

## Key Ideas

## Weberian

- Structuration (Social Action *and* Social Structure)
- Pluralism
- Market position (economic dimension of stratification)
- Conflict (across class, gender, age, ethnicity, region, etc.).
- Class (Market position), Status and Party (organised power) = basis for stratification
- Life Chances
- Status groups and Interest groups
- Bureaucracy
- Modernisation and Rationalisation
- Power (coercive and authority types)
- Objectivity (personal) and Subjectivity (Versteh or "empathy")
- Multi-causal analysis (e.g. Religion and Capitalism)
- Meanings and Interpretations
- Ideal Type
- Value freedom

Key Names: Weber, Dahrendorf, Giddens, Haralambos, Goldthorpe / Lockwood

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Theoretical Perspectives

## Key Criticisms

## Weberian

- Over-emphasis on motives, interpretations of individuals
- Emphasis on subjective interpretations of individuals downgrades importance of social structures
- Theoretical separation between Structure and Action not empirically justifiable
- Impossible to clearly identify social classes
- Fatalistic view of materialism, bureaucracy and Capitalism (successful Communist revolution impossible)
- Can social structures be reduced to individual actions and motivations?
- Over-emphasis on cultural conditions and changes at expense of economic conditions and changes.

Key Critics: Newby and Lee, Crompton, Marshall, Abercrombie and Urry.

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Theoretical Perspectives

## Key Ideas

## New Right

- Economic freedom (Neo-Liberalism)
- Rationality (of individuals) / Consumer choice
- Cost / Benefit analysis
- Free Capitalist Markets (Market Economies)
- Individual superior to the Collective (Anti-Collectivism - eg. Anti- Union)
- Underclass theory (Murray)
- Welfare dependency / Dependency culture
- Limited role of State / Government (Defence, Public Order)
- State as "oppressive of individual freedom"
- Traditional family roles / gender relationships
- Anti-socialist / Pro-Capitalist
- Capitalism is highest form of economic organisation / society possible
- Nature (biology / genes) more important than Nurture (environment)
- Libertarianism

Key Names: Hayek, Friedman, Thatcher, Reagan, Wilson, Van Den Haag, P.Morgan, Phillips.

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Theoretical Perspectives

## Key Criticisms

## New Right

- Over-emphasis on Individuals at expense of social structures
- Ignores inequalities of class, gender, status, power
- Double Moral Standards (economic freedom but strict control of family life)
- Political propaganda rather than analysis
- New Right Realism (Deviance) - ignores white-collar crime / crimes of powerful
- Are human beings "naturally selfish / self-seeking"?
- Ignores role of culture in the shaping of social identities
- Total "freedom of action for individual" impossible in modern, complex, societies
- Dependency Culture = unproven assertion
- Underclass theory not proven
- Little or no empirical research / evidence to support New Right theories
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Key Critics: All variants of Feminism, Marxism (Traditional and Neo)

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Theoretical Perspectives