

# Sociology in Modules

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1<sup>st</sup> Edition

## Global Inequality

# Global Inequality

# 9

- Module 29: Stratification in the World System
- Module 30: Stratification within Nations: A Comparative Perspective

# A Look Ahead

- What economic and political conditions explain the divide between rich and poor nations?
- Within developing nations, how are wealth and income distributed?
  - How much opportunity does the average worker have to move up the social ladder?
  - How do race and gender affect social mobility in these countries?

# The Global Divide

- Inequality a significant determinant of human behavior
- Divides in global wealth emerged as result of the Industrial Revolution and rising agricultural productivity

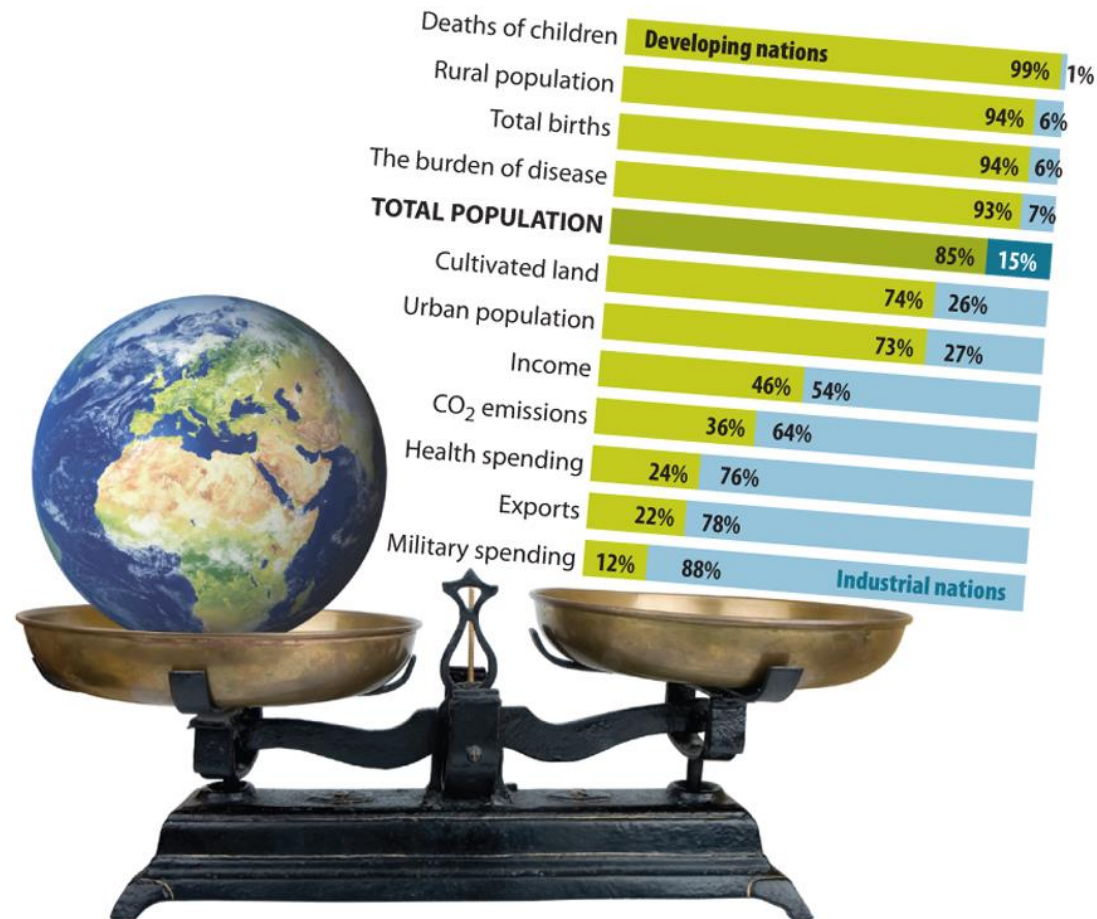
Resulting rise in living standards  
not evenly distributed across the world

# Stratification in the World System

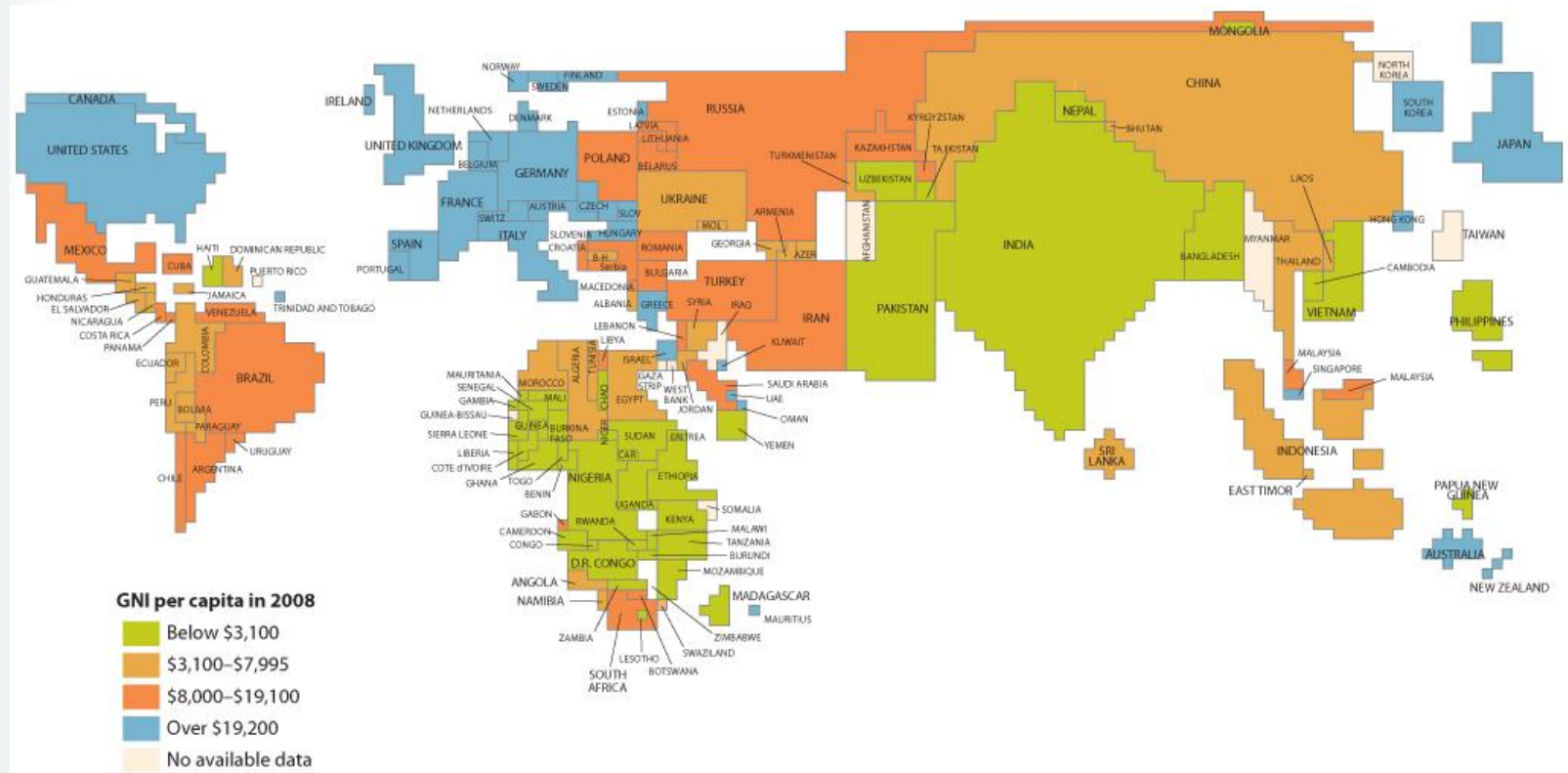
- Stark contrasts between industrial and developing nations
  - Legacy of colonialism
  - Multinational corporations
  - Modernization



## Figure 29-1: Fundamental Global Inequality



### Figure 29-2: Gross National Income per Capita



# The Legacy of Colonialism

- **Colonialism:** Foreign power maintains political, social, economic, and cultural domination for an extended period
- **Neocolonialism:** Continued dependence on more industrialized nations for managerial and technical expertise by former colonies



# The Legacy of Colonialism

## ■ Wallerstein: **World Systems Analysis**

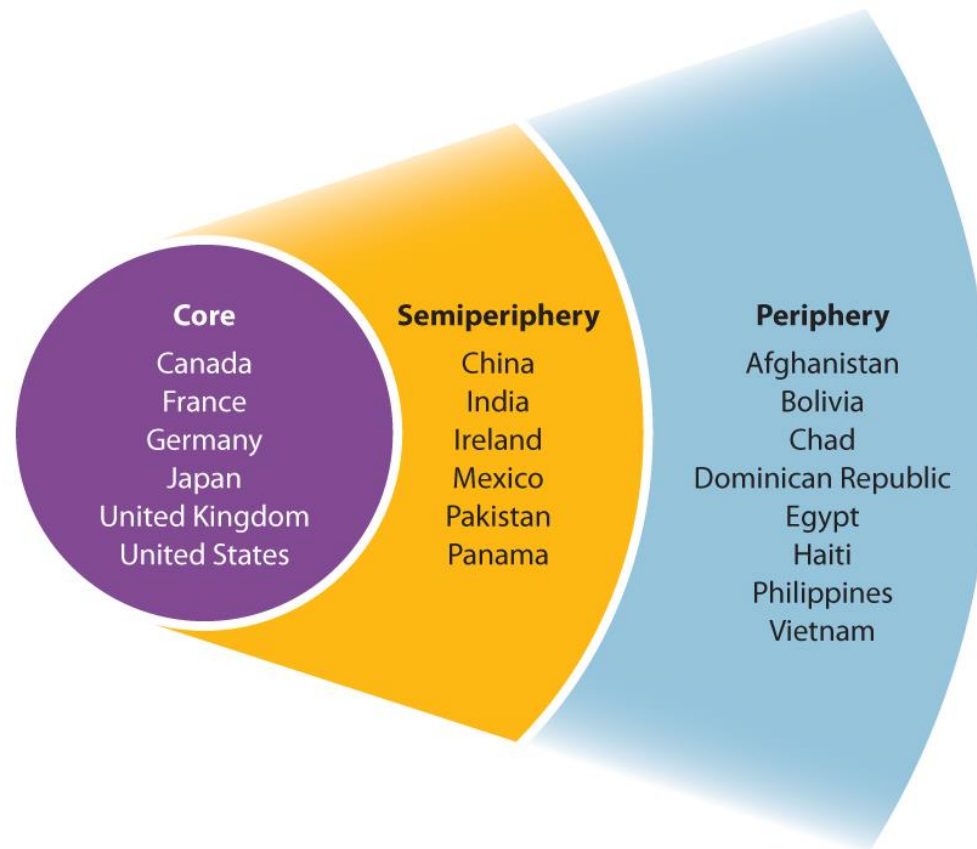
- Unequal economic and political relationships in which certain industrialized nations and their global corporations dominate core of the world's economic system

**Dependency Theory:** Even as developing countries make economic advances, they remain weak and subservient to core nations and corporations

# The Legacy of Colonialism

- **Globalization:** Worldwide integration of government policies, cultures, social movements, and financial markets through trade and exchange of ideas

## Figure 29-3: World Systems Analysis at the Beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



# Multinational Corporations

- **Multinational corporations:**  
Commercial organizations headquartered in one country but doing business throughout the world
  - Total revenue of multinational businesses on par with total value of goods and services exchanged in entire nations
  - Over 10% of U.S. goods and services relates to exports to foreign countries

# Functionalist View

- Multinational corporations help developing nations



- Jobs and industry
- Maximum advantage of technology while reducing costs and boosting profits
- Make nations more interdependent and less likely to enter conflicts

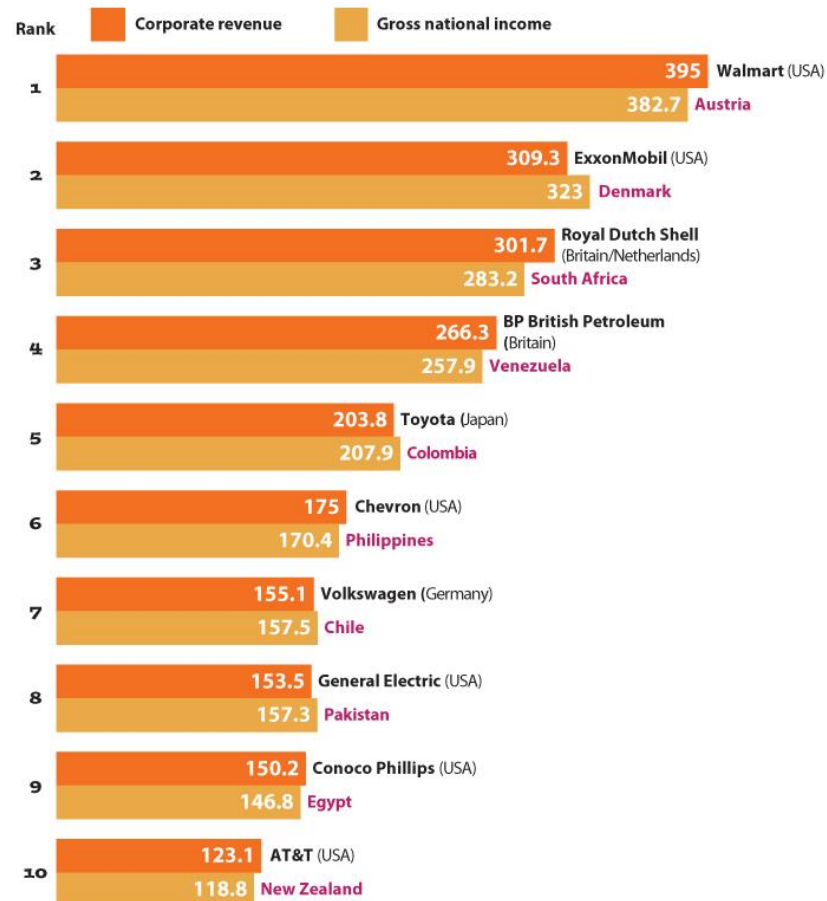
# Conflict View

- Multinational corporations exploit local workers to maximize profits



- Investment by multinationals initially contributes to host nation's wealth
- Eventually increases economic inequality within developing nations

## Figure 29-4: Multinational Corporations Compared to Nations



# Worldwide Poverty

- Poor in developing countries truly destitute
  - Millennium Project asks industrial nations to set aside 0.51% of *gross national income* for developing nations
    - **Gross national product (GNP):**  
Value of nation's goods and services

Privileged people in industrialized nations tend to assume worlds' poor lack assets



# Sociology in the Global Community

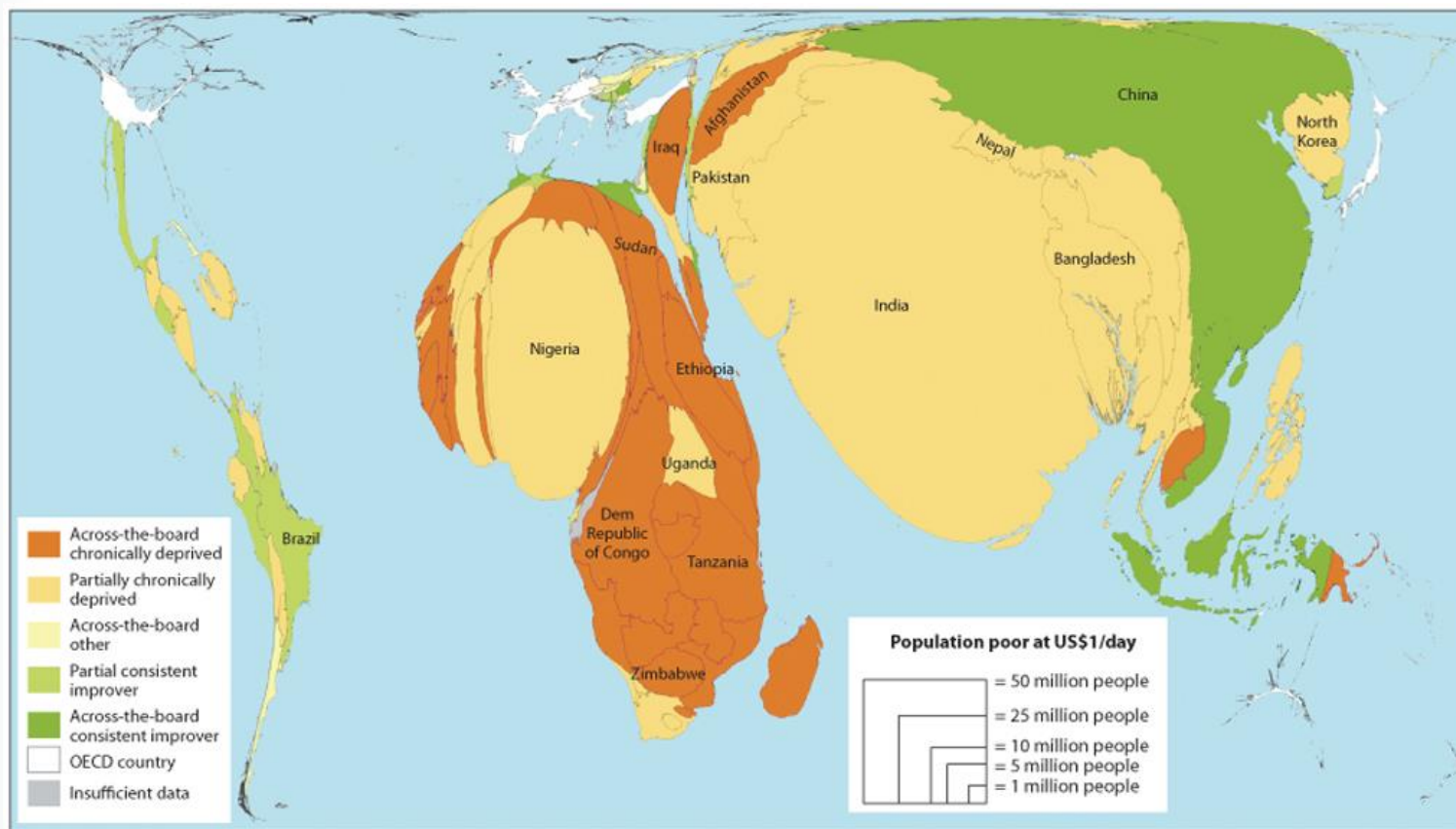
## ■ Cutting Poverty Worldwide

- Do you think the Millennium Project's objectives are realistic, given the enormity of the obstacles that must be overcome?
- How are the project's eight objectives related to one another? Could some of the objectives be reached successfully without addressing the others?

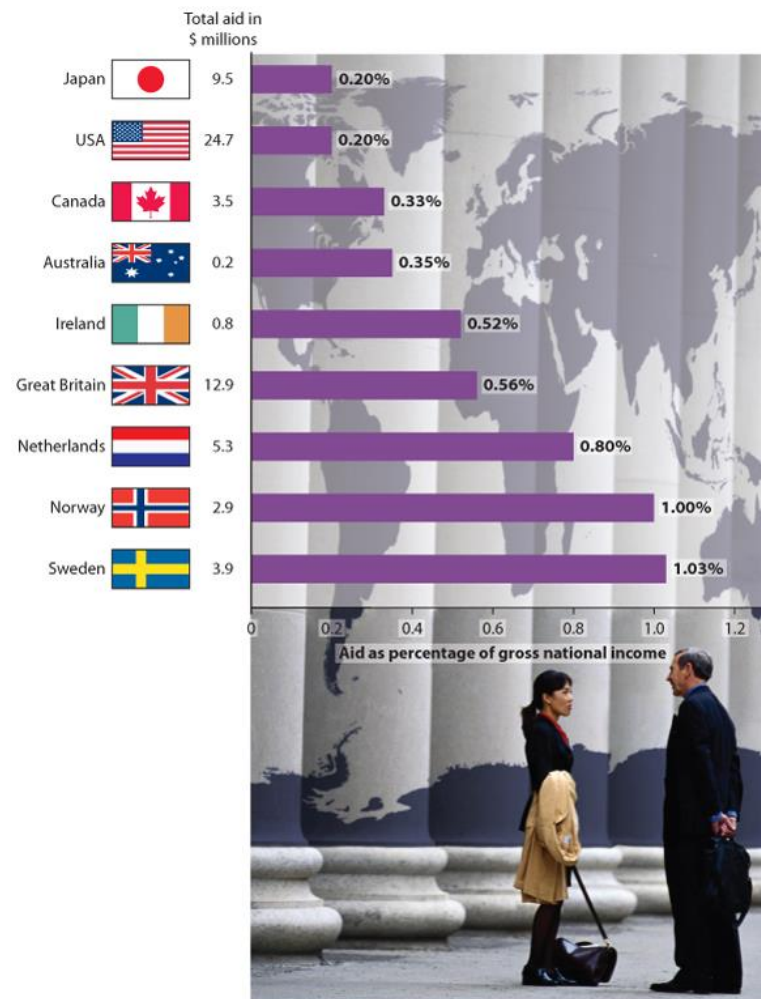
# Modernization

- **Modernization:** Process by which peripheral nations move from traditional institutions to those characteristic of more developed societies
  - **Modernization Theory:** Functionalist view that modernization and development will gradually improve lives of people in developing nations

## Figure 29-5: Poverty Worldwide



## Figure 29-6: Foreign Aid Per Capita in Nine Countries



**Table 29-1: Sociological Perspectives on Global Inequality**

Approach	Sociological Perspective	Explanation
World systems analysis	Functionalist and conflict	Unequal economic and political relationships maintain sharp divisions between nations.
Dependency theory	Conflict	Industrial nations exploit developing nations through colonialism and multinational corporations.
Modernization theory	Functionalist	Developing nations move away from traditional cultures and toward the cultures of industrialized nations.

# Distribution of Wealth and Income

- Worldwide, richest 2% of adults own more than half the world's household wealth
- In at least 22 nations around the world, most affluent 10% of population receives at least 40% of all income

# Social Mobility

- Patterns of intergenerational mobility in industrialized nations:
  1. Similarities in ways parent's positions in stratification systems transmitted to children
  2. Mobility opportunities influenced by structural factors
  3. Immigration significant factor in shaping society's level of intergenerational mobility

# Social Mobility

- Mobility in developing nations:
  - Macro-level social and economic changes often overshadow micro-level movement from one occupation to another
- Gender Differences and Mobility

As country develops and modernizes, women's vital role in food production deteriorates



# Sociology in the Global Community

## ■ The Global Disconnect

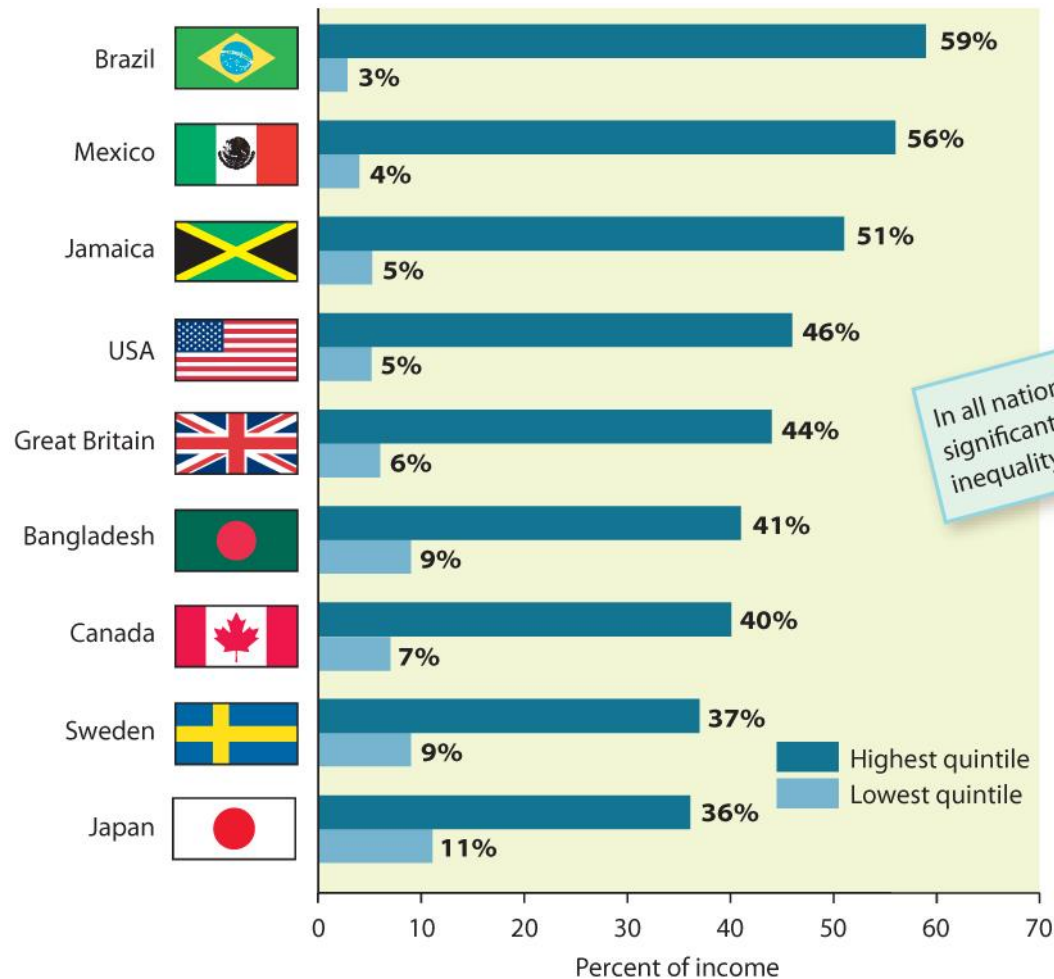
- For nations on the periphery, what are some of the social and economic consequences of the global disconnect?
- What factors might complicate efforts to remedy the global disconnect in developing nations?

# Sociology in the Global Community

## ■ Stratification in Brazil

- Imagine submitting a photograph of yourself with your college admissions application to determine your race and eligibility for inclusion in a quota. How would you feel?
- Why do you think college admissions quotas have been accepted as law in Brazilian society?

## Figure 30-1: Distribution of Income in Nine Nations



# Case Study: Stratification in Mexico

## ■ Mexico's Economy

- In 2009, gross national income per person in the U.S. was \$46,970; Mexico was \$14,270
- About 88% of U.S. adults have high school education; 21% of Mexicans
- Gap between Mexico's poorest and richest citizens one of the widest

# Case Study: Stratification in Mexico

- Race Relations in Mexico:  
The Color Hierarchy
  - Subordinate status of Mexico's Indians one reflection of nation's color hierarchy
    - Social class linked to appearance of racial purity
    - Widespread denial of prejudice and discrimination against people of color in Mexico
    - Marked growth in last decade of organizations and associations for rights of indigenous Indians

# Case Study: Stratification in Mexico

- The Status of Women in Mexico
  - Constitute 46% of labor force
  - More mired in lowest-paying jobs than counterparts in industrial nations
  - When Mexican women work outside home, often not recognized as active and productive household members
  - Organizing to address economic, political, and health issues

# Case Study: Stratification in Mexico

- **Borderlands:** Area of common cultures along border of Mexico and U.S.
  - *Maquiladoras:* Foreign-owned factories that do not have to pay taxes or provide benefits to workers

**Remittances** (migradollars): Estimated to be minimum of \$22 billion a year

## Figure 30-2: The Borderlands





# Universal Human Rights

- Understanding the Issue
  - **Human rights:** Universal moral rights belonging to all people because they are human
  - Elaboration of human rights appears in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations

# Universal Human Rights

## ■ Understanding the Issue

- The U.S. initially opposed a binding obligation, but used the Declaration to promote democracy abroad in early 1960s
- One concern is transnational crime of trafficking in humans

# Universal Human Rights

## ■ Applying Sociology

- Cultural relativism encourages understanding and respecting distinctive norms, values, and customs of each culture
- Conflicts arise between human rights standards and local social practices

# Universal Human Rights

## ■ Applying Sociology

- Policymakers frequently look at human rights from an economic perspective
- Functionalists point out how much more quickly we become embroiled in “human rights” concerns when oil is at stake
- Feminist perspective places human rights above cultural practices

# Universal Human Rights

## ■ Initiating Policy

- Many national policymakers hesitate to interfere in worldwide human rights issues
- Most initiatives come from international bodies
- Universal human rights remain an ideal and not a reality

## Table 30-1: Human Trafficking Report

Tier 1 Full Compliance	Tier 2 Significant Effort	Tier 2 Watch Some Effort, But Trafficking Remains a Concern	Tier 3 Noncompliant, No Effort
Australia Canada Colombia Denmark France Germany Great Britain Italy Norway Poland Slovenia South Korea Spain	Afghanistan Bolivia Brazil Chile Greece Hong Kong Israel Japan Mexico Romania South Africa Turkey Vietnam	Argentina Bahrain Cambodia China Dominican Republic Egypt Guatemala India Libya Philippines Russia Ukraine Yemen	Burma Cuba Fiji Iran Kuwait Malaysia Niger North Korea Papua New Guinea Saudi Arabia Sudan Syria Zimbabwe

*Note:* Table is incomplete; each tier lists only a sample of all nations classified. Since the Human Trafficking Report is created by the U.S. State Department, the level of compliance by the United States, although not listed, would presumably be "full compliance."

*Source:* Department of State 2009:50.