The Communist Manifesto

Preface:

- Capitalism leads to the destabilisation of hierarchy, and turns everything into an object for sale.
- Limitless powers of the global economy, and its truly global reach.
- Capitalism is a symbol of both destabilisation and exploitation, as well as a liberating power - the power to release people from backwardness and tradition-bound dependence.
- The ‘materialist conception of history.’
- Quasi-religious origins and character of socialist creeds.
- The term communism first came into use in France in the early 1840s - ultra radical offshoot of the republican movement which had re-emerged during the July revolution of 1830.
- Notion of the ‘spectre of communism’.
- Communist aims could ‘be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing conditions.’
- Abolition of private property - the task of communists is to bring to the fore ‘the property question.’

The German Ideology.

- Communism would only be possible as ‘the act of the dominant peoples all at once and simultaneously.’
- Presupposed the ‘universal development of productive forces and the world intercourse bound up with them.’
- The growth of large scale industry had brought with it modern, large industrial cities, the victory of town over country, and private property had become ‘a fetter.’
- Marx maintained that labour (forced, unspontaneous or waged work) would be superseded by self activity.

Bourgeois and Proletarians.

- ‘A spectre is haunting Europe - the spectre of Communism.
- Powers e.g. pope and tsar - holy alliance for a witch hunt.
- Communism is already recognised as a fact by all the European power.
- Communists must therefore lay before the world their principles of communism.
- The history of all society up to now is the history of class struggles.
- Oppressor and oppressed stood in continual conflict with one another - a struggle which finishes each time with a revolutionary transformation of society as a whole.
- Division of society into difference orders - a multifarious gravitation of social rank.
- Modern bourgeois society (which emerged from the ruins of feudal society) has not transcended class conflict - new classes, new conditions of oppression.
- Bourgeoisie society - simplified class conflict - two classes directly and mutually opposed - bourgeois and proletariat.
- Serfs of the middle ages - elements of the bourgeois developed.
- Large scale industry has established a world market - as a consequence the modern bourgeoisie developed - through a long process of development, and a series of revolutions in the mode of production and exchange.
- Stages of development of the bourgeoisie - accompanied by a corresponding political advance.
- The power of the modern state is merely a device for administering the common affairs of the whole bourgeois class.
- Bourgeoisie and their revolutionary role - personal worth into exchange value, no other bond between two men than naked self-interest.
- Bourgeoisie cannot exist without continually revolutionising the instruments of production.
- Exploitation of the world market - emergence of cosmopolitanism.
- Bourgeoisie drags all nations (even the most primitive ones) into civilisation.
- ‘In a phrase, it creates a world in its own image.’
- The bourgeoisie has subjected the country to the rule of the town.