# THE RELEVANCE OF THE 1848 COMMUNIST MANIFESTO FOR THE 21TH CENTURY

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# Shandong University 山东大学 THE RELEVANCE OF THE 1848 COMMUNIST MANIFESTO FOR THE 21TH CENTURY 马克思《共产党宣言》对21世纪的意义

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- 1. Revolutio: Rotation-Revolution
- 2. Class Struggle and Revolution
- 3. Process Models of History
- 4. Dialectics of Technological and Social Revolutions (19<sup>th</sup> century)
- 5. Historical Dialectics 1848 and thereafter
- 6. 21th Century Revolutions (21th century)
- 7. The Future of Revolutions
- 8. Old Wisdom

Rotation or Revolution

# TWO MODELS OF CHANGE

- Rotation: the stars and the sun day and night annual seasons up and down of economic and cultural development
- Goal and Mechanics of Change: the protection and preservation of humanity, harmony, surviving bad times, **REFORMS**
- **Revolution**: replacing the 'old' by the 'new', destruction and building anew
- Goal and Mechanics of Change: starting something new, recognizing and activating new powers, **REVOLUTIONS Counterrevolution:** Turning the wheel of history around,

fighting change

# Models of Revolutions

### 1. Technological Revolutions

- 19<sup>th</sup> Century: steam engine, railroads, manufacturing machines, electricity
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century: hightech, internet, cellphones, virtual realities **2. Social Revolutions**
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century: pauperization, escalation capital-labor,
- exploitation, alienation
- 21st Century: globalization, internet communities

### Workers of all Countries Unite !

The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes'

Marx, Engels: Communist Manifesto 1848

#### Threat and Power of a Communist Revolution

'A ghost is haunting Europe – the ghost of Communism. All the powers in Europe have entered into a holy alliance to exorcise this ghost: Pope and Tsar, Metternich and Guizot, French Radicals and German police-spies.' Marx, Engels: Communist Manifesto 1848



#### Mechanics of Class War Escalation I

The markets kept ever growing, the demand ever rising. Even manufacture no longer sufficed. Thereupon, steam and machinery revolutionized industrial production. The place of manufacture was taken by the giant modern industry, the place of the industrial middle class by industrial millionaires, the leaders of whole armies, and the modern bourgeois. Mark Englis: Communist Marifetto 1848

# Mechanics of Class War Escalation II

'The bourgeoisie, historically, has played a most revolutionary part. .. The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, and establish connections everywhere. The bourgeoisie has through its exploitation of the world market given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country. To the great chagrin of the reactionaries, it had drawn from under the feet of industry the national ground on which it stood. All oldestablished national industries have been destroyed or are daily being destroyed.'

#### Mechanics of Class War Escalation III

'The bourgeoisie forged the weapons that bring death to itself: it has also called into existence the men who are to wield those weapons – the modern working class – the proletarians.' Other previous calluses such as tradesmen, shopkeepers, handicraftsmen, peasants 'sink gradually into the proletariat, partly because their diminutive capital does not suffice for the scale on which modern industry is carried on and is swamped in the competition with the large capitalists, partly because their specialized skill is rendered worthless by new methods of production.'

Marx, Engels: Communist Manifesto 1848

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#### Results of Class War Escalation I

'The essential condition for the existence and for the sway of the bourgeois class, is the formation and augmentation of capital: the condition of capital is wage labor. .. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.' There is only one solution: 'the theory of the communists may be summed up in the single sentence: abolition of private property.' Marx, Engels: Communist Manifesto 1848

#### Results of Class War Escalation II

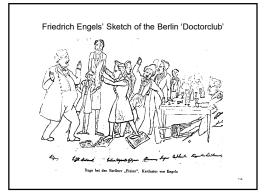
'The abolition of private property thus has led to the total emancipation of all human senses and qualities. The eve has become a human eye'. Marx, Engels: Communist Manifesto 1848

# Information Strategy of the Communist Revolution 'The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling class tremble at a communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working

men of all countries unite!' Marx, Engels: Communist Manifesto 1848

Marx and Mao on alternative Modes of Revolution The analysis in 'The Kapital' does not prove either the viability of the village community nor the opposite: 'But I am convinced that the village community will be a pillar in the social revolution.' Marx to Vera Sassulitsch 'We have the Marxist-Leninist weapon of critique and self-critique. We are capable to stop bad working behaviors and keep the good ones' Words of the Chairman Mao Zedong



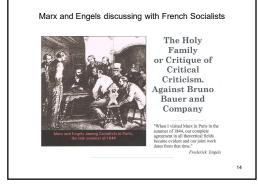


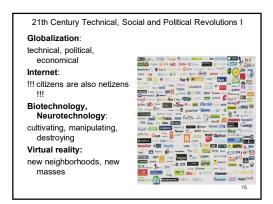
Alternative Models for Revolution in the 'Doctorclub'

- 1. Intellectual Leadership Model: Bruno Bauer: Internal Mechanics of Permanent Critical and Pure Critique, Disdain of the Masses
- Cooperation Models: Edgar Bauer: Critical Intellectuals become Leaders of spontaneous unorganized Revolts of impoverished Masses of big city slums from inside - Szeliga: Critical Intellectuals become Leaders and Advisers of Barbarian Invaders from outside
- 3. Education Models: Ludwig Feuerbach: replace alienation with happiness and harmony by replacing faith in God with personal emancipation and community among men, emancipation of the 'I and Thou'. - A. Ruge: Educate the Bourgeois Middle Class and lead the fight for Democracy, Equality, and Justice, Civil Discourse, Educational Reforms
- Existentialist Models: Max Stirner: 'The Ego and his Own'. Karl Schmidt; Emancipation of the Individual

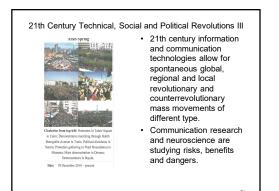
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21th Century Technical, Social and Political Revolutions II 'Virtual Worlds' of Gods, devils, angles, good and bad spirits have motivated and mobilized individuals and masses for millennia – what is my role and the role of the masses in the worlds of 'Cyberspace'? Internet since 1996, over 1 billion users 2005, today billions more. - Over 3 billion cellphone users 2010. -Business Meetings, Town Hall Meetings on 'SecondLife. - New communities, (Farmville, MyAquarium, eHealth Sites and Communities, Single's Social Networks). -'Free Associations of Free Individuals' (Marx, Engels), i.e. Communities and Spontaneous Networks, (Arab Spring, Revolts in Brazil etc.) 'This Is not a Game, this is a World' (World of Warcraft slogan)



Research in Social Ethics and NeuroEthics is necessary Social Ethics: Impact of internet communication and cooperation is not yet fully understood; it has the potential to promote, harmony,

- revolutions, counterrevolutions and needs further study and experience Bio-Ethics: Impact of genetic medical and agrarian intervention and
- manipulation on individual and public health, and on natural, cultivated and social environments
- Neuro-Ethics: 'Given the provocative and often contentious nature of effects incurred through the employment of neuroscience and neurotechnology in the social milieu, we call for the relatively new field of neuroethics to define and guide the ways that neuroscientific and technological developments can and should be pursued and applied. However, we argue that to do so in a meaningful way will mandate pragmatism, reflection, and freedom from exclusively Western orientation'

Giordano J, Benedikter R 2011

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#### FUTURE OF "REVOLUTIO" I :THREE LOVES "COUNTRY, CIVIL SOCIETY, LEADERSHIP" Deng Xiao Peng 1985, Hu Jintao 2012

System of Natural Liberty: 'First, the duty to protect the land against force and aggression from other countries, secondly the task to protect each member of the society as much as possible from injustice or suppression by a fellow citizen, and to establish a reliable system of law and the founding and maintaining of certain public institutions and establishments, which individuals or small groups cannot maintain on their own'. Adam Smith 1776 The Wealth of Nations

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FUTURE OF "REVOLUTIO" II "Revolution, Development, Reform" Hu-Jamo The reform of the political structure is an important part of China's overall reform. We must continue to make both active and prudent efforts to carry out the reform of the political structure, and make people's democracy more extensive, fuller in scope and sounder in practice' . If we fail to handle this issue well, it could prove fatal for the Party, and even could cause collapse of the party and fail of the state... We must never let words act in place of the law or (personal) power replace the law; nor will we allow the ground of the law for personal benefit" Hu Jinto, 18" Congress CDC, November 2012

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#### FUTURE OF "REVOLUTIO" III

'In building socialism with Chinese characters, we base ourselves on the basic reality that China is in the primary stage of socialism. Our overall approach is to promote economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress, and our general task is to achieve socialist modernization and the great renewal of the Chinese nation'

Basic Requirements: 'maintaining the people's principal position in the country, continuing to release and to develop the productive forces, persevering in reform and opening up, safeguarding social fairness and justice, striving for common prosperity, promoting social harmony, pursuing peaceful development, upholding the leadership of the party'.

Hu Jintao, 18th Congress CDC, November 2012 21

