

Discussion Notes 2-18-05
Vladimir Illich Lenin

Large Ideas of the selection:

- **Colonization was spreading rapidly throughout the world**
- **Imperialism was the highest stage of Capitalism (as Lenin says)**
 - **The thought was that without capitalism the world would not work because there would be no interaction**
- **Cartels- were much like the company stores of Babbage's time and were believed to be the link between Imperialism and Capitalism**
 - **In these cartels there was a combination of vertical and horizontal integration which led them to becoming monopolies**

Lenin vs. Kawtsky

- **Kawtsky was a theorist of Marxism who had the idea that the colonial powers would cooperate.**
- **Lenin said that the colonial powers had to fight/compete in order for the world to keep spinning.**

Now and Then

- **Then: go take the resources, bring them back to the country of origin, produce a product, then sell it back to the original country.**
- **Now: go take over land, make the people there produce it for cheap wages, then crank up the prices of it to make the most profit selling it in other countries**

Questions that arose in class

- **What comes after the Industrial Revolution?**
 - **Basically settled by the fact that Imperialism and Capitalism took over after the Industrial Revolution**
- **Why would cooperation work instead of competition?**
 - **It was basically settled that cooperation wouldn't work from our discussion in class. There has to be competition of some sort in order for everything to run smoothly.**
- **Were they at the Highest Stage of Capitalism during Lenin's time and are we at it now?**
 - **From discussion it was believed that they were not at the highest stage and that we are not either because there will always be advances over a period of time.**
- **How well would communism work?**
 - **It wouldn't, capitalism would simply change before communism took over.**

