

**Reading guide for *Capital* (vol. 1)
Liberation School
Chapters 10-14**

Chapter 10: The working-day

- 1) What are the two limits to the working day?
- 2) What does Marx mean when he says: “Between equal rights, force decides”? What equal rights are at play?
- 3) Given this, what determines the length of the working day?
- 4) What are some examples of how workers try to determine this length?
- 5) What are some examples of how capitalists try to determine this length?
- 6) What is Marx’s argument about slavery throughout the chapter? How does it relate to surplus-value?
- 7) What are two factors that produced the English Factory Acts? What does this tell us about the role of the state under capitalism?
- 8) How did capitalists respond to the Acts? Why did they do so?
- 9) What conditions do the factory inspectors describe? What issues are they raising? What arguments are they making?
- 10) What is the reason for the creation of the multiple shifts and the relay system?
- 11) Why would it “seem” “that the interest of capital itself points in the direction of a normal working-day”?
- 12) Why does the capitalist need an excess of available labor-power?
- 13) Why is it dangerous for capitalists to pay workers for 5 days of labor what they need to live for 7 days? (this is in the quote from Postlethwayt)
- 14) What two lessons does Marx draw from the historical study of the English Factors Acts?
- 15) What is Marx saying about the state in this chapter?

Chapter 11: Rate and mass of surplus-value

- 1) What is the mass of surplus-value?
- 2) What are the limits to the mass of surplus-value?
- 3) What is *relative* surplus value?
- 4) Why doesn’t the “simple extension of the working-day” itself explain capitalism?

Chapter 12: The concept of relative surplus-value

- 1) How can surplus-value be increased without making the working-day longer?
- 2) What effect does this have on the value of labor-power?
- 3) How can the increase in productivity in one industry decrease the value of labor-power?
- 4) What’s the difference between the *real* value of a commodity and its *individual* value? What’s the result of this difference?
- 5) How does this explain crises of overproduction?

Chapter 13: Co-operation

- 1) What does cooperation have to do with capitalism in general?
- 2) What three ways does cooperation increase productivity?
- 3) Why does cooperation under capitalism bring about an increased need for surveillance and discipline in the workplace?
- 4) What does this say about the contradictions of cooperation under capitalism?

Chapter 14: Division of labor and manufacture

- 1) What two ways does manufacture develop out of handicraft production?
- 2) What impact does manufacture have on the division of labor and the overall life of the worker?
- 3) What are the two kinds of manufacture?
- 4) How does manufacture both separate and unite the working class?
- 5) Why does the capitalist praise organizing, regulating, and planning production within the workplace?
- 6) Marx writes that “the narrow technical basis on which manufacture rested, came into conflict with requirements of production that were created by manufacture itself”?
- 7) What does manufacture produce that will eventually get rid of handicraft work?