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.
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: Tonnies 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.