- E.g. ‘bedroom tax’ introduced to reduce overly-generous welfare benefits and create a fairer society.

**Evaluation:**
- Accused of protecting the rich and attacking the poorest members of society.
- Hypocrisy as wish to crack down on crime but are not tough on m/c crime e.g. tax evasion.
- Accused of scaremongering and creating social tensions rather than cohesion e.g. creating a moral panic about migration in the campaign to leave the EU.
- Some believe the New Rights current gov policies are helping to reduce Britain’s economic deficit.

**Marxism**

**Traditional marxism (Karl Marx)**
- The bourgeoisie exploit the proletariat and the w/c are marginalised.
- Technological advances leads to more inequality as the w/c will become deskilled.
- Few people question capitalism as are victims of a false class consciousness.
- Capitalism sows the seeds of its own destruction as the w/c will see through the ideology one day and it will be replaced by a communist utopia.

**Evaluation:**
- Guardian newspaper report found that up to 10 million workers risk having their jobs replaced by robots within 15 years, are the low paid manual labour jobs that the w/c mostly occupy.
- Evidence that 1% of the world’s population own 50% of the world’s wealth.
- Can be applied to modern day as Jeremy Corbyn shares the view that ‘poverty and inequality aren’t inevitable’ and the Socialist Workers Party protesting against the rising of uni tuition fees as will price the poor out of education.
- Outdated assumed class polarisation would take place whereas more complicated due to the m/c coming about and growing so not as clear cut as the bourgeoisie and proletariat.
- Communism has not worked e.g. Soviet union in 1900s and in North Korea where it does not seem to have advantaged the lives of ordinary people.

**Humanist marxism (Gramsci)**
- Agrees that those in power use it to control the masses but believes hegemony (control by the state) is continued through ideological compromises e.g. a national minimum wage.
- Creates the impression that people are manipulative, well-rehearsed actors but people do act spontaneously and unpredictably when certain situations arise.

**Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology**

Phenomenology (Schutz)
- An extreme form of interpretivism that believes there is no reality and the world as we know it is socially constructed and a product of our thinking.
- There are ‘typifications’ which are shared categories of meaning that exist e.g. a table is only a table because we have collectively typified the object and its function to be that.
- Meanings vary depending on their social context e.g. putting up your hand at school and an auction mean different things.
- As part of our social interaction with others, we have a recipe knowledge that we follow without thinking too much e.g. red light means stop.
- The world is a shared subjective world not an objective reality.

Ethnomethodology: Garfinkel
- We as people create social order through our common sense and shared subjective understanding, not through the institutions of society.
- Social order is therefore fragile and easily broken.
- Indexicality occurs when something happens that threatens the sense of order and reflexivity then occurs when our minds work to make sense of the situation.
- E.g. breaching experiment of student acting like guests in their own home and parents viewed them as ‘being silly’ or ‘getting sick’ as the socially constructed meanings of how to behave were being challenged.

Evaluation:
- Fails to explain the underlying motives that determine how people behave; just because people ‘make sense of the world’ it doesn’t mean social structures don’t influence them.
- Ignore how the wider social structures in society create inequality.
- If it is impossible to explain why people behave in the ways they do, surely phenomenology is as redundant as all the other theories.

Giddens: Structuration theory
- Both social structures and individual action shape society e.g. laws are deep-rooted in society’s structure which regulate people’s behaviour but people’s actions reshape laws over time and people break the law showing they do not have complete control.