

## **KARL MARX'S CRITIQUE ON HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT**

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This study intends to explore Karl Marx's *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right* [1843] with special reference to his introduction, which elaborates his views on religious criticism. The orthodox Marxist views on religious critique ignore the positive and humanistic progressive side of religion, which even Marx himself identified in his *Critique*. He criticizes the institutional religions, which exploit the human capacity in all its moves. To him this institutional religion is the heart of heartless people. And all the critiques should begin with religious criticism. Social, political economical and all the other criticism should be preceded by religious criticism. But Marx identifies the progressive side if religion centers on humanity or...if it orbits around humanity. The orthodox Marxists rarely see this contribution of Marx; especially dogmatic Marxists never identify the progressive elements of human centered philosophy of religion. While criticizing unprogressive elements of institutional religions, which can go against the fundamental progressive principles of human centered positive philosophy of religion, the Marxist critics of religion should identify the progressive philosophical issues within the religious traditions, which can be utilized for the progressive change of society and the state. This study explores Karl Marx's approaches in his *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*, which was progressively adapted by some of the Neo Marxists and the Frankfurt school of social research.

As Marx said 'Man, who has found only the reflection of himself in the fantastic reality of heaven, where he sought a superman, will no longer feel disposed to find the mere appearance of himself, the non man where he seeks and must seek his true reality...but man is no abstract being squatting outside the world. Man is the world of man – state and society.' This is a progressive humanistic approach of Karl Marx. These issues are already found in all the progressive philosophies of religion, which are totally refuted by orthodox Marxists. In this research qualitative and quantitative research methods are used as an integral methodology to bring out the message of Karl Marx in his *Critique on Hegel's Philosophy Right*, its deviations from orthodox Marxists and its contemporary relevance and understanding.

The struggle against religion is to remove all the dogmatic interpretations and unprogressive elements of religion. The so-called religions are the sigh of the oppressed people and the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions. The abolition of religious illusory happiness of the people is the demand for their real happiness. The criticism of religion is therefore the immediate task of philosophy to unmask the illusions of religion and to focus on progressive side of religion. Thus, to Marx the criticism of heaven turns into the criticism of earth, and the criticism of theology into criticism of politics. The exposition as a full-scale critical study of *Hegel's Philosophy of Right* follows this introduction of Marx and the message of this *Critique* should be realized in its practical sense with the contemporary relevance of the society, culture and the state.