

# Existential Marxism

Group Maintained by [JPSartre12](#)

For those members who follow the teachings of the French existentialist and novelist Jean-Paul Sartre, or sympathize with his views. He was associated with the French Communist Party, the Maoist-inspired Proletarian Left, and the Revolutionary Democratic Rally.

We are a group dedicated to the synthesis of Marxism and existentialism, as put forth in the post-WW2 era in France by Jean-Paul Sartre and influenced by his contemporaries, Simone de Beauvoir and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, as well as by the European communist and anarchist traditions at the time. Existential Marxism is often associated with the libertarian Marxist tradition (although it generally rejects the concept of the libertarian-authoritarian dichotomy, as it does with most structuralist binaries), and situates itself close to both left-communism and class-analysis anarchism. It is generally opposed to Marxist-Leninism ("Stalinism") and its post-Stalin derivatives (Maoism, Titoism, etc) and considers the Soviet Union to have been state capitalist. It presses for grassroots revolutionary action in industrialized nations, and believes in the illegitimacy of bourgeois morality as a determinist power structure and argues for its replacement by a humanist ethic. It is supportive of militant labor unions, red unionism, and militant peoples' strikes. Although accepting of a vanguard party, it generally rejects the notions of democratic centralism, economic determinism, and / or anything that takes freedom out of the hands of the individual and resigns him or her to a fatalist or pre-determined behavior.

It also places an emphasis on angst, existential nausea, bad faith ("mauvaise foi"), and argues that identity politics have worked to fracture "the" proletariat based on socially-constructed demographics. It is deeply phenomenological and materialist, and can be thought of as "politicized" continental philosophy.

Existential Marxism argues that the lack of a pre-determination leaves humanity the free will and responsibility to construct it for itself, and that individuals gain definition and meaning based on what choices they choose, and in what context that choice is taken. It maintains strong support for democracy, inter-vanguard debate, and inclusive decision-making, and rejects the rule of an élite minority

over the laboring majority (be it a bourgeois aristocracy or a party-led bureaucracy).

As the political economy sets the stage, the individual is free to design the play.  
"Existence precedes essence" - Sartre

<http://www.revleft.com/vb/group.php?groupid=1079>

## **Marxist Existentialism**

Group Maintained by [sunfarstar](#)

We are a group dedicated to the tenets and philosophies of both Marxism and Existentialism. We seek to show the reconciliation of both ideologies, and show that they are not in conflict with each other. In fact, one may even need the other as the human body needs oxygen. We also seek to dispel the myth that Existentialism entails pointless angst and counterproductive pessimism. Existentialism is less the idea that "life is pointless." It is more the idea that "nothing has predetermined humanity's purpose, therefore it is our RESPONSIBILITY to create our own meaning in life, and to do so responsibly and soberly. In addition to our quest within ourselves to overcome Nausea and angst that confronts all people in their self-determined life journey, we also are ware of our society, the potential that it holds and the problems that faces it. We see that capitalism and any system in which freedom of both society and the individual are violated by the rule of a small, elite class as a great hindrance on humanity, even if humanity's existence precedes its essence. We welcome all who are sincerely interested in learning and enriching their minds and encourage positive and productive discussion.

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