



The contradiction of liberal democracy

We live in a society in which we all possess equal political rights, but in which wealth is held unevenly.

How democratic is a society where people possess equal political rights but unequal social power?

Liberalism: An ideology that promotes the freedom of the individual in religious, political, and economic matters.

Basic tenets of liberalism

1. Basic unit: the self-interested individual
2. All humans are free and equal and protected by political/civil rights
3. All humans have a right to private property
4. Religious toleration
5. Government's role: protect life, rights, property
6. Government: limited, representative
7. Economic system: capitalism

The Christian state
(e.g. feudal Germany)

Political power

Property

Civil society

Religion

Family

The political state (e.g. the U.S.), or political emancipation

Democratic state (public sphere)	Civil Society (private sphere)
Act “universally” Politics	Act “egoistically” Civil society (inc. church)
Citizenship (<i>citoyen</i>)	Private selves (<i>bourgeois</i>)
Common good	Self-interest
Rights (“lion’s skin”)	Property (real power)
“Christian”	“Jewish”
“Heaven”	“Earth”

Human emancipation

**Citizen & private self
are integrated**

**Individual, state, and civil society
are integrated
(no alienation)**

Public power is the real power

**Realization of the capabilities
of the species (species-being)**

Abolition of private property

Later name: communism

Christianity

God



humans

<— false
universals—>

<— real
power —>

Liberal state

State



society

<— Public
(Christian)

<— Private
(Jewish)

Communism:

The full development of our human capacities through the abolition of social classes and capitalism.

Communism represents five things:

1. Collective control of the means of production (centralized or decentralized)
2. A critique of capitalism
3. A method of interpreting history
4. A strategy for political change
5. Democracy: giving people a say in those affairs that affect their daily life, especially those economic affairs.

Class: A group of people whose lives are determined (significantly influenced) by their position in the mode of production.

Class struggle: The unceasing attempt by working people to realize their full humanity by struggling against the social conditions and social classes that restrict their humanity.

repha w/ clearer def?

History is the history of class struggles.

Class-in-itself: All those who must sell their labor-power to capitalists to survive.

Class-for-itself: When this group “asserts its autonomy as a class through its unity in struggle against its role as labor-power.”

(Cleaver, *Reading Capital Politically*, 74)