

# 11 Points of Chaos Marxism | A New Approach to Sparking Socialist Change

In the midst of a climate crisis, we stand at a critical crossroads. The last three weeks have been the hottest in the last 100,000 years - a chilling testament to our accelerating climate catastrophe. Our planet, ravaged by the relentless expansion of capitalism and its insatiable desire for growth, cries out for relief. As we grapple with these unprecedented challenges, it is imperative that we reconsider and radically restructure our societal frameworks. The solution, as I propose, lies in a revolutionary synthesis of thought: Chaos Marxism.

Chaos Marxism is a novel fusion of Marxist principles - founded on notions of class struggle and economic justice - with the adaptive, transformative strategies drawn from chaos magic. However, it's critical to clarify that Chaos Marxism, while influenced by the flexible thinking of postmodernists such as Austin Osman Spare, has no supernatural or occult connections, and is thoroughly secular in nature. It is a 'post-' postmodernist ideology, in that it takes the framework of chaos magic, and just as chaos magicians stripped away the symbolic and ritualistic aspects of traditional occultism, Chaos Marxists eliminate the metaphorical and ornamental aspects, focusing instead on applying the fundamental, raw tactics to propagate Marxist thought.

The ideology also resonates with the subversive cultural critique found in the work of Mark Fisher, particularly his concept of Acid Communism - the proposal to harness collective psychedelic experiences and shared joy as a means of countering the isolating individualism entrenched by capitalism.

At its core, Chaos Marxism challenges the status quo, rejecting the idea of capitalist structures as immutable truths and proposing them as manipulable constructs. It recognizes that these structures can, and must, be reshaped to foster a more equitable, collective, and sustainable future.

Chaos Marxism is more than a philosophy; it is a call to arms. It aims to serve as a unifying framework of praxis, an effort to consolidate the often splintered factions within the leftist spectrum - Marxists, anarchists, and other progressive thinkers. It is a stark warning, stating unequivocally that unless we stand united and act swiftly and radically, the future looks dire.

Despite the sobering diagnosis, Chaos Marxism offers hope. It suggests that by employing its flexible and subversive strategies, we have the capacity to instigate rapid, radical systemic change. It seeks to bridge the divides within leftist discourse, focusing collective attention on the urgent need for a monumental societal transformation.

This call for change, however, does not advocate for violent disruption. Chaos Marxism champions a non-violent yet assertive approach. It underscores the importance of winning the 'hearts and minds' of the working class, utilizing the power of collective belief to ignite change.

Outlined below are the eleven principles of Chaos Marxism. These principles serve not merely as academic observations, but as a crucial blueprint for systemic revolution. If embraced and propagated, they hold the potential to catalyze swift and groundbreaking transformations. Further, I extend an invitation to fellow thinkers to build upon these concepts, for it is through collective dialogue and action that we can hope to chart a path towards a sustainable, equitable future.

Chaos Marxism is more than a theoretical proposal; it's an urgent plea for unified action. It's a resistance movement, a revolutionary blueprint, and a survival strategy. In this desperate hour, it might just be the radical change we need.

## 1) Rejection of Absolute Truth:

- Chaos Marxism, like chaos magic, rejects the notion of absolute truth. It considers all systems, not just occult ones, as arbitrary symbol-systems that derive their effectiveness solely from the practitioner's belief.
- This approach enables Chaos Marxists to question, disrupt, and reinterpret dominant narratives within capitalist societies. For example, they may challenge the perceived inevitability and "naturalness" of capitalist economic systems, promoting instead alternative modes of economic organization.

## 2) Postmodernism and Beyond:

- Chaos Marxism adopts and extends the blend of traditional occult techniques and applied postmodernism characteristic of chaos magic. It further incorporates post-truth techniques across all systems, relegating the occult to metaphorical usage. Thus, Chaos Marxism has no supernatural or occult connections, and is secular in nature.
- It exploits the multiplicity and relativism of postmodernism to question and subvert capitalist ideologies. For instance, by drawing attention to the cultural relativity of economic systems, it can encourage people to see capitalism as just one of many possibilities, rather than as an inescapable reality. Building upon this, a Chaos Marxist, instead of debating the validity of say, flat earth, might instead use the group think to subversively implant marxist rhetoric. The only "truth" a Chaos Marxist is worried about is the root "true belief" in a socialist revolution and an end to capitalism.

## 3) Belief as a Tool:

- Chaos Marxists, following chaos magicians, regard belief as a tool. They create idiosyncratic systems by borrowing from a range of sources - magical traditions, religions, popular culture, various philosophies, etc. The goal is to manipulate all systems to achieve specific ends, such as a Marxist revolution.
- This might involve repurposing popular cultural narratives or symbols to promote Marxist ideas. For example, a Chaos Marxist might reinterpret superhero stories as allegories of class struggle, encouraging readers to see them in a new light. A Chaos Marxist in a heavily Christian community might wrap their propaganda in a theology framework, even if they themselves do not believe. This goes for any community, belief, ideology, hobby, cultural frame work or other symbol system people use to define their conscious reality.

## 4) Stripping Away of Ornamental Aspects:

- Echoing the approach of chaos magicians, Chaos Marxists strip away the symbolic, ritualistic, theological, or other ornamental aspects of occult traditions. They focus instead on applying the most basic, raw tactics and principles to propagate Marxist thought.
- For instance, instead of using complex rituals, a Chaos Marxist might simply use a compelling meme or catchphrase that succinctly encapsulates a Marxist idea and disseminate it across social media platforms. The concept of a "sigil" becomes anything that can effectively spread socialist, progressive

thought effectively. Marketing, advertising, these are systems, psychological manipulation tactics are at the root of chaos magick, and indeed too the root of Chaos Marxism.

## 5) Self-Sigilization/Revolutionary Suicide:

- This principle suggests that one who believes deeply in a cause (here, Marxist thought) can so thoroughly internalize it that they can consciously operate under any belief system and still maintain their core belief. Other beliefs thus become tools to further the true belief.
- A Chaos Marxist might, for example, participate in a forum dedicated to a seemingly unrelated topic (e.g., a hobbyist group), subtly introducing Marxist concepts into the discussion while ostensibly focusing on the forum's main subject, masking the socialist rhetoric with group think. This concept of "true belief" allows the Chaos Marxist to work in ethically ambiguous opportunist manner, while maintaining the subconscious moral driver of Marxism.

## 6) Subversion and Ethical Ambiguity:

- The potency of Chaos Marxism lies in its subversive and ethically ambiguous nature. It leverages the fragmentation and fluidity of truth in a post-postmodern reality, subtly shifting discourses and challenging the hegemony of capitalist realism.
- A Chaos Marxist might engage in activities like astroturfing, using botted accounts or the use of multiple personas online, creating an illusion of widespread support for Marxist ideas and thus encouraging others to consider them. A Chaos Marxist may use deep fake technology or AI voice synthesis to disrupt fascists as well as spread misinformation about their leaders.

## 7) Psychological Tactics:

- Chaos Marxism deploys a variety of post-modern psychological tactics, such as controlled opposition, disinformation, post-truth AI, manipulation tactics, covert sabotage, gaslighting, and the use of multiple personas. The aim is to sow doubt and confusion within capitalist structures while fostering Marxist, progressive thought as well as disrupting systems that oppose said thought.
- For instance, a Chaos Marxist might deliberately propagate disinformation about capitalist systems or engage in "trolling" behavior to disrupt online discussions that uncritically support capitalism. Chaos marxists might intentionally join opposition movements, seeking to covertly gather intel and cause internal fighting among members.

## 8) Extreme Opportunism, not Adventurism:

- Chaos Marxism emphasizes the importance of tactical flexibility and adaptability, exploiting opportunities as they arise rather than adhering to a rigid plan. This is about extreme opportunism, not reckless adventurism.
- For instance, a Chaos Marxist might seize upon a moment of public dissatisfaction with the status quo (such as during a recession or in the aftermath of a scandal involving big corporations) to introduce and promote Marxist perspectives. A Chaos marxist seeks to take advantage of situations, using them to further the cause, slander enemies or push socialist views out into the public sphere effectively. A Chaos

Marxist might shift views in between debates if it suits their goals, maintain opposing positions, or take up oppositional positions to discredit them.

## 9) Anti-Nihilism and Embracing Existentialism:

- While it rejects the notion of absolute truth, Chaos Marxism is not nihilistic. Instead, it embraces existentialism, valuing individual freedom, subjectivity, and the meaning that individuals create for their lives. Despite the use of belief as a tool, chaos Marxists must hold the "true belief" of the cause of the working class.
- A Chaos Marxist might, for example, emphasize the alienation and lack of fulfillment that many people experience in capitalist systems and present Marxist alternatives as offering greater potential for self-realization and authentic living.

## 10) Winning Hearts and Minds of the Working Class:

- The fundamental goal of Chaos Marxism is to win over the hearts and minds of the working class. By building empathy, understanding, and solidarity, it aims to foster a collective consciousness that can challenge capitalist realism.
- Tactics here might include narrative storytelling that highlights the experiences of workers, shared rituals or activities that build group identity, and the promotion of symbols and memes that encapsulate Marxist ideas in a way that is emotionally resonant for workers. Here is where more standard Marxist-Leninist organization and educational tactics come into play, Chaos Marxism does not seek to overshadow the critical role that these tactics play.

## 11) Non-Violent, Yet Non-Pacifistic Approach:

- While Chaos Marxism rejects violence as a primary means of achieving its goals, it is not pacifistic. It recognizes that conflict may be necessary in challenging the entrenched power structures of capitalism, but it places a high value on psychological, cultural, and discursive forms of resistance.
- For example, Chaos Marxists might engage in peaceful protests, strikes, or civil disobedience actions. They might also use satire, humor, and other forms of cultural critique to challenge capitalist ideologies and promote Marxist ideas. They could also deploy "hacktivist" tactics, using technology to disrupt capitalist institutions and spread Marxist messages. Finally, a Chaos Marxist understand the "ballot box" concept, knowing that once all ballot boxes have been fully utilized, only one remains.

These works lay bare the fundamental concepts underpinning the emergence of "Chaos Marxism". Yet, it's essential to recognize that the ideology and its author's belief system draw from a wealth of influences beyond the literary sphere. A myriad of other mediums and experiences have also played pivotal roles in shaping this unique philosophy.

# 11 Points of Chaos Marxism | Reading List

## Foundational

**"The Right Way to Do Wrong" by Harry Houdini** splits into two insightful sections. The initial half delves into the art of spectacle, outlining methods to command attention and guide it strategically. It also probes into the intricacies of crowd psychology, offering valuable lessons on how to steer collective emotions and reactions. The latter half pivots towards exploring tactics employed by criminals, providing a view into the mindset and strategies of them. Houdini fully acknowledged that being a magician was effectively being a manipulator o Houdini's insights from the manipulator's perspective are invaluable. However his personal moral code allowed him to operate as a manipulator without being immoral, often calling out those who used the same tactics he used for spectacle to harm others. Basically, his teachings serve as a blueprint for mastering the narrative, efficiently disseminating information, and effectively controlling the sociopolitical discourse while maintaining a core ethical set of principles that allow one to operate as a manipulator without doing harm. Ergo, "The Right Way to Do Wrong". There's also the metaphorical aspect of his persona, the idea that a man can escape from a straight jacket after being plunged 100 foot into a highly polluted river, it evokes the impossible, the daring. Capitalist realism says, the people believe there is no alternative, no escape, the collective consciousness manifest. Chaos Marxism says that we are drowning, but we can escape the cuffs of capitalism and rise to the surface anew.

**"Simulacra and Simulation" by Jean Baudrillard:** A seminal text for both postmodern philosophy and Chaos Marxism, Baudrillard's work dives deep into the concept of the simulacrum: a copy without an original. This text dissects the idea that in our postmodern society, symbols and signs have taken precedence over real experience, effectively replacing reality. Baudrillard's examination of hyperreality - a condition where the line between the 'real' and the 'imaginary' blur and eventually become irrelevant - aligns with the concepts of Chaos Magick, where belief itself can be shaped and manipulated to affect reality. For Chaos Marxists, this work offers a framework to understand and navigate the illusion of capitalist realism and devise strategies to disrupt it.

**"The Condition of Postmodernity" by David Harvey:** Harvey's examination of the shift from modernity to postmodernity is an essential read for Chaos Marxists. He links this shift to the rise of neoliberalism and its influence on class consciousness, arguing that the individualistic focus of neoliberalism has diluted collective class consciousness. This aligns with the Chaos Marxist's goal to reinvigorate class consciousness by navigating the postmodern condition, using belief as a tool and engaging with the spectacle to challenge neoliberal narratives. Harvey's text provides an understanding of the social and cultural landscape in which Chaos Marxism operates.

**"Revolutionary Suicide" by Huey P Newton:** This memoir from the co-founder of the Black Panther Party intertwines personal narrative with insightful political theory and strategy. Newton's discussion of 'revolutionary suicide' presents the idea that dying for the revolution, in contrast to 'reactionary suicide' (resorting to self-harm out of despair), is an act of agency and resistance. Newton's dedication to the cause, his ability to weave together disparate ideological threads, and his emphasis on community service and self-sacrifice resonate with the principles of Chaos Marxism. Newton's analysis of the power dynamics within American society and his commitment to revolutionary change provide a compelling, foundational perspective on revolution, sacrifice, and societal transformation that deeply informs Chaos Marxist thought. Revolutionary Suicide is a required read to understand the concept of "self-sigilization".

**"Liber Null & Psychonaut: An Introduction to Chaos Magic" by Peter J. Carroll:** As one of the foundational texts on chaos magic, Carroll's work articulates the principles and methods of this esoteric tradition. It underscores the idea that belief is a tool, a central tenet of both chaos magic and Chaos Marxism. Carroll also presents techniques such as sigil creation, gnosis, and paradigm shifting, concepts that Chaos

Marxists have adopted and adapted. Rather than engaging in the rituals and spiritual practices described in the book, Chaos Marxists often interpret them metaphorically. For example, the concept of 'sigilization' may translate into the creation of powerful symbols or memes that encapsulate and propagate Marxist ideas. As such, while the spiritual practices of chaos magic might not be directly applicable, the underlying philosophical concepts and strategic approaches offer valuable insights for the Chaos Marxist, making this work **semi-foundational**.

**"The Myth of Sisyphus" by Albert Camus:** While not a Marxist work per se, Camus' exploration of the Absurd—the disconnect between the human desire for meaning and the indifference of the universe—offers a unique perspective on resistance and perseverance in the face of existential despair. Camus' insistence on the dignity and value of Sisyphean struggle can serve as a metaphor for the continual struggle against the cycles and crises of capitalism, which may seem never-ending. This, combined with his critique of suicide—interpreted broadly as a surrender to despair—echoes Newton's concept of revolutionary suicide, making this work a valuable addition to the philosophical foundations of Chaos Marxism. Chaos Marxism explicitly rejects Nihilism and Nihilistic thinking, the meaning is the struggle, the struggle is the meaning.

**"The Society of the Spectacle" by Guy Debord:** This foundational work is key to Chaos Marxism due to its exploration of the 'Spectacle', Debord's term for the mediated, image-driven nature of social life under capitalism. The spectacle isn't just a collection of images but a social relation mediated by images, leading to social passivity and furthering capitalist interests. Understanding the spectacle is crucial for Chaos Marxists as it reveals how capitalist perceptions and consciousness are crafted. This ties to Houdini's teachings of manipulation and spectacle control. The spectacle informs Chaos Marxists' strategies to disrupt capitalist narratives and use these narratives for their ideological goals. Therefore, Debord's "The Society of the Spectacle" is essential to the Chaos Marxism framework.

**"Capitalist Realism" & "Acid Communism" by Mark Fisher:** In "Capitalist Realism," Fisher delineates the pervasive belief that there is no viable alternative to capitalism—a belief he dubs 'capitalist realism.' This work effectively highlights the limitations of our collective political imagination and serves as a rallying cry for rethinking and challenging the seemingly unassailable dominance of capitalism. "Acid Communism," a term Fisher coined, refers to a psychedelic vision of a communist society characterized by the free exploration of consciousness and communal sharing. Even though Chaos Marxism is not a direct outgrowth of acid communism, both ideologies share a lineage in psychedelic experiences and a commitment to expanding our understanding of what is possible. Fisher's works thus occupy a central place in the foundation of Chaos Marxism.

## Supplemental

**"A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia" by Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari:** Although supplemental to the foundational works, "A Thousand Plateaus" is a cornerstone in postmodern philosophy that Chaos Marxists may find useful. The text explores concepts like rhizomes, deterritorialization, and the body without organs. The rhizomatic view of knowledge and society - decentralized, non-hierarchical, and interconnected - mirrors the Chaos Marxist's approach to belief and ideology, borrowing and adapting from various sources. Deterritorialization, the process of breaking away from traditional societal structures and norms, echoes the Chaos Marxist's subversive tactics. The body without organs, a metaphor for a raw state of being where one is open to limitless potential and transformation, parallels the self-sigilization and revolutionary suicide principles of Chaos Marxism. In essence, this text complements and deepens the understanding of Chaos Marxist strategies and philosophies.

**"How to Lie With Statistics" by Darrell Huff:** This book, although not inherently Marxist or directly related to chaos magic, offers an essential lesson for Chaos Marxists: the understanding and awareness of manipulation techniques. Huff takes readers through various methods and tactics used to distort data, misrepresent information, and influence perceptions, often used in media, advertising, and politics. Understanding these techniques allows Chaos Marxists to critique and deconstruct capitalist narratives, offering insight into how information is manipulated to uphold the status quo. Additionally, the knowledge gleaned from this book can be used to craft more effective and compelling Marxist narratives, making it a valuable tool in the Chaos Marxist's arsenal.

**"Synergetics" by R. Buckminster Fuller:** Fuller's work explores the synergy and tension between various elements within systems, including physical, metaphysical, and societal. He introduces the concept of 'synergetics,' an exploration of holistic engineering within the universe and human society. This perspective aligns with the Chaos Marxist's approach to belief and ideology - viewing them as systems within a greater societal and cultural framework. Fuller's ideas about operating efficiently within systems and utilizing synergy between various elements could be applicable to the strategies employed by Chaos Marxists. For instance, they might see synergies between various ideologies, narratives, and cultural symbols, strategically aligning and repurposing them to propagate Marxist thought. Thus, "Synergetics" provides a useful framework for understanding and operating within complex systems.

**"Tryptamine Consciousness" by Terence McKenna -** McKenna's exploration of consciousness and reality through the lens of hallucinogenic substances like DMT and psilocybin provides alternative perspectives on perception and societal structures. While these theories are controversial, they offer Chaos Marxists an insight into the role of altered states in challenging capitalist realism and envisioning radical societal changes. Not an integral text, but supplemental, expanding the ideological toolkit with its portrayal of consciousness disruption as a catalyst for change.

## Prerequisites

**"The Communist Manifesto" by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels:** As the fundamental text that sparked Marxist thought, this work is crucial for understanding the economic and social theories that form the basis of Marxism. It presents Marx and Engels's theory of history and the struggle between the proletariat (working class) and the bourgeoisie (capitalist class). This dialectic struggle and the resulting theory of communism are essential for anyone engaging with Marxist thought, making this work a foundational pillar of Marxism.

**"Das Kapital" by Karl Marx:** This extensive critique of capitalism delves into the intricacies of commodity, labor, and capital. Marx scrutinizes the capitalist economic system, unveiling its inherent contradictions and exploitation. Understanding these concepts is crucial for anyone interested in Marx's critique of capitalism and for understanding the foundations upon which more nuanced theories, including Chaos Marxism, are built.

**"What is To Be Done?" by Vladimir Lenin:** This work lays the groundwork for Lenin's theory of the revolutionary vanguard party and the role of professional revolutionaries. It offers profound insights into the strategies and tactics of revolution, as well as the issues of spontaneity versus consciousness. It serves as a guide for organization and action, providing essential knowledge for those engaged in Marxist thought and activism.

## Theory in Practice

A starting point for gaining influence using the 11 points.

**"How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie** - This timeless manual on social engineering is as relevant to the Chaos Marxist as it is to any individual seeking to sway others' beliefs. It teaches techniques on how to influence people and win them over, which can be utilized to propagate Marxist ideas. Learning to interact effectively with different individuals and groups is essential to Chaos Marxists, as it can help ensure the success of their revolutionary endeavors. Every other self help book has been ripping this one off for the last 100 years.

**"Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion" by Robert B. Cialdini** - This book provides crucial insights into the psychological mechanisms of persuasion. Understanding these principles enables Chaos Marxists to apply them to their own ends, persuading others to align with Marxist ideologies. Furthermore, it helps Chaos Marxists safeguard against manipulation attempts from opposing ideologies.

**"New Generation Warfare"** - This concept, originated by Valery Gerasimov, underscores the power of psychological and informational warfare in shaping the outcomes of conflicts. For the Chaos Marxist, NGW provides a blueprint for a new kind of revolutionary strategy that relies less on traditional military action and more on winning the hearts and minds of the people. It emphasizes using psychological and informational strategies to depress and demoralize opponents, thus minimizing the need for deploying hard military power.

**"The Art of Thinking Clearly: Better Thinking, Better Decisions" by Dobelli Rolf** - Understanding cognitive biases is key for the Chaos Marxist, as it provides insight into how humans make decisions and how these processes can be exploited for persuasive purposes. Furthermore, being aware of their own biases and cognitive shortcomings helps Chaos Marxists refine their strategies and counteracts the potential harm done by those who exploit these biases. This knowledge leads to clearer thinking and more effective decision-making, essential qualities in the struggle against capitalist realism.