

Supplementary Topic

Oct. 14th 2004

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The Definition of Bourgeoisie...

Originally the name for the inhabitants of walled towns in medieval France; as artisans and craftsmen, the bourgeoisie occupied a socioeconomic position between the peasants and the landlords in the countryside. The term was extended to include the middle class of France and subsequently of other nations. The word *bourgeois* has also long been used to imply an outlook associated with materialism, narrowness, and lack of culture—these characteristics were early satirized by many people and have continued to be a subject of literary analysis.

Where it came from and Importance in History...

The bourgeoisie as a historical phenomenon did not begin to emerge until the development of medieval cities as centers for trade and commerce in Central and Western Europe, beginning in the 11th cent. The bourgeoisie, or merchants and artisans, began to organize themselves into corporations as a result of their conflict with the landed proprietors. At the end of the Middle Ages, under the early national monarchies in Western Europe, the bourgeoisie found it in their interests to support the throne against the feudal disorder of competing local authorities. In England and the Netherlands, the bourgeoisie was the driving force in uprooting feudalism in the late 16th and early 17th cent.

In the 17th and 18th century, the bourgeoisie supported principles of constitutionality and natural right, against the claims of divine right and against the privileges held by nobles and prelates. The English, American, and French revolutions derived partly from the desire of the bourgeoisie to rid itself of feudal trammels and royal encroachments on personal liberty and on the rights of trade and property. In the 19th century, the bourgeoisie, triumphantly propounding liberalism, gained political rights as well as religious and civil liberties. Thus modern Western society, in its political and also in its cultural aspects, owes much to bourgeois activities and philosophy.

Subsequent to the Industrial Revolution, the class greatly expanded, and differences within it became more distinct, notably between the high bourgeois (industrialists and bankers) and the petty bourgeois (tradesmen and white-collar workers). By the end of the 19th cent., the capitalists (the original bourgeois) tended to be associated with a widened upper class, while the spread of technology and technical occupations was opening the bourgeoisie to entry from below.

In Marxist theory...

In Marxist theory, the bourgeoisie is defined as that class of society which owns the means of production. Marxism sees the proletariat and bourgeoisie as inherently opposed, since, for example, factory workers automatically wish wages to be as high as possible, while owners wish for wages (meaning costs) to be as low as possible.

In the rhetoric of most radical Communist parties, "bourgeois" is an insult; those who are perceived to collaborate with the bourgeoisie are often called its lackeys.

In a modern 21st century Capitalist society, it is said that there are very few bourgeoisie left, especially if one only defines "owning the means of production" as fully with 100 percent control owning the means of production. In modern common parlance, the terms proletariat and bourgeoisie now refer to the more general concepts of rich and poor, and not specifically to owning or not owning the means of production. In contemporary Marxist parlance, bourgeoisie refers to those who control corporate institutions through majority share holdings, options, trusts, funds, intermediaries or by making public statements regarding market transactions. This sense harks back to the Marxist interpretation of "ownership" as control.

What is It Exactly Responsible for?

1. Bourgeoisie destroyed feudal system and religion influenced governing systems fast and efficiently without much resistance compared to any other means of attempts that tried to do the same. You might say that Communism was able to do the same but, consider where that is now.
2. It has taken away many of the sentimental value of morality and responsibility of professionalism or labor but placed cold, hard calculating fact of putting monetary value on everything.
3. Within the last 100 years, Bourgeoisie created production of materials more than the total of whole previous human historical times. It created "mass production" and "over supply."
4. It did help to create the modern world that would require a fair government that would exercise a fair judicial system and get rid of any other hypocritical values and standards.

From a personal perspective...

5. Bourgeoisie seems responsible for creating the modern world that for the most families every member has to work harder and more, yet, everyone still feels a state of material poorness. It seems to have crated a world that all of us have to worry about the future and put more efforts into work and labor instead of enjoying the present, unlike our fathers and grandfathers were able to do.
6. It created a universal value of “a person who can contribute the most on profit making is the best person” rule – hence I cannot get married.