

In this sense, labor is proletarianized once it is engaged in commodity production and in the creation of surplus value, i.e., as long as it is exchanged against capital within the sphere of production in the form of variable capital which is inversely related to constant capital. This is to say, as it becomes the condition for increasing the organic composition of capital at the expense of itself, as it faces capital antagonistically; in other words, as class struggle begins.

It is in this sense that proletarianization is essentially a process of class formation: as social classes only exist in class struggle, they are formed and are defined in class struggle. Social classes do not emerge and then enter class struggle; rather, they emerge through class struggle itself as distinct social forces with distinct interests, and therefore with "an historical mission". The proletariat is the opponent of the bourgeoisie; these are the two principal classes of the capitalist mode of production. Both classes are defined in the class struggle inherent in capitalist accumulation, in the fundamental tendency for the organic composition of capital to rise. Proletarianization and embourgeoisement constitute the dual aspects of the capitalist accumulation process. Capitalist relations, as a condition necessary to the initiation of the proletarianization process, may be destroyed by the process itself. This leads into a finer treatment of the proletarianization concept; with regard to formation not only of "a class in itself", but also of "a class for itself".<sup>7</sup> This refers to the development by the proletariat of consciousness of its own class interest, defined by its objective location in production, and ultimately of the necessity to act upon this consciousness by creating contradictions in the dominant mode of accumulation. This is fulfilling its historical mission as a class for