

**INDIVIDUALS MIGHT BE  
GAINING, BUT ECONOMIC  
CLASSES ARE STAGNANT!**  
**So say some liberal pundits!**  
**What?! Are they confused?**  
**Are they ignorant?**  
**Or is it just envy and  
class warfare?**

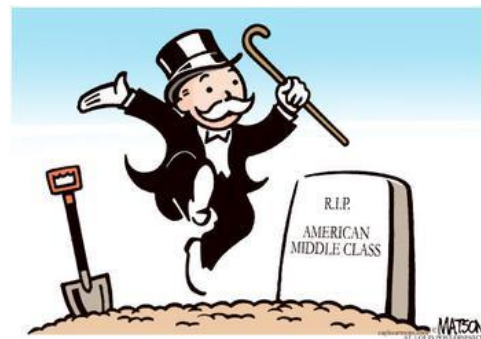


**Stephen L. Bakke – December 16, 2012**

*“Individuals show gains, but classes are stagnant!” – sounds like confusion, ignorance, and misguided envy to me! – Stephano Bakkovich – obscure but very wise economic pundit and purveyor of opinions on just about everything.*

A few days ago I was listening to a discussion between several “experts” including an economist, a conservative commentator, a union official and a couple others. This was a nationally broadcast radio show, originating in Detroit. One observation that seemed to be a point of agreement was that citizens, on an individual basis, have made great strides in recent decades. **While they were ready to concede that as individuals things have improved, some of the participants insisted that as to “economic classes” (lower and middle), progress has remained comparatively stagnant. They considered this to be strong evidence that there has been no real, meaningful progress.**

**They experience dismay and concern because, given the obvious progress made by individuals, it doesn’t translate to their classes?** One comment was: “Example after example exist where middle class citizens have made gains on all sorts of measures, but the middle class still seems stymied right there at about X% of the way between the top 2% and those with lower economic status.”



My preliminary reaction? I’m baffled by the apparent confusion and ignorance expressed by these liberal pundits. Think about it logically! If I’m not mistaken, there will always be somebody on top, and somebody at the bottom. And it seems reasonable to conclude that given a large enough population (of at least 3), there will always be someone in the middle. **Classes are made up of individuals, and if individuals, in general, have made strides, why haven’t the classes that they belong to? The answer is obvious – it’s called class mobility! What the liberals don’t understand is that individuals actually do move between classes.**

These liberals are missing the fact that there will always be a top, middle, and bottom – AND THAT there is significant movement up and down between the classes. Liberals have long ago written off the possibility of class mobility! **They are following their spiritual leader Obama who constantly preaches about the “stranded middle class.”** Some others have made foolish and uninformed comments as well. Consider:

*The American Dream is all about social mobility in a sense – the idea that anyone can make it ..... The American dream seems to be thriving in Europe not at home.* – CNN’s Fareed Zalaria

*[Americans are] troubled that the heart of the American dream – upward mobility – seems to have stopped beating.* – Political scientists Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson on how America has become a society starkly divided into winners and losers?

**Please refer to my report dated December 12, 2011. It is in the category “Economic Issues” on my website. In that report I took a look at the mobility issue using real facts and statistics. I am obligated to report that mobility is alive and well.** So discount the claims of those who proclaim otherwise. I agree with Daniel Patrick Moynihan who famously stated:

*Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.*

How can a thoughtful and somewhat analytical person possibly think that class differentiation and mobility could possibly disappear? I just don’t get it!

*The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries. ... Socialism is the philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy.* – Winston Churchill



*A confident, successful society neither idolizes nor demonizes its rich, but instead believes that the wealth can be created rather than taken from others. And it simply judges the better-off by the content of their characters, not the size of their wallets.* – Historian Victor Davis Hanson