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   The nouveau riche attempt to climb socially by accumulating things rather than by talent and character.

5. The Universality of Class Divisions
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   *Gatsby* is the portrait of a broken society, where the upper class exploits those beneath them, living covered in dust and ashes.

6. Two American Dreams in Conflict
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   Barbour enlarges on the conflicts between readings of the novel as romantic or symbolic and readings that affirm its realism.

7. A Corruption of Character
   *Michael Millgate*
   Fitzgerald, as a social novelist, focuses on the upper class, highlighting both the desire and the repulsion they elicit.

8. A Flawed View of Greatness
   *Ronald Berman*
   Fitzgerald’s characters have relinquished responsibility, obligation, and concern for community in exchange for status.

9. Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle
   *Rena Sanderson*
   Fitzgerald is attracted to and disgusted with the woman of the 1920s, an image that he himself has frequently been credited with creating.

10. Genteel Women and Flappers
    *Elizabeth Kaspar Aldrich*
    A constant topic of Fitzgerald’s writing is the modeling of his heroines on his wife Zelda, a careless but ambitious upper-class woman.
11. Class and Spiritual Corruption

*John W. Bicknell*

For some readers *Gatsby* is a confirmation that society can be improved; others may see the inevitable destruction of civilization.

12. Humor in the Service of Class Criticism

*Robert Roulston*

This is a radical reading of Fitzgerald's novel as a humorous comedy, with Buchanan playing the greatest arrogant buffoon.

13. The Illusion of Class

*Tom Burnam*

*Gatsby* shows that the elegance of the upper class is built upon ashes and shifting sand—an illusion of order in chaos.

14. Daisy or Marx?

*Ronald J. Gervais*

Fitzgerald was continually torn between the aristocracy and a Marxist dream of social equality and justice.

**Chapter 3: Contemporary Perspectives on Class Conflict**

1. The Rich Are Different

*Richard Conniff*

In a funny comment on the rich upper class, the wealthy are compared to animals.

2. Twenty-First-Century Flappers

*Gloria Goodale*

Fitzgerald's upper-class materialistic celebrity flapper continues in the careless life of Paris Hilton and her friends.

3. The Criminal Class

*Gene Mustain and Jerry Capeci*

John Gotti, like Gatsby, made his money illegally and by corrupting society. Both spent their money lavishly on clothes and cars.
4. The Club and Class

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The obsession with the rank one finds in university social clubs is just as frantic now as it was in Fitzgerald's days at Princeton.

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