

CHAPTER 14: DIVISION OF LABOUR AND MANUFACTURE

Development of a productive mechanism → Component parts
are human beings

Re-organisation of SPACE + TIME



"In so far as such a manufacture, when first started, combines scattered handicrafts, it lessens the space by which the various phases of production are separated from each other. The time taken in passing from one stage to another is shortened, so is the labour that effectuates this passage." (211)

"The habit of doing only one thing converts him into a never failing instrument, while his connexion with the whole mechanism compels him to work with the regularity of the parts of a machine." (215)

↓ value of labour-power (↓/disappearance of apprenticeship), ↑ surplus-value

Geographers: "The foundation of every division of labour that is well developed, and brought about by the exchange of commodities, is the separation between town and country. It may be said, that the whole economic history of society is summed up in the movement of this antithesis." (217)

"The territorial division of labour, which confines special branches of production to special districts of a country, acquires both stimulus from the manufacturing system, which exploits every special advantage. The Colonial system and the opening out of the markets of the world, both of which are included in the general conditions of existence of the manufacturing period, furnish rich material for developing the division of labour in society. It is not the place, here, to go on to show how division of labour seizes upon, not only the economic, but every other

Conclusion

sphere of society, and everywhere lays the foundation of that all engraving system of specialising and sorting men, that development faculties, which caused A. Ferguson, the master of Adam Smith, to exclaim: "Let us make a nation of Hottentots, and have no free citizens." (218)

"The same bourgeois mind which praises divisional labour in the workshop, life-long annexation of the labourer to a partial operation, and his complete subjection to capital, as being an organisation of labour that increases its productivity - that same bourgeois mind denounces with equal vigour every conscious attempt to socially control and regulate the process of production, as an intrusion upon such sacred things as the rights of property, freedom and unrestricted play for the bent of the individual capitalist. It is very characteristic that the enthusiastic apologists of the factory system have nothing more damning to urge against a general organisation of the labour of society, than that it would turn all society into one immense factory." (220)

Division of Labour
in Society

Common to diverse
economic formations

v.

Division of Labour
in the Workshop
by Manufacture

Specialisation of capitalist
mode of production

Separation of labour from their
means of production +
conversion of these means into Capital

Capitalistic character of Manufacture: "The transformation into capital of the social means of production and subsistence must keep extending." (222) - No limits

Manufacture proper "converts the labourer into a crippled monstrosity, by forcing his detail dexterity at the expense of a world of productive capabilities and instincts." (223)

Adam Smith: "To subdivide a man is to accustom him, if he deserves the surname, to assassinate him if he does not... The subdivision of labour is the assassin of a people." (225)

"This workshop, the product of the division of labour is manufacture, produced in its turn - machines." (227)

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"Thus, on the one hand, the technical reason for the life-long annexation of the workman to a detail function is removed. On the other hand, the fetters that this same private bond on the dominion of capital, fall away." (228)

(Profound contradiction)