

Chapter 3

Topic 6 Marxism

Page 214

Activity: Discussion

Can ideas bring about revolution?

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key concepts and studies from a Marxist perspective.
- Identify key themes in Marxist views.

- A. Divide the class into two halves, then subdivide each half into groups of 3-4. The groups in one half will be humanistic Marxists like Gramsci; those in the other half will be structuralist Marxists like Althusser. You are going to prepare a presentation which gives your view on whether ideas can bring about revolution, and if so, how.
1. Read the relevant section of the textbook dealing with your approach (pages 211-214, starting from *The 'two Marxisms'*).
 2. Each group of 3-4 should prepare a five-minute presentation on your approach and its view on revolution.
Here are some points to help you. Add as many others as you can:
 - a. Which aspects of traditional Marxism does your approach agree with?
 - b. How does your approach see Marxism?
 - c. How does your approach view individuals in society?
 - d. According to your approach, how will revolution come about?
- B. Use your presentation to take part in a class discussion: 'Can ideas bring about revolution?'
- C. As a class, vote on which approach is most convincing. When deciding which way to vote, you must only consider the evidence presented during the discussion.
- D. Individually, write your own summary of your class's discussion, focusing on the differences between the two Marxisms.