

KARL MARX REVOLUTIONARY PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper examined the political philosophy of Karl Marx upon which projections of revolution in Nigeria is presumed. The analytical paradigm of this paper is anchored on the philosophy in the Age of Liberalism. The paper is based on qualitative research, and reviews literature from secondary sources. The paper argues that many revolutionary movements around the world, including Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa were fairly inspired by the Marxist revolutionary ideas. The concept of revolution used in the context of this paper simply refers to the inspiration which a group of people derive from the revolutionary philosophy of Karl Marx to engage in mass protests and movements, seeking to improve their welfare, but not necessarily to overthrow the status quo of the bourgeoisie to enthrone the proletariat rule. Revolution for this paper only makes sense through the massive protests that followed the 2012 oil subsidy removal, the change revolution in 2015, and the EndSars protests in 2020. Nigeria is yet to witness a real revolution in the sense that Karl Marx conceived of it, but only to the extent that his ideas provided the inspiration for mass protests and demonstrations against the existing status quo, seeking to improve and reform the existing order to offer opportunities for the masses. The paper argued further real revolutions have been truncated in Nigeria because of government policies and laws that target dissident voices; ethnic nationalism; and lack of class consciousness. It is thus, recommended that labour unions and civil societies should embark on massive awareness advocacy to sensitize, mobilize and lead the public to gain the right consciousness, determination and resilience needed to sustain protests and mass movements seeking to reform and improve the existing order that benefits the few privileged but to the disadvantage of the vast majority of the people, who live in misery. In the conclusion, it is submitted that, if the obstacles impeding revolution in Nigeria are overcome, Nigeria is likely to experience a radical change and transformation in her socio-economic and political structures.

Keywords: Karl Marx, Philosophy, Revolution, Social Change, #EndSars Protests