



Chapter 8

Social Inequality



Section 1


DIMENSIONS OF STRATIFICATION

A Child's Guide to Growing Up-The Social Class System

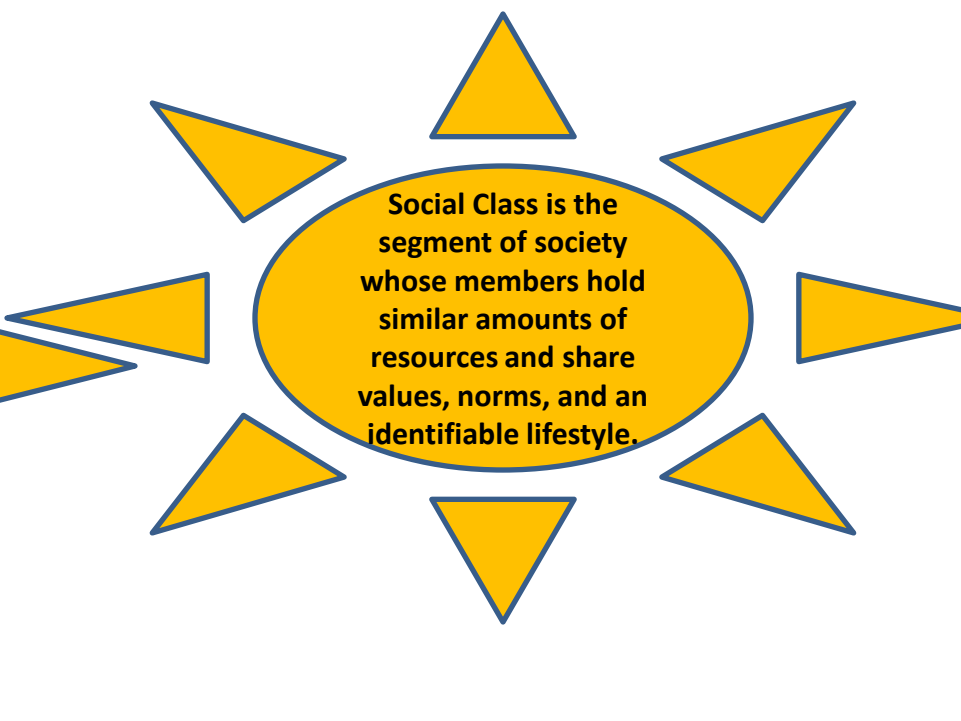


Social Stratification and Social Class

- What is social stratification?
- How is social stratification related to social class?

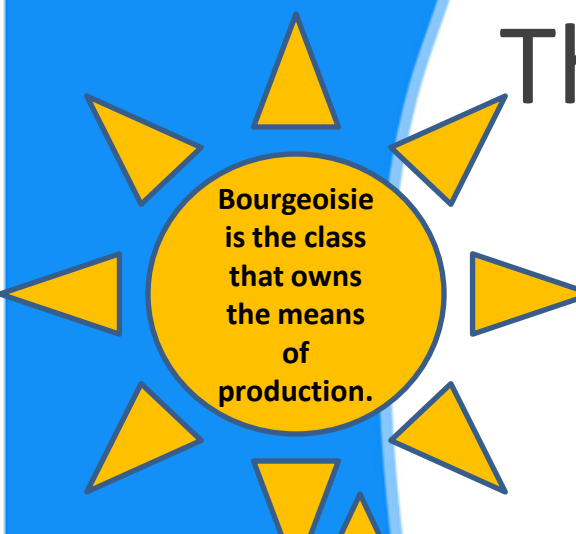
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Social stratification is ranking of people or groups according to their unequal access to scarce resources.

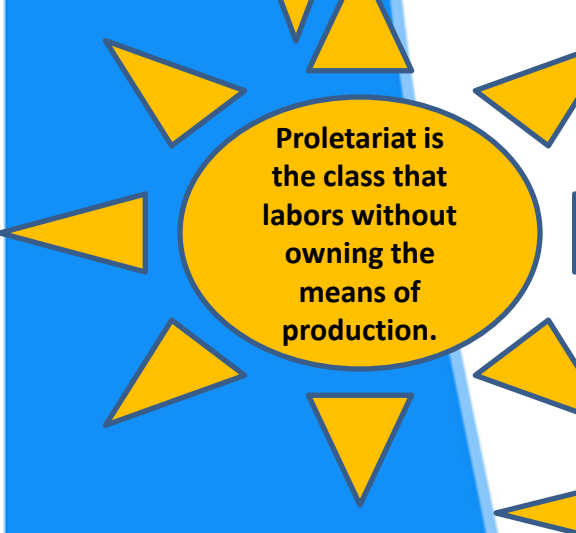
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Social Class is the segment of society whose members hold similar amounts of resources and share values, norms, and an identifiable lifestyle.

The Economic Depression

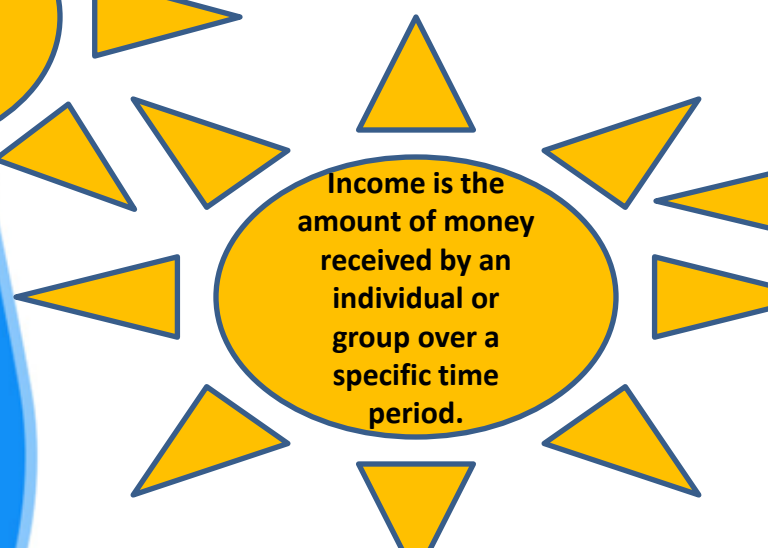


Bourgeoisie is the class that owns the means of production.

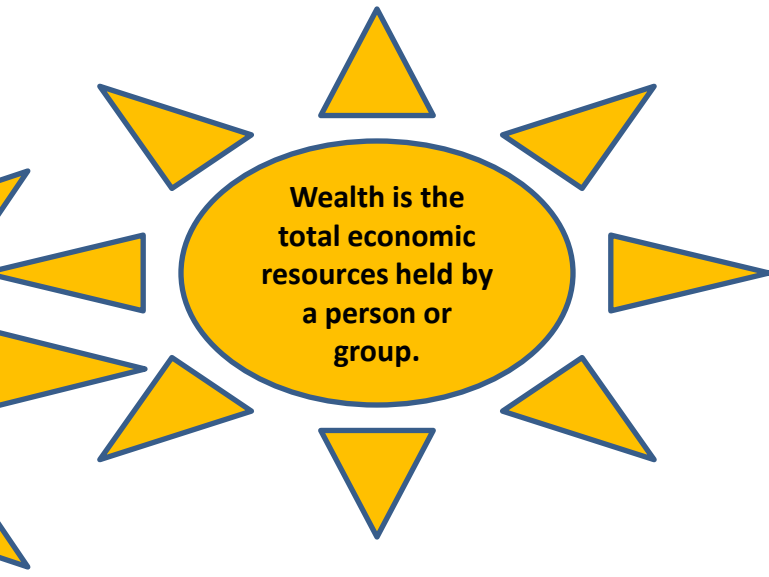


Proletariat is the class that labors without owning the means of production.

- Karl Marx's social classes
- Are there extremes of income and poverty in the United States?



Income is the amount of money received by an individual or group over a specific time period.



Wealth is the total economic resources held by a person or group.

The Power Dimension

- What is power?
- Can you exercise power without being wealthy?

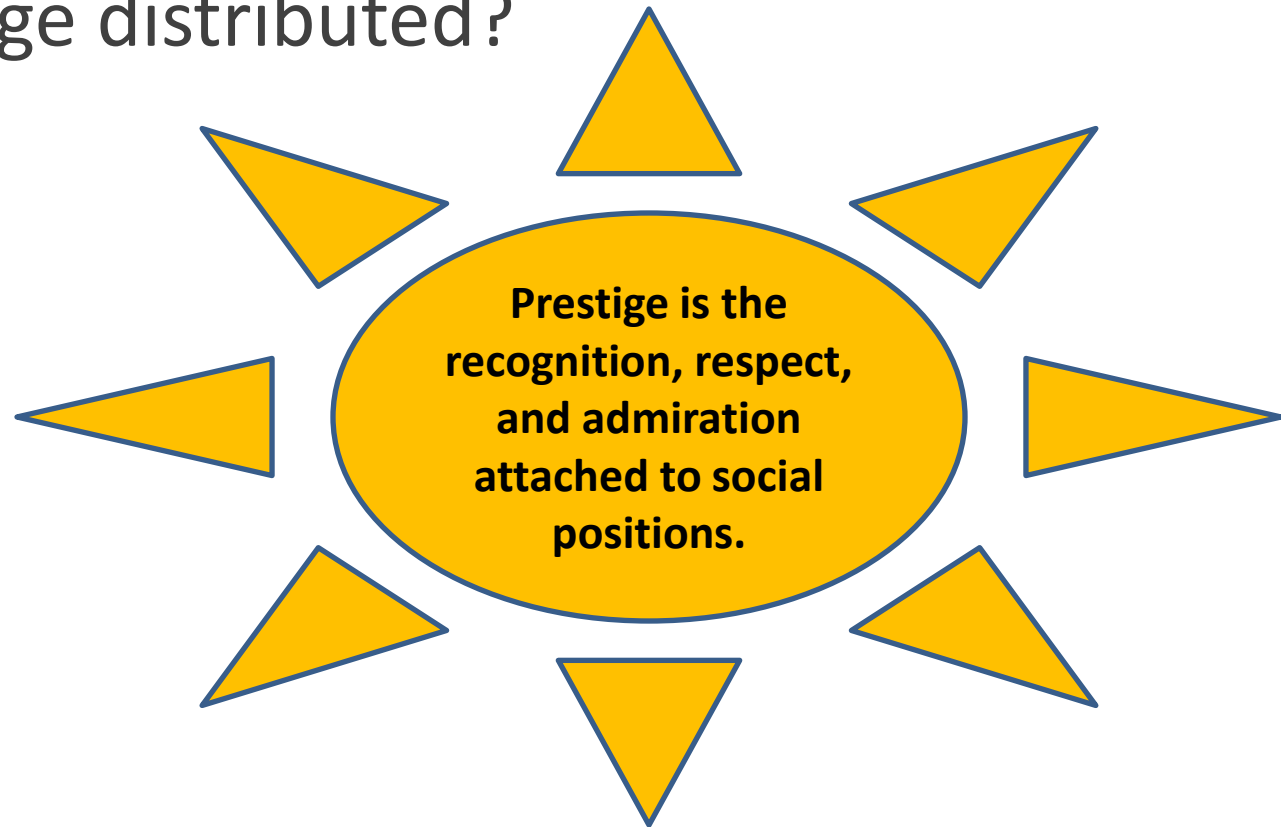


According to Marx,
those who own and
control capital have the
power in society.

According to Weber,
while having money
helps, economic success
and power are not the
same. Money and
ownership of the means
of production are not the
only resources that can
be used for the basis of
power.

The Prestige Dimension

- What is prestige?
- How is prestige distributed?



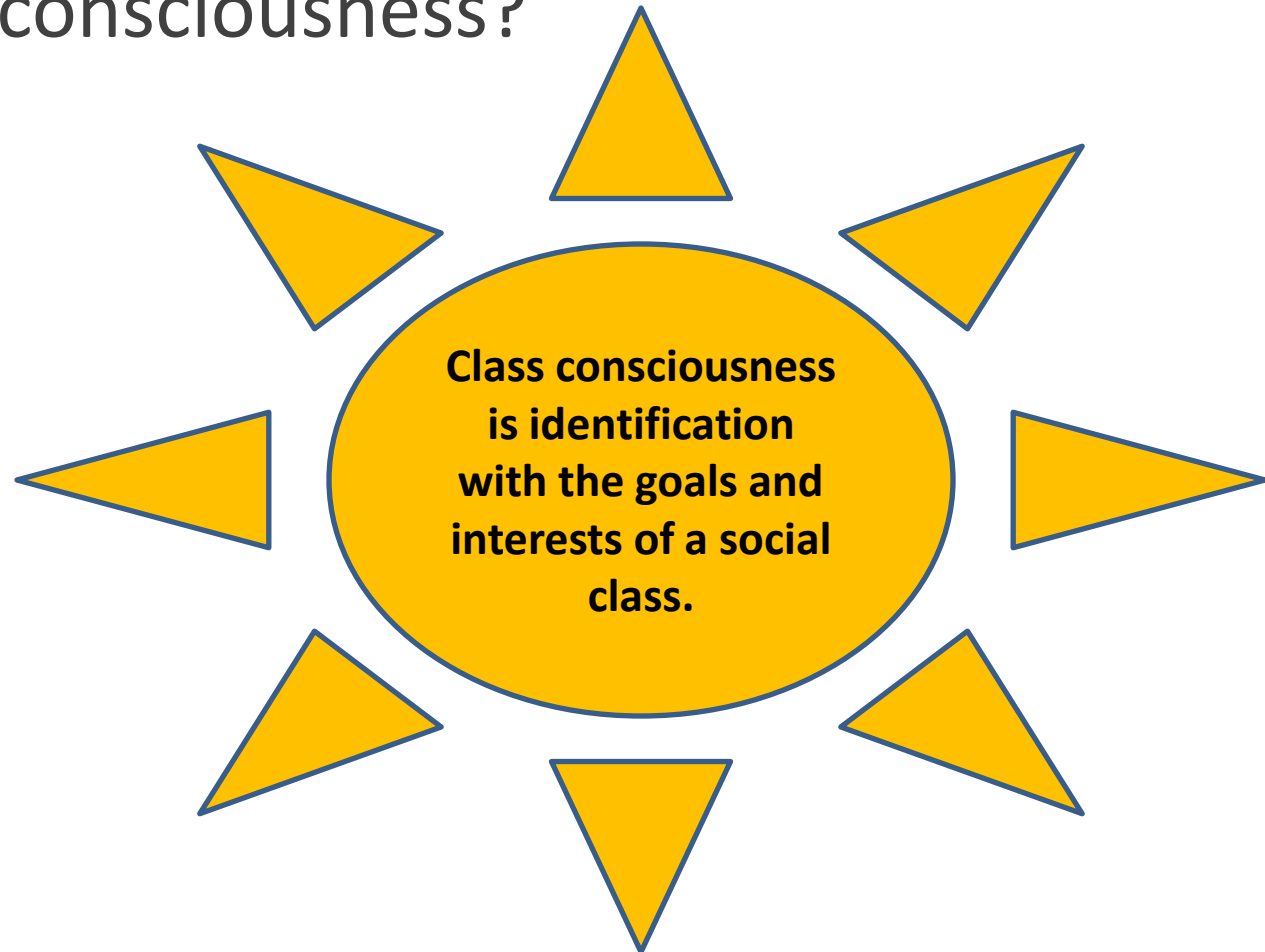


Section 3

SOCIAL CLASSES IN AMERICA

Class Consciousness

- What is class consciousness?



The Upper Class

- Includes only 1% of the population
- Upper-upper class & lower-upper class
- Aristocracy
- 'blue blood' versus 'nouveau riche'

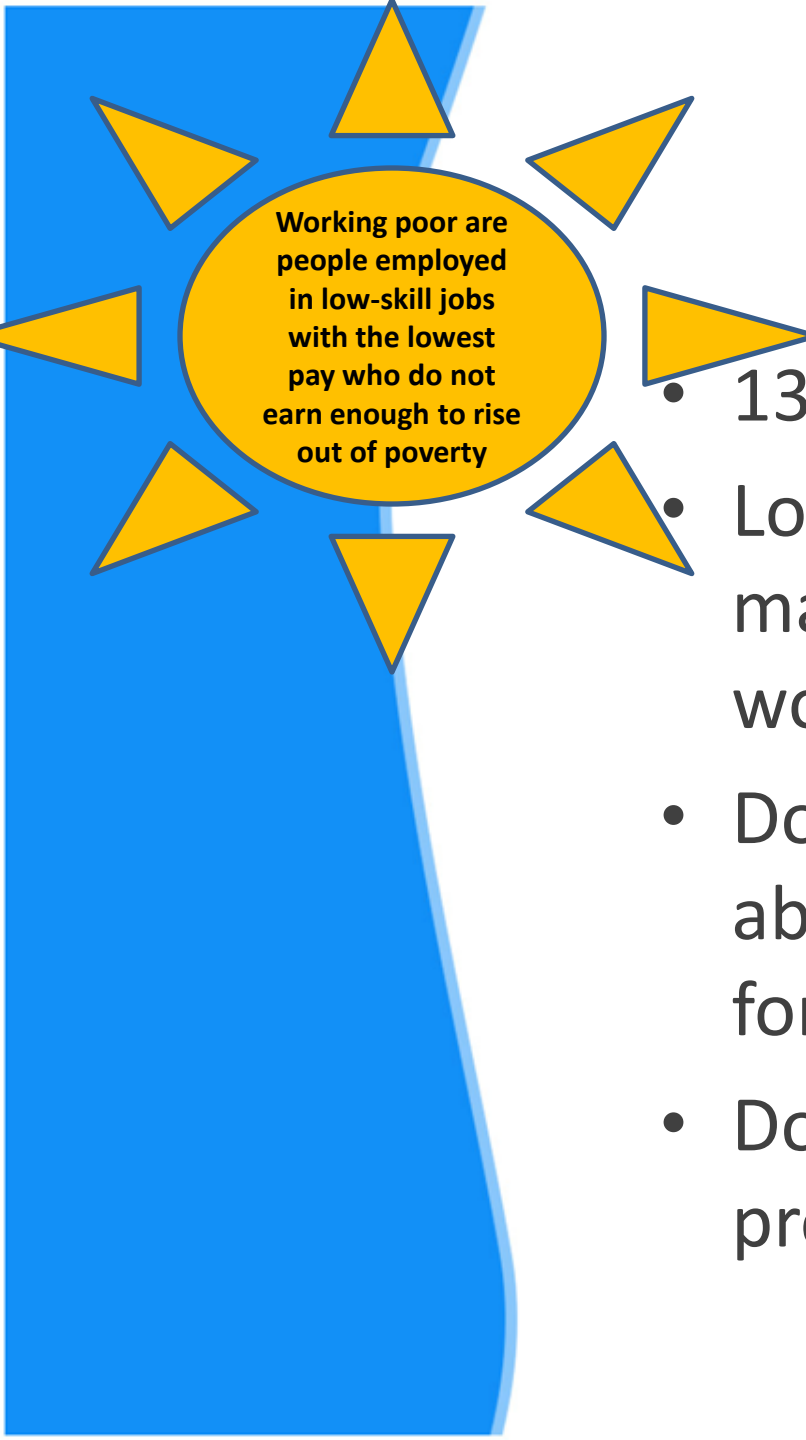
The Middle Class

- Most Americans consider themselves middle class
- 40-50% of Americans
- Upper-middle class is 14% of the population
- Middle-middle class is 30% of the population

The Working Class

- Often referred to as lower-middle class
- 1/3 of the population
- Below-average income & unstable employment
- Generally lack medical insurance and benefits

The Working Poor



Working poor are people employed in low-skill jobs with the lowest pay who do not earn enough to rise out of poverty

- 13% of the population
- Lowest-level clerical workers, manual workers, and service workers.
- Do not earn enough to rise above the poverty line (\$17,603 for family of 4 in 2000.)
- Do not participate in political process

The Underclass



- 12% of the population
- Either work part-time menial jobs or are on public assistance.
- Lack education & skills
- Physical & mental disabilities are common
- Often single mothers with no income
- Lack of skills to maintain and get jobs.

Tammy's Story

