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Book Review of Das Kapital

Karl Marx. 2014, *Capital*, UK, Penguin Press; 1st Edition

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ABSTRACT

By the definition, socialism means that the production belongs to all segments of society without discrimination and are controlled by the state. In capitalism, in contrast to socialism, the means of production belong to individuals, not society, and it advocates competition. Communism, another concept, constitutes the beginning of socialism according to Marxist-Leninist society. In other words, production belongs entirely to the state, and the principle of equality is observed for everyone without distinction. One of the most important works of the German sociologist Karl Marx, the founder of Marxism, is his book “Das Kapital,” The main reason that led Karl Marx to write this work was the failure of the Industrial Revolution that took place in 1849. In this work, Marx criticized the capitalist mode of production and the competition brought about by capitalism and defended the rights of oppressed workers working for labor capital for unpaid or low wages. At the same time, he talks about social classes and defines the class struggle of women, men, and the bourgeoisie. The aim of this study is to refer to the first volume of Marx’s book “Capital,” to emphasize its importance in the context of socialism, capitalism, and communism.

Keywords: Capitalism, communism, socialism, workers right.

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INTRODUCTION

Karl Marx was a famous German sociologist of the 19th century. He is famous for the ideas he criticized and defended. He opposes capitalism by defending the rights of the working class. He wrote many books supporting workers and talking about socialism and communism. The most important of these is the book “Capital,” written in 1868. In general, “Capital” is a book in which Marx prioritizes the goods produced by capitalism and the competition therein over socialism and opposes capitalism. The three-volume series of books was originally written in German and translated into different languages in the following years.

The first series of *Das Kapital* consists of eight chapters. The introduction is under the title “Commodities and Money”. This title includes classical economic criticisms and comments. In addition, information about commodities is given, and the value of commodities is included. There are similarities between this chapter and Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations* (1776). This is because, in both books, while describing the position of production in the capitalist mode, it does not describe the wealth of nations as a position but the wealth brought about by capitalism. Chapter 2 is “The Transformation of Money into Capital”. The main topic in this chapter is capital. Capital is valued along with labor. Because, according to Karl Marx, the main source of capital is labor. Without labor, there is no capital. In fact, most economists are of the same opinion about the relationship between capital and labor. Karl Marx also mentions that the length of working hours has been reduced. However, even if these working hours are reduced, they are not fully paid for by employers. The third chapter is “The Form of Value or Exchange-Value”. It constitutes the Marxist theory of value in general. There are four factors that constitute the basic characteristics of products produced for the market. These factors are use value, economic value, and price. According to Marx, prices cannot cover the value of the products produced. In order for them to be compensated, trade is necessary. The next section is “The Production of Absolute Surplus Value”, which is related to the third section. It is explained that achieving productivity in the workplace is not about extending working hours. Productivity can be achieved by increasing the intensity of work. The next chapter continues with the same topic. So, the sixth section is “Wages”. It was stated that the value provided by labor is measured in money. The worth of a labor should be determined not by its own worth, but by the worth of its work. Because in the capitalist system, there is an understanding of a lot of work with less money. Value is the difference between labor and labor. In order to make a profit, he wants to buy less than its value and sell it at an expensive price. Therefore, labor has no value. After the “Wages” section comes the Accumulation of Capital. The capitalist system

is always defeating itself. This renewal is inevitable. Because societies spend labor in order to meet their needs and earn money in return for this labor, The society that provides labor actually constitutes capital. The fact that the working class is engaged in production indirectly constitutes its transfer to capital. Finally, the eighth chapter is the “Primitive Accumulation” section. It is about the starting point of capitalism and explains that the capitalist style was first seen in feudal societies. After the old feudal society, it took the form of industrialization, and industrial capitalism emerged.

Altogether, strengthens the book is that it fully explains the capitalist conception of production. The explanation of socialism as a result of the conflict between the forces of production and the relation of production offers a solution to the idea that the book defends. In addition, the words in the book are used with different meanings, and the words have been reconstructed by the author and have gained a multifaceted meaning. Thus, the book has gained importance in terms of world history. Because it has provided explanations for the current problems in the world. Marx has made polemical approaches to the problem of the relationship between labor and capital, which is everyone’s problem. On the other hand, the book is not written in a language that can be understood by everyone and is not easy to read. Because it is written with both a philosophical and political understanding. In addition, since the book consists of three chapters, it is necessary to read all three series in order to understand the relationship between labor and capital.

The definition of socialism (socio-social folklore) emphasizes the power of the working class, the fact that social and economic welfare will be ensured by government decisions, the fact that the means of production belong to society, and worker participation in government. The first use of the term 1827 was in England by Robert Owen and Karl Marx, who finalized it. Marx’s scientific socialism is expressed as Marxism. This structure, which is a statist model, will be operated for the benefit of the large masses and will be protected for the benefit of society.

But the sovereign power will always be the state. In short, there will be no class differences. Every individual will live equally. It’s a nice-sounding system. Citizens are given houses for land use. Schools, hospitals, and other services are provided free of charge. In other words, people understand that citizens’ means of production will run for free in government-owned places and that a house and a car will meet the basic needs of everyone in the state.

There is no chance of having more. Socialism was first practiced by the Russian leader Vladimir Lenin 1922. Altogether, socialism is an economic system. While socialism aims

for every individual to live equally, communism aims to create a society that is both equal and classless, religion-less, and stateless. While a majority decision is taken into account in socialism, one-party authority is valid in communism.

Many reasons exist for this. The states that make up the union, apart from having different ideologies, live under intense care and are banned greatly affects the oppressive regime based on military power and far from democracy. Also, one of the most influential reasons is the economic failure of the USSR. Sufficient amounts of various kinds of goods could not be offered to the public, and the balance between production and consumption could not be achieved.

In a world where wars are fought to demonstrate weaponry, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer; refugees fleeing hunger and war drown in the seas; and we see gender and race struggles where black people are shot because of their skin color. Watching her confinement at home, learning before going to school, walking around with a mask on...

The world is changing rapidly. It's not because of the failure of their ideology but of people's wrong practices. Why don't people both take on the good aspects of one or more ideologies and choose the best form of governance?

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