

***The Handmaid's Tale* and Marxism**

Ms. Rock



"Every Fist Clenched as One," Cover of 1934 A.I.Z.
(Workers Illustrated Magazine)

Capitalism

- An economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state.

Communism

- A socioeconomic system structured upon common ownership of the means of production and characterized by the absence of social classes, money, and the state.
- One communist slogan was “Workers of the World, Unite”

Communism vs. Marxism

- Karl Marx wrote "The Communist Manifesto"
- Marxism is the theory which communism is based off of.
- More than 50 percent of Americans wrongly attributed the quote "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" to either George Washington, Thomas Paine, or President Barack Obama, when it is in fact a quote from Karl Marx, author of The Communist Manifesto

Marxism in *The Handmaid's Tale*

Karl Marx: From each according to his ability to each according to his need

“The Bible”: “From each according to her ability to each according to his need.” (pg. 117)

Blog Post

The slogan which Offred says is used to justify the existence of handmaids is “From each... according to her ability, to each according to his need” (pg. 117). Offred says she thinks the slogan comes from the Bible. In fact, it is a variation of a slogan popularized by Karl Marx, “From each according to his ability, to each according to his need.” What is Atwood suggesting by changing the pronoun and the accredited source for this saying? Are men’s needs actually being met?