

Question 3 (6 marks)

Name ONE theory of social change KARL MARX'S theory of SOCIAL CONFLICT.

With reference to a country you have studied, evaluate how your chosen theory of social change helps you to understand ONE feature of continuity and ONE feature of change within that country.

Marx saw two significant social classes, the capitalists, who owned the means of production, and thus the power, and the proletariat, who had nothing to trade but their labour. But he believed that although the capitalists kept the working class separated through gender, religion, etc, they would eventually realise that they are above all workers and unite to overthrow the bourgeoisie, forming a stable, classless society.

China, pre 1949, consisted of a small proportion of middle class; the ruling "elite", the nationalist government, with a very large working class, the peasants. With the leadership of Mao and the communist party, the nationalists were overthrown, and thus a significant change was inaugurated within the country as Marx's theory came into practice. One significant change was in the social structure, whereby the peasants now owned the land (the means of production) yet

one continuity was that although the ruling class (the nationalists) had been kicked out, the communist party in the space of less than 20 yrs (with death of Mao) effectively became the new ruling class.