

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*

EXPLOITATION

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
- Exchange: Use/exchange value. Problem: explaining relative value of heterogeneous commodities.
- 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