

CLASSICAL GERMAN PHILOSOPHY (PART II)

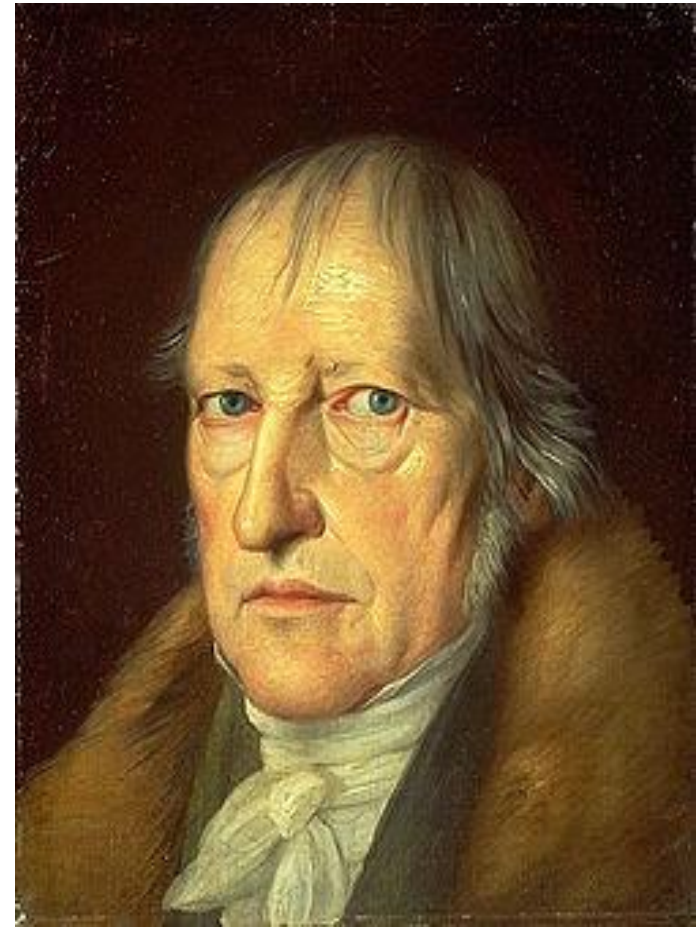
Lecture # 11

Contents of lectures:

- Introduction
- Prominent German philosophers:
Hegel
Feuerbach
- The importance of German classical philosophy
- Recommended Reading

Georg Wilhelm Hegel (1770-1831)

- Hegel was born in the family of local authority
- He graduated from two German's universities: Tübingen and Jena. He was invited to the University of Berlin and became its rector
- Main Hegel works are: "The philosophy of the spirit", "Phenomenology of Spirit", "Philosophy of History" and "Logic"



Georg Wilhelm Hegel (1770-1831)

- The main issue for Hegel was the same as Kant put - is it possible or not to know the "thing in itself"
- In Kant's "thing in itself" are the objects and phenomena of the world that exists independently of human consciousness
- That is why they are unknowable because of the limited human mind
- "Things in itself" according to Hegel may be knowable, as they are manifested in the phenomena of the world and available human senses

Georg Wilhelm Hegel

- Hegel proceeds from the fundamental idea of the identity of thinking and being
- Everything that happens is directly reflected in the thinking of man
- If to find the laws of thought, it is possible to automatically identify the laws of the world



3 basic laws of the dialectic by Hegel:

1. Transformation of quantitative into qualitative

The increase of the quantitative change comes to high point. Then they transform in the qualitative state.

Nature : turning water into steam or ice. Area of thinking: the accumulation of facts about something leads to the possibility to formulate a theory

2. Unity and struggle of opposites

Every phenomenon consists of opposing elements, which are constantly competing with each other, but it cannot exist without each other. Nature: a magnet, there are always two opposite poles. Area of thinking - man thinks always paired categories by: thesis - antithesis

3 basic laws of the dialectic by Hegel:

3. Denial law (the law of double negation)

- Every phenomenon passes at least 3 stages in its development. Second step is the negation of the first stage, the third - the denial of the second. At the end, everything comes back to the first stage, but in a different form
- Nature: the grain. The grain in the first phase was put. In the second stage a sprout (сабақ/росток) grows, denying the existence of grain. In the third stage the sprout transforms into a spike (масақ/колос) with a certain number of grains. That is a repetition of the first stage, but in a different quantitative level
- Sphere of public life: the French Revolution. In the 1 stage there was an absolute monarchy, at the 2 - a revolution and the overthrow of the monarchy. In the 3 stage, Napoleon came to power and restored the monarchy, like at the 1 phase, but at a different level of quality

Georg Wilhelm Hegel

- According to Hegel's dialectical method, all the phenomena of the world are in constant movement and development.

Contribution to the philosophy of Hegel:

- Development of the dialectical method
- Development of the doctrine of the law and the state as an integral component of the absolute idea



Ludwig Andreas von Feuerbach (1804-1872)

- Feuerbach was a disciple of Hegel, but then rejected his theory of criticism
- Feuerbach first revealed the contradiction between the method and system of Hegel
- He criticized Hegel for excessive (шектен тыс/чрезмерный) abstractness of the real life, and isolation from the specific problems of man



Feuerbach (1804-1872)

- He offered to rename philosophy to anthropology and the science of man
- Main goal of philosophy according to Feuerbach is to promote maximum for the self-realization of the person
- The religion put a person in a low position, kills confidence and prevents his development
- People have created gods in their own image and likeness (ұқсастық/подобие)
- They needed, ideally, a model and have created it, giving the qualities that would like to see
- Then, after a few generations, this ideal was perceived as a kind of super idol - God

Feuerbach (1804-1872)

- In the center of the new religion must be put the person who will regain the lost quality attributed to God
- Feuerbach was well known for his criticism of the contradictions of philosophy of Hegel and humanistic nature of his teachings
- He was one of the first to attempt to give a philosophical justification for the cause of the religion



The importance of German classical philosophy

- German classical philosophers have made a huge contribution to the development of the whole philosophy
- They have developed and proposed a theory of knowledge and ethical questions
- This line of German philosophy was dominant in the XIX century
- German classical philosophy had a huge impact on such exercises of the second half of XIX century as Marxism and positivism

