

**The comparison of middle class in developed societies and Iran society**

Abbas kaabi

PhD student in political science Tajikistan

[KaabbiA@gmx.com](mailto:KaabbiA@gmx.com)

**Abstract:** One of main subjects in political sociology region is middleclass. Middle class has been known like political and social alterations in modern world. the importance of middle class appearance in different social and political eras is such as most of thinkers in different backgrounds, consider it as a base for constructing new societies and one of elements and democratic society basic prerequisites. so, dependants to middle class, democracy pioneers and economical and political and social development precursors,were known in society. in twentieth and twenty first centuries, acceptance and importance and surveying necessity of this class has been more obvious. So, surveying and rule recognition and place of middle class in social and political changes, are one of sociology and political main keys. This research wants to compares middle class in developed countries and Iran and surveys middle class specifications in Iran and developed countries.

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**1. Introduction**

Maybe, can propose that middle class place is like result of social groups in public sociology limitation and at most in social psychological territory. But it is true that middle class is a structural expression that is tied with political power. This word is one of additional concepts that its identity needs minimum two other social classes: one social governor class and the other is low class. Middle class has structural relations with two other class, as, this class has evolutions continuously in its historical and reciprocal process, and also absorb and exchange social forces with perimeter classes. And its basic rules cause especially affect political life. So, study approach of this research needs political and sociology approach and can be presented in this method frame. But in this frame, objective territory and examples of middle class is not defined clearly. In addition to differences that are presented in conceptual discussion, difference between being ancient or new of this level is one of agents that cause reader feels confused in studying related subjects that is confronted with conceptual difference. As, in its territory, two software and hardware viewpoints are created. Hardware are followed determine subset groups in middle class territory with positivist looking. For example this group divide ancient middle class to businessmen and small farmer owners in historical base, while new middle class, consists of specialist workman, technocrats and high studied stratums in society. Weingrod Alex. In “political sociology “tries to determine middle class territory with examples. He pointed to eight social groups beside middle capitalist and deprived low classes that consist of technocrats, small, stirs and workman

organizations and aristocrat owners and clergymen and thinkers and armies. In contrast, software attitude refers to latent and obvious rules in middle class and its relations with power and awareness about low class. In this viewpoint, middle class is not constructed from people or groups with common cases in political or economical system, but should have classical self-consciousness and mental agents as a prerequisite for constructing and appearing class for itself. in Marx theory that is considered as software viewpoints, middle class is between to conflicted main class and dependant to production method, technology level, class self consciousness and social and mental agents. According to Marx social philosophy, middle class should merge in two main classes. Because final and explicit reality of world is not two opposite poles that these should be converted in a society without class. According to this viewpoint, new software regions are entered to middle class territory that didn't have such place in past. new social groups like women that were considered as old and merged part of society, today entered to this era feminist identities such as (requesting rights, requesting equality and requesting prominence) and have evolutionary approach want progresses in most of power, knowledge regions, and social felicities (JUNG DIETRICH.2001). And impost their social realities on middle class by constructing different law, political, syndical, sexual and economical groups. According to above sentences, rule and function of middle class is so extensive, as all of public and civil society special works are in this class territory.

### 1.1. Middle class in developed societies:

For surveying middle class in developed societies, first describe social classes and different existence classes in these societies : “ middle class is part of society that is set in a place between the most and the least classes and its specifications are, higher level of coalition, income, consume, material owning, and open mind, and salient talent and skills in work.” In developed countries can be used three concepts, job dividing and power dividing and possession (Walder, Andrew G. 2009). Situation in constructing job means one person relation with market. In other words, people try to constructing job according to skill categorization for reaching more remuneration. So, using job construction means emphasizing on explicit class constructions and continued categorization. Payments are given differently, because jobs don't have importance for people. People compete for more skills with each other, because they want more payments and climb progress ramps. But they should consider that this market always isn't free competitive market. Accessing to high level payments may be limited by constructions and monopoly hands are in work. The relation between class and bureaucracy power should be surveyed. In relation with bureaucracy organizations means organized power or power bureaucracy. Totally, in a bureaucracy organization, the number of people that submit a person is important. The number of submitted employees and their strict function is different in every organization. But usually there are some positions such as boss, board of employees and masters and different assistants that are in top of organization. one level lower than these people are employees that have special function. Next level is layers that are so called white collars or workman. Finally, in lower layers is also bureaucratic system that their number is considerable. in bureaucracy organization, should determine power degree is such base that in categorization, how many people are in special situation in higher and lower, because the more submitted employees and the less masters, that position power is lower for upper layers and more for lower layers. Bureaucracy categorization is for social stratum and position in lower layers construction in developed countries. Really, this construction is a possession that creates important division between owners and main production utensils controllers. Industry development in capitalist system creates complex possession construction. In relation with compounding these three basic constructions in developed countries, today we confront with high, middle, workers and low (poor) classes (Daly, J. C. (2008)). Company masters class is placed between high class and middle. According to Marx in capitalist societies, a group of people own (capitalist

class), factories and banks. while others doesn't have selection right, but by working for capitals gain low wages and in all of societies, the class that possess production utensils, by seizing work the class, that doesn't have any possession, grow and become wealthy.

### 2.1. Different kinds of classes:

**High class:** are people that are in top of social categorization system. This class has special penetration materials. The number of them are low and usually below five percent. One of main indexes of high class is, their members are introduced as governor class (Grant, J. Andrew (2001)). Members of this class are integrated and unit and have wonderful economical power. These people try to corporate in political activities for penetrating in political power directly or become member in institutes that have effect in governmental procedures. Company masters class: this class has most of high class specifications, but their power isn't on the base of production materials possession, but is on the base main materials control I capitalist societies. Company masters aren't familiar with governmental and public system structure. Because they become member of governmental and public organization this class power are set several companies (Stark, Rodney (2007)). Company's magnitude and their incorporating give more power to bosses. Members of this class incorporate in political activities and support big companies benefits for gaining political positions.

**Middle class:** for clearing nature and real place of middle class in developed societies, should survey that how middle class job position – bureaucracy power and their possession is structure in these societies. in relation with job structure, this class is placed in a categorization according to complexity and job skill in expanded spectrum of higher jobs (like doctors, lawyers, accountants and engineers) to middle jobs (teachers, insurance agents, sellers and employees) (Brown, D.F. (2009)). In this job has seen extensive spectrum of different income and education levels. But people in this class have common specification. One of these common specifications in this class is that their work is nonphysical. In most of cases, their work needs using symbols and implicit idea or speaking with customers. Their job kind and job environment is clean, so also called them white collars. In most of cases, white collars have higher positions. People think the same, because they don't wear workers clothes. The other common specification is having higher knowledge than middle level. For doing this class works, people should have common knowledge in society. In white collar works, some skill levels are

used. Some of works need nonphysical skills, it isn't out of reason that some of people called it middle to high and some other middle to low. Difference in being high or low is resulted of people education degree. According to power in middle class bureaucracy is placed in the middle of economical structure. Members of this class take orders from high classes and transform to low classes. So, they responsible for middle class management in big companies. In public system, middle class take orders from political elites and transform to low class bureaucrats or workers. In relation with possession structure, possession level middle class members are based zero production or poor production. More stocks of private companies are considered for wealthy people in society. Some other people have some of factories stocks. The other people in this class like store owners and repairmen and small constructing companies owners have little production materials. Totally, near to 40 percent of developed countries population creates middle class members. Classical relations aren't static phenomenon. Total structure is always changed. Inner contents of classes have frequencies. Also, middle class is in this total norm. In developed countries, middle class has two new and ancient shapes. Ancient middle class consisted of store owners, farmer families and etc. That had below specification: 1 – they didn't have any header. 2 – Their economical unit was small. 3 – They owned their production materials and equipments. Day by day, in developed countries, the number of these people decrease and the number of new middle class people increase. One of effective constructions in expanding new middle class is increased need to technical specialists. In this base, we can name laboratories technicians, engineers and computer experts. In comparison with ancient middle class, new middle class member have below specification: 1 – they don't own production equipments. 2 – All of them are headers. 3 – They don't have any control on effective economical decisions. 4 – Against ancient middle class that propose they weren't self strange – new middle class members are strange with production process (Kuper, Adam, ed. (2004)).

**Workers class:** in developed countries, middle and low positions appropriate job structure to themselves. Their work type is nonphysical. About bureaucracy power, workers class members have the lowest position. Workers don't have any place in possession building. And they only possess their workforce.

**Poor class:** poor don't have any asset in these countries and they are so slender in financial aspect. About bureaucracy power, they are out of bureaucracy power structure, because most of them

are unemployed and about power, they don't have any power (Penney, Robert (2003)).

### 3.1. Middle class in Iran:

#### 1.3.1. Traditional middle class:

Our mean about traditional middle class in Iran is a role that has the most effect after kingdom and courts in society. This role that corresponded to before modern government and before Iran entrance to modernization resulted from religious and ethnic and syndicates historical traditions (Cashell.Brian W.2007).

**Table1:** Ancient middle class and new middle class specification table in developed countries:

Ancient middle class and new middle class specifications	Ancient middle class:	New middle class :
	1-They don't own production equipments.	1 – They didn't have any header.
	2 – All of them are headers.	2 – Their economical unit was small.
	3 – They don't have any control on effective economical decisions	3 – They owned their production materials and equipments.
	4 – They are strange with production process.	4 – They didn't have strange with production process.

Advent of such class depends on two main agents: 1 – society's social and cultural and political conditions that isn't being modern now. And government and political and official organizations in state and political culture that can be evaluated in past traditions frames. In other, reconstruction and modernization that was resulted from relation with west developed world in that period, yet isn't created in political and cultural structure and there isn't complex political and bureaucratic system. 2 – Middle class that play government and low class role, didn't have high education and modern conditions, so, there was little bureaucratic and elites forces and forces that disconnected from their traditions. Most of people in this class were tradesman and grocers of traditional that were effective on traditional clergymen's power in social and political evolutions beside system. Conditional movement was wined by traditional class power and then tobacco movement was wined before it. In Mohammadreza Pahlavi era in 1941 to 1963 years despite of formal forces against two main columns of traditional middle class means clergymen and market, they present in combat

against government and modernization and king secularization, actively and clergymen were in leadership place for political combats and market as democratic and economical. In some cases that governor class move against religious beliefs and national and economical traditions, this class confronted with them. Analyzing most of resistances and movements of that era showed that traditional middle class in combat and challenges with society's secularization politic that was created by Pahlavi family, had high power and high penetration. Some of these insurgences are: 1 – Rezakhan anti republic movement by Shahid Moddaress leadership. 2 – Islamic devotee's society by Ayatollah leadership. 3 – Islamic zealously with Navabsafavi leadership. 4 – National sect with Bojnordi leadership. 5 – Oil national movement (although this movement had modern nature, but happened with two traditional and modern in middle class). 6 – Islamic coalition society. 7 – 15 khordad movements in 1342. All of above samples shows that traditional middle class became slender and government broke traditional syndicates and created syndicates room, strike last hew on traditional market body.

**Table2: Ancient middle class and new middle class specification table in Iran:**

Ancient middle class and new middle class specifications in Iran	Ancient middle class:	New middle class:
	1 – Yet, social and cultural and political conditions in society are not been modern.	1 – This class denies accepting traditional felicities.
	2 – There isn't complex bureaucratic and political system.	2 - Elite members have high educations.
	3 – There isn't high education and modern condition.	3 – Power in this class results from skills and tactics that is resulted from formal educations.
	4 – There are little bureaucratic and elite forces in it.	4 - Familiarity with west philosophies, releasing and using expert equipments and regions.
	5 – Most of people in this class were traditional traders	5 - Members of this class are free from every kind with fumble questions.

### 2.3.1. New middle class:

While modern government was created in Iran and political, official and cultural organizations it was progressed and reconstruction in every era, caused men effort. Instead of traditional middle class without government, a class was shaped that found special place free from traditional felicities. High university education, bureaucratic knowledge, familiarity with west philosophies, releasing form and using expert equipment and regions are these class specifications. In Rezashah era middle class and public space of Iran society found concept and modern civil symbols were constructed in this era. In that time, nation's official and educational symbols were developed. Also, modern army was created and social groups and ethnics found identity. And new class was created that consisted of government personnel, journalist, engineers, doctors and other educated groups, and modernization process with west pattern is begun in different parts of society. Construction process of new middle class in Iran can be corresponded to conditional movement that in evolution process in Islamic republic reached to maximum limit and had some considerable changes in structure and social classes' makeup in Iran. New middle class was created with Rezashah efforts for developing a new army and centralized and effective official system. Increased demand for experts and bosses in different levels of public and private and rapid progress in education in west style resulted to non employer's middle class that consisted of free specialist, employees and army personnel, white collar employees and expert in private section and elites. Some people believe that west penetration extension in one hand and rapid growth of training and education and bureaucracy system, were main agents ordering new middle class in Iran, and in other the hand, members of this class main employers of constructing government and reconstruction agents were in these era. Maybe we can claim that reconstruction process in Iran was parallel with application role of this period. James Yeel in "Iran politics" book believed that groups, new oriented classes and new middle class consist of people that their power rely on job achievement and gain skills in new education process and use them. He considered educated members and Tehran university originator as gravity center of new middle class in Iran (Bill J.A.1963).

### 3.3.1. The comparison between Iran middle class and Europe:

In Europe was self built and caused huge evolution equipment of civil and culture in Europe. Europe feudality era developed through production felicities of middle class to industrial culture and elite and micro oriented era – with all of negative and

positive aspects -. But Iranian middle class that was conditional revolution axis and Iranian Islamic republic can't reach to its goals and create culture according to its values. So, this class despite of today west middle class, reserve its revolution nature.

**Table3:** Europe middle class specification and Iran middle class comparison table:

Ancient middle class and specifications in Europe and Iran	Europe middle class	Iran middle class
	1 -in Europe was self built.	1 – Despite of today west middle class, wasn't self built.
	2 - Cause cultural and civil huge evolution equipment in Europe.	2 – Reserve its revolution nature.
	3 – Through production felicitities, middle class developed to industrial culture and micro oriented era and elite, with all of negative and positive aspects.	3 – Placed in social system context and told ideas and expectations of Iran society.

## 2. Conclusion

Main problem of Iran middle class is ordering to a modern life in society and all aspect development. So, of this class view point, life quality and using method of life is so important. Iranian society isn't a two polar society in value aspect. as, they can be "secular or civilized", "democrat liberal or democrat socialism", "west oriented or east oriented". Iranian society is a dynamic society with different compounds that is passed in this frame. Iranian society movement is proportional with universal society movements. Middle class isn't a process that was produced by social force to reach defined benefits by one or several institution management. Middle class in Iran is set in social system context and tell Iranian society ideas and expectations. kinetics middle class in Iran is "mental oriented" and "self renovated, that move in accordance with self and society and government capacities and contingencies for all aspect growth and development. "development", "democracy", "justice", "rule oriented", "moral" are main requests of Iranian middle class, that each of

quintuplet requests is a movement axis in some of social classes and groups in Iran.

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## Corresponding Author:

Abbas kaabi

E-mail: [KaabbiA@gmx.com](mailto:KaabbiA@gmx.com)

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