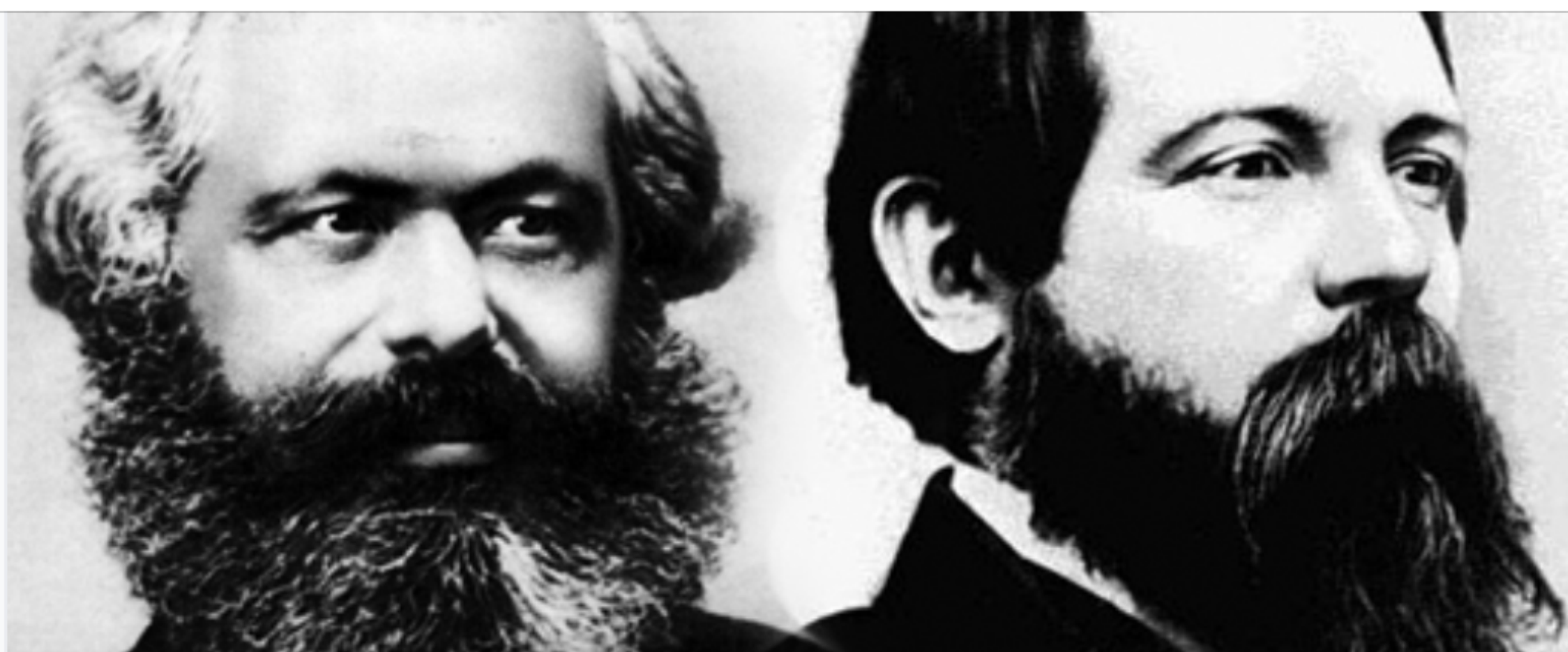


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Neo-Marxism

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Neo-Marxism is a [Marxist school of thought](#) encompassing 20th-century approaches that amend or extend Marxism and [Marxist theory](#), typically by incorporating elements from other intellectual traditions such as [critical theory](#), [psychoanalysis](#), or [existentialism](#) (in the case of [Jean-Paul Sartre](#)).

As with many uses of the prefix *neo-*, some theorists and groups who are designated as neo-Marxists have attempted to supplement the perceived deficiencies of [orthodox Marxism](#) or [dialectical materialism](#). Many prominent neo-Marxists, such as [Herbert Marcuse](#) and other members of the [Frankfurt School](#), have historically been [sociologists](#) and [psychologists](#).

Neo-Marxism comes under the broader framework of the [New Left](#). In a [sociological](#) sense, neo-Marxism adds [Max Weber's](#) broader understanding of [social inequality](#), such as [status](#) and [power](#), to [Marxist philosophy](#). Examples of neo-Marxism include [analytical Marxism](#), French [structural Marxism](#), [critical theory](#), [cultural studies](#), as well as some forms of [feminism](#). [Erik Olin Wright's](#) theory of contradictory class locations is an example of the [syncretism](#) found in neo-Marxist thought, as it incorporates [Weberian sociology](#), [critical criminology](#), and [anarchism](#).^[1]



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History



Neo-Marxism developed as a result of social and political problems that traditional [Marxist theory](#) was unable to sufficiently address. This iteration of thinking tended toward peaceful ideological dissemination, rather than the [revolutionary](#), and often violent, methods of the past.

Economically, neo-Marxist leaders moved beyond the era of public outcry over [class warfare](#) and attempted to design viable models to solve it.

There are many different branches of neo-Marxism often not in agreement with each other and their theories. Following [World War I](#), some neo-Marxists dissented and later formed the [Frankfurt School](#). The Frankfurt School never identified themselves as neo-Marxists. Toward the end of the 20th century, neo-Marxism and other Marxist theories became [anathema](#) in democratic and [capitalistic](#) Western cultures, where the term attained negative connotations during the [Red Scare](#). For this reason, social theorists of the same ideology since that time have tended to disassociate themselves from the term neo-Marxism. Examples of such thinkers include [David Harvey](#) and [Jacque Fresco](#),^[2] with some ambiguity surrounding [Noam Chomsky](#), who has been labelled a neo-Marxist by some, but who personally disagrees with such assessments.^{[3][4]} Some consider [libertarian socialism](#) an example of rebranded neo-Marxism.^[5]

Neo-Marxian economics



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New Symbolization Project, a [critical theory](#) club at [Boise State University](#), held the first sustained, [multi-disciplinary](#) academic response to the [Jordan Peterson](#) phenomenon in late October 2018; notable [Marxist economist](#) [Richard D. Wolff](#) and [radical theologian](#) [Peter Rollins](#) gave the [keynotes](#).

The terms **neo-Marxian**, **post-Marxian**, and **radical political economics** were first used to refer to a distinct tradition of [economic theory](#) in the 1970s and 1980s that stems from [Marxian economic thought](#). Many of the leading figures were associated with the [leftist *Monthly Review* School](#). The neo-Marxist approach to [development economics](#) is connected with [dependency](#) and [world systems](#) theories. In these cases, the 'exploitation' that classifies it as Marxist is an external one, rather than the normal 'internal' exploitation of [classical Marxism](#).^{[6][7]}

In [industrial economics](#), the neo-Marxian approach stresses the [monopolistic](#) and [oligarchical](#) rather than the [competitive](#) nature of [capitalism](#).^[8] This approach is associated with [Michał Kalecki](#),^[9] [Paul A. Baran](#), and [Paul Sweezy](#).^{[10][8]}

Such theorists as [Samuel Bowles](#),^{[11][12]} [David Gordon](#), [John Roemer](#), [Herbert Gintis](#), [Jon Elster](#), and [Adam Przeworski](#) have adopted the techniques of [neoclassical economics](#), including [game theory](#) and mathematical modeling, to demonstrate Marxian concepts such as exploitation and [class conflict](#).^[13]



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The neo-Marxian approach integrated non-Marxist or "bourgeois" economics from the [post-Keynesians](#) like [Joan Robinson](#) and the [neo-Ricardian](#) school of [Piero Sraffa](#). Polish economists [Michał Kalecki](#), [Rosa Luxemburg](#), [Henryk Grossman](#), [Adam Przeworski](#), and [Oskar Lange](#) were influential in this school, particularly in developing theories of [underconsumption](#). While most official [communist](#) parties denounced neo-Marxian theories as "bourgeois economics," some neo-Marxians served as advisers to socialist or Third World developing governments.

Despite being an orthodox Marxist economist, [Maurice Dobb](#) was also associated with this current.

Concepts

[Big business](#) can maintain selling prices at high levels while still competing to cut costs, advertise and market their products. However, competition is generally limited with a few large capital formations sharing various markets, with the exception of a few actual monopolies (such as the [Bell System](#) at the time). The [economic surpluses](#) that result cannot be absorbed through consumers spending more. The concentration of the surplus in the hands of the business elite must therefore be geared towards [imperialistic](#) and [militaristic](#) government tendencies, which is the easiest and surest way to utilise [surplus productive capacity](#).

[Exploitation](#) focuses on low wage workers and groups at home, especially minorities. Average earners see the pressures in drive for production destroy their human relationships, leading to wider alienation and hostility. The whole system is largely irrational since though individuals may make rational decisions, the ultimate systemic goals are not. The system continues to function so long as [Keynesian](#) full employment policies are pursued, but there is the continued threat to stability from less-developed countries, throwing off the restraints of neo-colonial domination.



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Labor theory of value

[Paul A. Baran](#) introduced the concept of potential *economic surplus* to deal with novel complexities raised by the dominance of *monopoly capital*, in particular the theoretical prediction that monopoly capitalism would be associated with low capacity utilization, and hence potential surplus would typically be much larger than the realized surplus. With [Paul Sweezy](#), Baran elaborated the importance of this innovation, its consistency with Marx's labor concept of *value* and supplementary relation to Marx's category of *surplus value*.^[14]

According to Baran's categories:

- Actual economic surplus: "the difference between what society's actual current output and its actual current consumption." Hence, it is equal to current savings or accumulation.
- Potential economic surplus: "the difference between that output that could be produced in a given natural and technical environment with the help of employable productive resources, and what might be regarded as essential consumption."

Baran also introduced the concept of planned surplus—a category that could only be operationalized in a rationally planned *socialist* society. This was defined as "the difference between society's 'optimum' output available in a historically given natural and technological environment under conditions of planned 'optimal' utilization of all available productive resources, and some chosen 'optimal' volume of consumption."^[15]

Baran used the surplus concept to analyze underdeveloped economies (or what are now more optimistically called "developing economies") in his *Political Economy of Growth*.^[15]

Neo-Marxist feminism



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Neo-Marxist feminism

Some portions of [Marxist feminism](#) have used the *neo-Marxist* label.^{[16][17]} This school of thought believes that the means of knowledge, culture, and pedagogy are part of a privileged [epistemology](#). Neo-Marxist feminism relies heavily on [critical theory](#) and seeks to apply those theories in [psychotherapy](#) as the means of political and cultural change. Teresa McDowell and Rhea Almeida use these theories in a therapy method called "liberation based healing," which, like many other forms of Marxism, uses [sample bias](#) in the many interrelated liberties in order to magnify the "[critical consciousness](#)" of the participants towards unrest of the status quo.^{[17][18][19][20]}

See also

- [Analytical Marxism](#)
- [Budapest School \(Lukács\)](#)
- [Freudo-Marxism](#)
- [Libertarian Marxism](#)
- [Marxian economics](#)
- [Marxist feminism](#)
- [Marxist humanism](#)
- [Neue Marx-Lektüre](#)
- [Open Marxism](#)
- [Post-Marxism](#)
- [Socialism of the 21st century](#)
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