

Groups

Chapter Four



Group

- ◆ Social Categories-
- ◆ ...refers to groups of individuals who merely share a particular trait and do not have a group life.
- ◆ Aggregate-
- ◆ ...is the least structured of the interactive groups, who happen to be at the same place at the same time as someone else.



Group

- ◆ Collective Behavior-
- ◆ ...spontaneous and temporary groups that are relatively unstructured, and demonstrate interactive behavior.



Group (Social)

- ◆ ...two or more people who have a common identity and some feeling of unity, and who share certain goals and expectations about each other's behavior.



Primary Groups

- ◆ ...are small multipurpose groups in which the interaction is intimate and there is a strong sense of group identity.



Traits of Primary Relationships

- ◆ ...they involve the whole personality.
- ◆ ...they involve free and extensive communication.
- ◆ ...they are personal and emotion-laden.
- ◆ ...feelings are not easily transferable.



Secondary Groups

- ◆ ...are groups designed to achieve practical goals.
- ◆ Traits of Secondary Relationships
- ◆ ...they are specialized.
- ◆ ...they lack emotional warmth.
- ◆ ...they involve only a limited aspect of one's personality.



Social Institutions

- ◆ ...a process or association that is highly organized, systematized, and stable
- ◆ Doob - ...a system of statuses, roles, groups, and behavior patterns that satisfies a basic human need and is necessary for the survival of a society.



Social Institutions

- ◆ Institutions tend to be resistant to change.
- ◆ Institutions tend to be interdependent.
- ◆ Institutions tend to change together.
- ◆ Institutions tend to be the site of major social problems.

Formal Organizations

- ◆ Doob-...groups characterized by formally stated rules, clearly defined members' roles, and distinct objectives.
- ◆ ...large secondary groups that are deliberately and rationally designed to achieve specific goals.



Bureaucracies

- ◆ Doob-...the administrative sections of formal organizations that have the task of controlling their operation.
- ◆ ...a hierarchical authority structure that operates under explicit rules and procedures.



Features of Bureaucracies (Weber's Ideal Type)

- ◆ Specialization-(Division of Labor)
- ◆ Formal qualifications for bureaucratic roles or positions- (Career Structure)
- ◆ Full-time employment
- ◆ Impersonality-("Cases", not individuals)
- ◆ Files, written documentation-(Record Keeping)
- ◆ Hierarchy of Authority-(Hierarchy)
- ◆ Elaborate formal norms- (Regulations)

Dysfunctions of Bureaucracy

- ◆ May be inefficient - (Peter Principle)
- ◆ Bureaucratic personality- (Goal Displacement)
- ◆ Focus on self-perpetuation- (Bureaucratic enlargement)
- ◆ Communication - (Authoritarian structure)
- ◆ Can stifle creativity.
- ◆ Reluctant to disturb the status quo.

Types of Societies

Gerhard Lenski

- ◆ Hunting and Gathering
- ◆ Horticultural/Pastoral
- ◆ Agrarian Society
- ◆ Industrial
- ◆ Post-Industrial

Hunting and Gathering Societies

- ◆ They neither produce nor preserve food.
- ◆ They lead leisurely lives.
- ◆ They live in groups of 10 to 50 members and the membership changes routinely.
- ◆ The basic unit of social organization is the family.



Hunting/Gathering Societies: Cont'd

- ◆ They have no formal economic or political institutions.
 - ◆ Distribution of food is based on sharing the days hunting/gathering.
 - ◆ Nomadic way of life.
 - ◆ No formal leaders in the group and status is achieved by hunting and gathering.
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Horticultural/Pastoral Societies

- ◆ Horticultural-
- ◆ First time humans became food producers by means of slash/burn.
- ◆ Domestication of animals.
- ◆ Settled villages 40 to 250 population.
- ◆ War, walled fortresses, raiding, cannibalism, infanticide were found.



Horticultural/Pastoral Societies:

- ◆ Pastoral Societies-
- ◆ Subsistence based primarily on domesticated animals.
- ◆ Allowed for surplus of livestock and food.



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 the factory system



Post-Industrial Society

- ◆ Society relying for its subsistence primarily on the production of services and information.
- ◆ Two institutions become crucial:
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Science



Common Classification of Societies: Ferdinand Tonnies

- ◆ COMMUNAL/GEMEINSCHAFT
- ◆ There is a minimal division of labor and no specialization of roles.
- ◆ The family is the most important unit in the society.
- ◆ Most social relationships are personal and tend to be long-lasting.
- ◆ Behavior is regulated mainly by custom and tradition.

Common Classification of Societies: Tonnie's Cont'd

- ◆ ASSOCIATIONAL/GESSELLSCHAFT:
- ◆ There is a high division of labor and specialization.
- ◆ Family influence is replaced by other major social institutions.
- ◆ Social relationships are impersonal and short-lived.
- ◆ Social behavior is governed by law rather than custom.