, «conflict theory and social change», social groups.

Karl Marx and Marxist Sociology

Sociological theories are those modern theories that are based on empirical evidence aiming to evaluate social issues within our society for benefit of the present and future time, and it developed by various scholar in the 1800s and 1900s. Examples of scholars who developed these sociological theories are Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel [1; 9].

Therefore, the following are the definition of sociological theories. **Sociological theory** is defined as a set of interrelated ideas that allows for systematization of knowledge of the social world. This knowledge is used to explain the social world and make prediction about the future of the social world.

Sociological theory is complex theoretical and methodological frameworks used to analyze and explain object of social study. Examples of sociological theories are conflict theory, critical theory, feminist theory, functionalism theory, and rational choice theory [3].

Therefore, **sociological theory** can be defined as a complex theoretical framework that is used to explain social theories through empirical formula (scientific method) and making judgments. [2].

Karl Marx (5 May 1818, Trier – 14 March 1883, London) and his lifelong collaborator Friedrich Engels (1820–1895) developed a body of thought that would inspire major social movements, initiate revolutionary social change across the globe, and provide the foundation for many socialist or communist governments [8; 5].

Marx's theories about society, economics and politics – collectively known as Marxism – hold that human societies progress through class struggle: a conflict between an ownership class that controls production and a dispossessed labouring class that provides the labour for production [6; 4].

More recently, Marxism's political influence has waned, with most of the formerly communist regimes undergoing significant change. It is important, however, to separate out Marxism as a system of ideas in the social sciences from Marxism as a political ideology and the foundation for revolutionary social movements and as a governing philosophy [8].

Key concepts of Marxist sociology include: historical materialism, mode of production, the relation between capital and labour. Marxist sociology is significantly concerned, but not limited to, the relations between society and economics.

Key questions asked by Marxist sociology include:-1) how does the capital control the workers? 2) How does the mode of production influence the social class? 3) What is the relation between workers, capital, the state and our culture? 4) How do economic factors influence inequalities, including those related to gender and race?

Within the field of sociological theory, Marxist sociology, recognized as one of the major sociological paradigms, is associated with conflict and critical theories [7].

Karl Marx developed social issues such as “**conflict theory and social change**”.

Conflict theory was the theory introduced by Karl Marx in the book “Communist Manifesto”, 1848 [10]. Conflict theory argues that society is not best understood as a complex system striving for equilibrium but rather as a competition. Society is made up of individuals competing for limited resources [3].

According to Karl Marx (1818–1883), in any societies there are *two major social groups*: a ruling class and a subject class. *The ruling class* derives its power from its ownership and control of the forces of production. *The ruling class* exploits and oppresses the subject class (lower class). As a result there is a basic conflict of interest between these two classes.

All in all, conflict theory rose when exploitation of capitalist and existing government being increase to lower class or workers, and the exploitative in order to reduce and removal those kinds off injustice, they require forming movements and overthrowing existing government.

Karl Marx believed that, economic and political analysis of capitalism is the main causes of conflict theory. This is due to forced labour, long working hours, low wages and poor working condition which under capitalism system.

Social change it is essential feature of capitalism which existing all over the world. Under this system, the means of production and distributing goods such as land, factory technology, and transport system are owned by a small minority of people, we refer this group of people as the capitalist class.

Functionalist social theory tends to regard these economic activities as mundane necessity to support cultural that depend upon it. Karl Mark believes that all society which was under communist one the production of goods was structured on the way that to produce great benefit for minority. Through this theory we can use it to understand how capitalism leads to social change up to this present and how people are exploited under capitalism [2].

Marxist ideas have influenced many fields of thought and indeed have played a particularly important role in the development of the discipline of sociology. Classical sociological theorists such as Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) and Max Weber (1864–1920), for example, developed their theories of society in conversation with the works of Karl Marx. However, as it evolved in the United States and Western Europe in the middle parts of the 20th century, sociology’s dialogue with Marxian propositions declined. For example, the widely influential norm-oriented functionalist sociology of Talcott Parsons (1902–1979) had little engagement with Marxist thought. In the aftermath of the large-scale social struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, however, sociologists around the world increasingly embraced a historically oriented approach to knowledge and in many cases found in the classics of Marxism

a source of inspiration. Debates and controversies over Marxism continue to shape the development of sociology up to the present time, although “neo-Marxism” is less influential today than it was twenty-five years ago.

Nonetheless, serious students of sociology have to have some familiarity with some of the classical ideas and theorists of Marxism, and Marxist theories continue to influence some parts of the discipline today [8].

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