Revolutionaries in a post non-truth capitalist system

Dr. Simon Mouatt

Generally, revolutionaries desire to transcend capitalism, a system that has incentivised and furthermore required certain types of non-virtuous behaviour(s) from economic agents in order to perpetuate itself. This led to dilemmas for the political classes who have promoted the euphemisms of capitalist apologetics whilst simultaneously having a conscious responsibility to encourage ethical behaviour. There is a systemic need for intellectual ideologues to obfuscate some of the reality of capitalist mechanics, thus forming disingenuous narratives or, at worst, the need to lie. Since the language disresonates with reality, it periodically leads to forms of grassroots protest that manifest in support for charismatic leaders like Trump. Marx held the view that genuine observers of the capitalist system were hindered by the falsehood promoted by the state of his day, and posited that it needed to be overcome in order for transformation to occur. This paper evaluates the philosophical foundations of capitalism since the European Enlightenment, and argues that the Hegelian and Marx dialectic provide adequate explanation of poignant times of historic transformation and the trajectory towards human emancipation. It also suggests, however, that the removal of false consciousness may not be fully sufficient to further the cause of emancipation since the dialectical process of change involves the heart as well as the mind.