

and harassment. Those in whom political power was vested were members of the same group who exploited the worker. Hence, there was no hope of redress from the State.

A number of persons led movements in protest against the injustice, with the desire to improve the lot of workers. They called themselves socialists. Karl Marx was one of them. In an effort to lead the movement against this injustice, he studied the entire history and structure and presented his analysis of the situation. He claimed to have given a scientific basis to his theories. All the subsequent socialists might not have agreed with Marx, but they all were considerably influenced by his ideas.

According to Marx's analysis - dialectical materialism - the root cause of exploitation, lies in the private ownership of the means of production. If these means are made the property of the society (for a Marxist, the Society is synonymous with the State), then there will be no further exploitation. But before this, the State should be redeemed from the hands of the exploiters and insured against their influence in future. Towards this end, dictatorship of the proletariat must be established. In order that people may tolerate this dictatorship, it was held as an ideal, that when the exploiter class has been finally liquidated, and no possibility of its resurgence exists, the State will be replaced by a classless, stateless society. Marx also attempted to show that capitalism contained the seeds of its own destruction and that socialism is inevitable.

Three Contradictory Ideals

In some countries of Europe there was a socialist revolution. Even where socialism was not accepted, the politicians had to accept the rights of workers. 'Welfare State' was accepted as an ideal. Nationalism, democracy, socialism or equality (equality is there at the root of socialism - equality is different from equitability), these three doctrines have dominated European social and political thinking. Every now and then, apart from these, the ideals of world peace and world unity were also advocated. All these are good ideals. They reflect the higher aspirations of mankind. But by itself, each stands opposed to the rest in practice. Nationalism poses a threat to world peace. Democracy and capitalism join hands to give a free reign to exploitation. Socialism replaced capitalism and brought with it an end to democracy and individual freedom. Hence the West is at present, faced with the task of reconciling these good ideals. They have not succeeded in