

COMPARISON OF KARL MARX, EMILE DURKHEIM, AND MAX WEBER

|                                 | <u>MARX</u>                               | <u>DURKHEIM</u>                                  | <u>WEBER</u>                                   |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| MAIN METHOD OF EXPLANATION      | Historical materialism                    | Functionalism ("organicism")                     | Interpretation of social meanings              |
| DRIVING FORCE IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR | Material needs and powers                 | Values, norms, morality                          | Authority, "will to power"                     |
| KEY SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS         | Economy, property                         | Religion, education, professions                 | State, bureaucracy                             |
| MAIN HISTORICAL TREND           | Rise and eventual overthrow of capitalism | Growing division of labor, secular individualism | Increasing rationalization of all spheres      |
| MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL PROBLEMS  | Alienation, exploitation of labor         | Normlessness, weakening of moral ties ("anomie") | Disenchantment, meaninglessness, ("iron cage") |
| PROPOSED SOLUTION               | Socialist revolution                      | New "organic" type of moral solidarity           | None   |
| POLITICAL VIEWPOINT             | Working class                             | Middle class                                     | Ruling class                                   |