Hegelian Dialectics for Dummies

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By: Brent Parrish

The Right Planet



Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (Credits: Wikipedia)

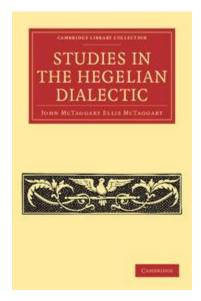
Why should you care about the *Hegelian Dialectic*? How does it affect me? The dialectical philosophy devised by Georg Hegel underpins the entire political and social strategy of the radical left. The dialectical approach to "consensus-building" (*compromise*) and "conflict resolution" (*dialog*) is the process with which the radical left attempts to control and manipulate outcomes.

There are several reasons why I felt compelled to write an article on the subject matter of Hegelian dialectics. First, I thought I would take a shot at introducing the subject matter to those who are unfamiliar with it, and why it is relevant to politics today. Secondly, I thought it "*prudent at this juncture*" to clearly lay out important distinctions between Hegel's philosophy and that of Marx's theory of *dialectical materialism*.

I have been reading and hearing the term "*Hegelian Dialectic*" bantered around more and more. As a matter of fact, my last article submitted to the *The Watcher's Council*, I, once again, brought up the Hegelian dialectic in relationship to our two-party system–the infamous *left-right paradigm*, as I am wont to call it. But I digress.

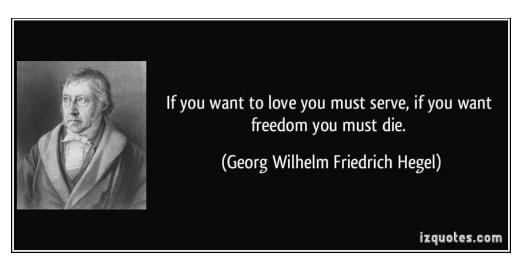
Hegelian dialectical theory is simply a philosophy, a way of thinking–a thought process. But when taken to its extreme, and applied by unscrupulous characters, it is a very dangerous and lethal strategy. For it is not a new strategy or idea, but an ancient one. And it takes many forms. Indeed, it can be difficult to expose the strategy, even by those deeply familiar with it, because the agenda is hidden, and the predetermined ends are kept secret by those employing the strategy.

But before we get started exploring Hegelian *dialecticalism* (author's own term), let me state clearly: there are entire books written on the subject matter of dialectical philosophy, and on the life of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, the father of the so-called *Hegelian Dialectic*. I do not consider myself an authority on Hegel. Nor do I consider myself an expert on dialectical philosophy–in all its varied forms. I have simply researched the subject matter in some depth.

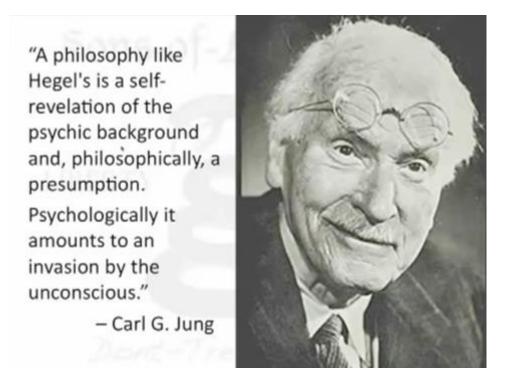


So let's just start with the man who is credited with devising the dialectic: Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel was a German philosopher, and a major figure in German Idealism. Georg Hegel was born on August 27, 1770, in Stuttgart, Germany, and died on November 14, 1831, in Berlin, Germany.

Hegel developed a theory related to historicist and idealist ideas–an account of reality which eschewed the concept of absolutes–a precursor to Continental philosophy (*cf.* European Union). Hegel's philosophy and ideas greatly influenced Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels as well, along with people like Sigmund Freud, and many others.



Georg Hegel had great disdain for the concept of *Individualism*, and is quite popular with collectivists. He literally hated the individual. The Hegelian dialectic is not only a strategy of outcomes, but also a strategy of psychological projection.

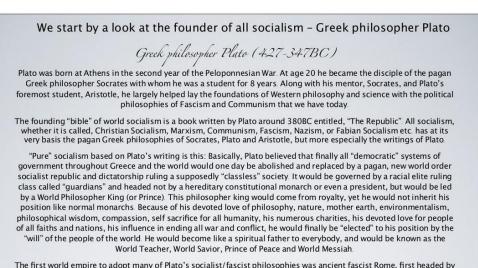


(Credits: Screencap from YouTube/TruthNeverTold)

The idealism of Hegel's theory also fit nicely with the Marxist notion of *Utopianism*, which Marxist theoreticians have promised will be the ultimate outcome-a workers' paradise-once a collectivist society has been permanently established worldwide-*Heaven on Earth*.

Today's self-described liberals and progressives both *knowingly* and *unknowingly* promote historicism, relativism, idealism and collectivism. Dialectical philosophy provides the foundational rationalization for the theory of Marxian socialism. The dialectical approach is also central to modern-day "community organizing." The "equality of outcome" often demanded by the left has its roots in Hegel's dialectic.

Of course, the formulaic strategy of the Hegelian dialectic is certainly nothing new. One can see its roots snaking all the way back to *Plato's Republic*, and I would suspect it goes farther back than that.



The first world empire to adopt many of Plato's socialist/fascist philosophies was ancient fascist Rome, first headed by Julius Caesar (49BC – 44BC) dictator of the Roman republic. In the Roman republic the power of the state to "at once scourge and decapitate" was symbolized by a bundle of rods bound with the helve of an axe called the fasces. In modern times, Hitler's Nazi fascist socialist Third Reich was based on this old Roman system of government. Hitler deeply admired the ability of the Roman Empire for its ability to forge a strong and unified state and blamed Christianity for its destruction.

When the current Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, visits the City of London Corporation, she travels in her Gold State Coach. To represent her supreme power over world maritime trade and commerce, four Tritones, sons of Neptune, carry her seated in the cabin. To represent her global fascist power the two rear Tritones each carry the Roman fasces, ancient symbol of fascism.

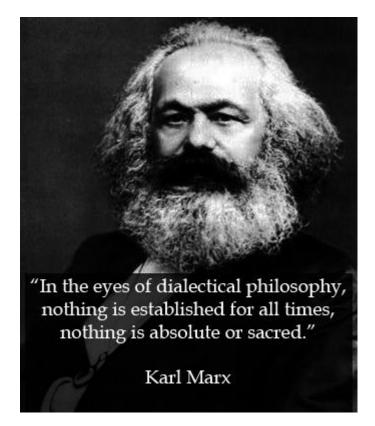
Click to zoom. (Credit: Lt. Powell, Pacific Freedom Foundation)

Via Marxists.org:

Dialectics has its origins in ancient society, both among the Chinese and the Greeks, where thinkers sought to understand Nature as a whole, and saw that everything is fluid, constantly changing, coming into being and passing away. It was only when the piecemeal method of observing Nature in bits and pieces, practiced in Western thinking in the 17th and 18th century, had accumulated enough positive knowledge for the interconnections, the transitions, the genesis of things to become comprehensible, that conditions became ripe for modern dialectics to make its appearance. It was Hegel who was able to sum up this picture of universal interconnection and mutability of things in a system of Logic which is the foundation of what we today call Dialectics.

The Marxist dialectic and Hegelian dialectic differed in the definition of the actual forces with which the dialectic operated. For Hegel, it was ideas. For Marx, it was economic relationships to the means of production. Dialectics provides the foundation for Marx's theory of *dialectical materialism*—an outgrowth of Hegelian dialectics. This is an important distinction to make—meaning, not to confuse Hegel's dialectics with Marx's materialistic philosophy of *dialectical materialism*. Russian students attending university in the former Soviet Union were required to take three years of materialistic philosophy.

The dialectical approach to reality was to reject the very concept of absolutes. The whole foundation behind Hegel's way of thinking is that everything is constantly changing, and must forever adapt to the eternal change (*cf. "mutability," moral relativism*). Karl Marx clearly embraced this relativistic view. The concept of change is central to Hegelian dialectical theory and strategy. This helps explain why leftist political strategy centers around the concept of dialectical change.



Fred Pursley writes:

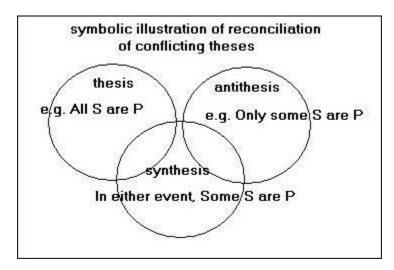
"Here we see the dialectical thought process over the didactic thinking process. In the past America and the West held to the didactic process in which 2 + 2 = 4 and can not be otherwise. There was right/wrong, light/dark, true/false. This was the way we ran government, education and especially the church. This is God's way. This is shown by the commands, 'Thou shall not.'"

Hegel's radical, young followers considered *Hegel's Argument* a critical and important tool to "ruthlessly" criticize Christianity, and religion in general. The dialectic is analogous to the argument that "*everything is just shades of gray*." Hegel's dialectical process proposes there are only shades of gray–no black or white.

The Hegelian Formula

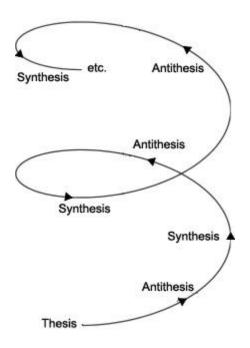
THESIS + ANTITHESIS = SYNTHESIS

PRO + CON = CONSENSUS (COMPROMISE)



Georg Hegel's original intent was to devise a method to resolve disagreements and control outcomes. The Hegelian Formula is typically expressed as follows: *Thesis* represents an idea or opinion, *antithesis* represents the counter-opinion or opposite idea, *synthesis* represents the domain where thesis and antithesis intersect and overlap. So, in other words, dialectical *synthesis* can represent *consensus*, i.e. "compromise."

The interesting and powerful feature of the Hegelian dialectic is once the circular argument has reached synthesis, a new thesis can be created and the process begins anew, incrementally and progressively moving forward toward the next predetermined outcome–a sort of *dialectic helix*.



Applying the Hegelian strategy can be accomplished through a process of *tension and resolution*. A good way to illustrate the concept of tension and resolution used in a repetitive and incremental fashion is music.

Imagine a familiar passage of music, or a short jingle from a commercial. Now imagine I played the passage of music you are thinking of in front of you, yet I left off just one note off at very end of the musical passage. A sense of tension can be triggered because the passage did not resolve as expected; there was no *resolution* because the last note was left out.

Music that might be described as *spooky* or *scary* tends to use more tension than resolution. Conversely, music that strikes a harmonious balance between tension and resolution might be described as *soothing* or *uplifting*. The power in using tension and resolve as a strategy in controlling groups of people is very powerful tactic indeed; it can literally create a very real mental, emotional or physical (or all the above) response–even trigger a *Pavlovian* response.

The Hegelian dialectic reduced to its simplest form could be summed up as *problem, reaction, solution*. The "agent of change" employing the strategy creates the problem or crisis, foments the reaction (*tension*), then attempt to control the outcome by providing the solution (*resolution*).



The Hegelian strategy requires an *alchemic* process of tension and resolution in order to reach a predetermined outcome. But how do we create tension in a group and control the outcome? One way to create tension is to introduce *diversity*. By introducing diversity into the group, tensions are raised, and the chances of conflict are increased. Diversity is needed for conflict, according to the Hegelian model.

Dean Gotcher writes in his piece Dialectical Formula:

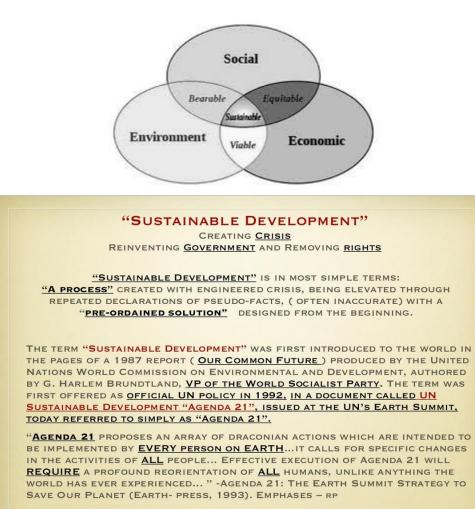
"Dialectically, how you overcome division (create consensus, i.e. create synthesis out of thesis-antithesis, i.e. 'avoid Armageddon') is to establish (facilitate) an environment where person's one, two, and three (a diverse group) can discuss (dialogue) in an 'open ended,' 'non-judgmental' environment (person three's home environment), what it is they desire (social issues) which was suppressed by higher authority, (person one and possibly person two's home environment). In this way person one and two are 'helped' in liberating their thoughts and actions from the fear of chastening and thus are able to be shown how to 'rationally' liberate themselves from higher authority itself. Being 'freed' to think and act for themselves in a 'rapidly changing world' (learning, in the crisis to consensus meeting, how to overcome the rigidity of the past, overcoming the 'old' way of believing and acting which divided people, communities, nations, i.e. the world) they can be used to negate the 'old' world order of righteousness...."

Detective Phil Worts describes the dialectical process in greater detail in his eye-opening article "Community (Communist) Oriented Policing" written in 2001:

Transformational Marxists such as Kurt Lewin refined their weapon for the new battlefield: Using group dynamics to invade the culture to affect the paradigm shift. The weapon looks like this:

- A Diverse Group ("Diversity" needed for conflict)
- Dialoging to Consensus (Dialectic process)
- Over a Social Issue (Problem/Crisis/Issues)
- In a Facilitated Meeting (Controlled environment using facilitator/change agent) To a Predetermined Outcome (Paradigm shift)

Some have referred to the Hegelian strategy as "Soviet-style council tactics." Every effort by the "change agent" is employed against the "reactionaries" and the "obstructionists" to force consensus, be it vituperation, invective, marginalization, demonization, ridicule, intimidation, isolation, personalization, and even violence—the ends justify the means in order to build consensus and achieve synthesis within a society "*growing toward socialism*."

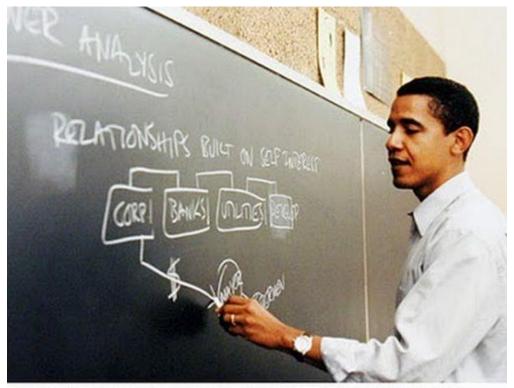


"INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS WILL HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO THE COLLECTIVE." WORDS DIRECTLY FROM SAINT-SIMON, DEWEY, AND THOSE WHO DESIRE REPRESSION IN A QUOTE BY MR. RUVIN CURRENT AMERICAN DIRECTOR OF ICLEI.

Monday, September 16, 13

Click to zoom. (Credits: Lt. Powell, Pacific Freedom Foundation)

The Supreme Leaders of Marxist-Leninist regimes I have researched appear not to be leaders, per se, but rather change agents, whose dialectical formula of seduction, deception and manipulation is *injected* into the masses to gain supremacy over all groups for the sake of so-called "unity in diversity." The change agent creates permanent conflict–forwarding the Marxist belief that all "progress" is brought about by conflict.



Obama teaching at the University of Chicago Law School. The topic is apparently "Power Analysis," also his topic at ACORN training. The illustration is labeled "Relationships Built on Self Interest."

Follow the money: Barack Obama teaching students in Chicago the Alinsky Principles–specifically, Alinsky's power analysis, which looks at relationships built on self-interest between corporations, banks and utilities. Notice the flow chart indicating the flow of money and power out of the private sector ('CORP') and into the public sector ('MAYOR').

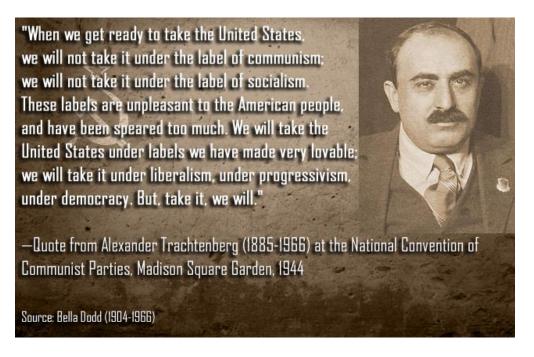
Self-avowed Chicago Marxist Saul Alinsky (the godfather of "community organizing"), whose protege was none other than Barack Obama, wrote in his radical left-wing book *Rules for Radicals*:

"Any revolutionary change must be preceded by a passive, affirmative, non-challenging attitude toward change among the mass of our people. They must feel so frustrated, so defeated, so lost, so futureless in the prevailing system that they are willing to let go of the past and change the future. This acceptance is the reformation essential to any revolution."

Alinsky in a nutshell: *issues, problems, crises, conflict.* The purpose is to bring about "radical social change"–paradigm shift, fundamental transformation, transition, new system, etc. The disturbing aspect to Alinsky's approach for "radical social change" is his belief in the Marxist-Leninist method of always keeping the masses demoralized so they will demand *change*, or even insist the *system* be abolished altogether.

ORDO AB CHAO (Order out of Chaos)

It was Vladmir I. Lenin who originally put Marxist-style revolution into practice, i.e. the "*dictatorship of the proletariat*," killing millions in the process, without mercy or compassion, and spreading Marxist-Leninism around the globe–existing to this day. Hegel and Marx merely developed the theory. But it was Lenin, and those who followed in his footsteps, who committed genocide on an industrial scale in the name of Marx and Hegel. Although the ideology of Hegel, Marx & Engels greatly influenced Lenin, Marx merely came up with the theory. Lenin took action.



I can't help but point out some striking ironies and stark contrasts regarding Hegelian and Marxist dialectics. Although the dialectics of Hegel and Marx eschew the very concept of absolutes and the deity of a Higher Power, the systematic and formulaic approach that Hegel and Marx use to employ their strategy requires absolutes.

For example, the Hegelian dialectic requires a thesis and an antithesis, a pro and a con. Are these not absolutes? Is not the very concept of left and right, east and west, black and white, etc., required by the dialectic a confirmation of *absolutism* itself? Or is the dialectical philosophy's attempt to usurp right and left, pro and con, black and white–in order to control the outcome–its sinister genius? I'm reminded of the words of Bella Dodd, a former communist who later left the Party and became a vocal anti-communist, from her book *School of Darkness*, [p. 24], my emphasis:

"... I have had many occasions to see that this cataloging of people as either 'right' or 'left' has led to more confusion in American life than perhaps any other false concept. It sounds so simple and so right. By using this schematic device one puts the communists on the left and then one regards them as advanced liberals – after which it is easy to regard them as the enzyme necessary for progress. **Communists usurp the position of the left, but when one examines them in the light of what they really stand for, one sees** them as the rankest kind of reactionaries and communism as the most reactionary backward leap in the long history of social movements. It is one which seeks to obliterate in one revolutionary wave two thousand years of man's progress."

And returning to the theory that *everything is just shades of gray–everything is relative*. I'm reminded of the following passage from the book *The Philosopher's Toolkit: A Compendium of Philosophical Concepts and Methods*:

Third, it is instructive to remember that Einstein's theory of relativity itself, like the speed of light, holds across all frames of reference. Not everything is relative in the theory of relativity; and arguably, no relativity claim can be absolute without undermining itself, for, if one were to claim 'Everything is relative', that claim would apply to itself. But if 'everything is relative' is only relatively true, then that must mean that some truths are not relative.

In conclusion, I'll leave it there.