

There Is No Middle Class. No Such Thing

The term '*middle class*' is based, vaguely, on personal attributes like upbringing, education and speech acquired in childhood. Or based, vaguely, on income, on a person's lifestyle and status as a *consumer*. This is flimsy nonsense. 'Class' means things more definite than personal background and personal spending power. Far more important is a person's current, active role in business and work. Their role and their relationships with others as a *producer*. Their income and consumer power, though of no use in defining class, are *dependent* on their role in these central activities.

Instead of background and income, we have to define class by people's definite, unarguable roles in the key public activities and relationships – business, work, the production of goods, the delivery of services, making money, making a living. Base class on producer roles and you see the two main classes are business people - the business *class* - and the rest, the working class. The business class organise most of the production and sale of goods and services and organise most of our jobs. Workers - the majority – are the class who earn their living working for them, or for a public body.

'Middle' class muddles this. Grouping people by higher income and calling them 'middle class' wrongly treats our roles as consumers as all-important. Business people work hard – advertise hard – to get us to see our role as a consumer as our main expression of being human. *But there's far more to us than that, isn't there?*

Our role as consumers does not define a *class*. This, and upbringing and culture, are of only minor interest compared to the hard, practical reality of *how* someone makes a living or makes their income. They make it from their role in the *production* of goods and services. Defining class requires a more definite identification of these roles and relationships. Of the role people have in the *production* of goods and services rather than just the consumption of them. Of the roles and relationships that determine the distribution of money, and jobs, and spending power.

In grouping people mainly by income, as consumers, 'middle class' also merges the owners of small businesses and self-employed professionals with the most skilled, best-qualified workers - managers, design and sales staff, teachers, lecturers, engineers and more. It calls 'middle class' workers who are better-educated, better-qualified, better-spoken, than those usually said to be working class. Those with a more comfortable, rewarding position, more of a stake, in the ***Free-market Business System*** and the public services. But *class* has to mean something more than just buying power and consumer tastes, or position in job grades. These are people whose living – the income that supposedly defines their class - depends on them getting and keeping a job. They are people who, when unorganised, are as much at the mercy of business people and state employers as those more usually called working class. Most so-called middle class people are workers. They should class themselves as such, we should class them, as working class. 'Middle class' divides the working class by putting many of them into this 'middle' class. They aren't middle class, they are simply ***better-off workers***. Maybe, like we have co-workers, they are *bo-workers*.

Grouping people simply by income and calling them middle class causes great damage to everyone's understanding of society and politics, masking the ultra-important, economic roles people have as *producers, in making money either as business people or as wage-earners*. The people called middle class are not a class. There *is* no middle class. There are just the business class and the working class. The self-employed and 'small traders' are, essentially, business people. All 'middle class' actually means is people on middle *incomes*. It means middle *earners*. That doesn't make a *class*. It just muddles the real, practical, useful meaning of class. 'Middle class' muddles class. It is disastrous for understanding how society operates, what is done to us and what we can do about it.

Another daft thing - people never say what class is 'above' the 'middle class'. They talk as if there isn't one. If pushed, they might say 'the ruling class'. But which class *is* the ruling class? And what is *their* role in these key economic and political activities of production and making money? The answer is ***the business class***. They are the ruling class, because they own and organise the production of most goods and services and organise most of our jobs. They run the economy, they *are* 'the economy'. And that helps them to dominate politics. ***The term 'middle class' hides them. It achieves the astonishing feat of making invisible the most powerful class on the planet!***

When someone says 'middle class', put them right with 'Its the muddle class'.

Then say 'In fact, there is no middle class. Most people called that are better-off workers – the better-off working class'.