Reading guide for *Capital (vol. 1)*
Liberation School
Chapter 25

Chapter 25:
*remember when reading that Marx is assuming a normal functioning capitalist system*

Section 1: The increased demand for LP that accompanies accumulation, the composition of capital remaining the same.

1) What is the technical composition of capital?
2) What is the value composition of capital?
3) What is the organic composition of capital? (*don’t get caught on in this*)
4) What’s the general tendency for the organic composition of capital?
5) How does the accumulation of capital equate with the accumulation of the proletariat?
6) What is the absolute law of the capitalist mode of production?
7) How does this law impact population?

Section 2: Diminution of Variable Capital, with accumulation and concentration of capital

1) What is the law for the technical composition of capital here?
2) What effects does it have?
3) What is the difference between the *concentration* and *centralization* of capital?
4) How does centralization lay the basis for a “more comprehensive organization of the collective work of many”?
5) How does centralization speed up accumulation?
6) How is centralization achieved?

Section 3: Progressive production of a relative surplus-population or industrial reserve army

1) Why does the demand for labor-power fall with the increase of total capital?
2) Why isn’t there an “abstract law of population”? How do we think about laws of population?
3) How does capitalism produce a disposable industrial reserve army?
4) What functions does this army serve? Why does capitalism need it?

Section 4: Different forms of the relative surplus-population

1) What are the three categories of relative surplus-populations?
2) What is the “absolute general law of capitalist accumulation”?
3) How does Marx *qualify* this law?
4) How does this help you better understand the famous quote from this book, that “accumulation of wealth at one pole is… the accumulation of misery… at the opposite pole”?

Section 5: Illustrations of the general law of capitalist accumulation
1) What are the most interesting examples of the general law that Marx presents here?
2) What strata of the working class do industrial crises effect?