

# Defining the Working Class

*For Karl Marx, these three conditions defined the working class:*

- ☛ Members of the working class need to sell their labor power to survive. Workers possess little if any wealth, and certainly not enough to live off of.
- ☛ The working class is exploited by capital: workers create more value than they are paid. Goods-producing workers create surplus value, which becomes profit.
- ☛ The terms of employment and workplace conditions are established by capital and communicated via management. As labor historian David Montgomery once noted, under capitalism, the greater the role a person plays in making a decision, the less likely that individual is to be affected by the decision.

