

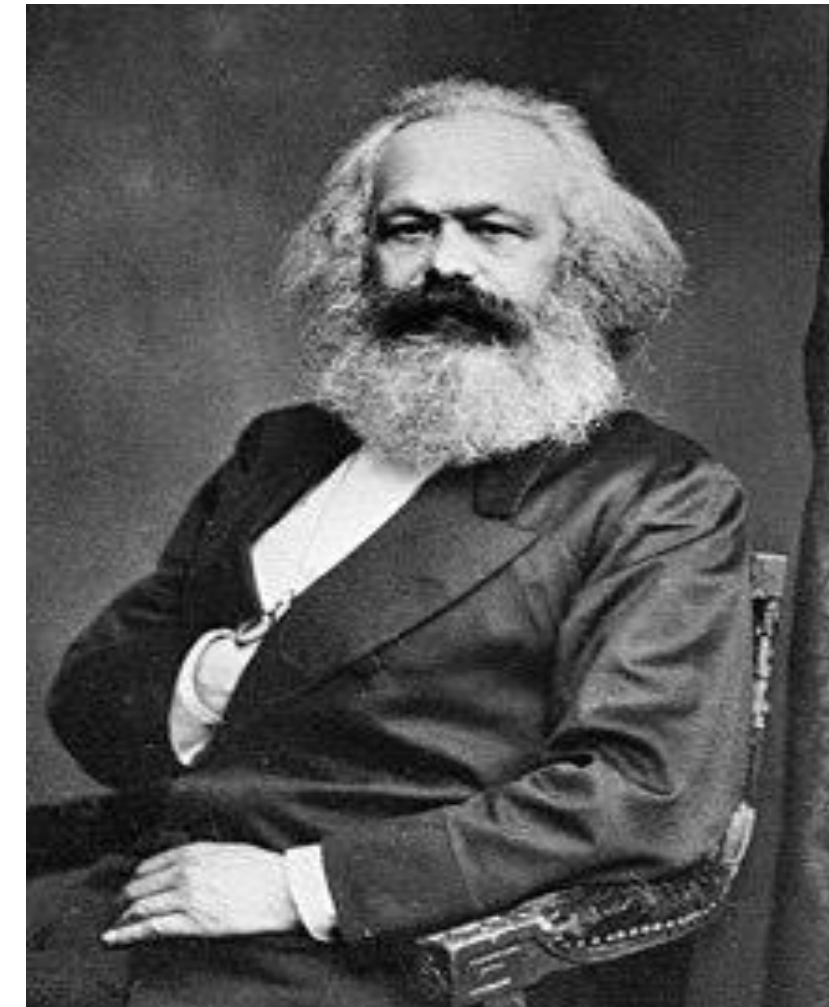
Thus Spoke Dilley & Kelley

Alex Beltran, Class of 2024

Reading Reflection

"an unexamined life is not worth living..."- The Apology, Plato.

This quote deeply resonated with me, as it aligns with a principle I have long cherished. In my life, I strive to balance the appreciation of finer things with the pursuit of significant, meaningful activities. By doing so, I ensure that I nurture both my aesthetic sensibilities and my intellectual aspirations, creating a mezcla of enrichment and purpose. However, it is important to enjoy life in moderation, as Aristotle suggests; he emphasizes the virtue of temperance, a concept we will explore extensively in class. Aristotle argues that temperance is essential for achieving eudaimonia, or a flourishing life, as it involves finding a balanced approach to pleasure and discipline, thereby fostering a well-rounded and fulfilling existence. This, I wholeheartedly believe in.



Migration

The subject of justice, laws, and Socrates' obligation to the state, as discussed in Plato's 'Crito,' is relevant to migration. While he does not speak directly about migration, he stresses observing a country's laws and treaties. He continues: "If you leave here against the citizens' will, and do wrong to those you shouldn't, and break your agreements, isn't that shameful?" (Crito, Plato). This goes to show how necessary it is to respect the laws of the country you reside in or the country you intend to migrate to.

Democracy

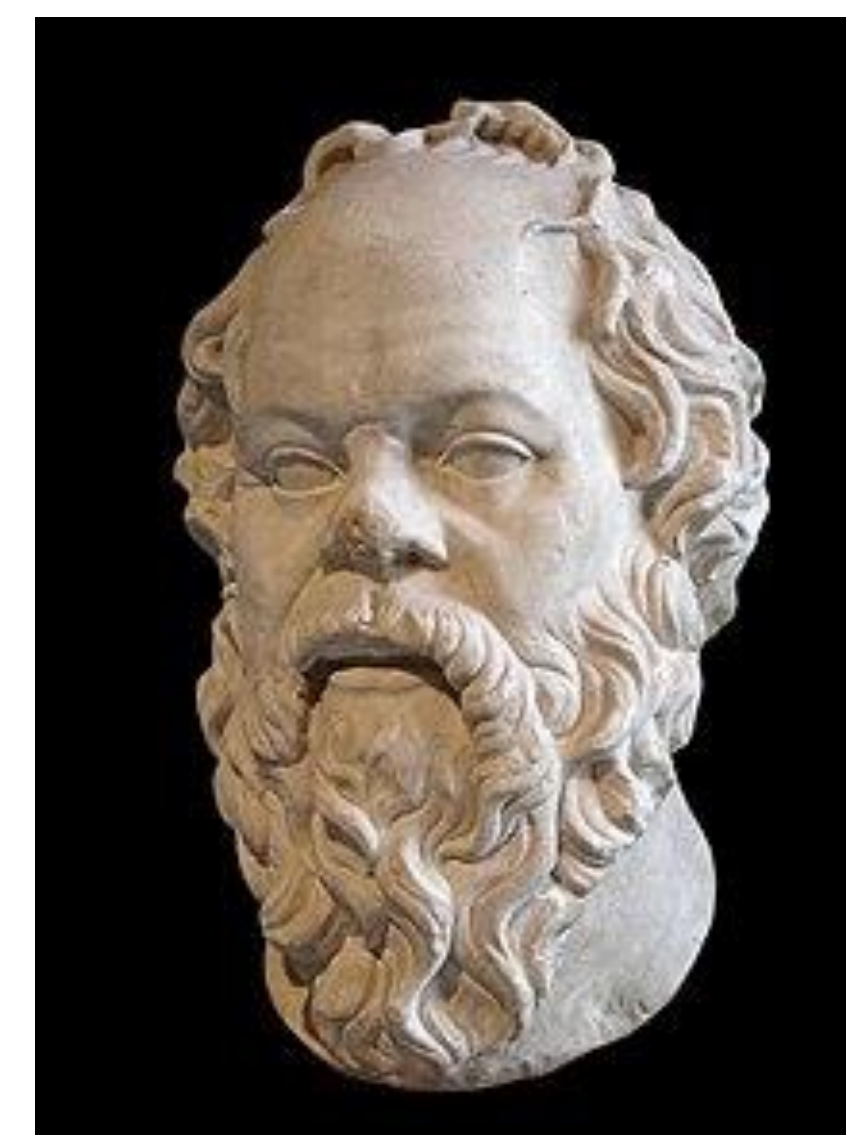
"The general will is the will of all the people; but it is not always the sum of their individual wills"- Social Contract, Rousseau

This quote is relevant in trying to understand the difference between the will of the people, as a collective, and the sum total of individual wills, which is what Rousseau seems to be arguing is not good enough for a genuinely democratic society. This leads me to thinking about how democracy is not just about people voicing their opinion but about the people striving for a common goal which is greater than the self.

American Experiment

Locke's ideal of the state of nature as a world of freedom and equality, where individuals live by reason, underscores the American Dream's emphasis on opportunity and success. Locke suggests that a government's role is to protect these rights, enabling personal success within a stable society. A quote that highlights this is: "Men living together, according to reason, without a common superior on earth with authority to judge between them, is properly the state of nature." — Second Treatise of Government, John Locke.

This perspective emphasizes the importance of a rational and equitable system in bringing the American Experiment into fruition.



IMPACT

As a STEM student, I've always taken a direct approach to solving problems. However, this approach proves challenging in philosophy. This class has equipped me with the tools to tackle imperfect problems and consider multiple perspectives in life. Additionally, this course has refined my writing skills by providing me with an arsenal of tools that will benefit me throughout my academic career.

ADVICE

Many initially find reading these texts a chore, but we should approach them like any familiar media, such as TikTok. Instead of consuming it all at once, break the readings into bite-sized pieces, much like watching short videos. Additionally, gaining proper historical context beforehand enhances understanding and appreciation of the material.