

Recorded by Meghan Dyson  
 Social Theory Lecture Notes  
 February 23, 2006

Erik Olin Wright on Weber:

Attributes Intrinsic to Categories:

Sphere of Interaction	Category	Objective Properties	Subjective Identity	Collective Action
Economic	Class	Yes	No	No
Communal	Status	Yes	Yes	No
Political	Group Party	Yes	Yes	Yes

-(Refer to table): Class category can put you in economic high end, but maybe not honor high end.

-All three spheres are talking about power.

-How does Weber define power?

-“zero-sum”

-page 206 paragraph 1: Weber defines power

-If one person or group has more, the other then has less.

-Sees different types of authority written in different types of power

-Sharp contrast to Marx which is rooted in ownership, means of production, and social relations in production.

-Yes, class has objective properties within the sphere of economic interaction (refer to table) Wright + Weber.

-Weber is very different than Marx, he does not see the market value issue and he does see economics as “collective action”.

2 Status Meanings:

1. Honor → means status (mostly honor)

2. Slaves are not a class. Their life chances come from their opportunities - which they do not have - instead it comes from their status and they are considered a status group.

- examples of status groups: free, unfree, foreigner, citizen, married, single, etc.

-People do have subjective identity as slave or free, as married or single - these are status group classifications. This is different than being a gentleman or a member of a royal family; these are honor groups.

-Political parties are often catalysts for collective action.

-Big difference from Marx (theorizing social world and power).

-Weber is able to do much more advanced analysis of the social world.

-being able to see how different theorists have different implications and outcomes is THEORETICALLY SIGNIFICANT!!!



Basic Causal Structure of Weber's Class Analysis	relationship to economic assets	market capacity is instrumentally rational exchange	differential control over income ("life chances")
Basic Causal Structure of Marx's Class Analysis	relationship to economic assets	market capacity	diff. Control over income ("life chances")
Basic Causal Structure of Marx's Class Analysis	relationships to economic assets	location within production relations of domination and subordination (Who calls the shots and who takes the orders)	Diff. Control over labor effort (exploitation) (results in how hard we work)

Exploitation:

1. Material welfare of one group causally depends on material deprivations of another group.
    - material interests of two groups are antagonistic.
  2. The causal relations of dependence involves asymmetric access to production resources.
    - class antagonism rooted in means of production and property rights.
  3. The causal mechanism that translates exclusion into welfare is appropriation of labor.
    - welfare of exploiter depends on effort of exploited.
    - Diff. Control of labor effort
- Genocide not an option in situation of exploitation because exploiters NEED the exploited.