

# **THE OLD MIDDLE CLASS**

# PETITE COMMODITY PRODUCTION

- It is a form of production in which:
  - ✉ the producer has ownership or de facto possession of the means of production;
  - ✉ the goods or services produced are commodities (that is, sold through the market);
  - ✉ the producer does not systematically hire wage workers, but may use unpaid family labour;
  - ✉ the scale of production is small and there little capital accumulation.

# PROLETARIZATION

- This label is applied to the process by which sections of the middle class become absorbed in the working class. K.Marx and F.Engels predicted that small producers and self-employed artisans would gradually disappear.

# THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLD MIDDLE CLASS

- **Petite bourgeoisie.**
- **Independent professionals.**

# THE PETITE BOURGEOISIE

- It is a distinctive form of social organization in which petty productive property is mixed with family labour.

- Classical types:

 Small shopkeepers.

 Self-employed artisans.

 Farmers.

# **MEMBERS OF THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE (Wright's class map)**

Sweden - 5.4 %

Finland - 18.4 %

Britain - 6.0

US - 6.9 %