I. Stratification

A. Definition

1. system: hierarchical ranking of groups of people

a. structural inequality

b. distribution of resources and benefits

2. life chances: Titanic

B. Three types

1. caste

a. system

i. stratified by caste

ii. based on heredity

b. examples

i. religion: India

ii. race and ethnicity: Rwanda

iii. gender: Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia

c. characteristics

i. rigid hierarchy

ii. ascribed status

iii. no upward mobility

iv. social interactions

complex set of norms: marriage, space, interpersonal relations

deviance =severe punishments

2. estate

1. system

i. stratified by “estates” (nobility

ii. determined by heredity

b. examples

i. feudal Europe

ii. formerly England

c. characteristics

i. rigid hierarchy

ii. ascribed status

iii. proscribed social interactions

3. social class

a. system

i. stratified by class

ii. based on wealth and income

b. example: U.S.

c. characteristics

i. hierarchy

ii. social mobility

iii. achieved status

iv. meritocracy

v. achievement norms

work ethic

education

attitude

vi. non-proscribed social interactions

II. American System: Stratification

A. Class system

1. classes: upper, (upper middle), middle, working, and poor

2. self-identification

3. meaning of middle class

B. Conventional Wisdom

1. inequality, but

a. upward mobility

b. anyone can be successful

2. equality of opportunity

a. achieved status

b. upward mobility

c. meritocracy

i. education

ii. work

3. class: deserved

C. Equal opportunity and education

1. Education as meritocracy

a. access

b. evaluation: level playing field

2. Education and inequality

a. Rodriguez vs San Antonio

b. funding

i. property taxes

ii. foundations

c. ability grouping and tracking

3. Consequences

4. No Child Left Behind

5. higher education

i. cost

ii. debt

6. life chances: education

a. higher yearly income

b. higher lifetime income

c. better health

d. longer life expectancy

D. Equal Opportunity and Work

1. Changing nature of work

a. 50s-70s: industrial

i. types of jobs

ii. wages +

b. 70s-present: deindustrialization

2. Service Economy

a. McJobs

b. wages +

E. American systems of stratification?

II. Distribution of Wealth and Income

A. Wealth

1. definition

2. examples: savings, stocks, bonds, retirement

real estate, business assets, life insurance

B. Wealth: distrbution

1. Top 1% : 35%-40% of net worth

a. +40% corporate stocks, mutual funds and

retirement accounts

c. 60% of business assets

2. Top 10%

a. 71% of net worth

b. +80% of real estate, stock, 94% bonds,

\ 91 % business assets

3. Top 20%: 80% of net worth

a. 83% of financial wealth

b. 91% of total wealth

4. Middle classes

a. wealth

i. house, cars, retirement life insurance

ii. stock: 65% less $5000

b. debt

i. home equity down

ii. 1990s credit card debt doubled

iii. 2/3rds of households: significant debt

c. inheritance

5. Poor

a. bottom 20% have no wealth

b. bottom 20%: -$11,400.

6. Pattern: increasing

a. 1970s only 22% of all wealth

b. 1%: median $14.8 million.

7. Comparison to other countries

a. highest concentration

b. largest discrepancy between top 20% and bottom

20%

C. Stratification: Income

1. Definition

a. from work vs from investment

b. real income

2. Top 1%

a. 2000 $863,000 (1979 $286,000)

b. CEOs 400x

3. pattern

a. stagnant or declining for 80% since mid 1970s

b. household median: $46,326

4. comparison

a. historically

b. other countries

D. Inequality Income: Race

1. Wealth

a. W $120,00

b. Black and Hispanic $20,000

2. Income

a. W $50,000

b. Black $31,000

c. Hispanic $35,000

E.. Gender

1. Income

2. M$41,386 W $31,858

F. Poverty

1. poverty line
2. extent of poverty
3. types of poverty

a. near poor

b. working poor

c. poor poor (extremely poor)

4. poverty and life chances

5. myth of welfare

6. who benefits?

a. pool of low wage laborers

b. “volunteers” for all volunteer military

c. poverty serving occupations

1. poverty surcharge
2. “truth” of conventional wisdom
3. scapegoats