Karl Marx's ideas about the political elite and their influence on political theory and democracy

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Abstract. This article examines the ideas of Karl Marx about the political elite and their influence on the development of political thought and theory. Marx argued that political power is controlled by small groups of people who use their resources and wealth to protect their interests. This theory became the basis for the development of many other theories, such as elitism and pluralism. The article also discusses the influence of Marx's ideas on understanding the problem of democracy and its limitations, as well as on understanding the social and political dynamics in society.

Keywords: ideas of Karl Marx, political elite, power, interests, democracy, social dynamics, elitism, pluralism
Karl Marx's Capital is one of the most famous works of political economy in which he analyzes capitalism and criticizes its exploitative nature. In the book, Marx describes how the capitalist system functions through the exploitation of the working class and the inequality in the distribution of wealth. It also offers an alternative to capitalism in the form of socialism.

"Capital" has value in politics because of its analytical depth and critical view of the capitalist system. This allows readers to better understand how capitalism works, why it creates social problems, and what alternatives there might be. The book has influenced many politicians and movements in history, such as communism, socialism, and left-wing radicalism.

However, "Capital" is not without criticism. Critics point out that the book does not take into account many aspects of the capitalist system, such as innovation and attracting investment. Also, some politicians reject the socialist model that Marx proposes in his book, referring to it as inefficient and unjust.

In addition, some critics argue that Capital oversimplifies the complex capitalist system and does not take into account its diversity and adaptability. Also, some economists and politicians point out that socialism is not the only alternative to capitalism, and that there are many different models that can be implemented in different contexts.

Nevertheless, Karl Marx's Das Kapital remains one of the most significant and influential works in the history of political economy. The book provides a better understanding of how the capitalist system works and what problems it creates, and offers an alternative view of social organization based on socialism. Ultimately, Capital's significance lies in the fact that it continues to inspire debate and research in the field of political economy and helps to better understand complex social processes.

An important element of "Capital" is the ideological analysis of capitalism and its relationship to workers and other participants in the production process. Marx criticizes capitalism as a system that dictates economic relations...
between classes and subordinates workers to the interests of the rich and powerful.

In this context, Marx developed the concept of exploitation, which explains how capitalists use their power and resources to profit from the labor of workers. He also proposed his own model of socialism, which involves the abolition of private property and the creation of public ownership of productive resources.

Karl Marx's ideas about the political elite are an important element of his broad theory about capitalism, class struggle and revolution. In his writings, Marx viewed the elite as a group of people with significant power and control over state and economic institutions. He also argued that these elites protect their interests and maintain the status quo, which hinders social progress and leads to inequality.

The basic principle underlying the Marxist theory of the elite is the idea that the economic base determines the political superstructure. According to this theory, the owners of the means of production - the capitalists - form the ruling class in society, which controls the political elite and uses it to protect their interests. This elite consists of the highest stratum of officials, bankers, industrial magnates and other persons holding key positions in the state and business.

Marx argued that the political elite protected the interests of the capitalists through certain measures, such as the strengthening of monarchical or authoritarian regimes, control of the media, the suppression of labor protests, and the oppression of national minorities. These measures are designed to maintain the status quo and impede progress and social justice.

Marx also criticized the idea that the political elite is an independent and integral part of the social order. He believed that this elite not only defends the interests of the capitalists, but is also formed by them, and that its members are the product of certain socio-economic relations. Thus, within the framework of Marxist theory, the political elite is not just a separate group, but part of the overall socio-economic structure and, as such, is subject to the same class struggle as other sections of society.
One of the key elements of the Marxist theory of the elite is the idea that this elite cannot maintain its power and privileges without the participation of the broad masses of the people. Marx argued that true power lay in the hands of those who controlled the means of production and that the working classes could only achieve political freedom through a social revolution that would lead to the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

In general, Karl Marx's ideas about the political elite are important for understanding Marxist theory and its relationship to political power and social progress. Marx believed that the political elite was an instrument of capitalist exploitation and that only a social revolution could lead to true freedom and equality. These ideas remain important today, especially in the context of growing inequality and social conflict around the world.

In addition, Karl Marx's ideas about the political elite influence the understanding of the problem of democracy and its limitations. Marx argued that capitalist elites use their power and wealth to manipulate political processes and protect their interests. This can result in the voices and needs of poor and disadvantaged groups not being taken into account in decision making.

Marxist theory also shows that the political elite is not static and immovable. As new economic and social conditions arise, new elites can emerge and take the place of the old ones. This can lead to existing elites fighting to maintain their power and new elites seeking to take their places, which can cause social tensions and conflicts.

In conclusion, Karl Marx's ideas about the political elite remain important for understanding the social and political dynamics in society. They emphasize that power and control over productive means are key to understanding the dynamics of political power and social inequalities. In addition, Marxist theory shows that the elite is not static and immovable, and that its power can be challenged and changed under certain socio-economic conditions.

References:
POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION