

**Reading guide for *Capital (vol. 1)***  
**Liberation School**  
**Chapter 25**

**Chapter 25:**

*\*remember when reading that Marx is assuming a normal functioning capitalist system*

Section 1: The increased demand for LP that accompanies accumulation, the composition of capital remaining the same.

- 1) What is the technical composition of capital?
- 2) What is the value composition of capital?
- 3) What is the organic composition of capital? (*\*don't get caught on in this*)
- 4) What's the general tendency for the organic composition of capital?
- 5) How does the accumulation of capital equate with the accumulation of the proletariat?
- 6) What is the absolute law of the capitalist mode of production?
- 7) How does this law impact population?

Section 2: Diminution of Variable Capital, with accumulation and concentration of capital

- 1) What is the law for the technical composition of capital here?
- 2) What effects does it have?
- 3) What is the difference between the *concentration* and *centralization* of capital?
- 4) How does centralization lay the basis for a "more comprehensive organization of the collective work of many"?
- 5) How does centralization speed up accumulation?
- 6) How is centralization achieved?

Section 3: Progressive production of a relative surplus-population or industrial reserve army

- 1) Why does the demand for labor-power fall with the increase of total capital?
- 2) Why isn't there an "abstract law of population"? How do we think about laws of population?
- 3) How does capitalism produce a disposable industrial reserve army?
- 4) What functions does this army serve? Why does capitalism need it?

Section 4: Different forms of the relative surplus-population.

- 1) What are the three categories of relative surplus-populations?
- 2) What is the "absolute general law of capitalist accumulation"?
- 3) How does Marx *qualify* this law?
- 4) How does this help you better understand the famous quote from this book, that "accumulation of wealth at one pole is... the accumulation of misery... at the opposite pole"?

Section 5: Illustrations of the general law of capitalist accumulation

- 1) What are the most interesting examples of the general law that Marx presents here?
- 2) What strata of the working class do industrial crises effect?