

II. 11 February

Manifesto of the Communist Party (German Edition 1872)

What is the bourgeoisie?

What is revolutionary about the bourgeoisie?

-bourgeoisie is subtended by constant revolutionizing of relations of production...and revolutionizing of whole relations of society

What is the effect of this shift on history?

Important passages:

-476/ "all fixed... all solid melts... "

-institutions break down/ dissolve:

479/ sexual difference,

484/ private property (abolished),

485/ temporality (in bourgeois society, past dominates present--in communist society, present dominates past),

487/ nuclear family (marriage sanctifies prostitution),

488/ countries and nationality

What is the genre of manifestos?

Important passages:

-500/ 'openly declare...'

'forcible overthrow...'

'all existing conditions' (not some)

read last graph

Berman, All That Is Solid Melts into Air (1980)

-André Masson, Mannequin with Bird Cage (1938)
for the surrealist exhibition of 1938

-Giacometti, The Cage (1930-31)
http://www.hayalevi.com/sanat_galerisi/Giacometti/gia-1930-cage.jpg

-Giacometti, Suspended Ball (1930-31)
http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/Art_History/AHIS370/week4/01.jpg

-Berman offers study of dialectics of modernization and modernism
Question: what is a dialectic?
Hegel: thesis, antithesis, synthesis
Horkheimer and Adorno are also, clearly, interested in dialectics...in
Dialectic of Enlightenment they argue that enlightenment is totalitarian

Horkheimer/Adorno: “The Culture Industry” (1944)

What is the culture industry?

- Entertainment. Distraction. Not high art.
- Culture Industry keeps people passively satisfied...and politically apathetic
- Horkheimer and Adorno question Marx’s premise...capitalism has not collapsed, as Marx and Engels said it would... rather, it seems to have become more entrenched. While Marx focuses on economics (political), Horkheimer and Adorno emphasize culture in securing the status quo
- Culture Industry churns out a debased mass of unsophisticated and sentimental products...that have replaced the more difficult and

critical art forms (which may have lead people to actually question social life)

-Culture industry cultivates false needs that are both created and “satisfied” by the capitalist system. Important passage:

142/ but this satisfaction is just deception

These false needs replace our true needs.

What are true needs?

- Freedom
- Full expression of human potential
- Genuine creative happiness

What are the problems with popular music?

- Standardization (formulaic tendencies)
- Pseudo-individualization (incidental differences make them seem distinctive, but they're not)

What do Horkheimer and Adorno say about status of individual in this historical moment of the culture industry?

Important passage:

-154-5/ individual is illusion, is a fiction

Horkheimer And Adorno use standardized jazz improvisation to illustrate complete identification with the status quo

What are modern-day applications?

- TV alienates us from social interaction...
- and it keeps us from questioning the oppression in our lives