

# Getting Food

## Chapter 5

# Modes of Subsistence

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- Hunting & Gathering (Food Collection)
- Horticultural & Pastoral
- Agrarian
- Industrial
- Post-Industrial

# Hunting & Gathering Societies

- Characteristics of **Hunter/Gatherers**:
- They neither produce nor preserve food.
- They lead leisurely lives.
- They live in groups of 10 to 50 members and the membership changes routinely.
- Distribution of food is based on sharing the days hunting/gathering.

# Hunting & Gathering: Cont'd

- Characteristics: Cont'd
- Nomadic way of life.
- No formal leaders in the group and status is achieved by hunting and gathering.
- Basic unit or social organization is the nuclear family.

# Hunting & Gathering: Cont'd

- !Kung – Kalahari Desert, Africa
- Region too dry to support livestock or agriculture.
- !Kung adults average 17 hours per week collecting food. (They exploit only about 1/3 of the edible plant foods that can be eaten and only 17 of the 223 local species of animals.)

# Hunting & Gathering: Cont'd

- Food collection – 17 hours per week
- Tool making – 6 hours per week
- Housework – 19 hours per week
- Total – 42 hours
- The !Kung seem to have a great deal of *leisure* time. (Ember)

# Horticultural Society

- Characteristics of **Horticultural Societies**:
- Neolithic Revolution – (10,000 years ago)
- First time humans became food producers by means of slash/burn. (Swidden or Shifting cultivation)
- Utilized tree, seed, and root crops
- Tree Crops:
  - Bananas, plantains, figs, dates coconuts.

# Horticultural Society

- Seed Crops:
- Wheat, barley, corn, oats, rice. (Protein)
- Root Crops:
- Yams, arrowroots, taro, manioc, macaxeira, potatoes. (Starch)



# Horticultural Society

- Characteristics: Cont'd
- Settled villages – from 40 to 250 population
- War, walled fortresses, raiding, cannibalism, infanticide were practiced.

# Pastoral Society

- Characteristics of **Pastoral Societies**:
- Subsistence based primarily on domesticated animals.
- Eastern/Southern Africa: Cattle
- North Africa/Arabian Peninsula: Camels
- Sub-Arctic areas of eastern Europe & Siberia: Reindeer

# Pastoral Society

- Europe and Asia: Mixed herding
- Including goats, sheep and cattle.
- Himalayan Region:
- Goats, sheep and Yak.

# Pastoral Society

- Livestock as a life sustaining resource-
- **Food Source:** (also economic)
- Meat
- Milk – Butter, yogurt
- Blood
- But also:

# Pastoral Society

- **Dung** - Fertilizer, house building, fuel.
- **Bone** - Tools, artifacts.
- **Skin** - Clothing, tents.
- **Hair** – Thread, clothing, rope, blankets, tents, (Pashmina wool)
- **Entrails** – Water bags, waterproof bags.
- **Urine** – Antiseptic uses.

# Pastoral Society

- **Movement Patterns**
- *Transhumance Pastoralist:*
- ...some of the men move livestock seasonally while the other members of their group, including women and children stay in permanent settlements.
- ...verticle movement of livestock.

# Pastoral Society

- **Movement Patterns**
- *Nomadic Pastoralist:*
- ...there are no permanent villages, and the whole social unit of men, women and children moves the livestock to new pastures.

# Agrarian Society

- **Technological Innovations:**
- Wheel, ships, ceramics, bronze, baked bricks, calendars and money.
  
- **Social Innovations:**
- Cities, kingdoms, first full-time priest, warriors, craftsmen, poets, clerks, slaves.



# Agrarian Society: Cont'd

- **Agricultural Innovations:**
- The plow, harness, irrigation, terracing, and crop rotation.
- Increased food production per family.

# Industrial Society

- Resulted from three related technical developments:
  - Harnessing new sources of energy
  - Mechanization
  - Creation of Factory System

# Post-Industrial Society

- Society relying for its subsistence primarily on the production of services and information.
- Crucial Social Institutions:
  - Education
  - Science