

# Social Stratification

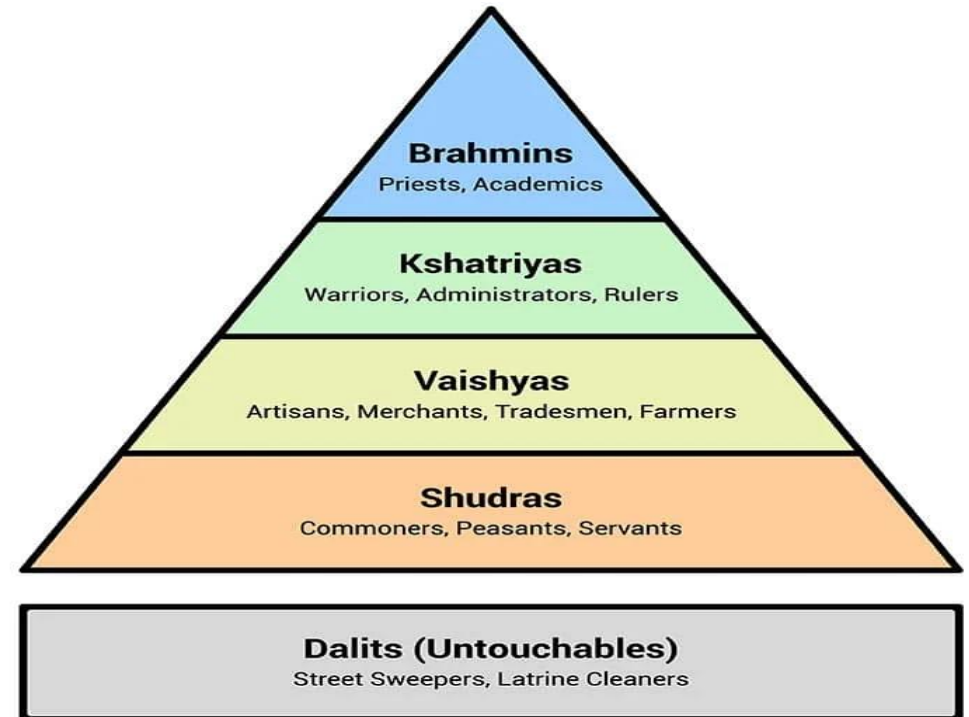
## What is social stratification?

Social stratification refers to a ranking of people or groups of people within a society. In Marx's view, social stratification is **created by people's differing relationship to the means of production**:

## What are the 4 types of social stratification?

The major systems of stratification are

1. **slavery,**
2. **estate systems,**
3. **caste systems, and**
4. **class systems.**



# Slavery

It is a system of stratification in which **one person owns another, as he or she would own property, and exploits the slave's labor for economic gain**. Slaves are one of the lowest categories in any stratification system, as they possess virtually no power or wealth of their own.

**Reasons for slavery include debt, crime, war, and beliefs of inherent superiority.**

- Debt: Individuals who could not pay their way out of debt sometimes had to literally sell themselves.  
...
- Crime: Families against whom a crime had been committed might enslave members of the perpetrator's family as compensation.

**These seven factors led to the development of the slave trade:**

- The importance of the West Indian colonies.
- The shortage of labour.
- The failure to find alternative sources of labour.
- The legal position.
- Racial attitudes.
- Religious factors.
- Military factors.

# Estate

This systems are **characterized by control of land** and were common in Europe and Asia during the Middle Ages and into the 1800s. In these systems, two major estates existed: the landed gentry or nobility and the peasantry or serfs. The landed gentry owned huge expanses of land on which serfs toiled. The Estate System **deals with the levels and types of ownership that are possible with regard to real property. A person's birth** determined his or her social standing, in the estate system.

What is the feminist view of stratification?

Feminist theory uses the conflict approach to examine the reinforcement of gender roles and inequalities. Conflict theory posits that **stratification is dysfunctional and harmful in society, with inequality perpetuated because it benefits the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor.**

The Marxist theory identifies that **capitalists are always under the urge to exert their influence in the society and their possession of property is one way to do so**

- **Caste:**

**Caste systems are forms of social stratification that separate groups of people based on their ancestry..** Class systems are open, with achievement playing a role in social position. People fall into classes based on factors like wealth, income, education, and occupation. Examples of caste systems include the **Moorish, Tuareg, Somali, Indian, Songbun, and Joseon systems.**

According to Marx, **division of labour is primary**

These four castes are the **Brahmins (priests, teachers), Kshatriyas (rulers, warriors), Vaishyas (landowners, merchants) and Sudras (servants)**

W**hat is conflict theory of caste?**

- **caste-based societies have an inherent tendency of being biased—they serve the privilege of one section of the society while discriminating against the other.**

- **Class:**

A class system is **based on both social factors and individual achievement. a person who comes from a wealthy background, has a college education, and holds some level of influence is placed in a higher rank than someone with a blue-collar occupation.** All stratification systems have some common elements. These elements have been identified as **differentiation, ranking, evaluation and rewarding.**

- **What are the determinants of social status or class?**

- Ascribed status is typically based on **sex, age, race, family relationships, or birth**, while achieved status may be based on education, occupation, marital status, accomplishments, or other factors

# Global stratification

- Global stratification refers to **the unequal distribution of wealth, power, prestige, resources, and influence among the world's nations. the wealthiest 10% of the global population holds 76% of global wealth** the most popular global stratification categories today are :

1. **High**
2. **Middle-,**
3. **Low-income countries.**

- The two most widely applied perspectives are:

1. **modernization theory and**
2. **dependency theory**

- [What is the problem with global stratification?](#)

1. **Global inequality is a state where stratification is unequal.** Thus, when resources are unequally distributed among nations, we see inequality among nations. Put more simply; there is an extreme difference between the richest and poorest nations.

# What are the 5 characteristics of social stratification?

**Tumin has mentioned the following characteristics of social stratification:**

- It is Social: Stratification is social in the sense that it does not represent inequality which are biologically based
- It is Ancient: The stratification system is very old
- It is Universal
- It is in diverse Forms
- It is Consequential
- ❖ Social stratification refers to the unequal distribution around the world of the three Ps: **property, power, and prestige**.
- ❖ **Pitirim A. Sorokin wrote** "Social stratification means the differentiation of a given population into hierarchically superposed classes.

