What is Class?

1. Vernacular versus theoretical concepts

2. Different approaches to mapping varieties of theoretical concepts
   (1) Inductively-generated classifications versus deductively-anchored classifications
   (2) If class is the answer, what is the question?
   (3) Classes as defined by empirical clusters of causes-and-effects vs classes as specifying different causal mechanisms.
   (4) Different class frameworks anchor the concept of class in different mechanisms.

3. Different class concepts as specifying different class mechanisms
   1. Class as individual-attributes/conditions of life.
   2. Class as opportunity-hoarding
   3. Class as exploitation/domination

4. The conceptual foundations of Marxist concepts of class: A Step-by-step guide
   Step 1. Relational vs. gradational concepts.
   Step 2. What kind of relations constitute “class” relations?
       • The concept of relations of production
       • Class relations as a form of production relations
   Step 3. Variations in class relations
   Step 4. Locations within class relations: the idea of “empty places”
   Step 5. Micro- and Macro-class analysis
   Step 6. The Explanatory Claims: The fundamental thesis of class analysis
       • What you have determines what you get
       • What you have determines what you have to do to get what you get.
       • What you have to do to get what you get determines whose interests are opposed to yours as you do what you have to do to get what you get.
   Step 7. Marxist class analysis: the specificity of class mechanisms
       • Exploitation
       • Domination

5. A repertoire of class concepts: class as an adjective rather than a noun
   1. Class structure
   2. Class Interests
   3. Class formation
   4. Class capacities
   5. Class practices
   6. Class struggle
   7. Class consciousness
I. A BRIEF PROLOGUE ON EXPLOITATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Exploitation does not capture the central moral issue in inequality
- To each according to need → potential exploitation of workers
- Exploitation is about antagonistic interests, not directly about justice

II. CLASSICAL MARXIST IDEAS ABOUT EXPLOITATION

1. The Labor Theory of Value: the basic idea in the classical theory
   - The “commodity” – books/libraries
   - Labor time as the measure of value
   - A few details: abstract labor; socially necessary labor; direct/indirect labor

2. Objections
   - Subjective theory of value
   - Materialist critique: Sraffa; calorie theory of value

3. Exploitation
   - Where do profits come from? (1) time preferences; 2) circulation; 3. Production of surplus
   - Key insight: labor power as a commodity that generate value when it is used
   - Labor power, the value of labor power, surplus value
   - Rate of surplus value – absolute & relative

III. RETHINKING EXPLOITATION

1. Exploitation vs. Oppression
   a) inverse interdependent welfare principle
   b) resource exclusion principle
   c) effort appropriation principle
   nonexploitative oppression = a + b
   exploitation = a + b + c

2. Exploitation & oppression: key sociological issue = the nature of power and dependency

   Fundamental sociological insight about exploitation: Exploitation is a form of oppression that gives real power to the exploited because they have levers of resistance and struggle absent from brute oppression. This makes exploitative relations complex, explosive, dynamic -- it is why around exploitation whole systems of domination and containment are elaborated.

3. The moral bite of exploitation: the saga of the Shmoo

4. A note on EXPLOITATION and ALIENATION

5. Extensions of the contrast of oppression & exploitation: sexual exploitation/oppression; cultural exploitation/oppression

6. Roemer’s account of exploitation (time permitting)
   - First approach: showing that exploitation can occur with only markets, no employers
   - Withdrawal rules under different production games = abstract test for what I have called economic oppression
   - Generalizing Roemer: different assets → different withdrawal rules