

The excerpt from eric
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in the great machine
in light of releva...

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The excerpt from Eric Schlossers The Cogs in the Great Machine in light of relevant ideas/concepts from Marx

" The Cogs in the Great Machine" In Light Of Relevant Ideas/Concepts from Marx The main idea focused upon in the article " The Cogs in the Great Machine" is poor working conditions and pay for workers in the meatpacking industries. This kind of oppression is being exercised by employers who not only focus on the profitability of their organizations but also want to cut down on profitability of these companies. At the beginning of this excerpt, the reader is clearly introduced to poor conditions in which employees in such industries like Greeley work in. The main problem is seen in pollution of the air hence, poor odour for the workers. In addition to the poor environment, workers are exposed brutal injuries like shoulder injuries, lacerations, amputations just to mention a few. Such conditions cause the workers to form unions that can fight for their rights. However, this is not forthcoming as the outcome is on class division.

Meatpacking industries now prefer hiring worker that are unskilled and from poor backgrounds especially the immigrants. This makes companies to spend less in terms of wages as well as housing allowances and Medicare. In the beginning when these meatpacking factories were being formed, payment was reasonable. However, along the way, more slaughterhouses were created and this followed the rise in class division. The rich who form industrial owners are the masters to control every bid of the American economy. In fact, they would prefer to hire workers on contract so that they can increase on the organizational profitability. This has resulted into high employee turnovers which does not raise any concern according to them as

long as the companies are operating at a profit.

Such sentiments have been shared by Carl Marx in his article about the Bourgeois and the Proletarian. According to Marx, The Bourgeoisies seek for cheap labour from the proletarians who apparently do not own anything. This form of social structure has resulted into class division. He says that history has indicated the existence of classes like the freeman and the slave, patrician and the plebeian, the lord and the serf among other classes. As much as the ancient bourgeois society has class stratification in terms of those who own and the owned, the modern bourgeois society and invented novel ways in which oppression can be exercised. This has traversed all areas of business activities in which industries decide to hire cheap labour from those lower in society simply because they may not find room to raise their concerns.

In market activities, African Americans are used to provide cheap labour in most of the meatpacking industries across the United States of America. At some point when it comes to the conflicts of tax payment, such issues are left at the mercies of bourgeoisies. In the same way oppression of workers in the article " The Cogs in the Great Machine" had a gradual development; bourgeoisies as well grew from one level to another. In fact Marx says that the bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionising the instruments of production and the entire community. In this case, they stick on the old modes of production and only seek to reduce costs in their form of business activity. This is the reason as to why meatpacking slaughterhouses seek cheap labour from the peripheries of America and provide poor working conditions just to ensure that production is maintained and profitability is

sustained.

Work Cited:

Schlosser, E. Cogs in the Great Machine. From the book Fast Food Nation.

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