work, exploring more about the ‘spirit’ of capitalism and ascetic Protestantism, then he attempts to tell a coherent story (theoretical arguments), he looks at the world through the lens of his own theory. In reality, the world is too complex for any theory to explain everything.

**Max Weber's Theories of Class, Status and Party**

The 3 main differences between Marx and Weber on class:

1. Marx identified classes in terms of property relationships; Weber in contrast defines classes in terms of market situations.
2. Marx’s view of class is one that is overarching the whole of human history as he says that all history of humankind has been a history of class struggle. Weber on the other hand states that class is a modern phenomenon; the concept of class only first emerged when capitalism began to appear and that before capitalism the stratification system was based on status, not class.
3. The political difference between the duo on the issue of class is that Marx believed class struggle will intensify over time and therefore the subordinate class will inevitably revolt and overthrow the ruling class. Weber however believed the opposite, class struggle is the most intense in the early stages of capitalism but as capitalism becomes gradually consolidated and bureaucratized class struggle is reduced.

The usual interpretation of Weber follows that there are three dimensions of social inequality OR POWER:

1. By status/prestige
2. By class/income and wealth
3. By party/political power

If you look at society, people can be privileged or disadvantaged by any of these three dimensions. However, if we look at all these three dimensions and apply them to members of society we could see problems emerge with Weber’s theories. So, a university professor at UCL may have a lot of status/prestige but their social or political power and wealth may not be great, or a mobster in the Mafia may have a lot of power but little class or status, so does this mean the two are experiencing social inequality?

**Power according to Weber:** The chance of a man or of a number of men to realize their own will in a communal action even against the resistance of other who are participation in the action. That is, power exists when one actor can enforce his/her will on another actor. e.g. in a nutshell power is the ability to get what you want even when others are against it.

Weber argues that power can take a variety of forms, an individuals power can be shown in the social order through their status, in the economic order through their class and in the political order through their party. So, class, status and party are all aspects of the distribution of power within a community.

According to Marx, power really only emerges from the economic order, the economic order is the basis of all power in society. Weber argues that class (economic order) is not the only issue – there is also status and party that can lead to power.

Classes are not communities because a community may have some kind of collective understanding, if you belong to a class just because of your position in the labour market you are merely just individuals acting out of self interest and not acting out of collective interest but they are in a SIMILAR class position or situation and thus have common class interest and occasionally will act the same way but NOT as a community or act collectively. How can you tell if class really exists? Class is materialized in action.

Weber defined class as a category of men who:

1. “Have in common a specific casual component of their life chances in so far as;
2. This component is represented exclusively by economic interests in the possession of goods and opportunities for income, and
3. It is represented under the conditions of the commodity or labour market”