

Alienation: A Cross Study between Karl Marx and Jean-Paul Sartre

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Abstract

The word alienation has a special relevance in our modern life situations. As the technology and the mass level of industrialization affect our life, we are living a more alienated life than ever before. The word etymologically refers to estrangement, loneliness and a state of isolation of man. Alienation has been a persistent problem of man from the very beginning of human civilization and got intensified during the progress of time. The problems of alienation has been captivated the minds of so many thinkers over the centuries. It has so many versions in different branches of knowledge, like sociology, philosophy, theology or neurology. But it has a special place in Philosophy and Sociology. The concept got a new level of meaning during the 20th century with the radical development of Science and technology as well as industrial development. Alienation, as a philosophical concept, got immense acceptance and popularity through the works of, French Philosopher Jean Paul Sartre, and as a Sociological concept, influenced the masses through the revolutionary thoughts of Karl Marx. While Karl Marx was more vocal about the alienation of man in the capitalist societies, Sartre's notion of alienation was more about man's being.

Karl Marx's theory of alienation covers his theory of natural man and how he engages in productive work in capitalist societies. It has social relevance, as it shows the ordinary labor's suffering conditions in industrialist societies. On the other hand Jean Paul Sartre's theory of alienation depicts the various aspects of man's conscious being. Sartre was more interested in describing man's alienation during his intimate private situations like death, innate freedom. Through this paper, I would like to convey, the various aspects of alienation, in the socio-philosophical thoughts of Karl Marx and Jean Paul Sartre.

KEYWORDS: *Alienation, Capitalism, Isolation, Species Being, Productive Work, Exploitation, Work, Being and Nothingness, Freedom, Praxis, Scarcity.*

