

**CLASS ANALYSIS AND HISTORICAL CHANGE
WRITTEN PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION**

January 1997

AFTERNOON EXAMINATION

Part III. Answer one question (Question 4 or Question 5 below).

Question 4. In their efforts to explain the emergence and success of social movements, recent social movement theories have emphasized the construction of identity, the framing of issues, and the availability of resources as important dynamics. To what extent have discussions of labor movements and class-based movements incorporated these issues? Looking at three different studies of labor movements, discuss the ways in which social movement theories' insights might prompt a reexamination of labor militance.

Question 5. The British sociologist, Barry Hindess, argues that classes cannot legitimately be regarded as collective actors except in a metaphorical sense; unlike other supra-individual bodies such as capitalist enterprises, state agencies, political parties, and trade unions, classes lack any definite means of reaching and implementing decisions. Is the capacity to reach and implement decisions a defining feature of collective actors, and do classes meet this criterion? If classes cannot be regarded as collective actors in this sense, what are the implications for the explanatory power of class analysis?

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Part IV. Answer one question (Question 6 or Question 7 below).

Question 6. Recently, development theorists have paid increasing attention to international and internal class dynamics; conversely, discussions of welfare state coalitions increasingly pay attention to the global context in which such coalitions operate. To what extent might one claim that class analysis increasingly requires an international lens? Examining three recent pieces of scholarship, consider the ways in which sociological discussions have shifted as a result of increased attention to international class dynamics. What kinds of challenges does this pose for the underlying assumptions of either development theories or the welfare state debates?

Question 7. The debate over the relationship between Marxism and feminism is a complicated one, but most Marxist analysts would probably agree that the lived experience of class differs in important ways for men and women. What are the theoretical implications of this insight for our understanding of at least three of the following:

- i. Welfare policies
- ii. The family wage debate
- iii. The organization of the labor process
- iv. The relationship between non-capitalist and capitalist social relations
- v. The public-private distinction
- vi. The construction of working-class identities