

THEY GIVE MAX FACTS FOR QUICK & EASY STUDY/REVIEW

## APPROACHES TO SOCIOLOGY

- A. INTERPRETATIVE** – Mead, Blumer: humans attach meaning to their lives and are shaped by social interaction; communication has symbolic meaning.
- B. CONFLICT THEORY** – Coser, Dahrendorf, Mills: unequal distribution of socially valued goods is affected by race, sex, social class, age; causes tension and hostility.
- C. FUNCTIONALISM** – Durkheim, Spencer: each part of society contributes to overall stability of the whole. Consensus, not conflict, underlies social interaction.

## RESEARCH METHODS

- A. QUANTITATIVE** – statistical measurement techniques describe and interpret observations.
- B. QUALITATIVE** – personal observations and descriptions explain human behavior.
- C. SURVEY** – gathers information not easily observable; can generate much information on many subjects. Disadvantage: low rate of return can create “selections” effect.
- D. EXPERIMENTATION** – determines the relationship between variables; easy to replicate. Disadvantage: laboratory setting may not generalize to larger society.
- E. OBSERVATION** – behavior in natural settings. Disadvantage: difficult to replicate, prone to researcher bias, time-consuming.
- F. SECONDARY ANALYSIS** – uses historical materials; less costly. Disadvantage: researcher cannot add or alter data.
- G. STAGES OF RESEARCH**
  1. Define problem.
  2. Identify/review relevant literature.
  3. Formulate hypothesis.
  4. Select/implement research design.
  5. Draw a conclusion.

## SOCIALIZATION

- A. SOCIALIZATION** – how humans learn to be members of society; explains the similarities in personality/behavior within groups.

1. The individual cannot develop without a social environment.
  - a. Primary socialization – socialization of an infant.
  - b. Secondary socialization – subsequent socialization of an already socialized individual into new sectors of society.
  - c. Resocialization – discarding one set of behaviors and adopting new ones.

### B. AGENTS OF SOCIALIZATION

1. Family – most basic unit; provides continuity of language, personality traits, religion, class.
2. School – provides continuity in cognitive skills and indoctrination of values; broadens social experiences.
3. Peer group – provides continuity in lifestyles; helps child build an identity separate from family.
4. Mass media – provides continuity of public information about larger world; details changes to existing social order.

### C. MAJOR THEORISTS ON SOCIALIZATION

1. Freud – without socialization humans would be violent, amoral, predatory.
2. Cooley – the self-concept is reevaluated in new situations, shaped by the reactions of others.
3. Mead – a single act is part of a larger social act; by modeling significant others, children learn to view the world from the perspective of others.

4. Goffman – the impression that others receive is “managed” to convince them we are who we claim to be.
5. Piaget – a given state of cognitive development cannot be reached unless the child is confronted with experiences that foster such development.
6. Erikson – eight stages of psychosocial development; social environment is vital for presenting the child with increasingly complex interactions.
7. Kohlberg – children go through six stages of moral reasoning, given proper social stimulation.
8. Gilligan – males and females bring different values to problem solving because of differing societal roles.

## ASPECTS OF CULTURE

- A. CULTURE** – common beliefs, customs, skills, traditions, knowledge that members of society pass on to one another.

1. Symbols and language – organize and communicate observations.
2. Norms – rules or expectations that govern behavior; violations result in punishment.
3. Values – beliefs common to the group members; describe what is good, right, desirable.
4. Folkways – customs of everyday life; differ from values because they lack a moral component.
5. Mores – norms of such significance that violation is worthy of strong punishment.
6. Cultural universals – the elements of individual and collective survival found in all cultures.
7. Cultural diversity
  - a. Ethnocentrism – one’s own values are the only good values; other cultures are judged accordingly.
  - b. Cultural relativism – social scientists remain objective by not imposing their own meaning on observed events or by focusing solely on why the element exists.

- B. SUBCULTURE** – not entirely separate from the larger culture, represents unique culture unto itself.

- C. COUNTERCULTURE** – values, norms, and unconventional behavior that threaten larger cultural values.

## SOCIOCULTURAL EVOLUTION

- A. SOCIETY** – relatively permanent group living in the same geographic area; members are economically self-sufficient, politically independent, share a common culture.

### B. TYPES OF SOCIETIES

1. Hunting/gathering – economies based on hunting animals, gathering vegetation; nomadic.
2. Horticultural/pastoral – domestication of animals and use of hand tools to cultivate plants.
3. Agricultural – more complex in the level of technology used to support crops and livestock.
4. Industrial – complex machinery and energy sources used for production of machine-generated material goods.
5. Postindustrial – information is created, processed, stored.

### C. MAJOR THEORISTS ON SOCIETY

1. Marx – human history and society can be traced to the basic material circumstance of humans in productive relationships with nature. Class struggles emerged as division of labor intensified differing economic conditions between workers and owners.
2. Durkheim – the source of moral and mental life is society; it limits insatiable desires and gives meaning; without rules, conflict would be inevitable.

3. Weber – Protestant ethic (sacred value placed on work in this world as a calling from God and the acts of saving and investment as concrete proof of salvation) was decisive in producing industrial capitalism.

## SOCIAL INTERACTION

- A. SOCIAL STRUCTURE** – societal relations form a network.

1. Status – position within a society or group.

- a. Ascribed status – automatically conferred on a person or involuntarily assumed.
- b. Achieved status – based on one’s own efforts or accomplishments.
- c. Master status – status one is most identified with.
- d. Status set – all statuses that a person occupies.

2. Role – the part a person plays, or is expected to play, by virtue of status or position.

- a. Role strain – different and conflicting expectations for a status.
- b. Role conflict – multiple statuses are contradictory.

### B. GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. Social group – people interacting in an orderly fashion; interdependence among members.

- a. Peer group – association of self-selected equals formed around common interests, preferences, beliefs that segregate the group from others.
- b. Family – emotionally binds members; during periods of social change, conflict between family and peer groups becomes more pronounced.
- c. Aggregate – people who happen to be in the same place at the same time.
- d. Social category – people with common characteristics.
- e. Primary group – interaction is direct, common bonds are close, relationships are warm and personal.
- f. Secondary group – interaction is anonymous, duration is short, involves few emotional ties.

### 2. Characteristics of groups

- a. Gemeinschaft – small communities characterized by tradition, and united by primary group relationships.
- b. Gesellschaft – contractual relationships of limited duration and quality, based on rational self-interest, for the purpose of achieving a goal.
- c. Group size/structure – number of members, extent of association, social network of members.
- d. Interaction processes – how role partners agree on goals, negotiate reaching them, and distribute resources. Influenced by:
  - 1) Differentiation between characteristics of role structure with task/instrumental roles.
  - 2) Public and non-public behavior.
  - 3) Principles of exchange.
  - 4) Competition for resources.
  - 5) Cooperation.
  - 6) Compromise.
  - 7) Conflict.

- e. Reference group – social groups that provide the standards by which we evaluate ourselves.
- f. Group conformity – individual compliance with group goals, even if individual goals are different.
- g. Group think – members think alike and conform to one another’s views.

3. Leadership – initiating behavior of others by directing, organizing, influencing, controlling. Types of leaders:

- a. **Instrumental** – task oriented.
- b. **Democratic** – seeks consensus.
- c. **Expressive** – relationship oriented.
- d. **Authoritarian** – gives orders.
- e. **Laissez-faire** – little direction or organization.

4. **Organizations** – characterized by formality, hierarchy, large size, complex division of labor, continuity.

- a. **Bureaucracy** – rationally designed organization; goal is to perform complex tasks efficiently.

## DEVIANCE

**A. DEVIANCE** – departure from the norm; relative to time, place, context, social status of actor and observer.

1. **Stigma** – a mark of social disgrace that sets the deviant apart from “normal” members of society.
2. **Social order** – members know and do what is expected of them.
3. **Social control** – ensures conformance to group norms.

## B. FUNCTIONS OF DEVIANCE

1. Unifies group by showing limits of acceptable behavior; differentiates between insiders/outside.
2. Serves as a safety valve; allows people expression of discontent without threatening social order.

## C. EXPLANATIONS OF DEVIANCE

1. **Biological**
  - a. Body measurements (Lombroso).
  - b. Body types (Sheldon, Kretschmer).
  - c. Chromosomes, brain/body chemistry, diet.
2. **Psychological**
  - a. Superego lacks strength to control the id.
  - b. Personality test results.
3. **Sociological**
  - a. Source of deviance is located within the social structure or in the labeling process.
  - b. **Deviance** is a product of disorganization, confusion, anomie in society and the individual; norms become weak, conflicting, nonexistent (Durkheim).
  - c. **Disjunction** between means and ends leads people to fill the gap as conformists, innovators, ritualists, retreatists, rebels (Merton).
  - d. **Differential association** – criminal behavior learned through primary group interaction (Sutherland).

## FAMILY AND SOCIETY

**A. KINSHIP** – introduction of symbolic meaning to actual or imagined blood ties.

1. **Social inheritance** – inheritance of achieved and ascribed statuses, wealth, prestige, power.

## B. TYPES OF FAMILIES

1. Family of orientation – unit into which a person is born.
2. Family of procreation – unit of people who form social groups of their own through procreation or adoption.
3. Nuclear family – parents and children.
4. Extended family – indirectly linked by blood.
5. Patriarchy/matrilarchy – authority vested in the father/mother.
6. Patrilineal/matrilineal – descent traced through the father/mother.
7. Primogeniture/ultimogeniture – transmission of property to eldest son/youngest son.

## C. MARRIAGE PATTERNS

1. Endogamy/exogamy – marriage within/outside certain specific groups.
2. Monogamy – one spouse at a time; serial monogamy: marriage, then divorce, then remarriage.
3. Polygamy – more than one spouse at a time.

## D. RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS

1. **Patrilocal/matrilocal** – newlyweds reside with husband's/wife's extended family.
2. **Neolocal** – newlyweds reside in new or separate residence from their families.

## ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY

**A. ECONOMIC ORDER** – institutionalized system of norms and behavioral patterns through which goods and services are produced, distributed, consumed.

1. **Traditionalism** – preservation of a practice because it has always been done that way.
2. **Economic rationality** – embraces change and development; emphasizes practicality.

**B. DIVISION OF LABOR** – work is divided among individuals and groups specializing in particular economic activities.

## C. COMPARATIVE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

1. **Capitalism** – private ownership of means of production.
2. **Socialism** – public ownership of means of production.

**D. ECONOMIC SECTORS** – different ways of producing goods and services and selling them for a profit.

1. **Primary** – extract raw materials and resources.
2. **Secondary** – turn raw materials into manufactured goods.
3. **Tertiary** – provide services.

## E. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

1. **Barter** – direct exchange of goods/services for others judged to be of equivalent value.
2. **Free market** – value of goods/services determined by supply and demand.

## POLITICS AND SOCIETY

**A. POLITICAL ORDER** – institutionalized system of organization and behavioral patterns through which power is legitimately acquired and exercised.

1. **Three types of authority (Weber)**
  - a. **Traditional** – based on long-held and sacred customs.
  - b. **Rational/legal** – based on a duly-enacted body of laws.
  - c. **Charismatic** – based on unique, extraordinary abilities associated with a particular person.

## B. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

1. **Authoritarian** – opposition to the ruler not tolerated.
2. **Totalitarian** – no recognizable limits to the ruler's power.
3. **Democratic** – authority ultimately lies with the governed.

## C. POLITICAL PROCESS

1. **Political party** – organization seeking to gain control of government through legitimate means.
2. **Interest groups** – organizations seeking to influence political decisions that may affect their members.
3. **Lobbyists** – advocates of special interest groups.
4. **Power elite (Mills)** – highly organized group of a few people making decisions on behalf of many.
5. **Governing class (Domhoff)** – a network of less than 0.5% of the population, within the upper class, holding high-level offices in business, government, academia.
6. **Pluralist vision (Riesman)** – power holders cannot be unified. System of rule is made up of various sectors of power; each serves as a buffer against any one group gaining control over the decision-making process.

## RELIGION AND SOCIETY

**A. RELIGION** – seeks to comprehend the universe and establish a coherent image of the natural and supernatural world.

1. **Sacred** – holy, divine, supernatural, mystical, and unalterable.

2. **Profane** – worldly; capable of being understood and altered.

## B. MAJOR THEORISTS ON RELIGION

1. **Durkheim** – religion validates society and is a foundation for ideas about life's meaning and ceremonies that express this meaning.
2. **Weber** – belief in predestination and the gap between man and God; stressed personal responsibility for salvation; anxiety about the afterlife fueled a work ethic calling for accumulation of capital as proof of salvation.

## C. RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

1. **Cult** – small group of followers surrounding a charismatic religious leader.
2. **Sect** – does not depend on a charismatic leader for continuity.
3. **Church** – formally established leadership; economic foundation institutionalized, sanctions can take the form of interdiction and excommunication.

## SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

**A. SOCIAL STRATIFICATION** – structured inequality characterized by groups with differential access to rewards because of the groups' relative position in the social hierarchy.

1. **Social hierarchy** – system of ranked statuses.
2. **Social mobility** – ability of an individual or group to move through the social strata.

**B. SYSTEMS OF STRATIFICATION** – include race/ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation.

## C. MAJOR THEORISTS ON SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

1. **Davis and Moore** – stratification is inevitable; inequality guarantees that those most able will be in the most demanding positions.
2. **Marx** – elimination of classes would end inequality.
3. **Weber** – distinguished between class, status situation, and parties in explaining different types of societies.

## COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR

**A. COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR** – group behavior in the absence of clearly defined and conventional norms.

1. Less stable than institutionalized group behavior.
2. Spontaneous, hard to predict.
3. Difficult to observe or measure objectively.

## B. TYPES OF COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR

– mass hysteria, panic, craze, fad, fashion, rumor.

## C. TYPES OF GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR

– crowds, masses, audiences, mobs.

## D. EXPLANATIONS OF COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR

1. **Contagion theory** – the crowd frees members of personal responsibility and social restraints; individuals succumb to the collective mind of the crowd (LeBon).
2. **Convergence theory** – when a number of like-minded individuals converge, they are likely to generate a collective action.
3. **Emergent – norm theory** – certain individuals construct new norms, which are soon adopted by the entire collective (Turner and Killian).

**E. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS** – beliefs, opinions, interests, and practices favoring the institutional change of a particular sort.

1. **Countermovement** – opposition to a social movement.
2. **Institutionalization** of the movement's ideas becomes the foundation of a social organization.
3. **Goal displacement** – original goals of the movement are set aside in favor of the goal of preserving formal structures.
4. **Social movement organizations** – formal organizations that channel dissatisfaction and discontent into change, or satisfaction and contentment into conservation of tradition.