

**POWER =**

**ECONOMIC CLASS**

**BOURGEOISIE**

(OWNERS)



*(Wage/Labor Exchange)*



**PROLETARIAT**

(WORKERS)

- Own the means of production
- Control the relations of production
- Control the government
- Shape widespread beliefs/values to further their own interests

- Labor within the means of production
- Exploited by the relations of production
- Limited political/cultural power despite being a numerical majority
- Believe in widespread values that do not benefit them (false consciousness)

The Relations of Production...

WHO HAS POWER?

**BOURGEOISIE**

PROLETARIAT



WHO IS THE NUMERICAL MAJORITY?

**PROLETARIAT**

**BOURGEOISIE**



Solidarity, June 30, 1917. The Hand That Will Rule the World—One Big Union.

THE PROLETARIAT HAS LESS POWER DESPITE BEING  
THE NUMERICAL MAJORITY... WHY?

*(Because they do not OWN the means of production)*

# POWER =

**ECONOMIC**  
**CLASS**

+

**SOCIAL**  
**STATUS**

+

**POLITICAL**  
**INFLUENCE**

*(aka "status honor")*

*(aka "political party")*

**Owners with high-demand commodities**

**Owners with low-demand commodities**

**Workers with high-demand skills**

**Workers with low-demand skills**

**High-power associations (exclusive)**

**Low-power associations**

**Unassociated individuals**

**Affiliates of the party in power**

**Affiliates of the party not in power**

**Affiliates of unrecognized parties**

## WHAT IS CLASS?

# **CLASS**

Income (money in/money out)

+

Wealth (assets-debt = net wealth)

+

Education (highest level of education)

+

Occupation (high/low status occupation)

CEOs, politicians	\$200,000	
Professionals	\$100,000	Graduate Degree
	\$72,500	
	\$50,000	Bachelor's degree
Professional Support & Sales		
	\$32,000	
		Some college
Clerical, Service & Blue collar	\$25,000	
	\$20,000	
	\$15,000	
Part time & unemployed	\$7,000	High School

Sources: Thompson & Hickey, Society in Focus, 2005; US Census Bureau Personal income & education of individuals 25+, 2005

## WHAT IS THE OVERARCHING NATURE OF CLASS IN AMERICA...



**SOCIAL MOBILITY?**  
OR  
**SOCIAL REPRODUCTION?**



# SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

YOUR ECONOMIC CLASS POSITION DETERMINES YOUR **POWER**, AND THOSE WHO HAVE **POWER** TEND TO STAY IN POWER (AND VICE VERSA).

BOURDIEU

**POWER** =

ACCUMULATION AND REPRODUCTION OF CAPITAL

ECONOMIC

CAPITAL



SOCIAL

CAPITAL



CULTURAL

CAPITAL



*Institutions in society privilege the cultural and social capital of the upper class*