

The American Class System 1



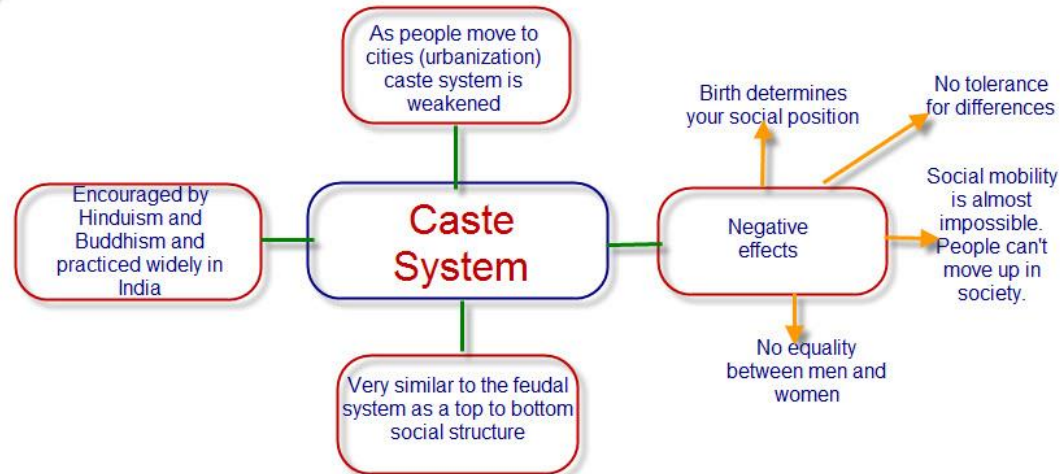
Caste System

- This is a social system based on ascription or birth. A pure caste system is closed because birth alone determines a persons entire future.



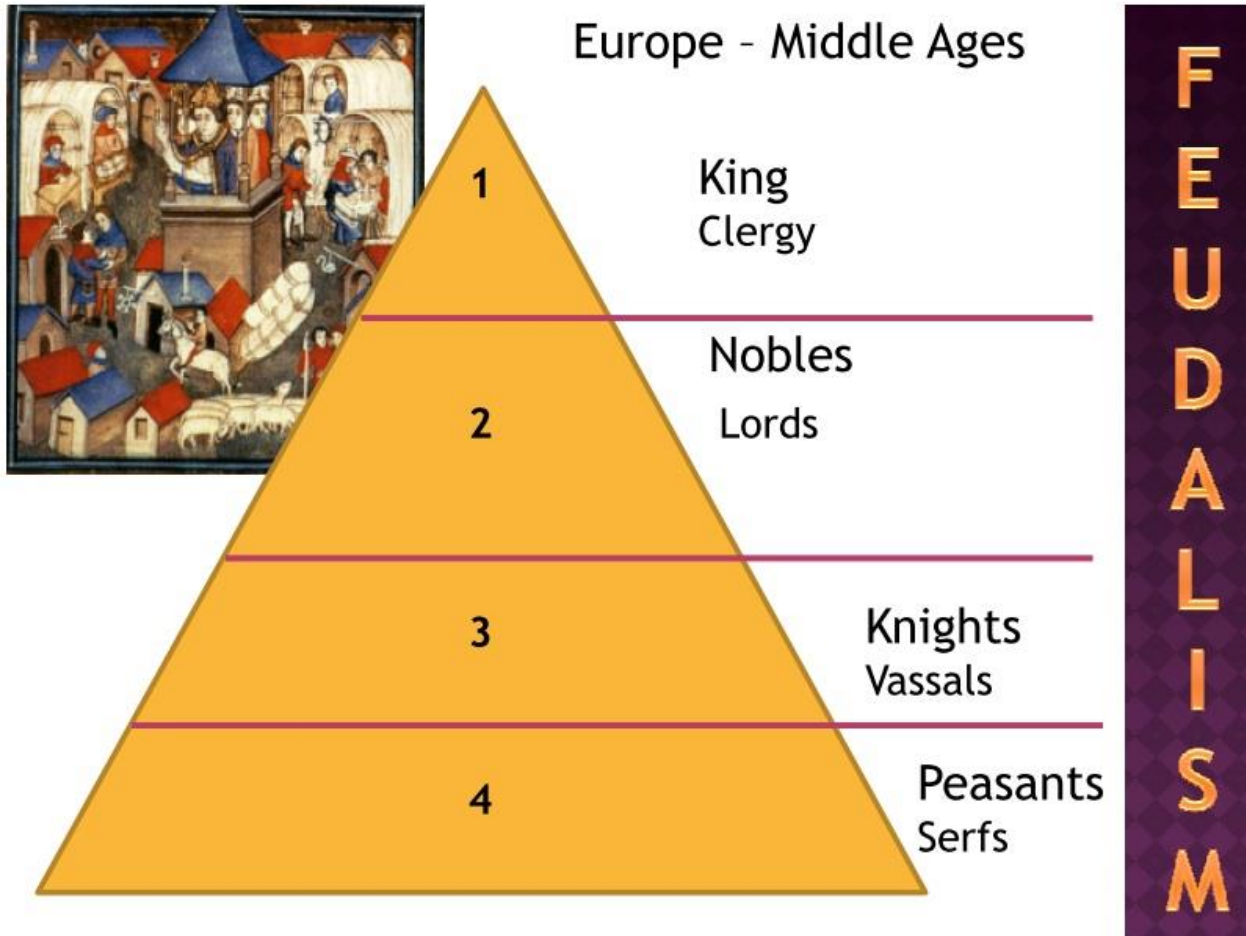
The Caste System is a social structure where people are separated from each other and ranked forever below or above each other based on the family and class they were born into.

Key Terms



Example of Caste System

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Social Stratification

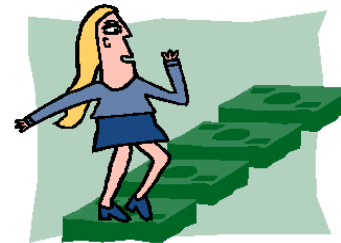
Social Stratification

- creation of layers of people who possess unequal shares of scarce resources
- Most important of these resources are
 - Income
 - Wealth
 - Power
 - prestige



How is social stratification related to social class?

- Each layer in a stratification system is a social class



Social Class	% of Population	Yearly Income
Upper	1%	\$500K +
Upper Middle	15%	\$100K +
Lower Middle	33%	\$30-70K
Working	30%	\$16-30K
Lower	14%	\$16K or less
unemployed, homeless, welfare	1%	\$0 K

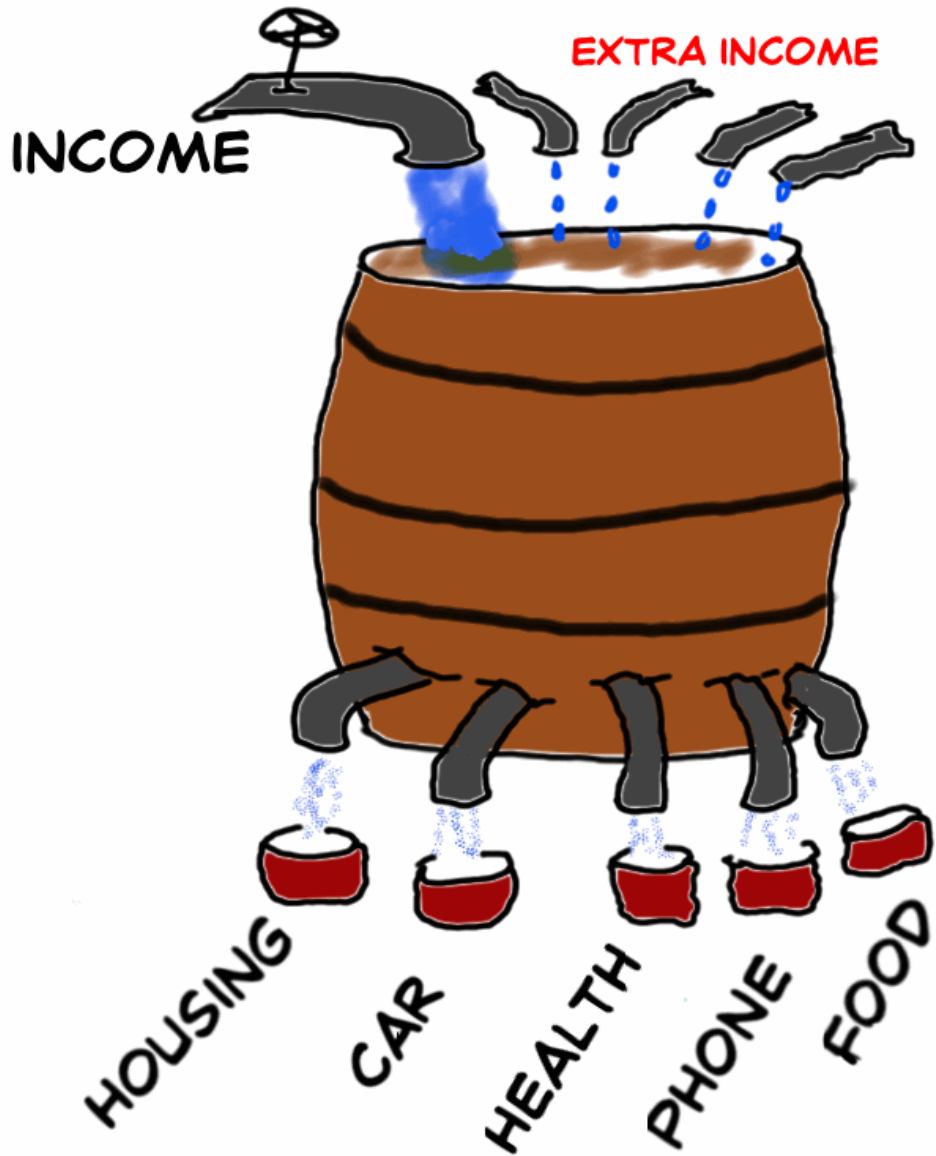
Class System In the United States

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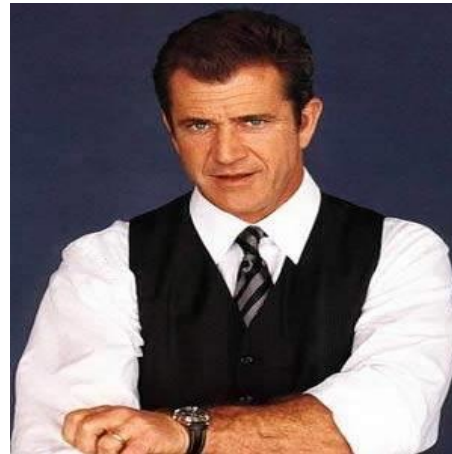
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Working	30%	\$16-30K	
Lower	14%	\$16K or less	
Unemployed, homeless/ Welfare (Sometimes called the under class)	1%	\$0K	

INCOME

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POWER (INFLUENCE)



PRESTIGE

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Wealth and Income

Education

The type of work you do.

Where you work

Power



Prestige Scores 2014

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• Member of president's cabinet	89	•		
• Physician	82	•	Accountant	57
• College professor	78	•	Actor	55
• Judge	76	•	Computer programmer	51
• Attorney	76	•	Athlete	51
• Astronomer	74	•	Bank Teller	50
• Dentist	74	•	Electrician	49
• Priest	73	•	Police officer	48
• Bank officer	72	•	Fire Fighter	47
• Engineer	71	•	Secretary	46
• Architect	71	•	Mail carrier	42
• Chemist	69	•	Plumber	41
• Nurse	62	•	Farm owner	41
• School teacher	60	•	Dancer	38
• Author	60	•	Mechanic	37
		•	Bus Driver	32
		•	Cashier	31
		•	Gas station attendant	22
		•	Taxi Driver	22
		•	Garbage collector	17
		•	Janitor	16
		•	Maid	14
		•	shoeshine	9

Prestige can be Fleeting

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Prestige can be Fleeting

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(Celebrity Status)

- Bill Cosby has been publicly accused of raping, drugging, coercing or sexually assaulting **40** women since 1965, and many of them have only started to come forward since October 2014.
- The 78-year-old comedian hasn't been charged with any crimes stemming from the allegations, but over a decade after the first accuser went public, the world has increasingly taken notice. Many of Cosby's live performances have been canceled or postponed amid the avalanche of claims. Netflix postponed his special indefinitely and TV Land nixed "Cosby Show" reruns from its lineup.



Lower class

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The World of Alex

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The Church is in the Neighborhood 15



Who you Marry/Live with



Employment

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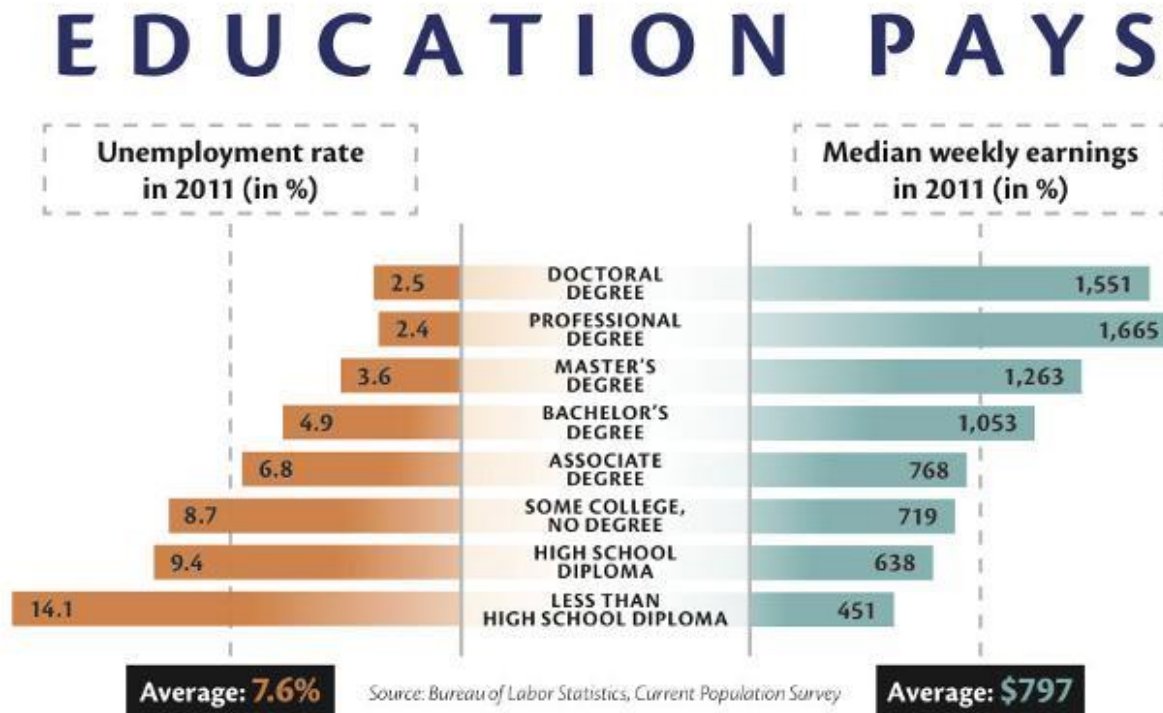
- Davonna Woods is a former store manager for a high-profile pastor's fast food restaurant. She claims to have worked hundreds of hours of overtime, even while pregnant, but was never paid for them. After her father and sister died because of gun violence, she was offered a job at the restaurant after much publicity. But it turned into a negative experience that she is now trying to sort out legally. She keeps tattoos of her loved ones on her arms, but has moved far away from the Austin neighborhood.*





Education and employment based on Class (*Social Class Affects Life Chances*)

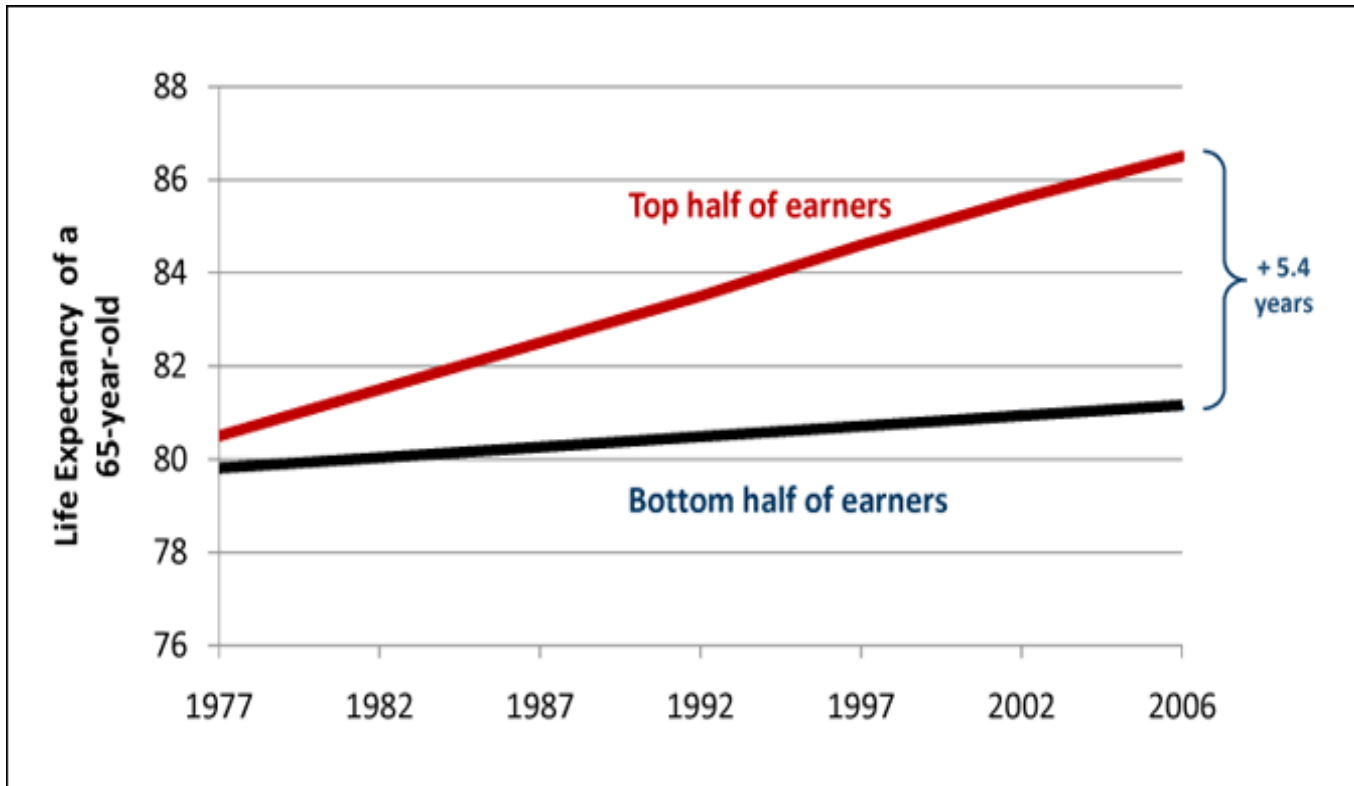
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Educational Achievement. Children's educational achievement as a function of their parents' achievement. Source: US Dept of Education

Life expectancy based on Income & class

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Social class and health

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Social Class	Still-birth rate	Infant mortality rate	Mortality rate (1-15 years)	Standardised mortality ratio (men 20-64 years)
Upper	4	4	18	66
Upper-middle	4	5	16	72
Middle-middle	5	5	16	100
Lower-middle	5	6	26	117
Working	6	7	22	116
Lower	8	8	42	189

Having more at an earlier Age

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Children Single Parent Families

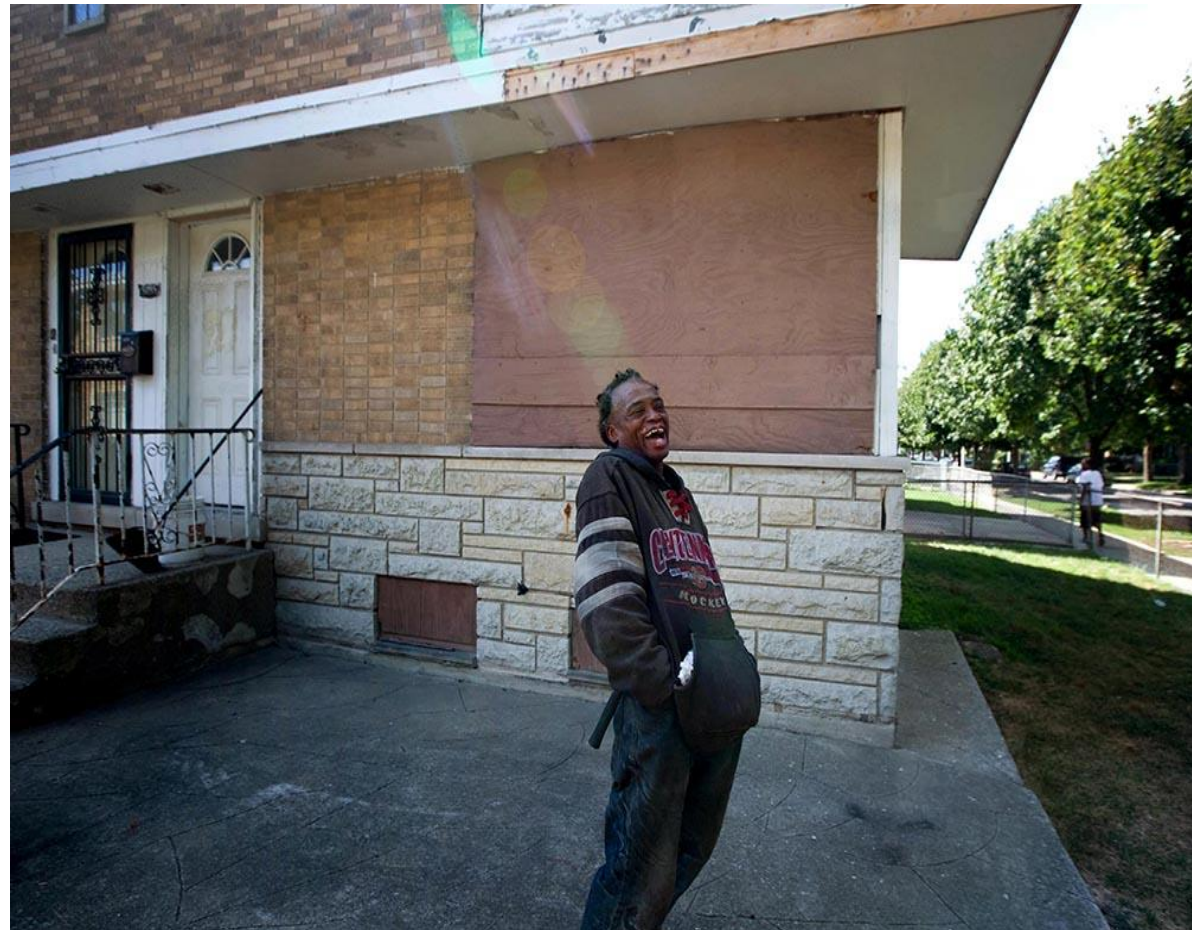
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Housing Issues

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- *James Starks was a maddening character for his neighbors, who were upset at his lack of care for the property he occupied.*



When I was there with him, a neighbor confronted him with anger outside his property. Neighbors like her were furious, accusing him of being a squatter and lowering their home values. He just laughed and went back inside his dwelling.

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He then led me on a tour of the interior of the home and an outside property that he said was his. This included a filthy vacant lot that he claimed to clean every day.

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The Vacant lot

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They have little power, life just happens

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Benefits of the lower classes

Help with medical expenses, debts, prescription drugs, and health care

Community Action Agency:

Low income housing assistance:

Job training:

Education assistance:

Rent help for low income rural families

Energy bill assistance

Free low income health care programs:

Monthly welfare payments

Social Security



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OFFICE OF HEAD START

An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Benefits

- Free or low cost health care from clinics
- Dental care offered by government supported dental clinics
- Free grants from the Federal government stimulus
- Low income legal advice
- Section 8 Housing:
- Free or low cost food
- Child care subsidies and voucher
- Financial aid for the disabled
- Charity organizations
- Clothes, household goods and basic needs:



Benefits

[VA LegalAid.org](http://VALegalAid.org)

- Home Repairs:
- Free debt and credit counseling:
- Foreclosure and housing counseling
- Food pantries provide reduced priced or free food:
- Financial assistance for heating, cooling, and energy bills

• Internet:

iCanConnect
The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

- Rent assistance and housing:
- Rental deposits



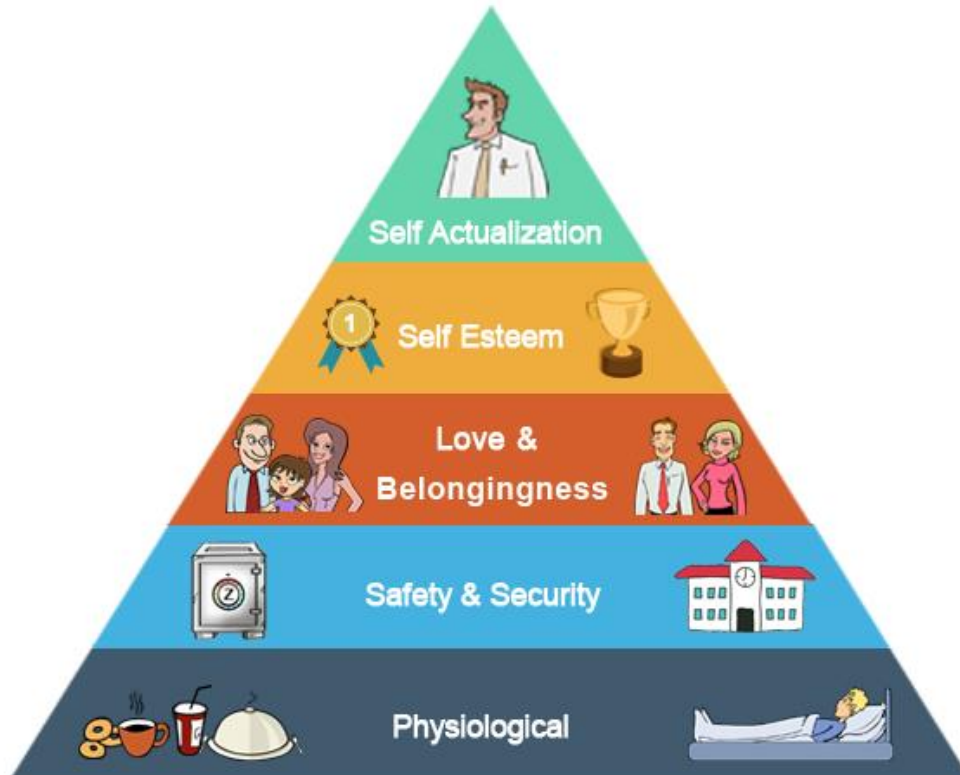
The home of Austin resident Brian Corbin is owned by a non-profit group who was pressuring him with eviction to pay what he owed for living in the home. Corbin claimed a misunderstanding and said he was upset with his treatment by the organization. When I caught up with him, the result was that he was living with the uncertainty of what his next move would be.

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Maslow's Hierarchy

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Working Class

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*Working Class People
are part of a long
American tradition*

Changes in the working class

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- There is nobility in the work
- The Changing population of working class reflects Ethnic/Racial changes
- Some white collar now
- Also includes Agriculture

Sometimes we boarder between Middle and Working Class

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Working Class

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- Work is more disciplined and has more continuous supervision
- 56% own their own homes
- Fewer benefits
- College generally not an option
- Many don't vote except for Obama
- Can be very direct in their viewpoints

Middle Class

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Adjusted Class System

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The U.S. Social Class Ladder

Social Class	Education	Occupation	Income	Percentage of Population
Capitalist	Prestige university	Investors and heirs, a few executives	\$500,000+	1%
Upper Middle	College or university, often with postgraduate study	Professionals and upper managers	\$90,000+	14%
Lower Middle	At least high school; perhaps some college or apprenticeship	Semiprofessionals and lower managers, craftspeople, foremen	About \$40,000	30%
Working Class	High school	Factory workers, clerical workers, retail sales, low-paid craftspeople	About \$30,000	30%
Working Poor	Some high school	Laborers, service workers, low-paid salespeople	About \$18,000	22%
Underclass	Some high school	Unemployed and part-time, on welfare	About \$10,000	3%

Source: Based on Gilbert, Dennis, and Joseph A. Kahl. *The American Class Structure: A New Synthesis*. 4th ed. Homewood, Ill.: Dorsey Press, 1993. Income estimates follow Duff, Christina. "Profiling the Aged: Fat Cats or Hungry Victims?" *Wall Street Journal*, September 28, 1995a: B1, B8.

Middle Class

40

- About 40-45% of U.S. population
- Tremendous influence on culture.
- Television and movies usually show middle class people
- Commercial advertising is aimed at them
- They Vote



And, They generally are voting
Republican

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Difference between the Wings 42



Who Should I Vote For?



Political		
Left-Wing	<i>Spectrum</i>	Right-Wing
Liberal	<i>Values</i>	Conservative
Democrat	<i>Party</i>	Republican
Economic		
Publically-Driven	<i>Philosophy</i>	Privately-Driven
Government	<i>Jurisdiction</i>	Business
Wealth Distribution	<i>Theme</i>	Wealth Protection
Raise taxes on wealthy	<i>Taxation</i>	Cut taxes
Stimulus	<i>Economic Policy</i>	Austerity

On Taxes

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Left Wing

Right Wing



GOVERNORS AND TAX REFORM

\$58

BILLION

**INCREASE BY
DEMOCRATS
SINCE 2011**

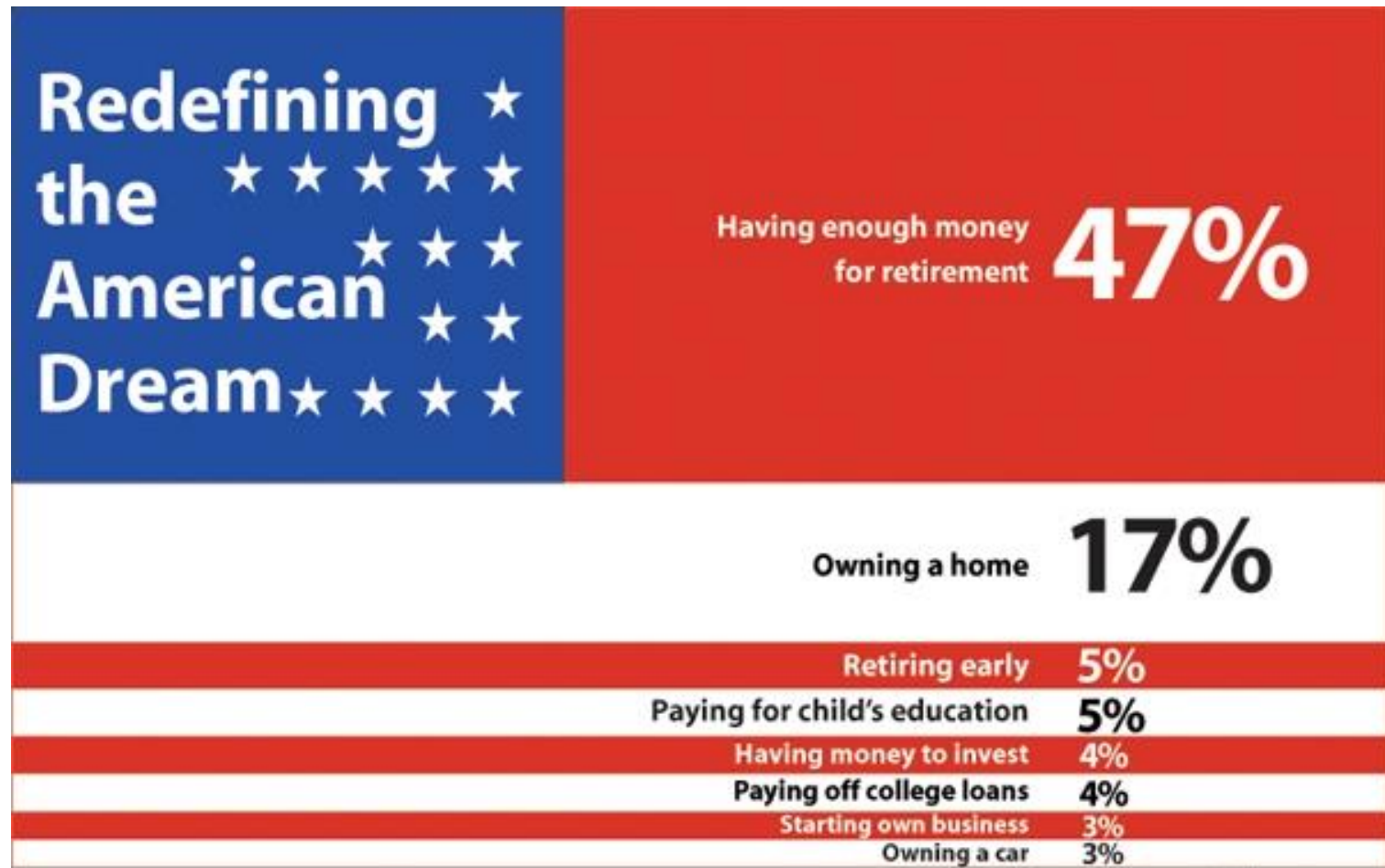
\$36

BILLION

**CUTS BY
REPUBLICANS
SINCE 2011**

Middle class is the striving for the “American Dream”

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National Endowment for Financial Education 2011

Big jump to Upper Class

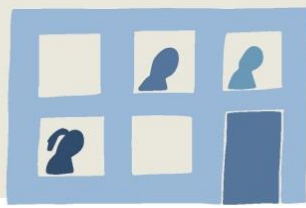
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Categories:	Poor	Middle Class	Rich
Monthly Income Used	\$ 1,666.67	\$ 5,833.33	\$ 12,500.00
Food At Home	\$ 170.00	\$ 449.17	\$ 675.00
Food at Restaurants	\$ 78.33	\$ 315.00	\$ 675.00
Housing	\$ 486.67	\$ 1,557.50	\$ 3,437.50
Utilities	\$ 185.00	\$ 478.33	\$ 600.00
Clothes & Shoes	\$ 60.00	\$ 186.67	\$ 462.50
Transportation & Gas	\$ 340.00	\$ 1,242.50	\$ 1,937.50
Health Care & Health Insurance	\$ 136.67	\$ 414.17	\$ 562.50
Entertainment	\$ 80.00	\$ 297.50	\$ 712.50
Education	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.83	\$ 550.00
Retirement	\$ 43.33	\$ 560.00	\$ 1,987.50
MONTHLY TOTALS:	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 5,576.67	\$ 11,600.00

A recent trend is emerging

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What Americans Think of Work & Money



Nearly **2 in 5** Americans **VOLUNTARILY** made changes in the past 5 years that resulted in **MAKING LESS MONEY**

86%
of those people are
**HAPPY ABOUT
THE CHANGE**



Working less frees up more time to pursue personal goals and be with family and friends

In 2014, the Center for a New American Dream conducted a national survey to determine American attitudes on wealth, sharing, materialism, and more.

View the complete results: www.newdream.org/poll2014

The Upper Class

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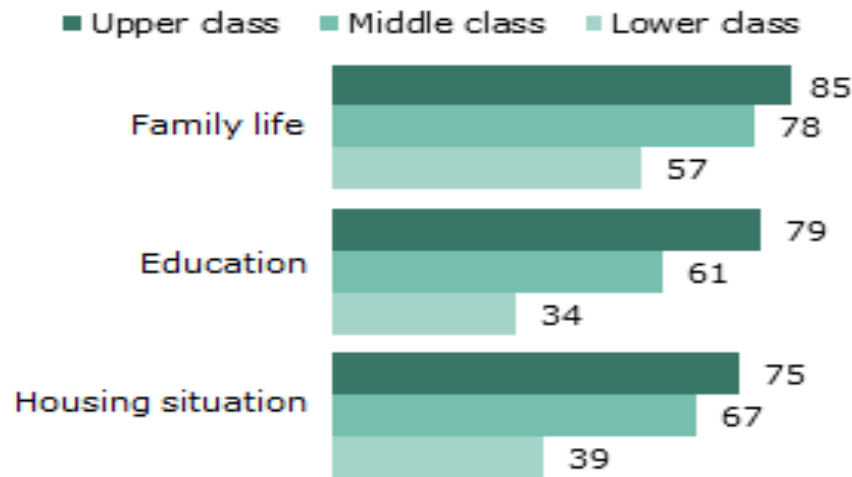
- This is about 5 % with income over \$205,000
- Source of income such as inheritance, stocks and bonds, real estate and investments. This distinguishes them from other classes

Comparisons in terms of Satisfaction

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Upper-Class Satisfaction Goes Beyond Finances

% from each social class saying they are very satisfied with their ...



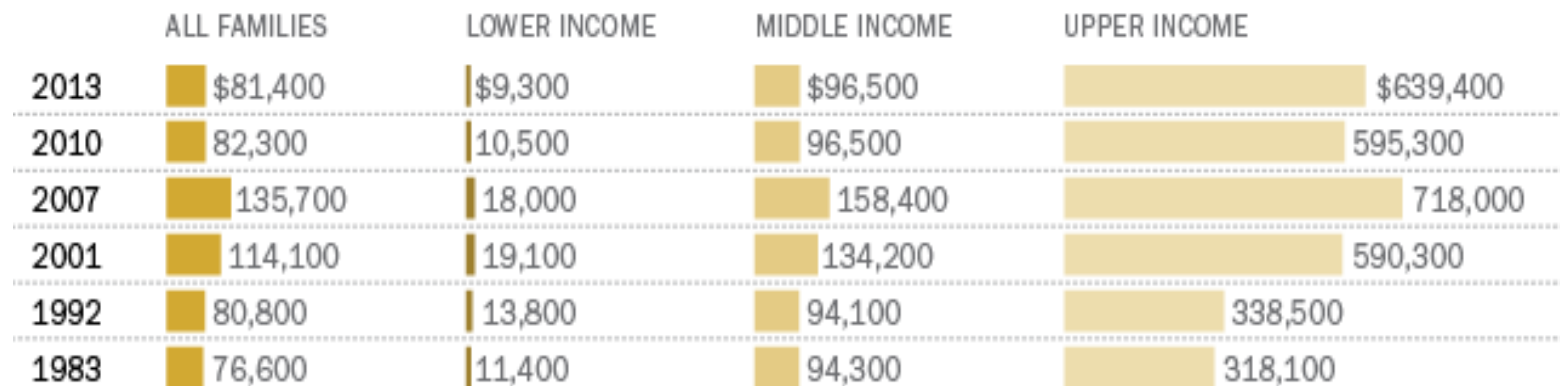
Note: Based on adults who identified themselves as "upper" or "upper-middle" class (n=507); "middle class" (n=1,287); and "lower" or "lower-middle" class (n=670).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q2a,c,d

Some People aren't effected by the Recession 50

Only Upper-Income Families Have Made Wealth Gains in Recent Decades

Median household net worth by income, 2013 dollars



Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of Survey of Consumer Finances public-use data.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Story of Doctor Weber

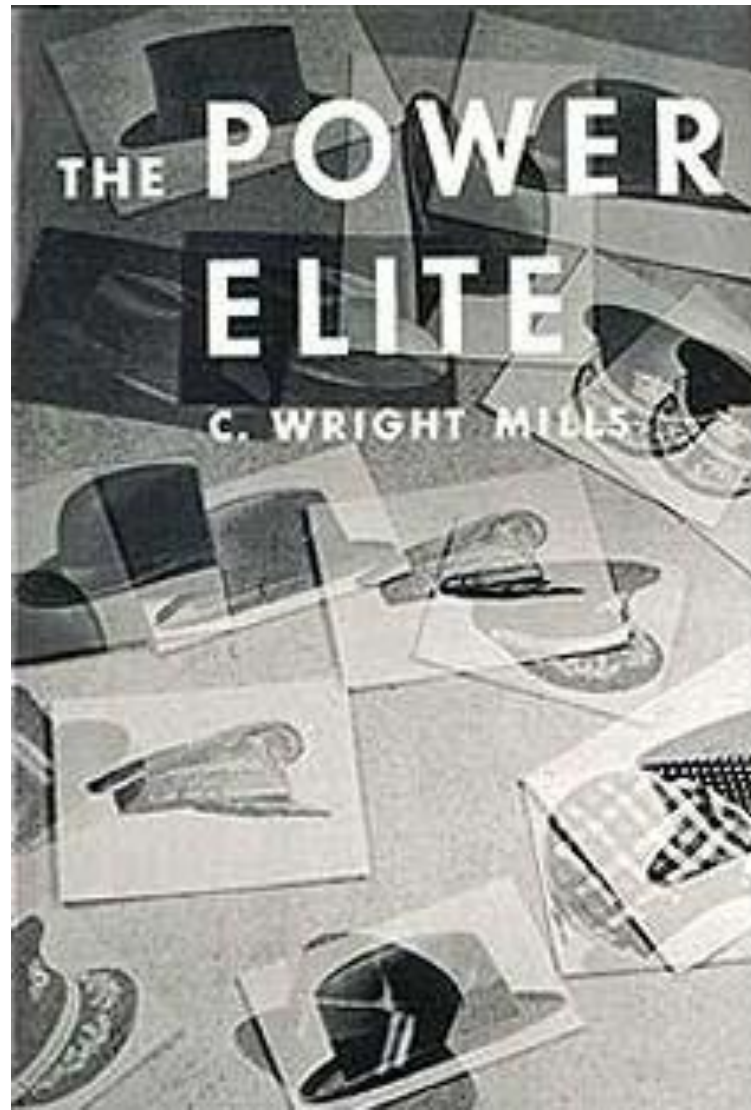
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C. Wright Mills

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Three concentrations of Power

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These elites are highly interconnected



