

# Chapter 16

## Classes and Development

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### ABSTRACT

*Classes forming the social division of labor have changed with the capitalist mode of production. The inheritance from the feudal system is not suitable for the capitalist system. For this reason, the class structure which is suitable for capitalism over time has taken place in many societies. This transformation has become more difficult, especially in the late capitalist countries. This chapter examines class structures of some late-capitalist countries outside Europe and North America. Latin America, Japan, South Korea, and Turkey have historically been studied before and after periods of capitalism. While some countries have successfully completed and managed to develop their class transformations under difficult conditions, some countries have failed. Along with an unsuccessful transformation, new classes have emerged which have preventive effects on the development target. It is difficult for the countries that cannot make their class structure compatible with the capitalist system and the development target.*

### INTRODUCTION

Social classes and social labor are the most important elements of every economic and political organization. To understand capitalism, the pre-capitalist era and its legacy must be understood. The system before capitalism was feudalism. Therefore, this heritage comes from feudalism. The concept of feudalism is derived from the Latin word ‘od Feodum’ etymologically. Marc Bloch thought that the word was derived from the French word Fehu-ôd, which was the value of portable goods. It refers to movable goods used for payment from land. However, over time, this concept was used as means of payment instead of money. In short, the word evolved in the opposite way. The term *tedir* feudalism *izm* in French is defined as *alan* “feudalism”.

Feudalism refers to a structure that has both political, economic and social dimensions as a system. It was first used by Boulainvilliers in the second half of the 18th century. However, it was first used as a Feodal system by Adam Smith. In the 18th century, Montesquieu, saw this as the basis of the political system in France (Gümüş, 2010: 41).

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The need for security is one of the requirements that direct humanity to classes and the division of labor. The first city-states were established in this way. With the increase in population, the increase in organizational skills, the city-states have turned into empires. However, the empires and central states were unable to maintain their power. Feudalism has also emerged at this point. Similar to city-states, local lords and dukes dominated a region. In regions where the central state cannot be dominated, these lords have undertaken some of these duties locally. Feudal, vassal and serf classes have emerged. Classically, Feodal lords hold their land and production right. The villagers, however, have a limited right to produce. The Serfs are connected to the land and therefore the landowner. Although they have a slave-like position in European type Feudalism, they cannot be bought and sold as slaves. The feudal system has played an important role in the development of agriculture and security in the regions where the central states are weak. However, the system is specific to Europe (Ülgen, 2010: 3).

Although Feudalism was specific to Europe, many different forms were seen. Especially with the development of European national identity, the concept of “National Feodalism” has emerged and it has been applied in different ways such as British Feudalism, German Feudalism and French Feudalism (Gümüş, 2010: 42).

Although the concept of feudalism is specific to Europe, there are similar organizations around the world before Capitalism. Especially in terms of late capitalized countries, the processes of abandoning these social organization forms and transition to capitalist system have taken place in different ways.

The aim of this study is to understand the effects of social classes especially in the middle developed countries. It is tried to understand the disruption of class structure in middle developed countries and how the classes that sabotage the capitalist system emerge. The effects of the deterioration of the social classes and the abandonment of the class struggle on economic development were emphasized. Unlike the previous studies, the effect of social classes on economic development has been tried to be understood by considering many different countries.

## **CLASSES OF PRE-CAPITALISM PERIOD**

Far Eastern culture differs greatly from European culture. This difference, of course, has been manifested in the Feudal structure which is specific to the Far East. Throughout history, two countries have emerged as political and military forces, Japan and China. Korea, Taiwan etc. the countries and regions remain between these two power centers. It is not possible to talk about a feudalism in Europe, where there was no social classes which existed in Europe, there were a different way of life, culture and social perception. In Marx’s words, there was no class conflict here.

In Japan, the so-called Shogunate period is before with the period that Japan did its revolutions. Although Shogunluk system is an emperor in the country, it is based on limited powers and the country is managed by Shogun, a form of military management. However, there are also feudal lords in the country, not as strong and autonomous as in Europe. These lords have their own military units (Samurai) just as in Western Feudalism. The economy was generally based on agriculture, and there were free peasants with the feudal lord. However, there were traders, bankers. However, there was no competition, contention or conflict between these classes (Eser, 2011: 48).

In China, another central power of the Far East, historical development has been very different. China has not gone from feudalism to capitalism like Japan. First of all, it has passed to socialism. Today it still defines itself as a socialist country. But this is a very controversial statement. Before Mao’s revolution

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