

• Karl Marx 1818-1883

- German writer

- most famous work,
The Communist Manifesto
published 1848

- co-wrote w/ Friedrich Engels

- major theme

- changes in history are
due to struggles between
classes

- best recent example he
cited was French Revolution

- in France, the capitalist class (the bourgeoisie) helped the poor class to kick out the noble class, violently

— his future

- it was natural now for the lower class to kick out the capitalists

- or, the proletariat (his term) kicks out bourgeoisie

— because...

- bourgeoisie would continue to get rich from the workers labor

- poor would never be able to buy finished products, depressions would set in

- goods would stockpile

- workers would be laid off

— workers revolution

- workers would take control, violently

- create a new system

- production of goods & services would be controlled by the govt.

- individual ownership eliminated

- everyone in society would be equally treated and cared for by govt.

- Utopia

- a perfect society

- eventually an "equal" caring society would emerge

- even govt. could be eliminated

- importance

- Marx never started any actual revolution
- 20th Century leaders that did
 - Vladimir Lenin in Russia
 - Mao ZeDong in China
 - Fidel Castro in Cuba
 - Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam
- at its height
 - 1.5 billion people lived under communism
- wrong predictions
 - many working class people have raised their

Standard of living under capitalism

- Marx thought 1st rev. would be in his home of Germany, (it was industrialized)

- in fact it first started in Russia, (it was mostly rural)

- Communism spread, but never worldwide

— failed policy

- Communism was never

embraced by workers,
even in communist nations

- prosperity, social mobility,
freedom eliminated

- Communist leaders had/
have to maintain power
through force & terror

- estimates are that
100 million people were
killed by communist
leadership/forces during
20th Century

• two most famous quotes...

- "Workers of the world...
Unite."

- "From each according to
their ability,
to each according to
their need."