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 4th of July?~ both are viewed as an opportunity to rearticulate collective *ideals*