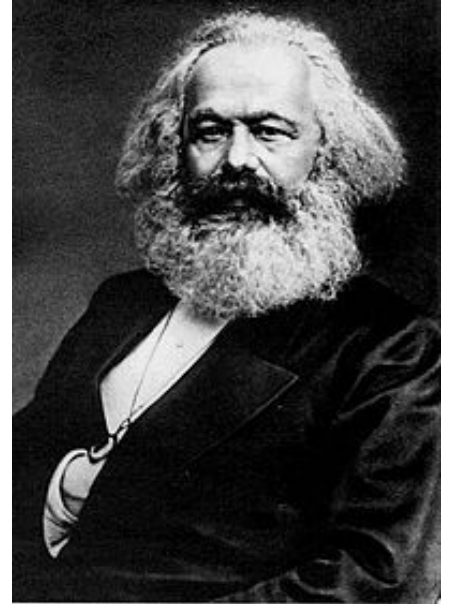


# Socialism

Another idea that sprang from the Industrial Revolution was the concept of Socialism. Many reformers felt that the government needed to play an active role to improve living and working conditions for the poor. Workers also demanded more rights and protection.

Many people during this time believed that the wealthy people or government must take action to improve the lives of the common person. This led to the theory of socialism. Socialism is economic belief that the factors of production are owned by the public and operate for the welfare of all. Socialism grew out of the optimistic view of human nature, a belief in progress and concern for social justice. Socialists argued that the government should plan the economy rather than depend on individual business owners to make decisions on what is made and sold in society. They argued that government control of factories, mines, railroads and other key industries would end poverty and promote equality. Public ownership, they believed would help workers who were often at the mercy of their employers. Because all businesses were publicly owned, people could have a say in how workers were treated and even paid.



Socialism thus had three main ideas:

1. The community, state or government should own property and the means of production.
2. Progress and harmony in society results when a community cooperates for the good of all.
3. Goods should not be distributed by wealth but rather according to each person's need.

One of the most prominent believers in this was a German man by the name of Karl Marx. Marx (pictured above) would expand the theory of socialism and eventually create a more radical form that came to be known as Marxism. Along with his friend Friedrich Engels, Karl Marx wrote a 23-page pamphlet called, *The Communist Manifesto*. In this pamphlet, they stated that the Industrial Revolution had enriched the wealthy and impoverished the poor. The two writers predicted that the workers would eventually rise up and overthrow the owners. "The proletarians (working people) have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Workingmen of all countries, unite."

Marx believed that in order for the world to effectively work, societies must begin to operate under a system called communism. He described communism as a form of complete socialism. This meant that literally everything in society would be owned by the people as a whole rather than by individuals. This meant that all land, mines, factories, railroads and businesses would be shared equally. Communism stated that ideally everybody in society would be paid the same wage no matter what job they did. Thus a doctor and a factory worker would get paid the same amount of money because both are equally contributing to the progress of society. Communism assumes that people are naturally hard working and willing to contribute to betterment of society.