SOC100 ­– “THE PROMISED LAND” REACTION PAPER

In this reaction paper I will be talking about the main character of the movie, “Karol Borowiecki”, on the aspect of class inequality and share my opinion on the subject.

Our main character Karol starts the movie as a factory chef/manager, he doesn’t do manual labor himself, but he oversees the operation. Later on in the movie he and 2 of his friends open their own factory by borrowing money from loan sharks and (I think) other factory owners. But after the factory opens, it gets set on fire by the husband of the cheating wife that is pregnant from Karol.

So the class inequality is portraited in almost all scenes of the movie, from the clothes of the “elites” versus workers, to the place they live, and obviously the jobs they do. We see that both elites and workers are fine with what they have, however at the end of the movie factory workers get shot by the police during their riot. Also it is important to note that if the workers had more power/authority they probably would riot a lot sooner, but then again if you had power/authority you wouldn’t need to riot since you would be either a factory owner or a member of the parliament; which, in both cases you would have a lot more money and therefore a lot more prosperity in your household, which gives you no reason to riot.

Now I want to talk about the power-money relation in that era, because we see that Karol and his friends don’t have money to build a factory; but they have some power/influence over people that have a lot of money. Karol and his friends have this pseudo power because they are either friends/family with them or because the opposing side thinks Karol and his friends are smart, so the rich people believe they can get their money back with interest. Basically, if you had some money you had some power, and if you had some power you could make more money. Obviously the worker class could not have some money since most of their wage went to their basic needs. The only way the worker class could get some power would be to unite their money in masses, but I guess it is easier to unite and riot rather than unite, gather money, build a factory, work in factory to make some percent of the earnings(probably less than 1 percent).

This brings to the end of my reaction paper. We could go on to talk about the class inequality for pages. We can talk about other ways to get power like marriage, but I am running out of word capacity. I want to end this paper with a quote from spider man, “with great power comes great responsibility”, Karol wasn’t responsible enough to protect his factory and workers didn’t have enough responsibility to be able to get great (individual)power.

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