

Social Theory Class Notes
January 17, 2006 Recorded by Dominique King

What is Marx exploring in chapter 2?

- Work is not one's own, that it is for someone else.
- Work is not "natural".
- Work is less of one self through labor.
- The more produced, the less the workers "are".
- The more time that is put into work (labor) the more one loses his "self".
- Work is compelled or coerced (by hunger, for example); it is "forced labor".

Dr. Brush asks: "What is the human nature part that Marx is talking about?"

The common theme that Marx is talking about in two words (*the concept*):

- Wage slave
- Social Stratification
 - He has a class analysis of the labor relation and work
- Alienation! (Alienated labor)
 - Referred back to into on page 2 of the definition of the concept according to the editors.
 - What is alienation?
 - Separation.
 - Exploitation (don't get it confused with alienation. The example given in class of exploitation was that of the Nike® sweat shops in the third world countries.
 - Labor theory of value.
(*Exploitation farther broken down by Marx in the upcoming reading*)
 - Under the capitalist social relation of production alienation is produced.
 - (*We turned to page 41 for the reference about Marx's feelings about labor alienation*)
 - The idea of Private Property is related to alienated labor.
 - Why? The answer why can be found on page 41 in the first paragraph
 - Marx's claim is that alienated labor causes private property
 - The definition of private property (*the thesis*) is ownership of "means of production". The means of production is the "stuff" you need to get your work accomplished. (*We referred back to page 41*)

The four aspects of alienated labor are:

- 1) From the product of the object
- 2) From producing as an active process
- 3) From species being
- 4) From each other