

Social Structure & Society

Chapter 5



Section I

SOCIAL STRUCTURE & STATUS



Social Structure Is All Around You

- What is social structure?

Social structure is the underlying patterns of relationships in a group.



Everyone Has Status

- What do sociologists mean by status?
- What is an ascribed status?
- How is status achieved?
- What is a status set?
- Are all of a person's statuses equal?



An ascribed status is a position that is neither earned nor chosen but assigned.

A status set is all of the statuses that a person occupies at any particular time.

Status is a position a person occupies within a social structure

An achieved status is a position that is earned or chosen

A master status is a position that strongly affects most other aspects of a person's life.



Effects of Social Status in College



What is Mary's status set?

woman

white

young

military

officer



What is Pedro's status set?

male

black

young

athlete



Section 2

SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND ROLES



Rights and Obligations

- Role
- Rights
- Obligations

An obligation is a behavior that individuals are expected to perform toward others.

A right is a behavior that individuals can expect from others.

A role is an expected behavior associated with a particular status.

Role Performance and Social Interaction

- Statuses and roles provide the basis for group life.
- It is primarily when people interact with each other socially that they “perform” in the roles attached to their statuses



Role Performance vs. Social Interaction

Role performance is the actual behavior of an individual in a role.

Social interaction is the process of influencing each other as people relate



How does play-acting differ from social interaction?

- 1st → real life role performance occurs without planning.
- 2nd → you cannot adlib roles in real life
- 3rd → there are no cues and predictable responses in real life

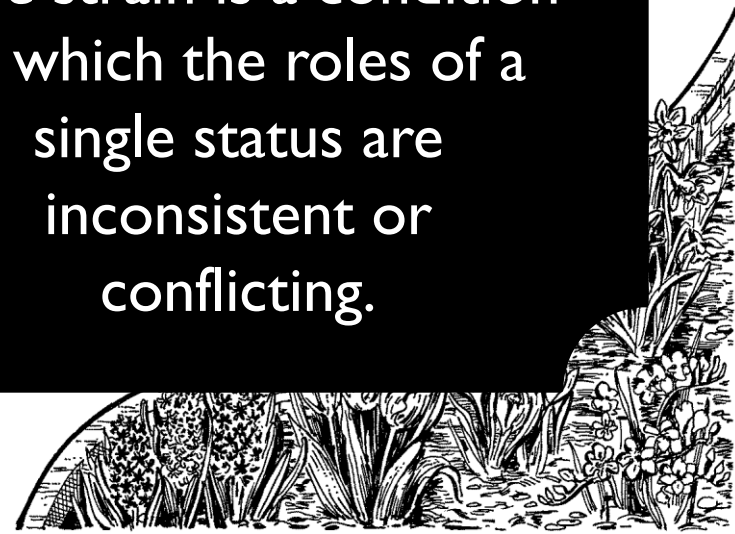


Role Conflict and Role Strain

- What are role conflict and role strain?
- How do we manage role conflict and strain?

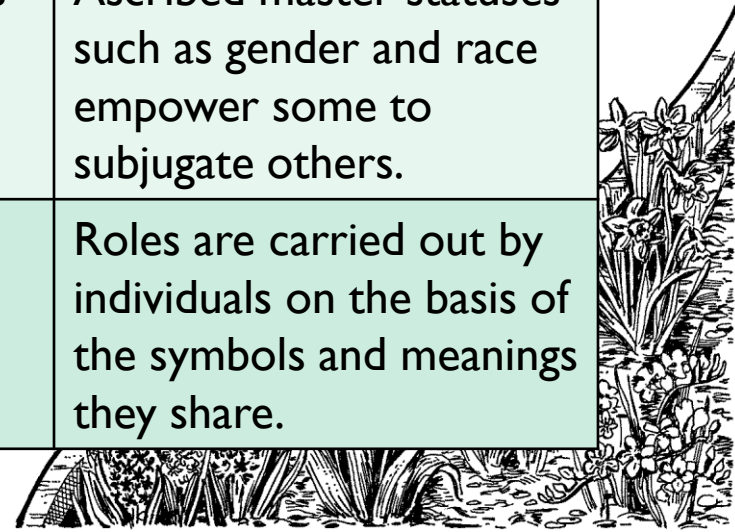
Role conflict is a condition in which the performance of a role in one status interferes with the performance of a role in another status.

Role strain is a condition in which the roles of a single status are inconsistent or conflicting.



Illustrating Social Structure Concepts

Theoretical Perspective	Social Structure Concept	Example
Functionalism	Role	Social integration is promoted by culturally defined rights and obligations honored by group members.
Conflict Theory	Ascribed Master Status	Ascribed master statuses such as gender and race empower some to subjugate others.
Symbolic Interactionism	Social Interaction	Roles are carried out by individuals on the basis of the symbols and meanings they share.



Role strain can appear hypocritical!



Example, the star athlete who is a role model, but is repeatedly busted for drug use.



Cooperative Learning Activity

Working in small groups of no more than four (4) work together to develop resolutions to the conflict!

One group member must act as the recorder of your resolutions, and another person as the spokesperson!



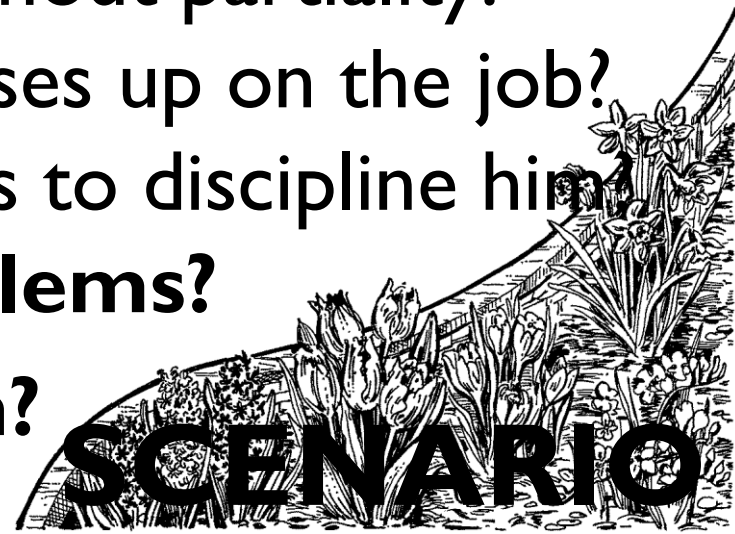
Dave is the manager of a team of computer engineers. Dave's good friend **Ted** is assigned to Dave's team. **Dave** has to play the roles of both supervisor and friend. **Ted** has to play the roles of both employee and friend. Each role contains a variety of expectations. As a friend, **Dave** is expected to support **Ted** (and vice versa) when difficulties arise. But as a supervisor **Dave** is expected to treat employees without partiality.

What is **Dave** to do if **Ted** messes up on the job?

How is **Ted** to react if **Dave** has to discipline him?

What are the potential problems?

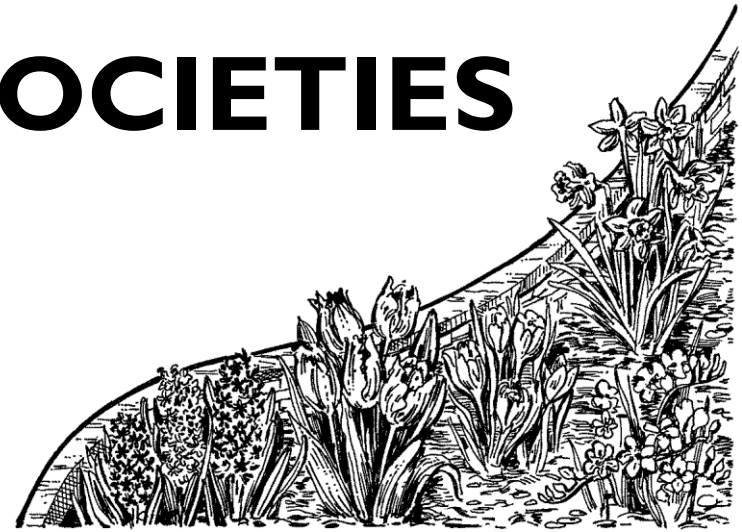
How would you handle them?



SCENARIO

Section 3

PREINDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES



Society is people living within defined territorial borders and sharing a common culture.

Types of Societies

- The way a society provides for basic needs greatly affects its culture and social structure.
- Preindustrial, industrial, and postindustrial societies meet basic needs in different ways.
- Preindustrial societies include hunting & gathering, horticultural, pastoral, and agricultural societies.



Hunting & Gathering Societies

- Nomadic— they move from place to place with their food supply
- Very small → fewer than 50 people
- Family is the only institution; related by blood or marriage.
- Economic relationship= members share all
- Generosity & hospitality are valued
- Division of labor limited to gender and age

Hunting & Gathering Society is a society that survives by hunting animals and gathering edible plants.



Horticultural Societies

- Circa 10-12,000 years ago
- Grow & harvest instead of just gather
- More permanent settlements
- Stability promoted multi-community societies 1-2,000 each
- Family even more basic

Horticultural society is a society that survives primarily through the growing of plants.



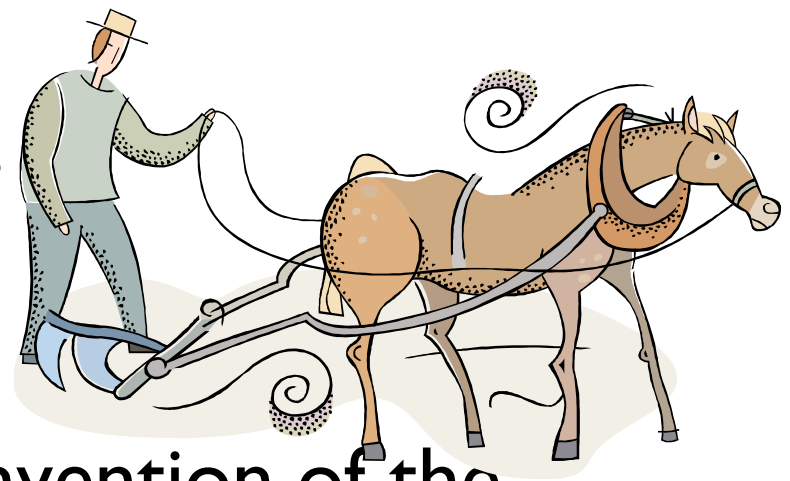
Pastoral Societies

- Depend on the products of livestock.
- Food obtained by raising and taking care of animals
- More migration, but permanency can be obtained.
- Women remain home, men provide food.
- Male dominated
- Surplus of food leads to complex division of labor
- Class or caste system

Pastoral society is a society in which food is obtained primarily by raising and taking care of animals.



Agricultural Societies



- Growing food
- Use plows and animals → invention of the plow
- Increased productivity
- People can engage in non economic activities– education, leisure, politics, religion
- Government replaces family
- Social classes

Agricultural society is a society that uses plows and draft animals in growing food.

Section 4

INDUSTRIAL AND POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES



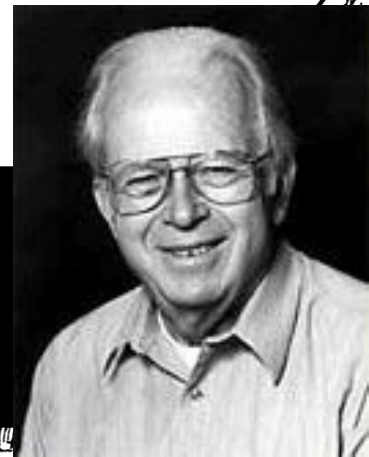
Basic Features of Industrial Societies

- What happens when agricultural societies become industrial societies?
 - Mechanization
 - urbanization
- How does the role of the family change?

Industrial society is a society that depends on science and technology to produce its basic goods and services.

Mechanization is the process of replacing animal and human power with machine power.

Urbanization is the shifting of population from farms and villages to large cities.



A Conversation with Two Sociologists

- What did Tonnies write?

- Gemeinschaft
- Gesellschaft

Mechanical solidarity is a type of social unity achieved by people doing the same type of work and holding similar values

- What were Durkheim's views?

- Social solidarity
- Mechanical solidarity
- Organic solidarity

Organic solidarity is a type of social unity in which members' interdependence is based on specialized functions and statuses.

Gesellschaft is an industrial society characterized by weak family ties, competition, and impersonal social relationships.

Social solidarity is the degree to which a society is unified.

Gemeinschaft is a preindustrial society based on tradition, kinship, and close social ties.



Major Features of Postindustrial Society

Postindustrial society is a society in which the economic emphasis is on providing services and information.



**Sociologist
Daniel Bell (1999)**



- 1. For the first time the majority of the labor force are employed in services rather than agriculture and manufacturing.**
- 2. White collar employment replaces blue collar work.**
- 3. Technical knowledge is the key organizing feature in postindustrial society.**
- 4. Technological change is planned and assessed.**
- 5. Reliance on computer modeling in all areas.**



Social Instability in Postindustrial Society



- Historian Francis Fukuyama (1990)

– *Crime and social disorder began to rise, making inner-city areas of the wealthiest societies on earth almost uninhabitable. The decline of kinship as a social institution, which has been going on for more than 200 years, accelerated in the second half of the 20th century. Marriages and births declined and divorce soared; and one out of every three children in the US and more than half of all children in Scandinavia were born out of wedlock. Finally, trust and confidence in institutions went into a forty-year decline.*



- Will social instability continue?
- What caused the return to social stability?
 - *The situation of normalness...is intensely uncomfortable for us, and we will seek to create new rules to replace the old ones that have been undercut.*

