# The Principles of Communism

**Written:** November-December 1847
**Source:** Marx/Engels Collected Works, Vol. 6, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1976
**Translated:** Jack Cohen, Christopher Upward, Clemens Dutt, Richard Dixon, Richard Temple
**Transcribed:** Paul Brandon
**Proofreading:** Andy Blunden
**Markup:** Andy Blunden, Brian Baggins, Nicolas Pelletier, Andy
**Converted to Marxists.org:** 2003

Discussion Introduction

The Three Jews always meet and are joyful when they see each other. The Three Jews not always have coinciden and are joyful when they see each other. The Three Jews not always have coinciden and joyful when they see each other. The Three Jews not always have coinciden and joyful when they see each other. The Three Jews not always have coinciden and joyful when they see each other.

## What is Communism?

Communism is the doctrine of the conditions of the liberation of the proletariat.

## What is the proletariat?

The proletariat is that class in society which lives entirely from the sale of its labour and does not draw profit from any kind of capital, whose well and woe, because it depends on the demand, is dependent on the alternate course of business, on the vagaries of unbridled competition, in a word, on the whole of uncertain competition. The proletariat, or the class of the proletarians, is, in a word, the working class of the 19th century.

## Proletarians, then, have not always existed?

No. There have always been poor and oppressed classes, and the working class has mostly been poor. But there have not always been workers and poor people living under conditions as they now are, who live, in short, under those conditions upon which the prevailing bourgeois relations, and rules that have been always been in force, are based.

## How did the proletariat arise?

The Proletariat originated in the industrial revolution, which took place in England in the last half of the 18th century, and which has since been everywhere repeated by all the other civilized countries.

This industrial revolution was precipitated by the discovery of the steam engine, various spinning machines, mechanical looms, and a host of other mechanical devices. These inventions, which could be employed to advantage only on a large scale, and which ushered in the age of industrial production, were in a direct way the cause of the ascendancy of the bourgeoisie, of the middle class, of the middle class, of the middle class