

THE END OF MEDIEVAL IDYLIC RELATIONS

A passage from the famous *Communist Manifesto*. The first English edition was a translation by Helen Macfarlane published in 1850 in the *Fraternal Democrat* of the Chartist George Julian Harney. This is taken from the second edition, a translation by Samuel Moore, supervised by Edward Aveling and Friedrich Engels, published in London in 1888.

The bourgeoisie, historically, has played a most revolutionary part.

05- The bourgeoisie, wherever it has got the upper hand, has put an end to all feudal, patriarchal, idyllic relations. It has pitilessly torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his 'natural superiors', and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous 'cash payment'. It has drowned the most heavenly ecstasies of religious fervour, of chivalrous enthusiasm, of philistine sentimentalism, in the icy water of egotistical calculation. It has resolved personal worth into exchange value, and in place of the numberless infeasible chartered freedoms, has set up that single, 10- unconscionable freedom — Free Trade. In one word, for exploitation, veiled by religious and political illusions, it has substituted naked, shameless, direct, brutal exploitation.

20- The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage-labourers.

25- The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation.

30- The bourgeoisie has disclosed how it came to pass that the brutal display of vigour in the Middle Ages, which Reactionists so much admire, found its fitting complement in the most slothful indolence. It has been the first to show what man's activity can bring about. It has accomplished wonders far surpassing Egyptian pyramids, Roman aqueducts, and Gothic cathedrals; it has conducted expeditions that put in the shade all former Exoduses of nations and 35- crusades.

Pp. 82-83 in Karl MARX & Friedrich ENGELS (A.J.P. TAYLOR, ed.), *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1967, 124 p.