

Random thoughts on the new mode of production .

Marx spoke of the fact that whereas previous expropriations a mass of individuals remained subservient to a single instrument of production, in the appropriation by the proletarians a mass of instruments of prod. must be made subject to EACH INDIVIDUAL. The last two words bear the greatest import. Why?

Modern machinery has not made man subservient to it; it has been created by man. But it is a special type of man: the scientist and the capitalist. The masses of people have become subservient to it, if not in the superstitious way primitives did to nature, nevertheless in the intellectual way that it has been beyond their understanding.

When the proletariat expropriates the bourgeoisie, all it can do, in the first instance, is to make it property to all. But that is merely the first step, for ownership does not bestow intellect, it does not unite the brain & brawn, it merely creates the condition that that should be so.

It is only when each individual understands the machine that a new mode of production, a new mode of life, a new mode of activity can be created. Each individual having understood it means that from now it will not be merely a question of the machine having made it possible for people to work only 3 hours instead of 8, but these 3 hours may be spent with any number of machines and may be the basis for yet other ways of work. In other words, intellectual & manual work becomes one, with vast scope

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opened to ~~either~~ both. Hence there will really be a new mode of production.

The present mode of production signifies (only) that technology has progressed to an extent where general want does not reign out of the NATURE of the production but out of the production RELATION. ^{the} (When you) ^{put an end} overthrow the relationship, you ^{to} make possible that the nature of production ^{will} assert itself, and that means creates the material base, but ^{materially} only the material base, for (future life). It is up to the mode of activity thereafter to see that the material base and the intellect of the masses combine. What limitless fields that opens we can only guess at. No doubt we will appear prehistoric indeed to ~~the~~ future generations.

The point is that that new mode of production does not develop immediately after the bourgeois is overthrown. It is a long, hard road toward it. But unless that road is taken, the socialised means of production will serve no better end than the privately owned means of production. ^{For} it is not means of production that create the new type of man ^{but} the new type of man that will create the means of production ^{and} the new mode of activity will create the new type of man.