



## Discussions with Wolff

### **“Understanding Marxism”**

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The following discussion prompts were written by Professor Wolff to create a discussion based around his book “Understanding Marxism”, published by Democracy at Work in 2019. It can be purchased on [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com).

1. What is the basic thrust of Marx’s critique of capitalism?
  
2. What is Marx’s distinctive concept of class?
  - a. A matter of property and its distribution?
  - b. A matter of power and its distribution?
  - c. A matter of the organization of producing and distributing surplus?
  
3. What are the roles of inequality and instability in Marxism’s critique of capitalism?
  
4. What is the relationship between Marx’s and Marxism’s critiques of capitalism and the actual economies of societies referred to as “communist” and “socialist”?
  
5. Why is Marxism less a part of US politics and culture than of most other countries’ politics and culture?
  
6. How would you compare the relationship between Marxism and democracy, on the one hand and capitalism and democracy, on the other?