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Unit VI LEQ 3 (Arman)-

**Q:** Contrast how a Marxist and a Social Darwinist would account for the differences in the conditions of a working class family and a middle class family.

**Contextualization:** The second industrial revolution began in 1893 bridging the economic gap between the European continent and Britain's industrial superiority. Unlike the first industrial revolution the second was characterized by the use of steel, chemicals, electricity, and oil. The new industries produced new consumer goods but furthered the plight of the working class causing strikes and economic downturn. **Thesis:** These working conditions led to major socialist movements across the European continent, Marxism being the most influential in Britain and Germany. Following the discoveries of Darwin, Social Darwinism also arose. **Argument:** In principle they differed greatly in explaining the growing gap between a working class and middle class family.

**BP1:** Marxism arose much earlier than Social Darwinism believing in complete government control over wealth and property to destroy class structure.

- **E:** The First International Working Men's Association is formed in 1864 by British and French trade unions with the approval of Karl Marx.
- **A:** Marxism's key belief is that the proletariat would plight to the point where they would band together for revolution. The characteristics of working class family in the 19th century were reaching the atrocious conditions for the workers to unite. Trade unions represent one of the first international causes to better the condition of the worker in hopes of a classless society.
- **E:** Many countries embraced forms of Marxian socialism including the German SPD and Russian Bolshevism.
- **A:** In Russia and Germany, industrialism boomed during the 2nd industrial revolution bringing immense hardships to the workers. With no worker rights, these people looked to socialism as an answer to their deteriorating conditions. Marxists viewed the differences b/t middle class and working family to be the early stages and the catalyst of the inevitable workers revolution.

**BP2:** In contrast, the theory of Social Darwinism did not believe in close government control with a firm belief in the Darwinian principle of natural selection.

- **E:** In the origin of species (1859) Darwin explained how species evolved over time through natural selection, survival of those who had traits best adapted to their changing environments
- **A:** Darwin produced evolutionary ideals that challenged traditional thought and biblical narrative. The theory of natural selection was created from research on multiple species and influence from Thomas Malthus. It later became a basis for defending the middle class.
- **E:** Herbert Spencer, British philosopher, claimed human society evolved through competition.
- **A:** Darwin himself didn't develop social darwinism, but he created a frame for Spencer to change middle class thought. Spencer believed that the differences b/t middle class and working families arose from the middle class being better suited to profit from their environment. He advocated class hierarchy and less blind charity in his philosophy.

**Conclusion:** In summation, Marxists and social darwinists differed greatly in their ideals and their views on 19th century families. Marxists accounted for the differences b/t middle class and working families by claiming this gap was the precursor to the inevitable unified worker's revolution. In contrast social darwinists advocated for the middle class as the better suited and successful members of society who deserved their status. **Synthesis:** The effects of the second industrial revolution on the working class and the peasantry is similar to that of the effects of the first industrial revolution. The first industrial revolution broke the family economy, introduced mechanization and family life, and forced a shift from the agrarian economy. The second industrial revolution furthered these changes with emphasis on new inventions leading to the industrial base and social discontent necessary for the first World War.