

Week 1 Introduction

Historical Overview

Social sciences started to be distinguished with the democracy in ancient Greece

Key Understandings

- Understand basic notion of the development of Western society
- Comprehend the importance of early civilizations in forming today's social order
- Familiarize with revolutionary ideas and innovations of periods such as the Renaissance and the Enlightenment

Prehistory

- Paleolithic: Old Stone Age
 - First stone tools around 2.5 MIO years ago → Homo Habilis
 - 1.5 MIO-500,000 years ago → Homo Erectus (upright man)
 - 1 MIO-500,000 years ago → Evidence of Fire (sense of community, sit and eat together; started to communicate)
 - 500,000-150,000 years ago → Evidence of Cooking
- Homo Sapiens: 200,000 years ago
 - Nomadic hunters and gatherers
 - 100,000 years ago → language and art
 - Difference between humans and animals: humans create tools, animals only use certain, very limited tools; we hand down the knowledge from one generation to the next; humans are the dominant species of the planet
- Neolithic: New Stone Age—climate change, 10,000 years ago
- Agriculture and early settlements lead to civilization

Prehistoric Human Achievement (Civettello 2011)

- Early settlements: agriculture and animals 10,000: more feasible for people to stay in the same place (pottery & textile, population, early social satisfaction)
- Bigger population → better organization → social structure → social stratification ("classification of people into groups based on shared social-economic conditions; a relational set of inequalities with economic, social, political and ideological dimensions")
- Mesopotamia: 4000 BC
 - Writing → recorded history → from that moment we know—have information
 - Math
 - Bigger settlements
 - Political institutions
 - Military aristocracy → priesthood, laboring class and slaves
 - Code of Hammurabi's
 - Written laws and order combined with the military, aristocracy with punishments according to: eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth
- Ancient Egypt: 4000 BC; the Power

- Subjective during postmodernism
- The question is—objective way to analyze social phenomena, the way to go?
- If you see sociology as a science—objective
- Objective based on arguments is realistic: statement of facts, ability to judge fairly
- Subjective: statements of value, bias, attitude, feelings beliefs; tend to be abstract, intangible, personal and private → concrete inter-subjective social effects may lead to war

Reading: Supplement to the Voyage of Bougainville

By Denis Diderot

What were Diderot's thoughts of European colonization?

- As part of the Enlightenment era, Diderot opposed French colonization, more the ever slavery; he believed in equality, liberty and right to dignity
- He questioned the use of slaves when in fact Christianity opposed slavery; again we see that colonists used religion/power to justify decisions
- Here the power tended to see slavery as an element that supported the economy; if it were to be abolished, colonies would collapse and commerce not flourish (selfish reasons)

What was the perception of natives' society vs. 18th century European society?

- The reading is a form of Enlightenment, possible contributor to the French Revolution in 1789
- Diderot uses the descriptions of Tahiti that Bougainville includes in his journals as a tool for him to criticize the way that French bound the freedoms of their citizens, turn as Europeans took away the purity of life for the Tahitian natives
- Natives are considered as savages while Europeans—civilized
- Questioning whether the necessities by Europeans were really necessary
- Balance between vice and virtue are decided by Europeans, but are they the way to follow
- Natives, here represented by Orou, question the ways Europeans back up their decisions through religion/power
- Tahitian (natives) are closer to nature
- Tahitians believe in "sharing" and "living as families" eg. sharing wives/husbands, going against the European views on adultery; reproduction can't be controlled
- The Tahitians believe the Europeans hold too much value on possessions and refuse to allow a person to live without constraints
- Ownership of property is also criticized as Tahitians share everything relative to the French aristocrats undermining the lower classes
- Nature for them overrules religion
- The terminology of incest and adultery is not understood as a part of social institutions; be that the case, its hypocritical in reference to "Adam and Eve"

- Emancipation of women/role of women changes (i.e. access of jobs)
- Technology
- Mass production
- Tourism is a right, necessity (spend money)

Requirements For Tourism

- Leisure time: evolutionary achievement (fight to get more leisure time)
- Discretionary time
- Positive local sanction: try to feel safe hence choose countries that are safe (with close hospitals and hotels)

Why Do We Travel?

Well constructed way of spending income and includes center of interest and creates stronger family bonds

- Spend money during down time
- It can become an obsession
- Sacred (when away) and ordinary (when back home) → Durkheim – cyclical cause of emotions
- Detachment from a comfortable situation
 - Family bonds are increasing
- Become the center of interest – good feeling
- Auto-motivation: people are interested in you since you were abroad and thus show more interest
- Pictures: justification of where you have been
- Trinkets: souvenirs justifying where you have been

How do we travel? Compensatory vs. Spill Over Effects

- Compensatory: explores based on mentality e.g. Scandinavians looking for different experiences
- Spill-over: spilling over habits during stays e.g. Japanese not extravagant and tend to stick to their defined norms → taking as much photos as possible given that number of days off is small

Tourism & Development

Neo-colonization and Neo-Imperialism

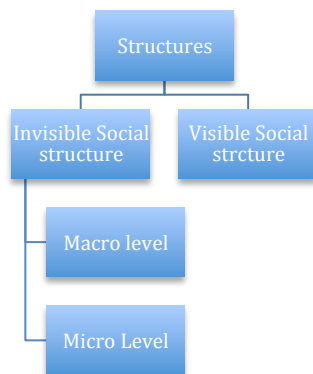
- Neo-imperialism: when economic powerful nations exert power on others e.g. Iraq
- When imposing certain concepts or dynamics e.g. Gambia in 1960s
- Ignored that most people rely on agriculture and the fact that only one month is touristic
 - Nevertheless, elite imposed such dynamics by enforcing the construction of airports/hotels/other infrastructure

Example:

- Saudi Arabia: treatment of women with the veil, not allowed to drive etc.
- Explained functionalism = behavior we expect from others. Why is it expected that people behave the way others expect them to behave?

What is culture?

= Rules that govern thoughts and behaviors in society. Cultural rules **determine** or **structure** the behavior of its members. Act different at work (dress code, discipline and punctuality) compared to home



Invisible: norms, beliefs, behavior, emotions

Visible: at school, queuing, table manners, etiquette

Macro: nations central values (law, democratic values, legislation, Hofstede's cultural dimensions)

Micro: profession, school, leisure, parenthood

→ **Creates Social Order!**

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- Why do individuals act differently in the same situation? Because I act in the way people expect me to
 - "Labeling" on different types of individual action
 - Each have different decisions that affect their choice
 - We decide based on what people EXPECT me to do
 - Focus on "micro-level"
 - Norms and rules are on macro level but why do we act differently?
 - A society is a construction of its member's contribution →
- INTERPRETATION**
- Hence they are not determined orders which we have to do, they are not imposed

Example: Giving Money to Beggars

- Something expected of us to help someone in need.
- Question of ego: making someone feel better by giving to others in need
 - We each interpret the situation differently: are they in real need or is it a scam for money

Ideal Type

= Perfect individual and work the way society expects them to act respecting social norms and values

2 Types of Solidarity

1. Mechanical: through norms and values we do more or less the same job, if they don't they will be discriminated
2. Organic: all do different jobs as they mutually depend on one another

Durkheim & Religion

- Religion will disappear soon enough, the only role of religion is to keep moral order in society.
- He took the statistical point of view.

Marx's Perspective of Conflict Theory & EHL Case

- We all share norms and values
- We are standard product

What are the functions of a government?

1. Security and order of its citizens
 - a. Without creates anarchy: society without government or law
2. Justice: just for whom? For the mainstream society. Justice is relative. Swiss say no to mosques, its ok for mainstream Swiss society that are not Muslim but its not ok for Swiss Muslims!
 - a. Tax system: it's just or not! People living in Monaco and no paying taxes to home country.
3. Safeguarding individual freedom
 - a. Treated equally in front of justice system.
4. Regulating the economy: privatization
 - a. Subsidies, function of the government. Neo-liberalist approach government should not keep so much wealth in the name of the government, privatization.
5. Regulating individuals actions
 - a. Prostitution, alcohol limits, smoking marijuana, euthanasia
6. General Welfare
 - a. Hospital system, security and health system

Nature of Government

- Government as Necessary Evil
 - Brazil
 - Taxes, rules, regulations but enforces law and control
- Government as a Positive Good
 - Sweden: no friction
 - Taxes create a better quality of life. Also controls human nature of "destruction"
- Government as an Unnecessary Evil?
 - Ukraine: current interim president
 - Communist theory

Democracy

= Difference is accepted, thus takes a long time in the decision making process.

- France: Front National is becoming more and more dominant. Why? Because people believe in extremes, 18% of last presidential elections but not represented in parliament.
- Acceptance and diversity should be respected but its not always the case

Democracies Theory Assumes That People:

1. Culture and acceptance of difference is widely accepted
2. Can admit the limits of the government
3. Can comprise between self and public interests