

### DBQ QUESTION

By using the documents and your knowledge of nineteenth century European history, assess the validity of the following statement:

*Marxism was a response to the failure of European society to address the problems created by industrialization during the last half of the nineteenth century.*

### DOCUMENT 1

What is your business? -- I follow the clothdressing at present.  
What is your age? -- I was eight-and-twenty last February.  
When did you first begin to work in mills or factories? -- When I was about ten years of age.  
And you gave over at nine o'clock? -- At nine at night.  
At what distance might you have lived from the mill? -- About a mile and a half.  
Every morning? -- Every morning.  
Had you no tim for breakfast? -- No, we got it as we could while we were working.  
What intermissions had you for meals? -- When we began at five in the morning, we went on until noon, and then we had 40 minutes for dinner.  
Is there not considerable dust in the flax mills? -- A flax mill is very dusty indeed.  
Was not your food therefore frequently spoiled? -- Yes, at times with the dust; sometimes we could not eat it, when it had got a lot of dust on it.  
To keep you at your work for such a length of time, and especially towards the termination of such a day's labour as that, what means were taken to keep you awake nd attentive? -- They strapped (beat) us at times, when we wee not quite ready to be doffing the frame when it was full.  
Were you frequently strapped? -- At times we were frequently strapped.  
What sort of strap was it? -- About this length (describing it).  
What was it made of? -- Of leather.  
Were you occassionally very considerably hurt with the strap? -- Sometimes it hurt us very much, and sometimes they did not lay on so hard as they did others.  
Were the girls strapped in that sort of way? -- They did not strap what they called the grown-up women.  
Were any of the female children strapped? -- Yes; they were strapped in the same way as the lesser boys.  
What were your wages at 10 years old at Mr. Benyon's? -- I think it was 4s (shillings) a week.

*Sadler Commission Report on Child Labor  
Michael Thomas Sadler, Esquire, in the Chair. William Cooper,  
called in: and Examined (April 12, 1832).*

DOCUMENT 2



19th century British factory.

DOCUMENT 3

The account of the physical condition of the manufacturing population in the large towns in the North-eastern District of England is less favourable. It is of this district that the Commissioners state, "We have found undoubted instances of children five years old sent to work thirteen hours a day; and frequently of children nine, ten and eleven consigned to labour for fourteen and fifteen hours." The effects ascertained by the Commissioners in many cases are, "deformity." and in still more "stunted growth, relaxed muscles, and slender conformation:"

"twisting of the ends of the long bones, relaxation of the ligaments of the knees, ankles, and the like." "The representation that these effects are so common and universal as to enable some persons invariably to distinguish factory children from other children is, I have no hesitation in saying, an exaggerated and unfaithful picture of their general condition; at the same time it must be said, that the individual instances in which some one or other of those effects of severe labour are discernible are rather frequent than rare....

. . . . .

In conclusion, I think it has been clearly proved that children have been worked a most unreasonable and cruel length of time daily, and that even adults have been expected to do a certain quantity of labour which scarcely any human being is able to endure.

*Testimony for the Factory Act of 1833: Working Conditions in  
England  
Testimony of the Commission of Medical Examiners.*

#### DOCUMENT 4

It was a town of red brick, or of brick that would have been red if the smoke and ashes had allowed it; but as matters stood it was a town of unnatural red and black like the painted face of a savage. It was a town of machinery and tall chimneys, out of which interminable serpents of smoke trailed themselves for ever and ever, and never got uncoiled. It had a black canal in it, and a river that ran purple with ill-smelling dye, and vast piles of building full of windows where there was a rattling and a trembling all day long, and where the piston of the steam-engine worked monotonously up and down like the head of an elephant in a state of melancholy madness. It contained several large streets all very like one another, and many small streets still more like one another, inhabited by people equally like one another, who all went in and out at the same hours, with the same sound upon the same pavements, to do the same work, and to whom every day was the same as yesterday and tomorrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next....

*an excerpt from the novel Hard Times, 1854  
Charles Dickens*

#### DOCUMENT 5

The last rays of sun contending with clouds of smoke that drifted across the country, partially illumined a peculiar

landscape. Far as the eye could reach, . . . a wilderness of cottages, or tenements that were hardly entitled to a higher name, were scattered for many miles over the land; some detached, some connected in little rows, some clustering in groups, . . . interspersed with blazing furnaces, heaps of burning coal, and piles of smouldering ironstone; while forges and engine chimneys roared and puffed in all directions, and indicated the frequent presence of the mouth of the mine, and the bank of the coal-pit.

. . . .

They come forth: the mine delivers its gang and the pit its bondsmen; the forge is silent and the engine is still. The plain is covered with the swarming multitude: bands of stalwart men, broad-chested and muscular, wet with toil, and black as the children of the tropics; troops of youth, alas! of both sexes, though neither their raiment nor their language indicates the difference; all are clad in male attire; and oaths that men might shudder at issue from lips born to breathe words of sweetness. Yet these are to be, some are, the mothers of England!

. . . .

See, too, these emerge from the bowels of the earth! Infants of four and five years of age, many of them girls, pretty and still soft and timid; entrusted with the fulfillment of responsible duties, the very nature of which entails on them the necessity of being the earliest to enter the mine and the latest to leave it. Their labour indeed is not severe, for that would be impossible, but it is passed in darkness and in solitude. They endure that punishment which philosophical philanthropy has invented for the direst criminals, and which those criminals deem more terrible than the death for which it is substituted.

*Sybil, or the Two Nations: Mining Towns, 1845*  
Benjamin Disraeli

#### DOCUMENT 6

The history of all hitherto existing society is class struggle. Freeman and slave, patrician and plebian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary reconstruction of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. . . . The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of old ones.

. . . . .

Owing to the extensive use of machinery and to division of labor, the work of the proletarians has lost all individual character, and, consequently, all charm for the workman. He becomes an appendage of the machine, and it is only the most simple, most monotonous, and most easily acquired knack, that is required of him.

. . . . .

When, in the course of development, class distinctions have disappeared and all production has been concentrated in the hands of a vast association of the whole nation, the public power will lose its political character....If the proletariat during its contest with the bourgeoisie is compelled, by the force of circumstances, to organize itself as a class, if, by means of a revolution, it makes itself the ruling class, and, as such, sweeps away by force the old conditions of production, then it will, along with these conditions, have swept away the conditions for existence of class antagonism and of classes generally, and will thereby have abolished its own supremacy as a class.

*Communist Manifesto, 1848*  
Karl Marx

DOCUMENT 7

The production of surplus value, or the extraction of surplus-labour, is the specific end and aim, the sum and substance, of capitalist production quite apart from any changes in the mode of production, which may arise from the subordination of labour to capital. He will remember that as far as we have at present gone, only the independent labourer, and therefore only the labourer legally qualified to act for himself, enters as a vendor of a commodity into a contract with the capitalist. If, therefore, in our historical sketch, modern industry, on the one hand; the labour of those who are physically and legally minors, on the other, play important parts, the former was to us only a special department, and the latter only a specially striking example of labour exploitation. Without, however, anticipating the subsequent development of our inquiry, from the mere connexion of the historic facts before us...

*Das Capital, 1867*  
Karl Marx

DOCUMENT 8

Arise ye starvelings from your slumbers  
Arise ye criminals of want  
For reason in revolt now thunders  
and at last ends the age of can't.  
Now away with all your superstitions  
Servile masses arise, arise!  
We'll change forthwith the old conditions  
And spurn the dust to win the prize.  
Each at his forge must do his duty

CHORUS

Then come comrades rally  
And the last fight let us face  
The Internationale  
Unites the human race. (repeat)

We peasants, artisans and others,  
Enrolled amongst the sons of toil  
Let's claim the earth henceforth for brothers  
Drive the indolent from the soil.  
On our flesh for too long had fed the raven  
We've too long been the vultures prey.  
But now farewell to spirit craven  
The dawn brings in a brighter day.

CHORUS

No savior from onhigh delivers  
No trust we have in prince or peer  
Our own right hand the chains must shiver  
Chains of hatred, greed and fear.  
Ere the thieves will out with their booty  
And to all give a happier lot.

And strike the iron while its hot.

CHORUS

*The Internationale, late 19th century.  
Eugene Pottier*

DOCUMENT 9

From this it follows that the social conflict - the war or all against all - is fought in the open...Here men regard their fellows not as human beings, but as pawns in the struggle for existence. Everyone exploits his neighbour with the result that the stronger tramples the weaker under foot. The strongest of all, a tiny group of capitalists, monopolise everything, while the weakest, who are in the vast majority; succumb to the most

abject poverty.

Every great town has one or more slum areas into which the working classes are packed. Sometimes, of course, poverty is to be found hidden away in alleys close to the stately homes of the wealthy. Generally, however, the workers are segregated in separate districts where they struggle through life as best they can out of sight of the more fortunate classes of society. The slums of the English towns have much in common - the worst house in a town being found in the worst districts.

*The Condition of the Working Class in England, 1844*  
Friedrich Engels

#### DOCUMENT 10

Having outlived its social usefulness, capitalism must give way to a new social order--a social order wherein government shall rest on industry, on the basis of useful occupations, onstead of resting on territorial (political) representation. This new system can only be the Socialist form of government if the needs of the vast majority are to be served and if progress is to be the law of the furture as it has been in the past.

Socialist Labor party,  
*Declaration of Fundamental Principles, late 19th century.*