

*The famous statement at the end of the Communist Manifesto:*

**Let the ruling classes tremble at a Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win.  
Workingmen of all countries, Unite!**

What was supposed to happen:

First, the Dictatorship of the Proletariat

Then, the Withering away of the State...

(legitimate violence)

...through the equitable distribution of wealth:

**“From each according to his/her needs,  
To each according to his/her abilities.”**

Marx wasn't cognizant enough of the implications and historical development of democratic forms of government.

He did not anticipate or take into account the extension of the franchise – the right to vote –

- first to males w/o property
- then to former slaves (African Americans)
- then to women
- then to Indigenous Peoples (Native Americans),
- finally to 18 year olds.

What all these additions meant was that the electoral process was at least theoretically open to more and more of the people the government was supposed to represent

Furthermore, Marx was unaware of the effects of the First Amendment in the U.S. Bill of Rights, especially  
the Freedom of the Press  
the Freedom of Assembly

*(Both of which are still contested today)*