

GROUP DISCUSSION PROMPTS - UNIT II

The following is apropos your group discussion reading assignment – the Preamble and Chapters I and II (Bourgeois and Proletarians, Proletarians and Communists) from: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (more officially called *Manifesto of the Communist Party*.)

After you have read through the above material, you should write down or copy and paste three or four very brief excerpts (sentences or paragraphs) from the document that particularly captured your attention and/or piqued your interest or curiosity.

Bring this written material with you to class and be prepared to turn it in after your discussion. (Be sure to sign your name.)

You are invited to offer any one of these to serve as prompts for your discussion. Use them as you see fit to start and/or contribute to your conversations.

To help things along, I off several general questions that bear thoughtful discussion. (You don't need to deal with all of them!)

- What is the major thesis of this pamphlet? Or is there more than one?
 - To what extent do you agree with this (or these)?
 - Marx and Engels seem to both appreciate and deprecate the achievements of Modern Industry and the Bourgeoisie.
 - In what ways positive?
 - In what ways negative?
 - Do you think the contemporary civilization that you live in could have been achieved without Modern Industry and the Bourgeoisie (i.e., Capitalism)?
 - What paradoxes and/or contradictions have you noticed in this work by Marx and Engels?
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