

Marxism and the family

The background of the slide is a solid light beige color. In the bottom right corner, there are several overlapping, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of movement or depth, resembling stylized waves or a decorative graphic element.

History

- Engels – 19thC – first to theorise on the family from a Marxist perspective
 - The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State
- Many other theorists
 - Including [Zaretsky \(1976\)](#)

Role of the family

- Marxists view the family as a Prop to capitalism
 - Socialisation of new generations of worker
 - Means of transmission of private property
 - Wealth passed between generations
 - Cushions the effects of capitalism – makes it seem less bad
 - Oppression of women
 - Unpaid domestic labour to raise children and run household
 - Women are made economically dependent upon men
 - Unit of consumption – the family buys & uses goods produced by the economy

Further Reading

- Sociology in Focus
 - Pp.238-9
- Sociology Themes and Perspectives
 - Ch.8 – “Friedrich Engels – the origin of the family”, “Eli Zaretsky – personal life and capitalism”