Ch. 14 Social Change

**Social Change**

Social change can occur so slowly, almost undetectable; but can also happen rapidly. Modern world’s diversity and complexity make explanation difficult.

**Evolutionary Theory :** views society as moving in a definite direction.

**Comte**: human societies moving forward in their thinking, from mythology to scientific method. **Durkheim**: society progresses from simple to more complex social organization.

**Functionalist Perspective**  
**Equilibrium model:** as changes occur in one part of society, adjustments must be made in other parts.

**Parsons**: four processes of social change :

1)Differentiation

2)Adaptive upgrading

3) Inclusion

4) Value generalization.

**Conflict Perspective**: Change needed to correct social injustices and inequalities .

Marxist view of social change appeals because it does not restrict people to passive roles.

**☆Resistance to Social Change**  
☆Resistance may be due to:

Economic factors ;

Cultural factors;

Reluctance to use or fear of technology ;

☆Vested interests: people who will suffer in the event of social change .

**☆Economic and Cultural Factors**  
Companies may resist social change by cutting corners or lobbying for eased regulations. ☆“**Culture** **lag**: period of maladjustment when nonmaterial culture is still struggling to adapt to new material conditions

**Resistance to Technology**  
**Technology**: cultural information about ways in which material resources of environment may be used to satisfy human needs and desires Luddites: resisted Industrial Revolution; some raided factories, destroyed machinery Some people resist postindustrial expansion of industrialization.

**Global Social Change Recent past a dramatic time in history**  
Collapse of communism ,

Terrorism in various parts of world,

E Major regime changes and severe economic disruptions ,

Spread of AIDS ,

Computer revolution

Cloning.

**THE END**