

Sociology 0150

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Happy Valentine's Day

**Compare and contrast how Durkheim and Marx characterize “the social”**

**Similarities:** The present= modern industrial world

**Differences:**

**Marx**

- Conflict theorist
- Dialectical materialism-method of gathering data and epistemology
- Modern society=industrial and capitalist
- Change over time come from development and social relations of production (contradictions and class struggle)
- Revolution
- Class relations are antagonistic, unequal, exploitative, alienating
- Exploitation, labor conflicts, and class struggle are normal and are the inevitable effects of capitalism
- Peace among classes is because the working class has not seen their chains
- Solidarity-common sight and common plight of proletariat
- Division of labor= logistic organization of production which causes alienation

**Durkheim**

- Functional theorist
- Social realism
- Objectivist/ positivist
- Modern society= industrial and organized
- Development of industrial system
- Evolution
- Class relations are interdependent and cooperative
- Shared values and norms are eroded by industrial development
- Exploitation, class struggle, and labor conflicts are ABNORMAL
- Solidarity= social cohesion (mechanical and organic)
- Division of labor= specialization undermines mechanical solidarity but is the basis for organic solidarity

**Marx and Durkheim theorize ideas esp. Religion**

**Marx**

- Motive= demystify the function of religion

- Ideas can serve a class purpose such as mystify and produce commodities
- Commodity fetishism legitimate capitalist production
- Political economy mystifies
- Method= Dialectical, historical, materialist
- Social constructionist
- Class analysis of ideology
- Religious ideas come from a human experience of inhuman conditions

### **Durkheim**

- Motive= go beyond superficial resemblance to the essence of a social fact
- Religion functions as a source of cohesion
- Method= empiricist, objectification, trying to identify functional purpose of religion
- Social constructionist
- Holistic analysis of the origins of social thought (categories pg153)
- Basic categories come from religion
- Religious ideas come from collective life, natural but not utilitarian
- “Ideal” Ex: What’s the difference between Easter and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?~ both are viewed as an opportunity to rearticulate collective *ideals*