

# Ideology

Each group will be assigned two quotations from the text. As a group, review your assigned quotations, return to their context in the text, and discuss. Then answer the following questions for each quote.

“It is not their real conditions of existence, their real world, that ‘men’ ‘represent to themselves’ in ideology, but above all it is their relation to those conditions of existence which is represented to them there.” (Althusser)

“All ideology represents in its necessarily imaginary distortion not the existing relations of production (and the other relations that derive from them), but above all the (imaginary) relationship of individuals to the relations of production and the relations that derive from them.” (Althusser)

“The individual in question behaves in such and such a way, adopts such and such a practical attitude, and, what is more, participates in certain regular practices which are those of the ideological apparatus on which ‘depend’ the ideas which he has in all consciousness freely chosen as a subject” (Althusser)

“In this preliminary remark and these concrete illustrations, I only wish to point out that you and I are *always already* subjects, and as such constantly practice the rituals of ideological recognition, which guarantee for us that we are indeed concrete, individual, distinguishable and (naturally) irreplaceable subjects” (Althusser)

“What thus seems to take place outside ideology (to be precise, in the street), in reality takes place in ideology. What really takes place in ideology seems therefore to take place outside it... one of the effects of ideology is the practical *denial* of the ideological character of ideology by ideology: ideology never says ‘I am ideological.’ (Althusser)

“Before its birth, the child is therefore always-already a subject, appointed as a subject in and by the specific familial ideological configuration in which it is ‘expected’ once it has been conceived” (Althusser)

**Rewrite the quotation in your own words:**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Quote 1:</b> | <b>Quote 2:</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|

**How does this quotation add to or change your individual definition or understanding of ideology? How does it change your understanding of yourself and the world around you?**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Quote 1:</b> | <b>Quote 2:</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------|

**How does this term relate to the works of Marx alluded to in the section introduction? Does it? If not, what other theories or concepts might the quotation remind you of?**

|                 |                 |
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| <b>Quote 1:</b> | <b>Quote 2:</b> |
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**How does this quotation impact your understanding of the ‘subject?’**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Quote 1:</b> | <b>Quote 2:</b> |
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**Does this quotation leave you with any questions or comments?**

**Quote 1:**

**Quote 2:**