

**Books and Literature Review Society (BLRS) presents:**

<b>Critical Review of the Book:</b>	The Marxist-Leninist-Maoist Class Interest Theory of Ethics
<b>Author of the Article:</b>	Scott Harrison (There are Two Chapters of the Book, which were written for replying newspaper article of Georg Eccarius, published in 1852)
<b>Review Presenter:</b>	Muhammad Asim
<b>Date:</b>	November 16, 2014
<b>Review Publisher:</b>	Books and Literature Review Society (BLRS) under Rehmat and Maryam Researches (Islamabad & Lodhran)

**Core Idea**

In these chapters, writer firstly defines ethics and then relates it to the materialism. Initially, he describes non-Marxist theories of ethics like Hedonism (maximizing pleasure and minimizing pain), Kantian Ethics and Ethical Relativism. Then, writer elaborates Marxist-Leninist-Maoist (MLM) concept about morality and ethics. He also relates historical materialism with ethics.

In second chapter, now writer defines the term “Good”. He says that the term GOOD is actually a direction of doing some positive in ethics. However, there is no link of this term with personal or collective interests. MLM theories never reject Ethics and Morality but based on collective class interests.

In fact, the central concept in the ethical theory behind the principles of proletarian morality summarized by Lenin which is actually the class interest according to him. But, this class interest theory of ethics explains not only proletarian morality but also the various moral systems of other classes. It explains all such moral systems in terms of the basic class interests of those who develop and propagate them. The class struggle, proletarian revolution, and the advancement of society against communism are all morally justified because they are the only way to satisfy the basic interests of the proletariat and the rest of the masses.

According to Writer;

- 1) Morality changes in accordance (more or less) with the changes in the socioeconomic form of society.
- 2) Each class in any society has its own system of morality.
- 3) The dominant morality in any society is that of the ruling class (at least once it is firmly entrenched).
- 4) Each class morality is based, in the final analysis, upon the collective interests of the members of that class, primarily their material, economic interests.

Writer argues that language is also reflection of the social ethics and shows the relations of production and ruling position of one class. Although, according to Lenin, language is not a creation of single class but society as a whole. Writer says that, although there are several other factors rather than the language in the society, like justice and injustice, right and wrong, and, good and bad. So, we cannot analyze that language can measure the level of ethics in any society. Similarly, interests of one class are not equalized

to the interests of our all-rich class. Everyone in the society is not equal. So, at this stage, we can say that MLM's theories have been failed to justify ethics in their own folds.

#### Copyright

© All rights have been reserved and protected in accordance with the Copyright Ordinance 1962 of Pakistan & SECP Registration 2022

#### Disclaimer

This is hereby clearly stated that the responsibility of the contents and the opinions expressed in any forum associated with the Rehmat and Maryam Researches is exclusively of the author(s) or internee(s) concerned. The opinions/views/analysis/results presented at any portal/webpage/forum do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher/editor(s) or Rehmat and Maryam Researches. So, there is no responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of information contained in it.

#### Research Methodology

This book is written on theoretically and historically descriptive, comparative, analytical and qualitative research methods. Writer firstly describes concept of ethics and explain its theories in different ages, then compare it with Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. Similarly, in second chapter, writer analyzes philosophies of Karl Marx, Lenin and Mao Tze Tung and presents conclusion with using qualitative approach.

#### Personal Idea

By reading and analyzing all the described definitions of "ethics", "good" and "interest", I learn that MLM's theories about the concepts of ethics and "good" are on right way against the interest of proletarian class. Although, practically, MLM's theories fell down but communist tendency in all over the world still reflects that;

- MLM-based practices can be criticized but morally, MLM's theories are not immoral.
- Morality and ethics are fully existed in the Communist Manifesto.