

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

While *Harriet* primarily focuses on the life of Harriet Tubman and her work and journey in the abolitionist movement, it does touch on issues of class struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. In the context of the film, these class differences play out primarily through the character of the Brodess family, especially Gideon Brodess, the son of Tubman's enslaver, who represents the wealthy plantation owners of the South. Gideon is shown as ruthless and willing to do whatever it takes to maintain his power and wealth. Gideon represents the wealthy class trying to maintain control over the working class. While Brodess may not have been as wealthy or powerful as other members of the owning class, he still benefited from exploiting the labor of the enslaved people he owned.

A key characteristic of the proletariat is getting paid for their labor. Therefore, enslaved people in *Harriet* were not part of the traditional proletariat class. They were treated as property rather than workers, and their labor was not exchanged for wages but extracted through force and violence. However, they were still part of the broader working class or proletariat, as they did not own the means of production and were subject to the exploitation of the bourgeoisie. The fundamental relationship between the owning class and the working class, based on the exploitation of labor, was still present in the system of slavery.

Throughout the film, it is clearly shown that Tubman and other enslaved people were struggling against the oppressive system of slavery, which was designed to exploit their labor and deny them their basic human rights. The film portrays enslaved people's harsh working conditions, including long hours without pay and brutal punishment for perceived disobedience. Despite these challenges, the film also shows how enslaved people were able to find ways to resist and fight back against their oppressors leading them to have the Civil War. The Civil War was successful in freeing enslaved people in the United States and ultimately led to the abolition of slavery throughout the nation. Tubman's service to the Union Army as a nurse, cook, and spy was groundbreaking, as she was one of the first African American women to serve as a spy and nurse during the Civil War. Her contributions to the war effort helped pave the way for future generations of African American women to serve their country similarly. Overall, Tubman's role in the Civil War highlights her courage, resourcefulness, and commitment to the cause of freedom and equality. Her legacy inspires people today as a symbol of strength and perseverance in adversity.