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**Commonalities, Differences, and Debates
on the Concept of Social Class: Karl Marx,
Max Weber, Edward P. Thompson,
Daniel Bell, and Pierre Bourdieu**

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Abstract

Comprehending social class is generally approached through empirical methods; however, in reality, class is characterized by both objective and subjective conditions. This article compounds upon the theoretical viewpoints of five prominent theorists-Karl Marx, Max Weber, Edward P. Thompson, Daniel Bell, and especially Pierre Bourdieu-with the aim of delving into their views on the concept of social class. Karl Marx emphasized structural factors, particularly the means of production and mode of production, in determining class. Max Weber focused on economic factors, status groups, politics, life opportunities, class situation and experience to explain class and social stratification. Edward P. Thompson, in his scrutiny of the working class in England, emphasized its history, asserting that class emerged within human and historical relationship. Daniel Bell highlighted the emergence of a new class in post-industrial society, attributing it to shifts in social conditions, especially in the realm of education. Pierre Bourdieu proposed a comprehensive approach to studying class, encompassing ontology, epistemology, and methodology, positing that social space is imperative for a nuanced comprehension of class in reality.

Keywords: Social Class, Karl Marx, Max Weber, Edward P. Thompson, Daniel Bell, Pierre Bourdieu

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