

## Marx and Exploitation

**Bourgeoisie** – those who own the means of production (raw materials, factories etc)

**Proletariat** – those who own nothing other than their ability to work (to labour)

The value of an object is equivalent to the amount of labour put in to producing it (this is known as *the labour theory of value*)

In a capitalist economic system, the proletariat work for the bourgeoisie in return for a wage. Because the capitalist makes a profit, the workers are not receiving the full value of their labour in their wages.

Workers are paid for their *labour power* (their ability to labour), not for their actual labour. They are therefore being **exploited**.

The interests of the proletariat and the bourgeoisie are always opposed to one another. This is the conflict at the heart of all capitalist systems