**World History**

**Measurement Topic 2: Industrial Expansion & Imperialism**

**Level 3**

**Learning target#2:**  **Describe the development of capitalism and communism**

**Directions:**

1st- Number the paragraphs

2nd - Independently read the passage, and circle words you don’t know. Predict the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the passage a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions on the back in complete sentences.

There were many people who did not agree with capitalism. A growing number of people felt that capitalism was creating a group of people, who were forced to work for factory owners for little pay, live in bad conditions while the factory owners received all the benefits. This group of workers worked long hours doing difficult and dangerous jobs for little pay. People argued that capitalism needed to be dissolved. Many new economic systems and idea were created in response to capitalism. One new idea was **utopianism**, the idea that society could be much better or even perfect with human effort. Utopias were created were everyone was equal, did equal work and shared everything. Utopianism was not an idea that was successful. Another idea created was communism, the idea that the people should own everything, but the government would be in charge for the people.

**Reasons for Communism**

One important person advocating for a change from Capitalism was Karl Marx. He believed that the workers or Proletariat group would create a revolution and take over capitalism. He felt that the capitalists (factory, business owners) were mistreating the workers, and the workers would become fed up with the mistreatment causing the workers to revolt and take over the businesses and government. Reformers (people who wanted a change) from capitalism believed that industrial capitalism was heartless and brutal. They wanted a new kind of society. They wanted to totally abolish capitalism. These reformers had read Karl Marx’s book, the Communist Manifesto. This book criticized capitalism and predicted that the proletariat group (workers) would revolt against capitalism and violently overthrow capitalism, creating a new economic and government system called Communism.

**Basics of Communism**

Under Communism, there would be a dictator (absolute leader) chosen from the proletariat group to run the Communist government. This dictator would abolish all class systems (rich, middle class and poor) and everyone would be equal. The communist government owns almost everything, land, factories, natural resources, food, buildings and so on. Individuals own only personal property such as clothing. The communist government sets the prices for all products, and determines what should be produced, when it should be produced and how much should be produced. The communist government provides the people the products the government thinks the people need. The communist government also tells people what jobs they will do, and almost all jobs pay the same wage. Ex. A doctor makes almost the same as a janitor.

**Advantages of Communism**

Under Communism everyone is equal. Another advantage is that everyone is employed. This is a great advantage because each person can work equally as hard to benefit the community. Another benefit is universal healthcare. The government owns and operates/runs the hospitals so everyone gets the same treatment. Education is free, free food and clothing is provided to those that need it. If people do become unemployed the government provides them with a job. Everyone has a home in the government created apartments.

**Disadvantages of Communism**

One of the first disadvantages of communism is that individual freedom is lost. People have little or no say on what type of job they want, where they can live, what they can buy and so on. People have no incentive to work because people receive the same pay regardless of how hard they work. Products are very, very limited, because the government determines what should be produced, so there is no supply and demand, except for basic necessities which the government is supposed to supply to everyone. Stores are empty because the government only provides what the people need. Even though there is universal health care, wait times are long, treatment is minimal and the tools used are very old. Education is provided only for those skills needed to survive, sewing, cooking and only what the government allows. The free food is the rejected food so often it is rotten and clothing is only in black and gray colors. The government rations very small amounts out so people never have enough toilet paper, soap, and food. Yes the government gives people who are unemployed work, but they work in government controlled work camps providing food and supplies to everyone else. The government owned apartments have more than one family per apartment.

**Answer the following questions on another sheet of paper**

1. Why did some people want a change from capitalism?
2. What is utopianism?
3. What are some basics of communism?
4. Identify 3 the advantages to communism?
5. Identify 3 disadvantages to communism?
6. Write a small paragraph summary identifying the basics, pros and cons of communism.

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**World History**

**Measurement Topic 2: Industrial Expansion & Imperialism**

**Learning target #2: Understand the development and effects of Capitalism and communism**

**Directions: The following questions are based on the accompanying documents/graphs/maps/quotes. As you read and analyze (think about) each document/graph/map/quote be sure to:**

1st- Read the passage independently or with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

2nd - Answer the questions in complete sentences using the document as evidence.

**DOCUMENT #1: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, book: The Communist Manifesto (1848)**

“…masses of laborers… crowded into factories. They are slaves of the machine and the manufacturer. Instead of rising as industry progresses, they sink deeper and deeper into poverty…”

1. What do the authors think that people get from being workers during the industrial age/time period?

**DOCUMENT#2 : Harry Schwartz, The New York Times (1952)**

“The (communist) worker’s standard of living is raised by several benefits the government provides. He receives free medical care. He does not have to worry about being unemployed. Old and disabled people receive social insurance…. The government also provides nurseries and kindergartens for the children of working mothers.

1. According to the author, what aspects/part of life is improved under communism?

**DOCUMENT #3: T.P. Whitney, “The Russian Peasant Wars on the Kremlin” (1954)**

“Andrei, his wife, his father, and (his) elder son all have to work on the collective farmlands…. He is not stupid and sees that almost all the produce ends up in the hands of the Government. The local Communist party boss is always coming back… for more and more. Andrei and his family know ahead of time that they are going to get (a) very small return for working on the collectivized fields. Naturally this conditions (changes) their attitudes. They are constantly on a sort of slow-down strike….”

3. Why are Andrei and his family slowing down the pace of their work?

4. What type of economic system or government are Andrei and his family under? What evidence in the above passage proves this to you?

**DOCUMENT #4: “Katia,” a 16-year-old ninth grader from Moscow (quote) (1980)**

“Capitalists are rich people who own factories and have lots of money and workers…. A factory can belong to one person in Capitalism but in (Communism) it belongs to the government…. I am for the idea of (Communism). It seems to me that you have more of an opportunity to live well. You won’t lose your job in (Communism) …I’ve heard about the unemployment problem in America. People can’t find any kind of job…. That’s the way we heard about it – that (in) the West, unemployment, everything there is bad, a real mess.”

5. Describe the speaker’s point of view about capitalism. Provide passages from document #4 as evidence.

6. Using the information on handout # 2-3 and your knowledge regarding Capitalism, utopianism and communism to write a summary on the basics of each system as well as the pros and cons of each.

**\*\*\*\*Be sure to add evidence from one of the five documents above to your essay**. \*\*\*\*

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