Journal 8/29/18

WHY DID SOCIOLOGY EMERGE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE NECESSITY FOR THE SCIENCE
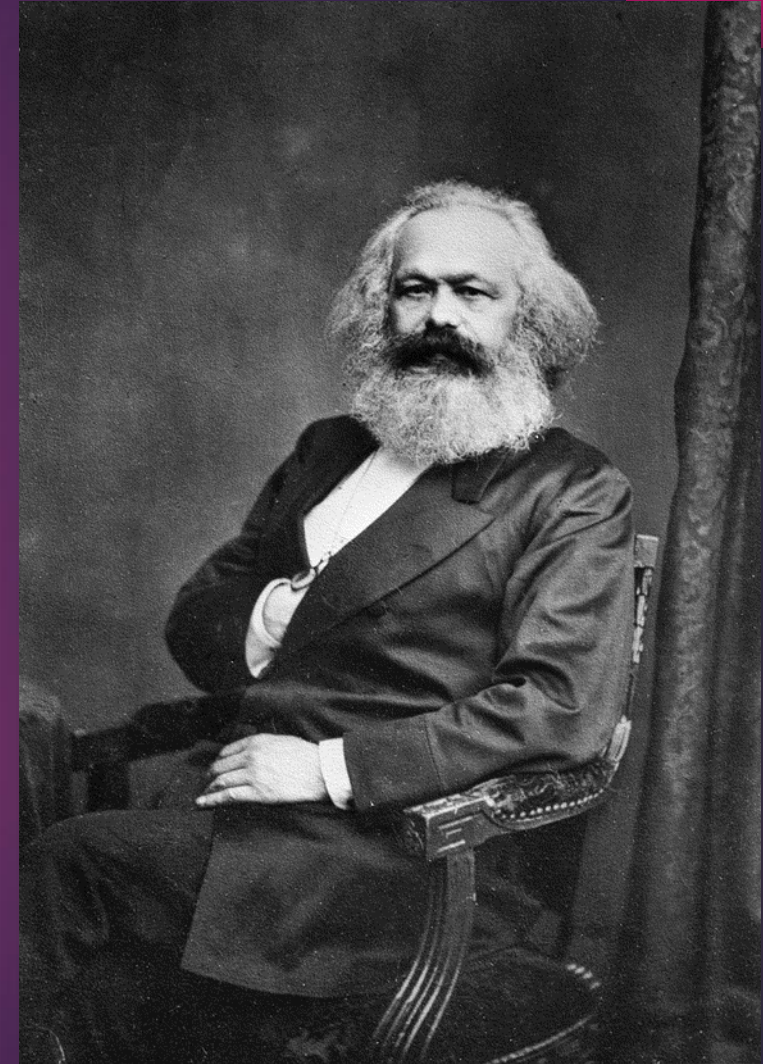
Unit 1: Sociological Theory
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Conflict Theory

- *Karl Marx* was a German philosopher and political activist whose contribution to sociology can be found in conflict theory

- Marx lived during the Industrial Revolution, when major societal changes were leading to the emergence of *capitalism,* the economic system that is based on the private for-profit operation of industry.

► Marx believed that capitalism was creating *class conflict* and *social inequality* between the *bourgeoisie,* who owned the *means of production* (money, factories, natural resources, land), and the *proletariat,* who were the workers.
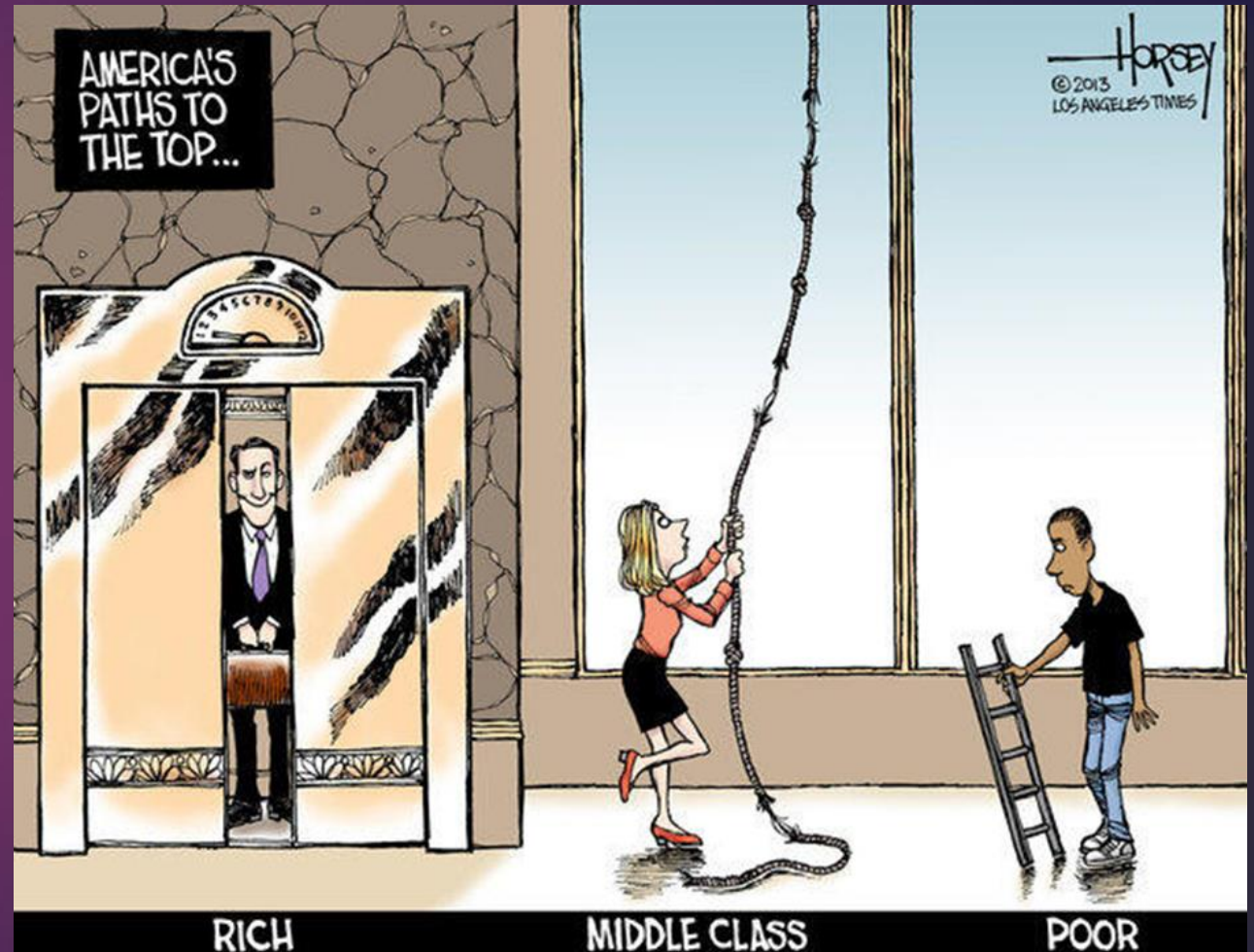
Means of Production

► The **means of production** of a society include all of the physical elements, aside from human beings, that go into producing goods and services, including the natural resources, machines, tools, offices, computers, and **means of distribution**, such as stores and the internet.

► The means of production have changed over time, but the concept is an important element in discussions of how wealth is created and maintained.

Before 1700   During the 1700s   During the 1800s   During the early 1900s

Hegemony

▶ When socially powerful people use their influence to convince less powerful people it is in their best interest to do what is actually in the most powerful people's best interest

Opium of the People

- "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is the demand for their real happiness. To call on them to give up their illusions about their condition is to call on them to give up a condition that requires illusions. The criticism of religion is, therefore, in embryo, the criticism of that vale of tears of which religion is the halo." - Karl Marx

Opium of the People

- Marx believed that religion had certain practical functions in society that were similar to the function of opium in a sick or injured person:
    - reduced people's immediate suffering
    - provided them with pleasant illusions
    - reduced their energy and their willingness to confront the oppressive, heartless, and soulless reality that capitalism had forced them into
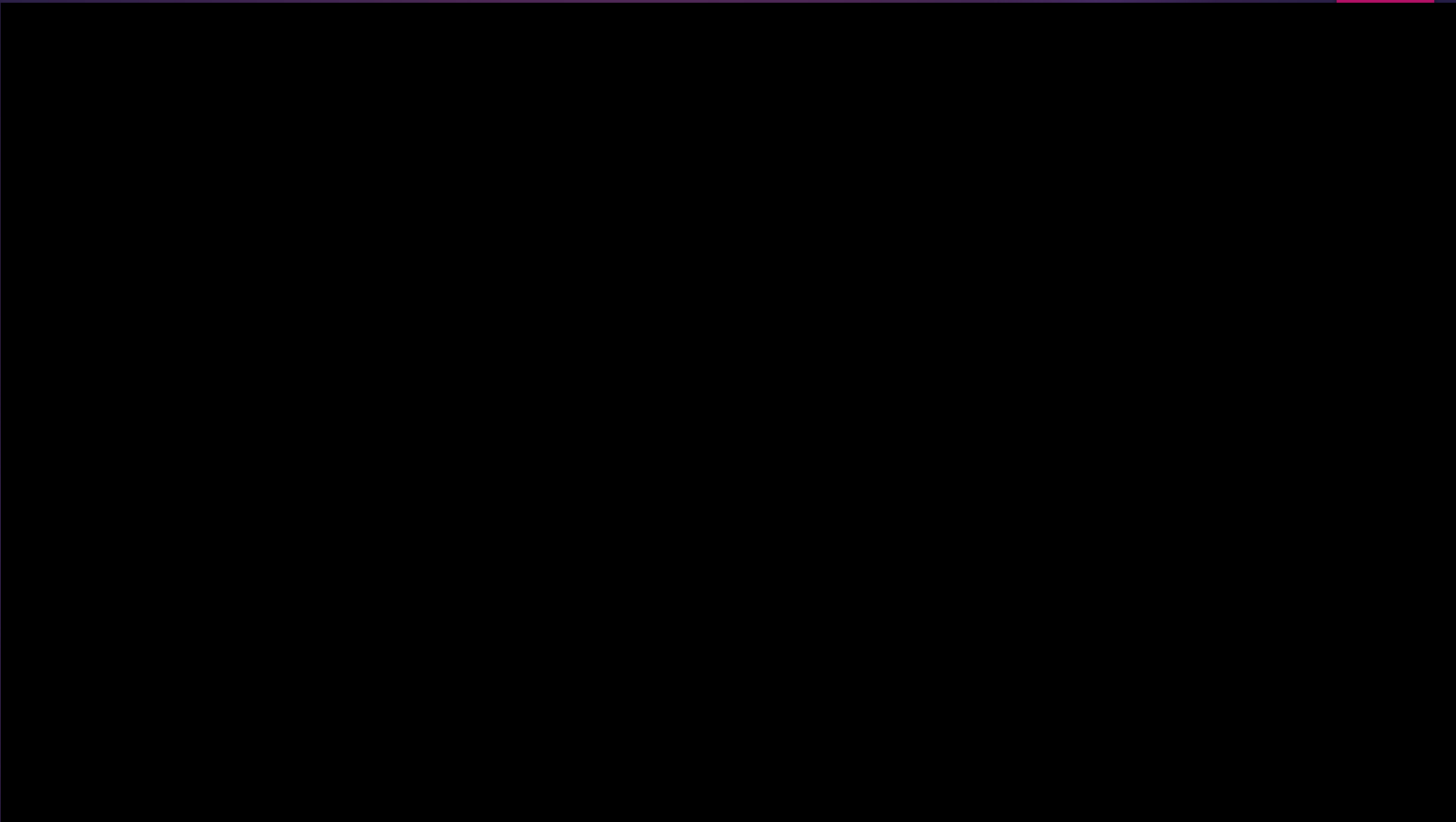
Conflict Theory

- **Thesis (Status Quo)/Antithesis**
  - Struggle (conflict) brings about a synthesis
  - Synthesis is a compromise and new order
- **All history can be understood**
- **Stages of history (according to Marx):**
  - Feudalism
  - Capitalism
  - Socialism
  - Communism

https://youtu.be/d_c2p0Y7mgU

Journal 8/31/18

WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF HEGEMONY THAT WE DID NOT MENTION IN CLASS AND EXPLAIN THE EXAMPLE

DOES THAT EXAMPLE AFFECT YOU? EXPLAIN WHY OR WHY NOT

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Charlottesville: Race and Terror
https://youtu.be/P54sP0Nlngg

Assignment

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P54sP0NIngg

In 2-3 Paragraphs in your notebook

- Explain what happened in Charlottesville using Conflict Theory (referencing evidence from the video)
  - Which group is the status quo/thesis?
  - Which group is the antithesis, and what change do they want?
  - What do you think will be the outcome?
- Discuss with a partner
  - Do you agree?
  - Write about the conversation (1 paragraph)
- Discuss as a class