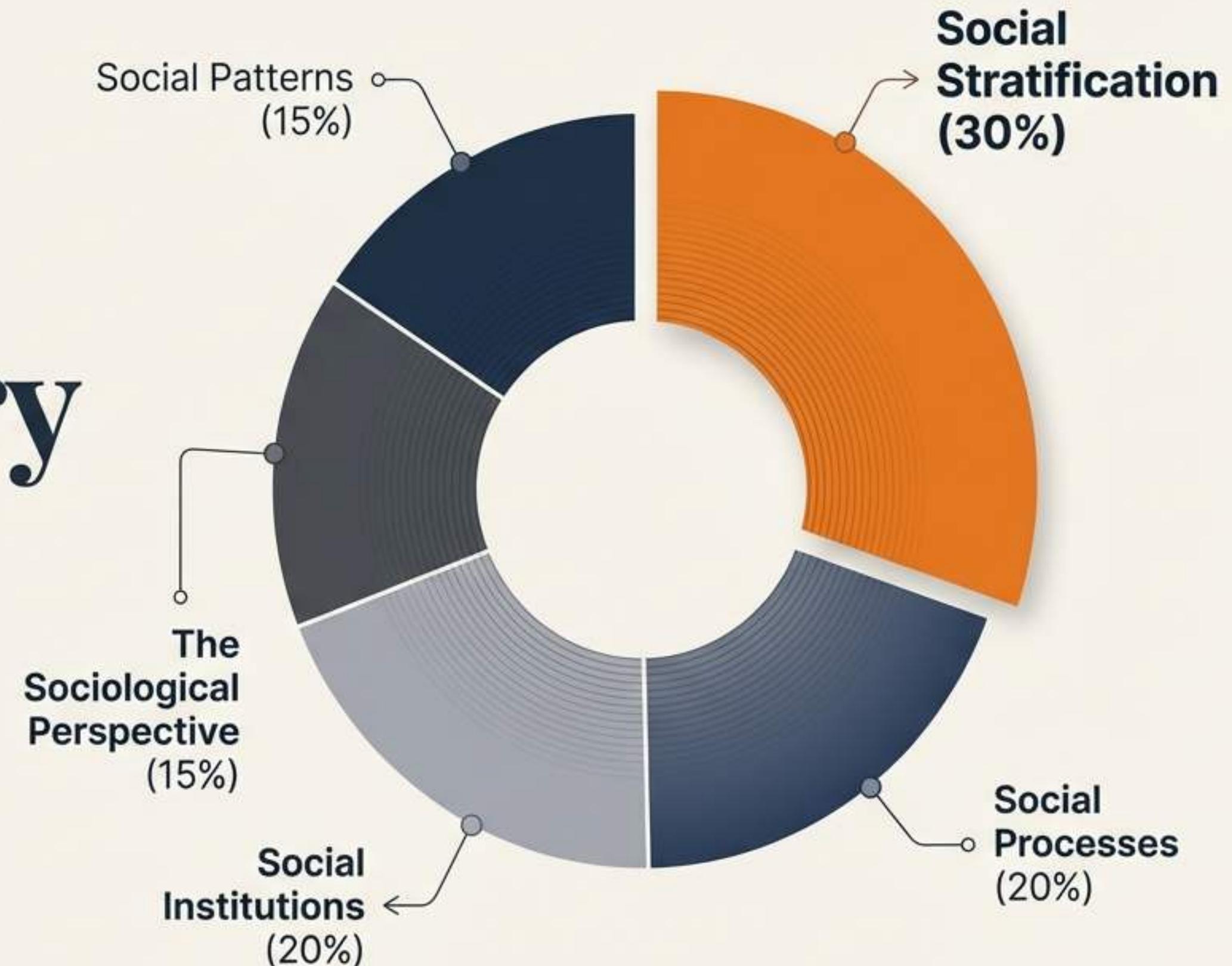


CLEP Introductory Sociology

High-Yield
Comprehensive Review

10-Slide Rapid Review of Modules 1 & 2



The Sociological Imagination & Key Concepts

Sociological Imagination (C. Wright Mills)

The ability to connect personal troubles (e.g., job loss) to larger public issues (e.g., economic recession).

Social Facts (Durkheim)

External forces (laws, morals, values) that exert control over individual behavior.

Positivism (Comte)

The belief that society can be studied scientifically using observation and statistics.



CLEP STRATEGY

Watch for scenario questions that link a specific person's biography to broader history—the answer is almost always the “Sociological Imagination”.

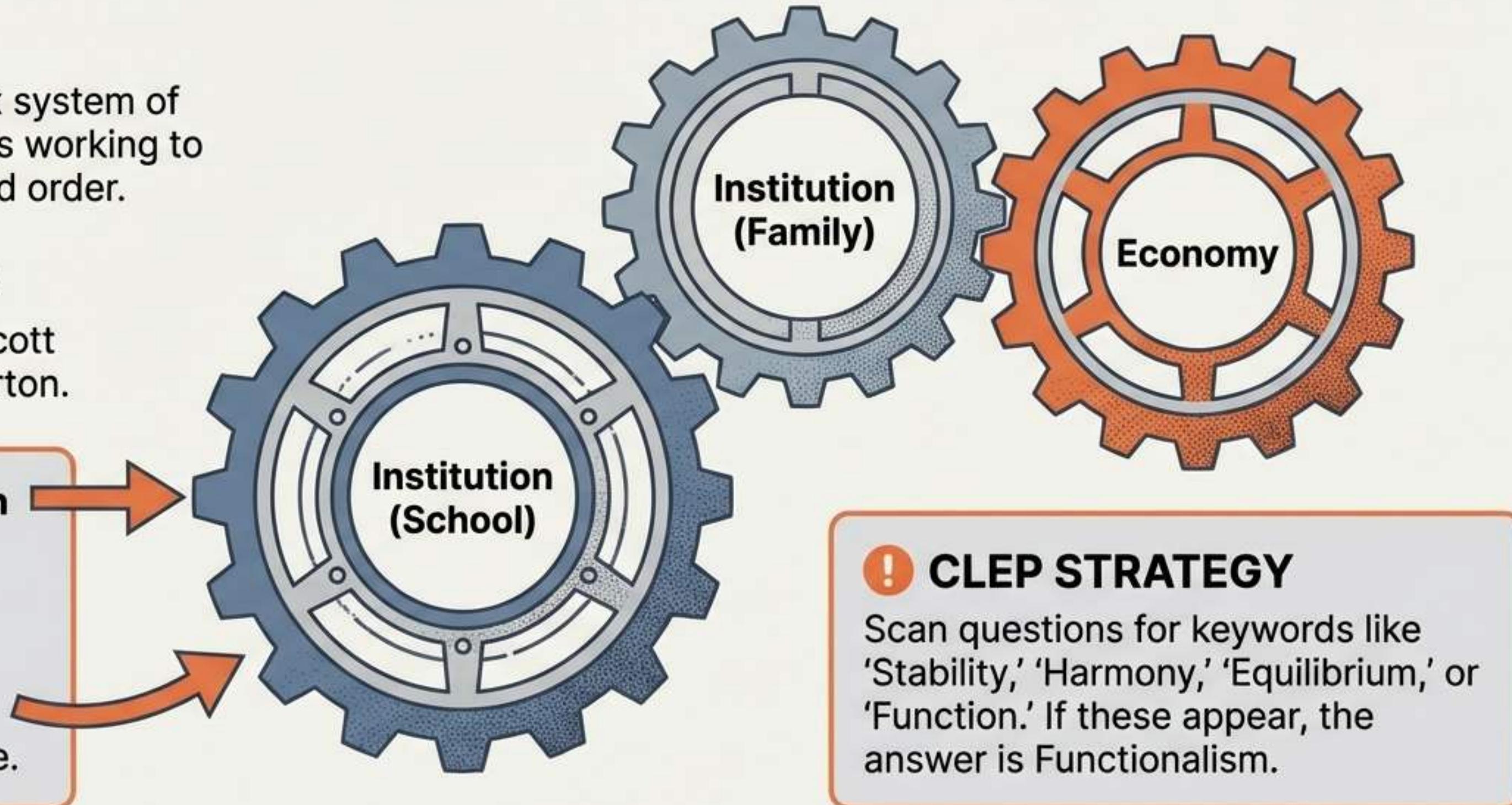
Structural Functionalism (Macro Level)

The Big Idea:

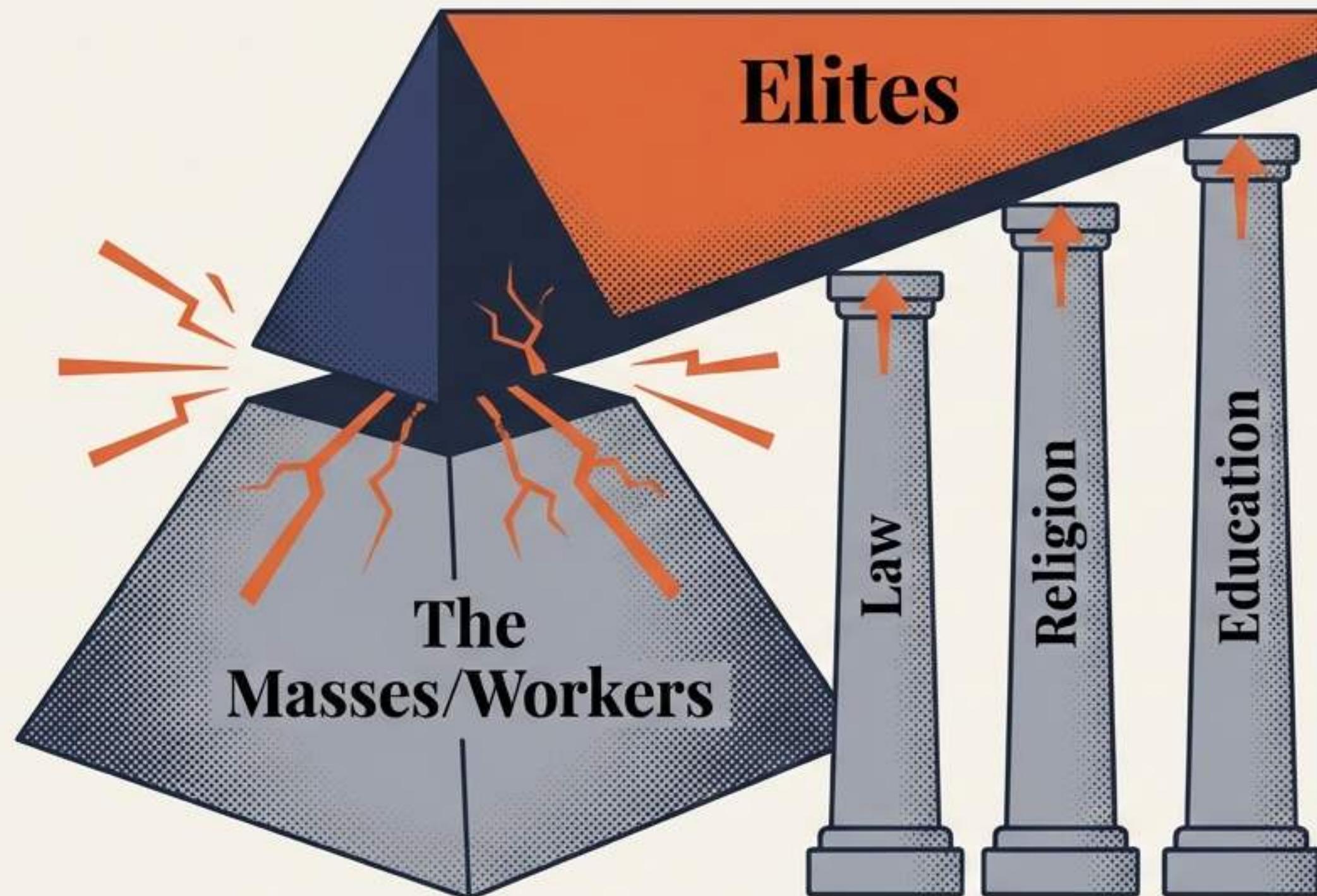
Society is a complex system of interdependent parts working to maintain stability and order.

Key Theorists:

Émile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, Robert Merton.



Conflict Theory (Macro Level)



The Big Idea: Society is an arena of inequality generating conflict/change. Focuses on power struggles over scarce resources.

Key Theorists: Karl Marx (Class), Max Weber (Class/Status/Party), C. Wright Mills (Power Elite).

Mechanism: Elites use institutions to maintain privilege.



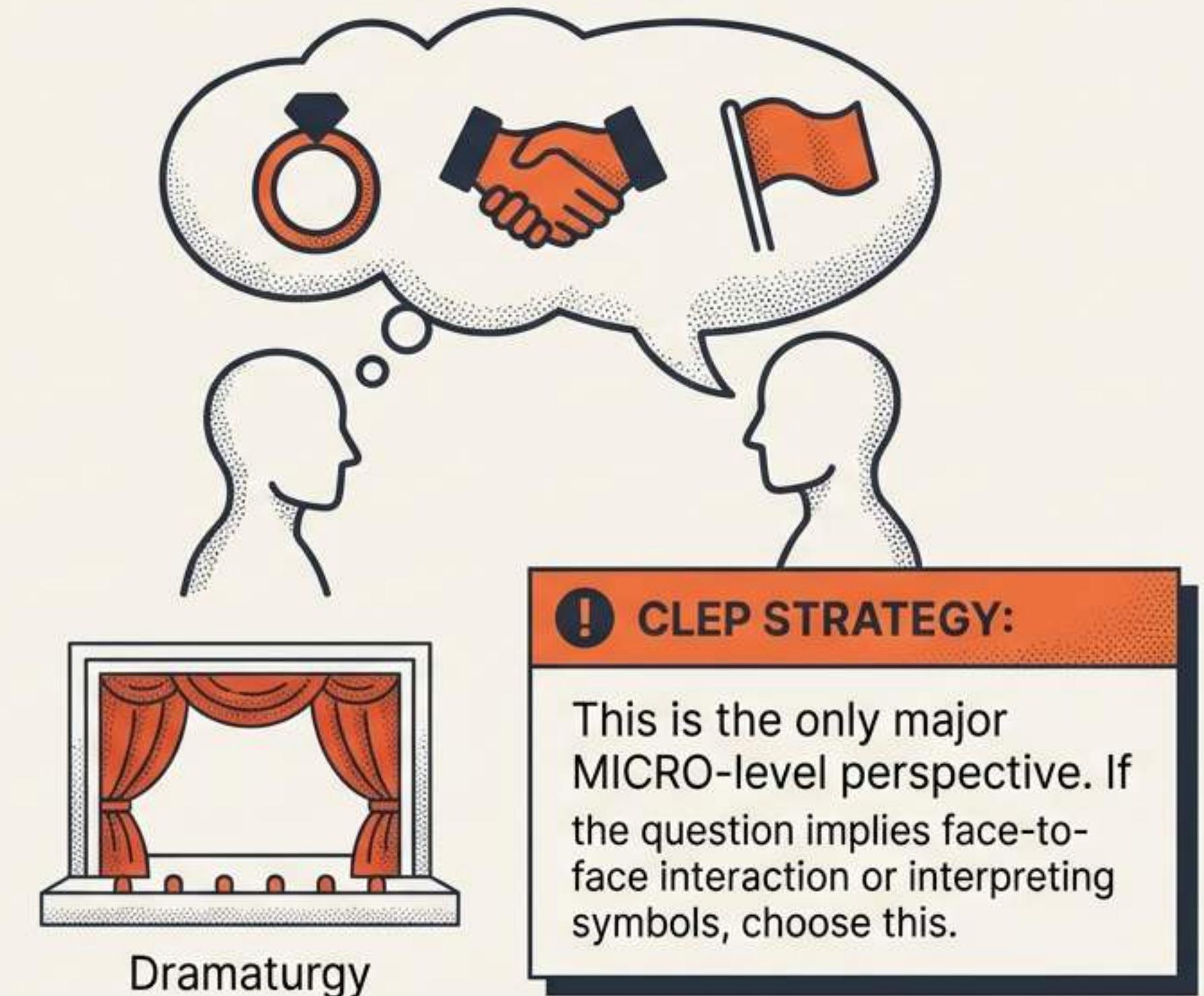
CLEP STRATEGY: Look for keywords like "Exploitation," "Inequality," "Power," "Struggle," and "Competition".

Symbolic Interactionism (Micro Level)

The Big Idea: Society is the product of everyday interactions; reality is socially constructed via shared meanings.

Key Theorists: George Herbert Mead, Charles Cooley, Erving Goffman.

Dramaturgy (Goffman): Life is a performance. We engage in impression management (Front Stage vs. Back Stage).

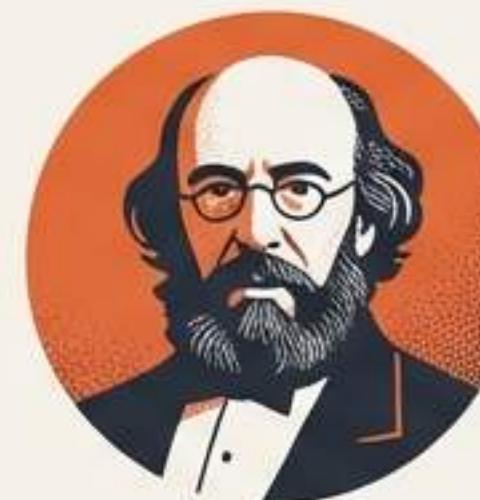


The Pillars of Sociology: Early Founders



Auguste Comte

Father of Positivism. Coined the term 'Sociology'.



Herbert Spencer

Social Darwinism ('Survival of the Fittest'). Opposed social reform.



Harriet Martineau

First female sociologist. Translated Comte. Studied US customs.



W.E.B. Du Bois

Coined Double Consciousness (internal conflict). Founded NAACP.



CLEP STRATEGY: Do not confuse Spencer with Darwin. Spencer applied evolutionary theory to society.

Research Methods & The Science of Sociology

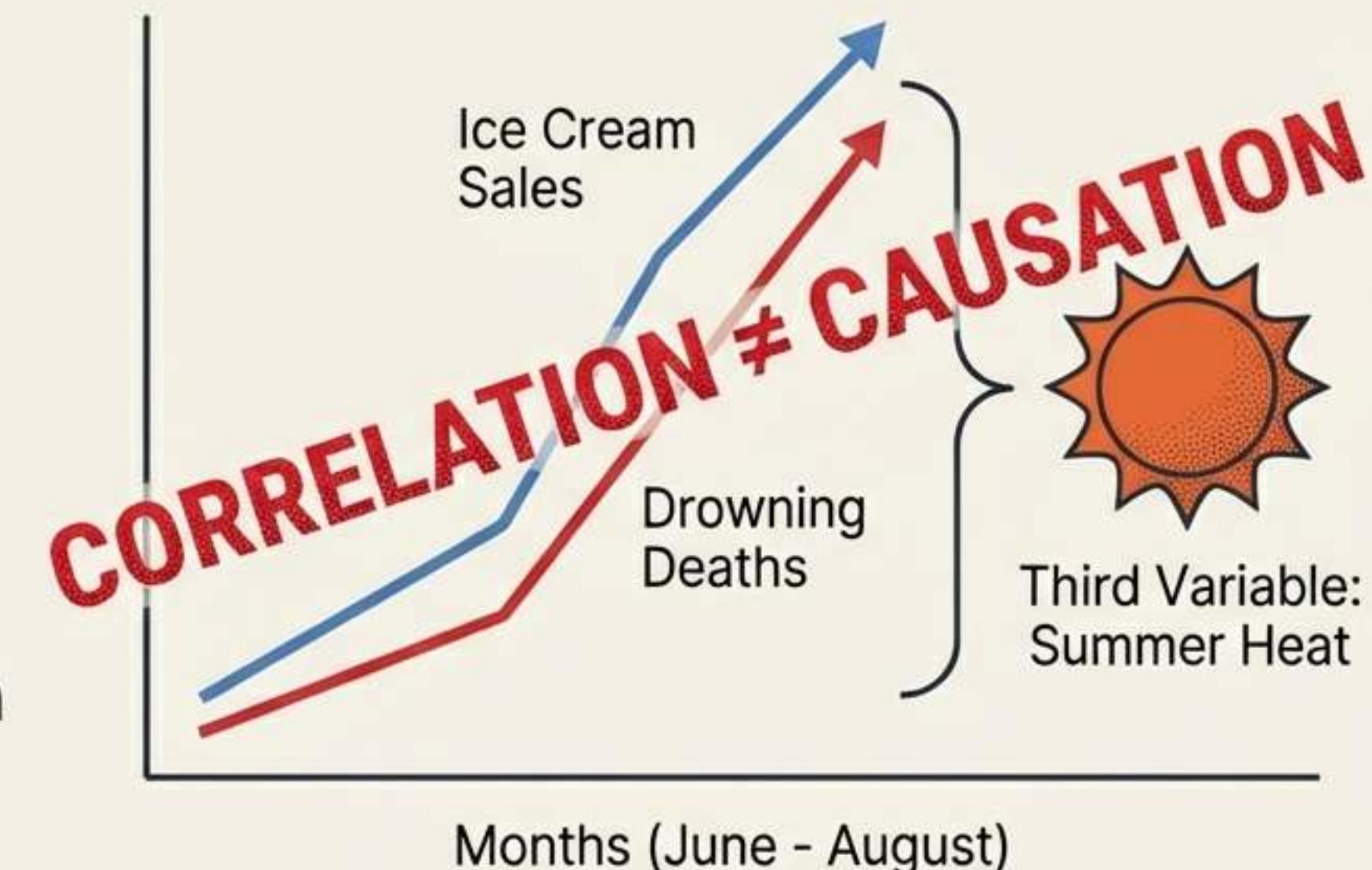
Variables:

Independent: The cause (The Treatment).

Dependent: The effect (What is measured).

The Hawthorne Effect: Subjects change behavior simply because they know they are being observed.

Random Sample: Everyone in the population has an equal chance of selection.



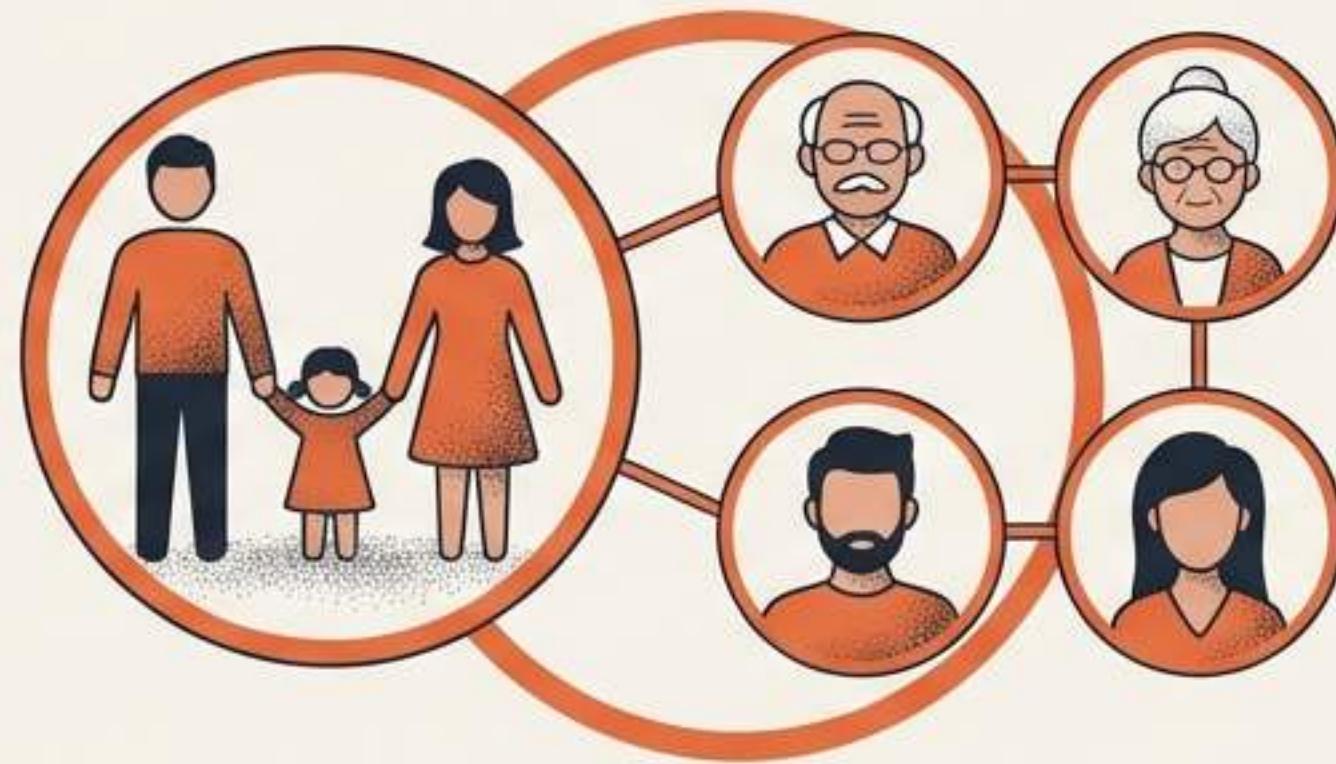
CLEP STRATEGY: Just because A & B happen together, does not mean A causes B. Watch for spurious correlations.

The Family: Structure & Marriage Forms

Nuclear



Extended



Marriage Patterns

- **Monogamy:** Two spouses.
- **Polygyny:** One man, multiple wives (Most common).
- **Polyandry:** One woman, multiple husbands (Rare).

CLEP STRATEGY

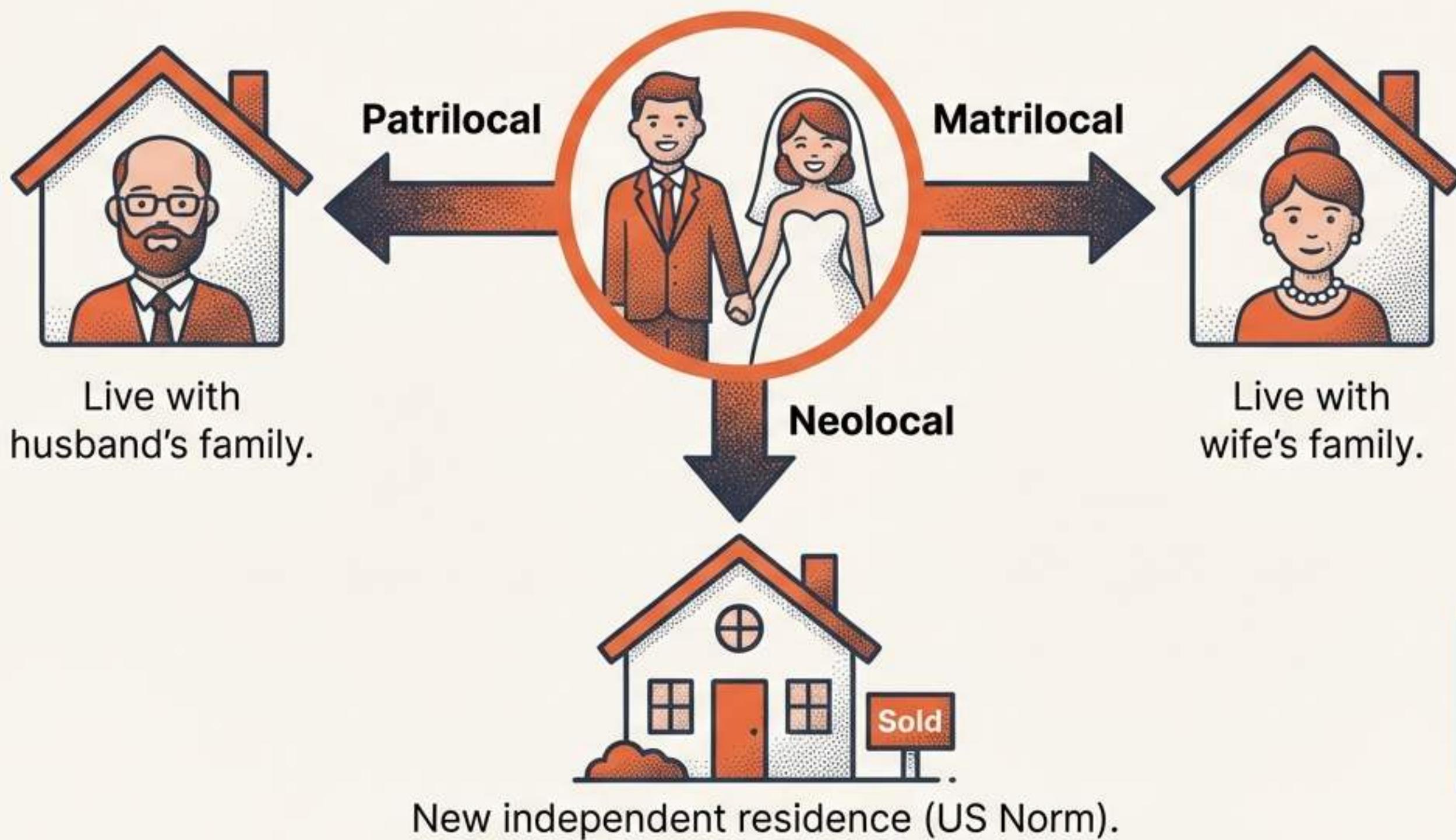
Use etymology.

Gyn = Woman (Poly-gyny = Many women).

Andr = Man (Poly-andry = Many men).



The Family: Patterns of Descent & Residence



Lineage (Descent):

- **Patrilineal:** Trace through father (property to sons).
- **Matrilineal:** Trace through mother.

CLEP STRATEGY:
Remember 'Neo' = New.
Neolocal means moving to a 'New Location'.

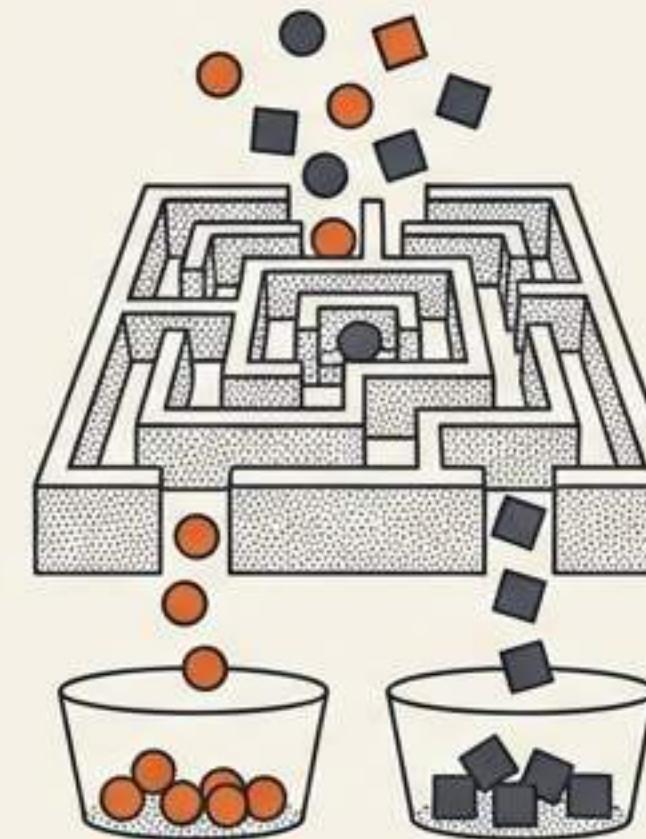
Education: Functions & Conflict

Functionalism



- **Manifest Functions:** Knowledge transmission, job prep.
- **Latent Functions:** Childcare ⏱, matchmaking.

Conflict Theory



- **Tracking:** Grouping by ability reinforces class stratification.
- **Hidden Curriculum:** Subtle lessons on obedience and conformity.



CLEP STRATEGY: “Tracking” is a high-frequency answer for questions asking how schools perpetuate social inequality.

Three Perspectives on the Function of Belief



Functionalism (Durkheim)

Distinguishes the **Sacred** (inspiring awe) from the **Profane** (everyday). Religion provides social glue.

Social Solidarity



Weberian Perspective

Focus: **The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.** Calvinist predestination fostered frugality and hard work.

Religion drives Economy



Conflict Theory (Marx)

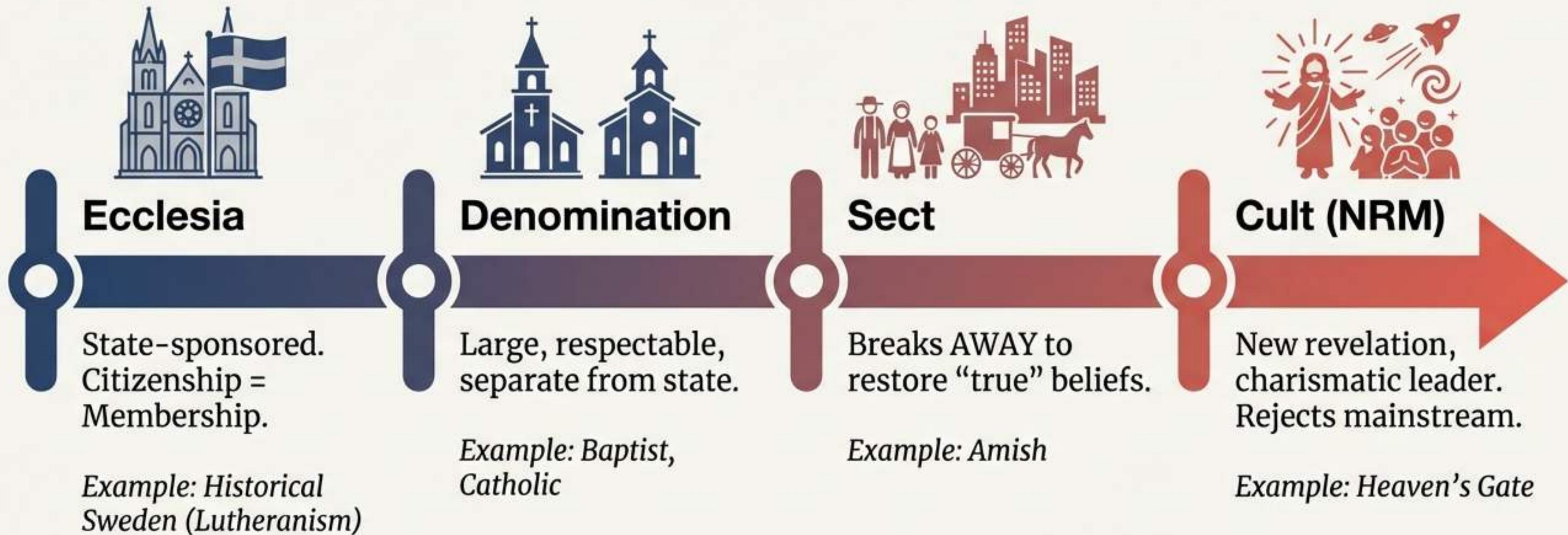
Religion is the “**opium of the masses.**” It distracts workers from suffering and validates elite power.

Social Control

CLEP Strategy

TEST TIP: Always link Max Weber directly to “The Protestant Ethic” and the origins of “Capitalism.” If you see one, look for the other.

The Spectrum of Religious Tension and Organization

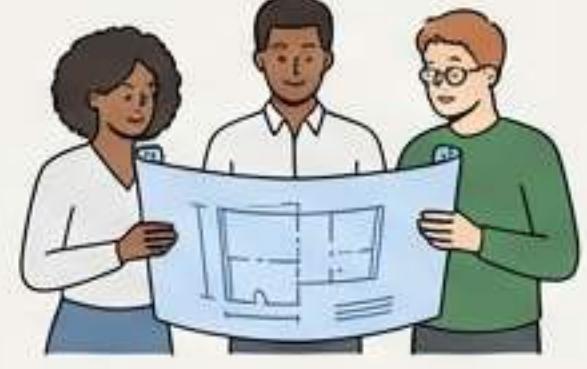
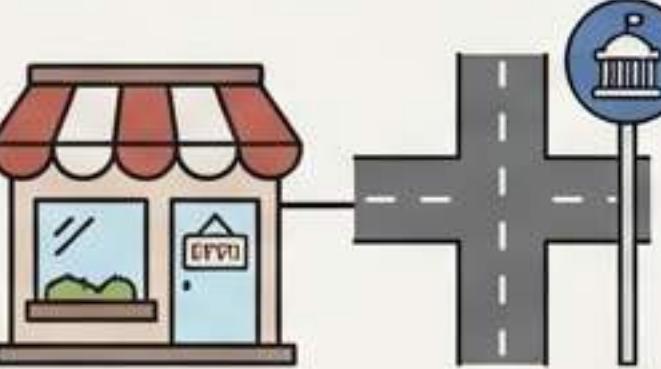


Distinction Alert

Sects break *away* from *existing groups* to return to roots.

Cults represent *new* religious movements (NRMs) with *new* revelations.

Managing Resources: Competition vs. Collectivism

Capitalism	Socialism	The Reality (Mixed Economy)
		
Ownership: Private Ownership	Ownership: Collective / State Ownership	Definition: Private industry + Public infrastructure (Roads, Social Security).
Motive: Profit & Competition	Motive: Meeting Needs (Central Planning)	Status: The norm for most modern nations.
Laissez-faire (Hands off)	Public Good	

CLEP Strategy: Key Term: ‘Laissez-faire’ implies a pure form of capitalism with zero government interference—a theoretical ideal that rarely exists in practice.

**Current Trend:
Post-
Industrialism**

The shift from manufacturing goods to producing **services and information**.

Weber's Three Types of Authority

Why do people obey?



Traditional

Custom & History

“It has always been this way.”

Example: Monarchies



Rational-Legal

Written Rules & Laws

“It is the law.”

Power resides in the office, not the person.

Example: U.S. President



Charismatic

Extraordinary Personality

“He/She is special.”

Examples: MLK Jr., Gandhi, Hitler

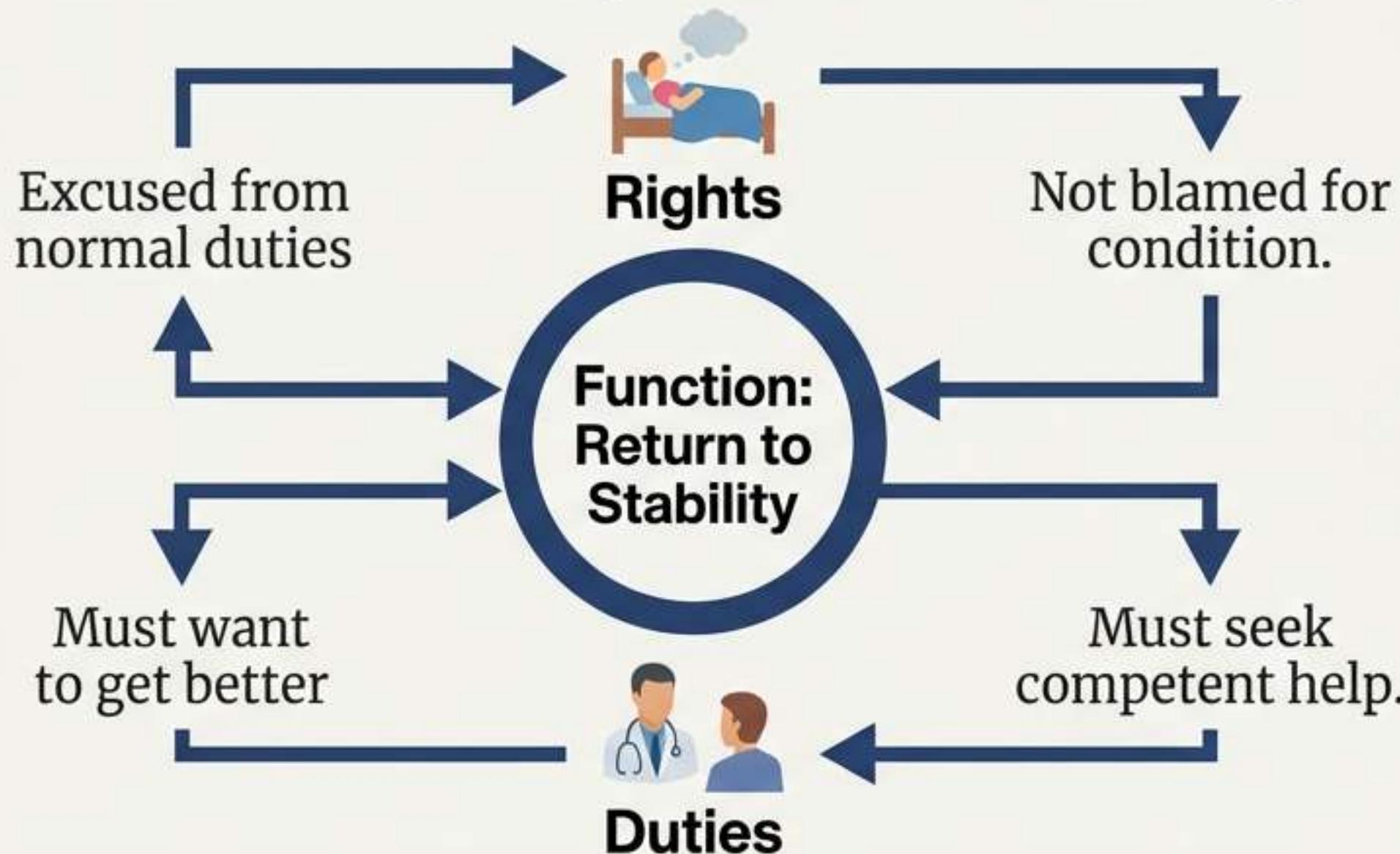
CLEP Strategy

Concept Check

Charismatic authority is inherently unstable. To survive the leader's death, it must undergo “**Routinization**”—transforming into traditional or rational-legal authority.

The Social Construction of Health and Illness

The Sick Role (Talcott Parsons)



Key Definitions

Medicalization



Redefining non-medical personal problems as illnesses (e.g., alcoholism, ADHD, obesity).

Social Epidemiology

The study of how health and disease are distributed based on Class, Race, and Gender.

CLEP Strategy: Exam Alert: “Medicalization” is a frequent definition question. Look for answers involving “defining bad behavior as a medical disorder.”

The Mechanics of Population Change

$$\text{Growth Rate} = (\text{Births} - \text{Deaths}) \pm \text{Migration}$$

Demography



The scientific study of population size, composition, and distribution.

Fertility vs. Fecundity

- Fertility: Actual number of children born. 
- Fecundity: Biological potential for reproduction. 

Migration

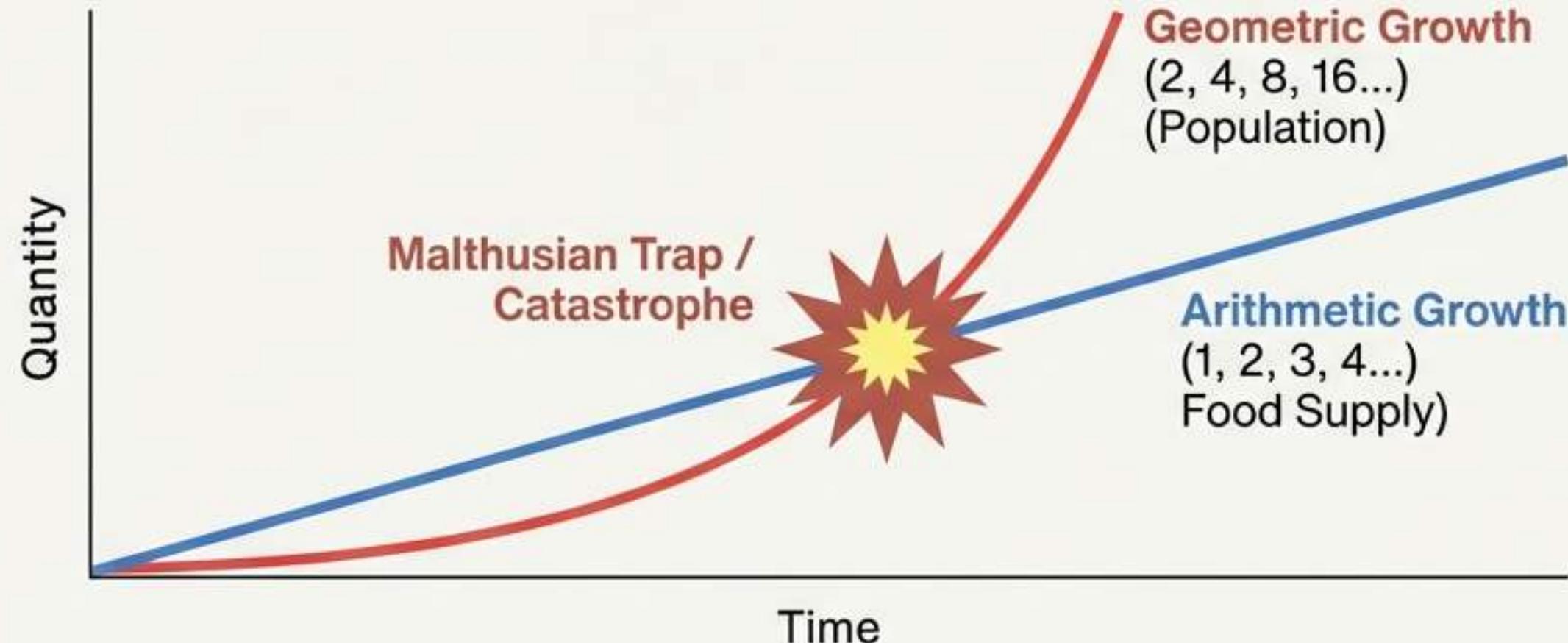
- Immigration: Moving IN to an area. 
- Emigration: Moving OUT of an area. 

Trap Warning

Do not confuse Fertility (actual output) with Fecundity (biological capacity). High fecundity does not guarantee high fertility.

The Malthusian Trap: Geometric Population vs. Arithmetic Food

The Doom Graph



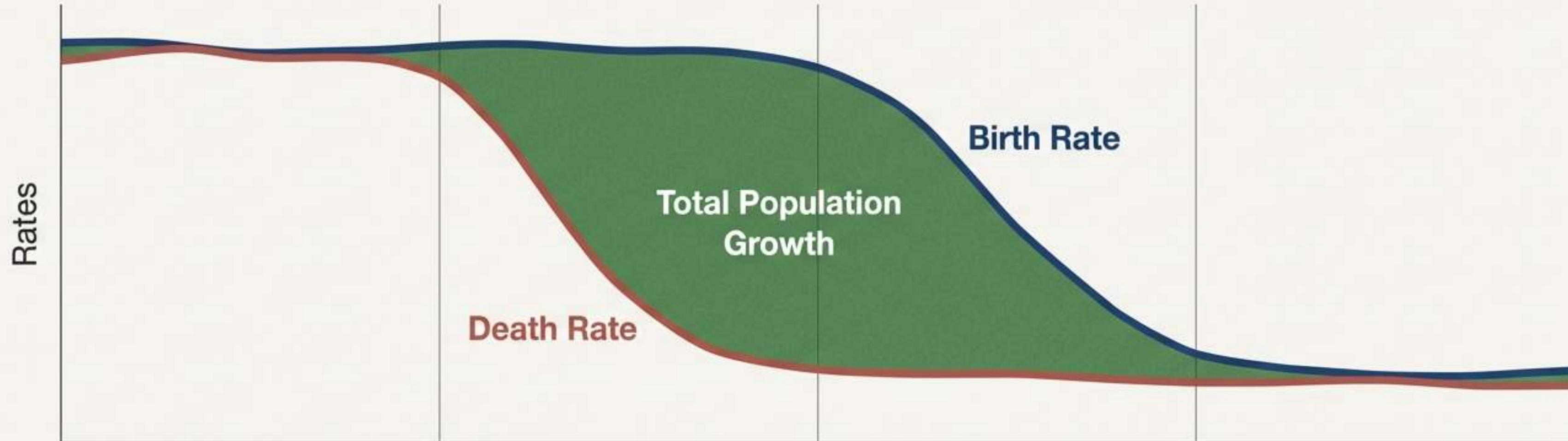
The Checks

- 🔴 **Positive Checks:** Events that raise the death rate (War, Famine, Disease).
- 🟢 **Preventive Checks:** Choices that lower the birth rate (Abstinence, delayed marriage).

CLEP Strategy

Memory Aid: Malthus = Math of Doom. Remember the contrast: Geometric (Population) vs. Arithmetic (Food).

The Demographic Transition Model



CLEP Strategy

Critical Insight: The population explosion happens in **Stage 2**. Why? Because death rates fall *before* birth rates adjust downward.

From Community to Society: Tönnies' Dichotomy

Gemeinschaft (Community)



- Intimate
- Rural
- Kinship-based
- Tradition

Relationship Type
Personal & Long-term

Gesellschaft (Society)



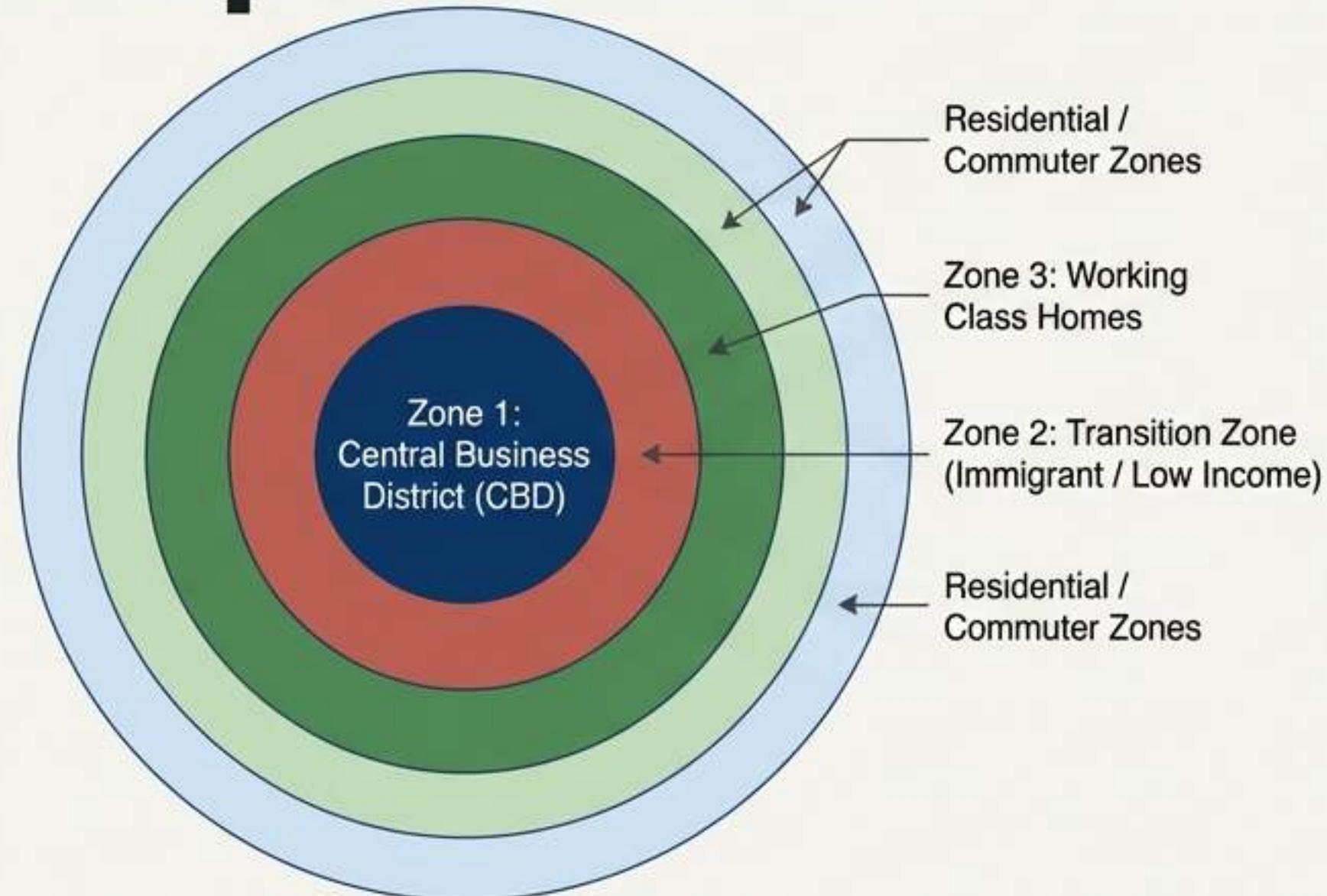
Urbanization: The mass movement of populations from rural areas to cities.

- Impersonal
- Self-interest
- Urban
- Contractual

Relationship Type
Short-term & Instrumental

CLEP Strategy Mnemonic: Gemein = Genuine (Close/Warm). Sellschaft = Self-interest (Cold/Impersonal).

Mapping the City: Growth Zones and Displacement



Gentrification

The return of the middle/upper class to deteriorated urban centers.

Result: Renovated buildings but displaced poor residents.

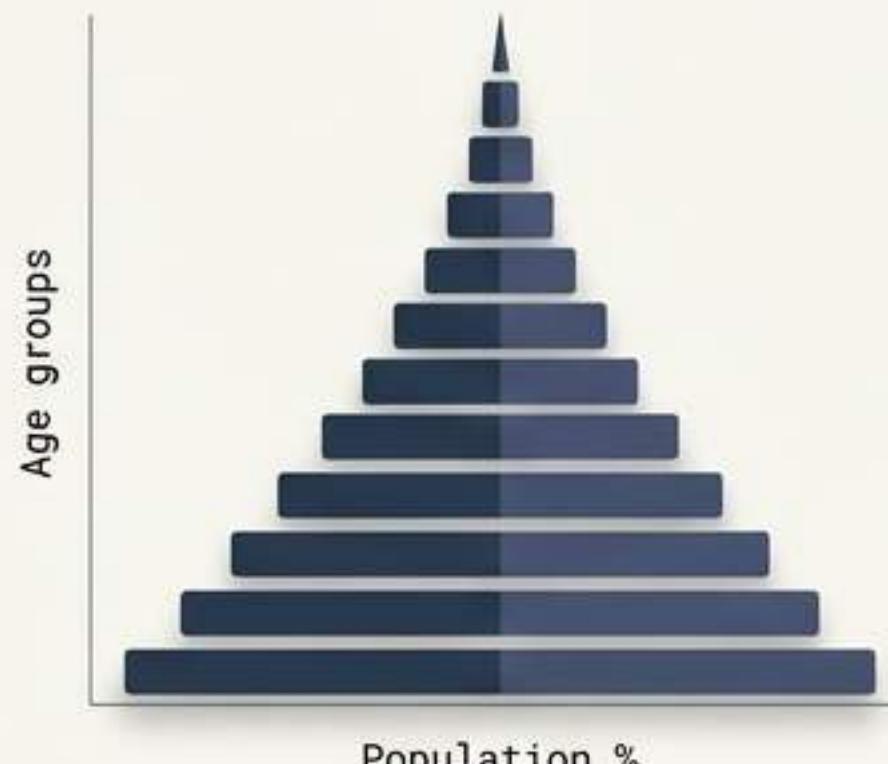
Megalopolis

A continuous urban region where multiple cities merge (e.g., "BosWash").

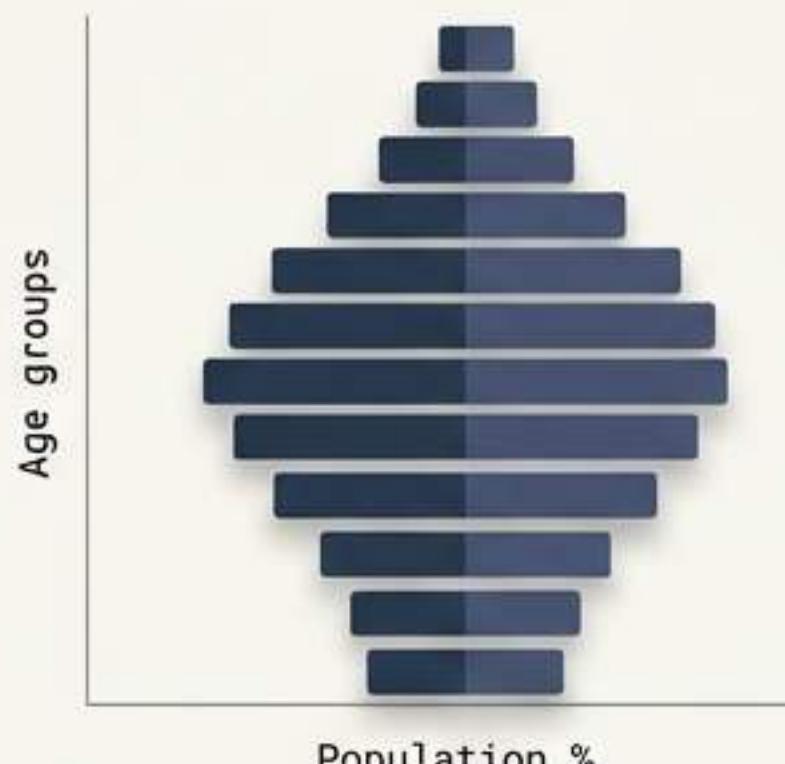
CLEP Strategy: Application: Gentrification is often framed as “urban renewal,” but on the exam, focus on the social cost: the displacement of the original lower-income residents.

Population Pyramids: Visualizing Demography

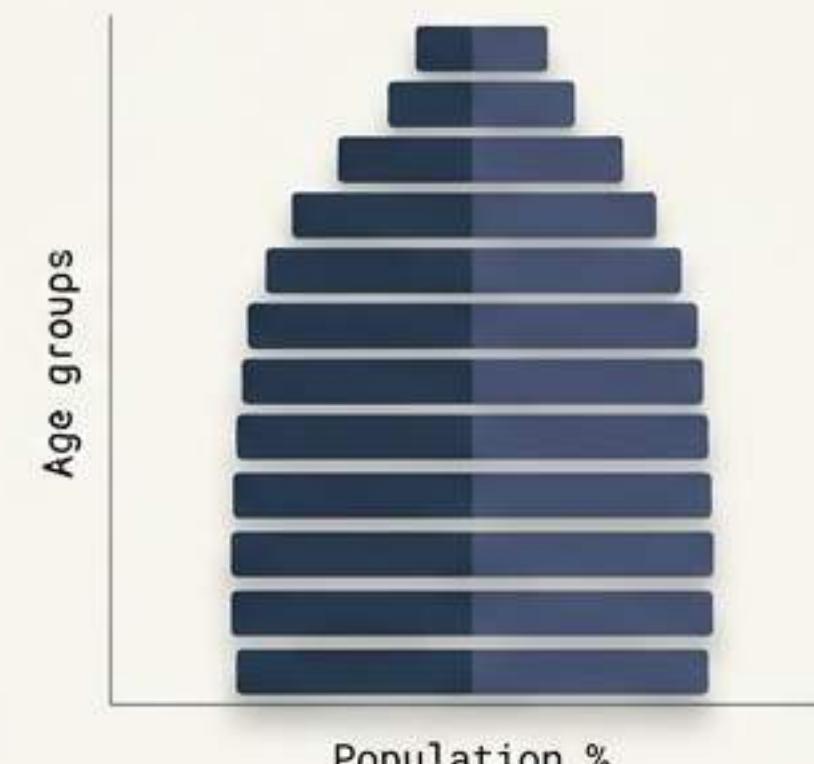
Expansive



Constrictive



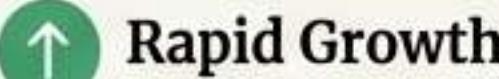
Stationary



CLEP STRATEGY

Merriweather

Visual Shortcut:
Look at the base. If it is wide, the population is growing fast. If it is narrow, the population is shrinking.



Rapid Growth.
Wide base = High birth rate. Common in developing nations.



Negative Growth.
Narrow base = Fewer children than adults.
Common in aging societies (e.g., Italy, Japan).



Stable Growth.
Even distribution.
Population size remains constant.

Culture: The Lens of Perception



Ethnocentrism (The Judge)

Definition: Judging another culture by YOUR OWN standards.

Nature: The default human reflex.

Example: “They eat weird food.”

Term: Culture Shock - The disorientation felt when encountering a different culture.

Cultural Relativism (The Observer)

Definition: Judging a culture by ITS OWN standards.

Nature: The sociological goal.

Example: “Their diet reflects local resources.”



CLEP STRATEGY

Remember: **Ethnocentrism** is the natural human reflex; **Cultural Relativism** requires intentional effort.

Term: Cultural Lag - Material culture (tech) changes faster than nonmaterial culture (laws/ethics).

The Hierarchy of Norms

Definition: Sanctions

Reactions to behavior. Can be Positive (Reward) or Negative (Punishment); Formal (Prison) or Informal (Gossip).

Taboos

Norms so strong that violation causes revulsion.
Violation = "Forbidden".
Ex: Incest, Cannibalism.

Mores

Pronounced "more-ays".
Moral norms essential to core values.
Violation = "Immoral".
Sanction: Social exclusion or Law.

Folkways

Casual norms of politeness.
Violation = "Rude".
Sanction: Dirty looks.

CLEP STRATEGY



Differentiation Trick:
Folkways are about MANNERS (rude vs. polite).
Mores are about MORALS (right vs. wrong).

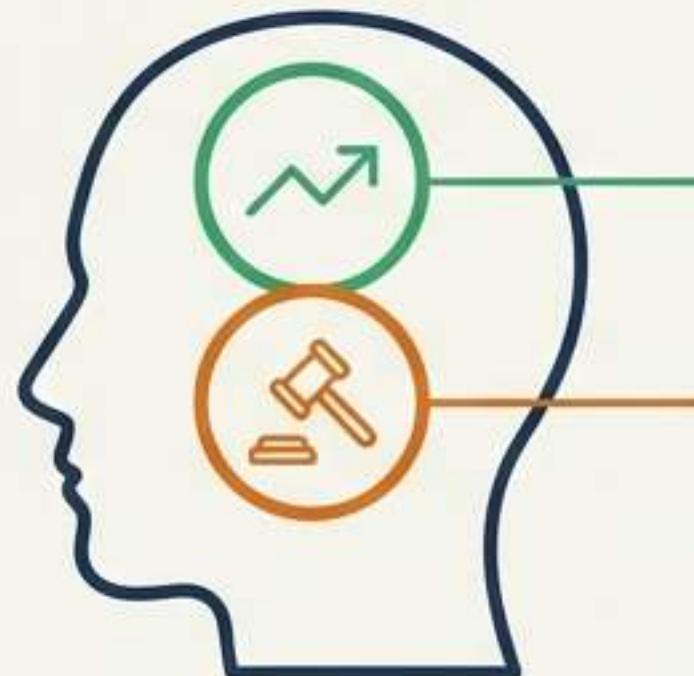
Socialization: Constructing the ‘Self’



The Looking-Glass Self (Charles Cooley)

We form our self-concept by interpreting how others react to us.

“I am who I think YOU think I am.”



The “I” and the “Me” (George Herbert Mead)

The “I”

The Actor. Spontaneous, impulsive, subjective.

The “Me”

The Judge. The socialized object; internalized attitudes of society.

Generalized Other: The norms of society used as a reference point.

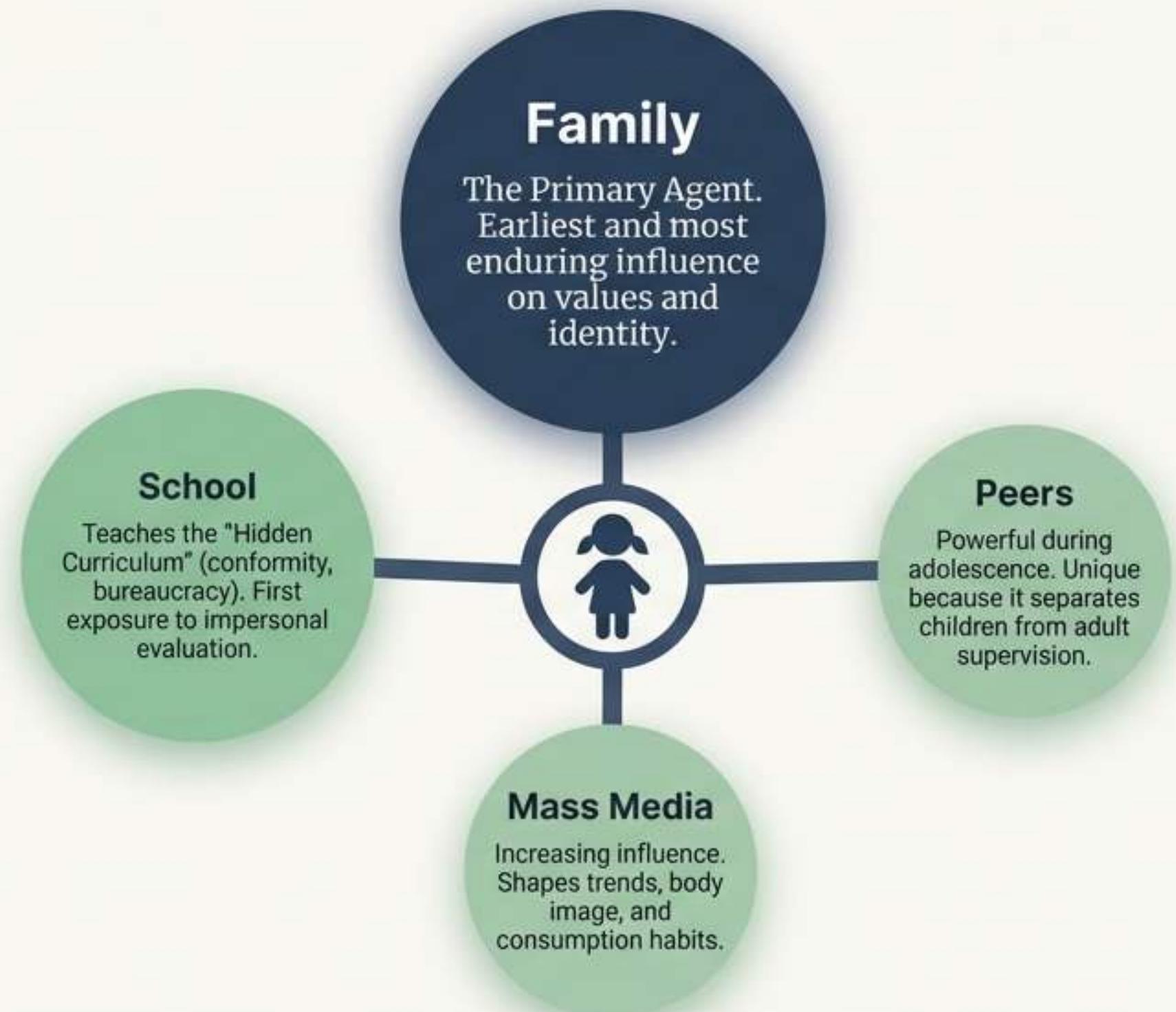


CLEP STRATEGY

Identify the “Me”:

If the question describes a person stopping themselves from doing something “crazy” because of rules, that is the “Me” “Me” in control.

Agents of Socialization



CLEP STRATEGY

Roboto Mono Regular

Priority Rule: If a question asks for the "most important" or "primary" agent, the answer is almost always the **Family**.

Social Groups & Interaction

Group Types

Primary Group

Small, intimate, long-term, emotional.
(e.g., Family)



Secondary Group

Large, impersonal, short-term, goal-oriented. (e.g., Coworkers)



Reference Group

The group we compare ourselves to. (e.g., Law students looking at Lawyers)



CLEP STRATEGY

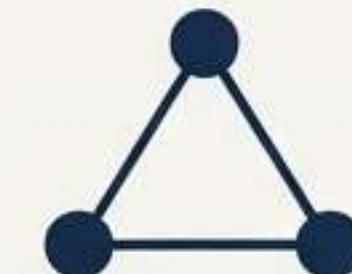
Simmel's Geometry:
Triads are stronger than Dyads, but they introduce the risk of "ganging up".

Simmel's Group Size Geometry



Dyad (2 People)

Most intimate but unstable. If one leaves, the group dies.



Triad (3 People)

More stable (survives if one leaves) but prone to coalitions (2 vs. 1).

Deviance Part I: Structure & Function

Emile Durkheim: Deviance is Functional

1. Affirms cultural norms.
2. Promotes social unity (us vs. them).
3. Encourages social change.

Merton's Strain Theory: The 5 Adaptations

	Cultural Goal (Wealth)	Institutional Means (Job/School)
Conformity	Accept	Accept
Innovation	Accept	Reject (e.g., Criminals)
Ritualism	Reject	Accept (e.g., Bureaucrats)
Retreatism	Reject	Reject (e.g., Dropouts)
Rebellion	Replace	Replace

CLEP STRATEGY

Don't assume deviance is always negative. In Sociology (Durkheim), it is a necessary engine for progress.



Deviance Part II: Interaction & Reaction

Module 1

Differential Association (Sutherland)

Deviance is LEARNED through interaction.

"If you hang out with a gang, you learn to be a gang member."

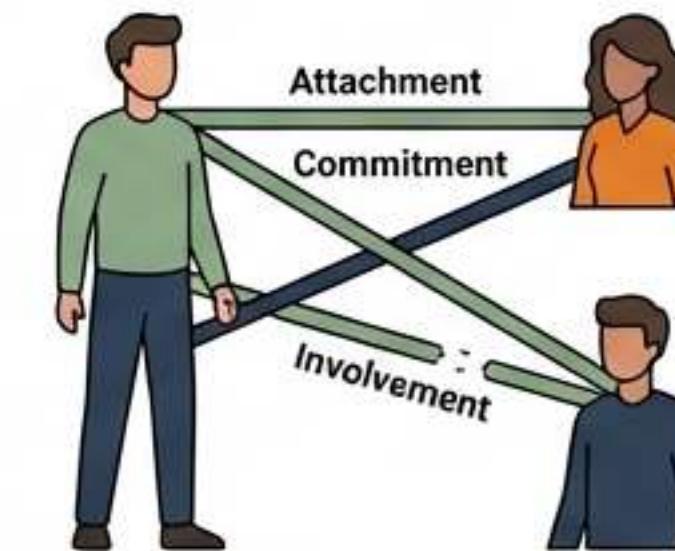


Module 2

Control Theory (Hirschi)

Deviance occurs when social bonds are WEAK.

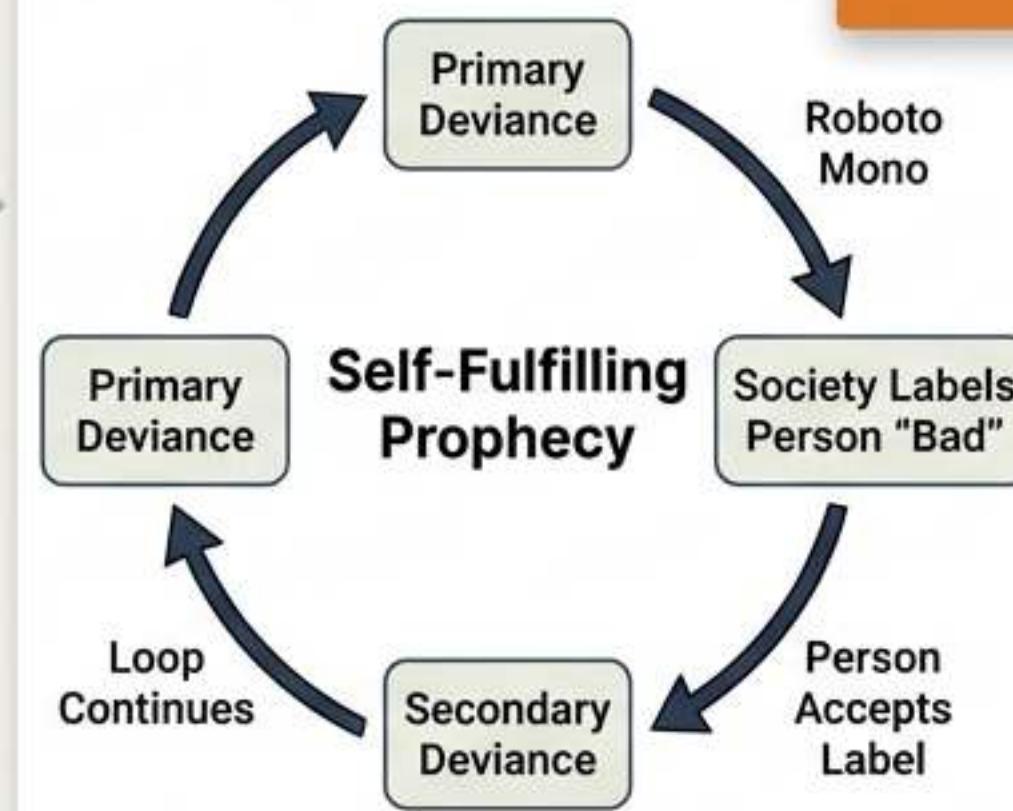
Strong attachment/commitment = High Control.



Module 3

Labeling Theory

Deviance is not the act, but the REACTION to it.



CLEP STRATEGY

Keyword Association:
"Bad Company" = Differential Association.
"Bad Reputation" = Labeling Theory.



Collective Behavior & Social Movements

Collective Behavior



Spontaneous, unstructured, short-lived.
Examples: Fads, Riots, Mass Panics.

Social Movements



Organized, goal-oriented, sustained.
Examples: Civil Rights, Suffrage.

- **Resource Mobilization Theory:** Success requires **RESOURCES** (money, labor, media), not just grievances.
- **Relative Deprivation:** Movements arise when people feel deprived **RELATIVE** to others they compare themselves to.

CLEP STRATEGY

Reality Check:
Anger isn't enough.
Without Resource
Mobilization
(money/structure), a
movement will fail.



Systems of Stratification

Caste System (Closed)



Class System (Open)



- Status by birth (Ascribed).
- No social mobility.
- Endogamy: Must marry within caste.
- Status by birth AND achievement.
- Allows social mobility.
- Meritocracy: Ideal that status is based on ability/effort.

CLEP STRATEGY

The Key Variable:
Mobility

Caste systems have zero mobility.
Class systems allow movement up and down the ladder.

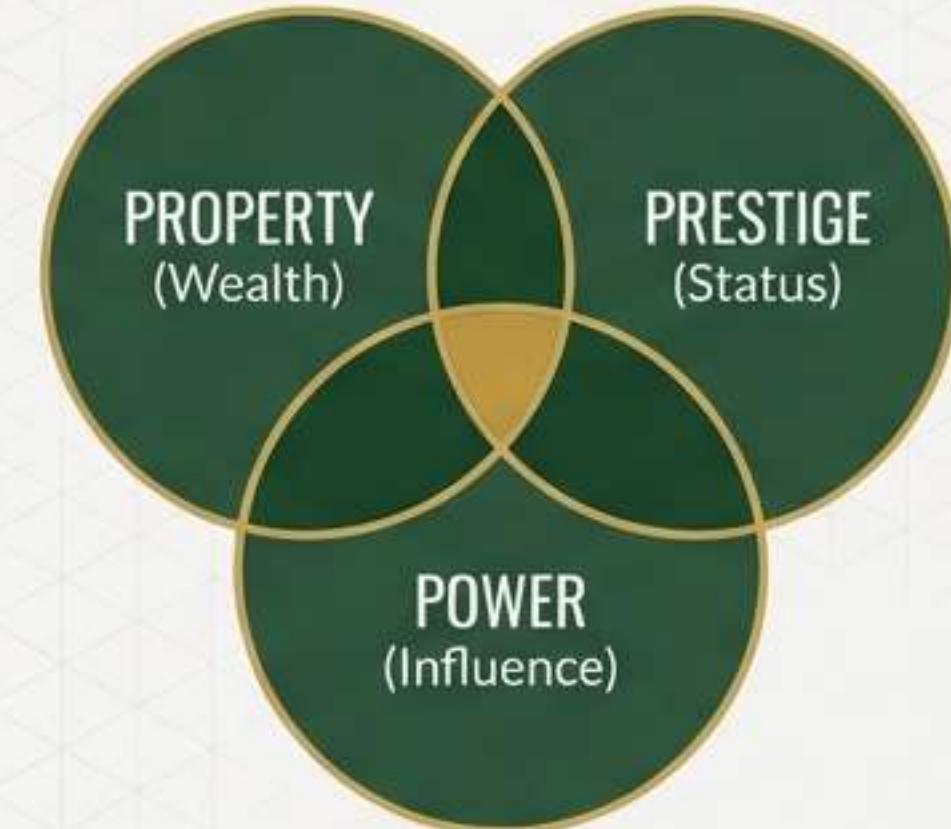
SOCIAL STRATIFICATION: MARX VS. WEBER

KARL MARX: 1 DIMENSION



Economic Determinism. Class is defined strictly by relationship to the means of production.

MAX WEBER: 3 DIMENSIONS



Socioeconomic Status (SES). Class is a multidimensional mix of the '3 P's'.



CLEP STRATEGY: Memorize the dimensions.

Marx = 1 Dimension (Money). Weber = 3 Dimensions (Property, Prestige, Power).

SOCIAL MOBILITY: NAVIGATING THE HIERARCHY

Intergenerational Mobility

Miner's son becomes a Lawyer.



STRUCTURAL MOBILITY

Economy-wide change (e.g., Tech Boom) pushing everyone up/down regardless of individual effort.

Definition Panel



Intragenerational:
Change in status within a single career lifespan.



CLEP Strategy

EXAM TIP: If the question mentions a recession, factory closure, or tech boom changing status, the answer is *Structural Mobility*.

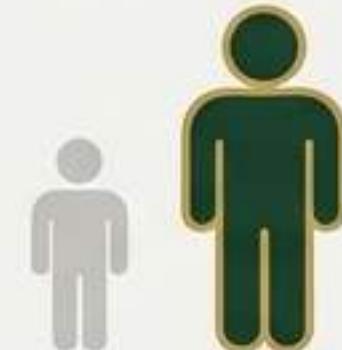
POVERTY IN THE US: DEFINITIONS & DEMOGRAPHICS

ABSOLUTE POVERTY



Life-threatening lack of basic necessities (food, shelter).

RELATIVE POVERTY



Deprivation compared to the average standard of living.

DATA SPOTLIGHT



The Feminization of Poverty

The trend where women—specifically single mothers—represent a disproportionate share of the impoverished population.

Controversial Theory: Culture of Poverty

The belief that the poor adopt unique values/behaviors that perpetuate their status.

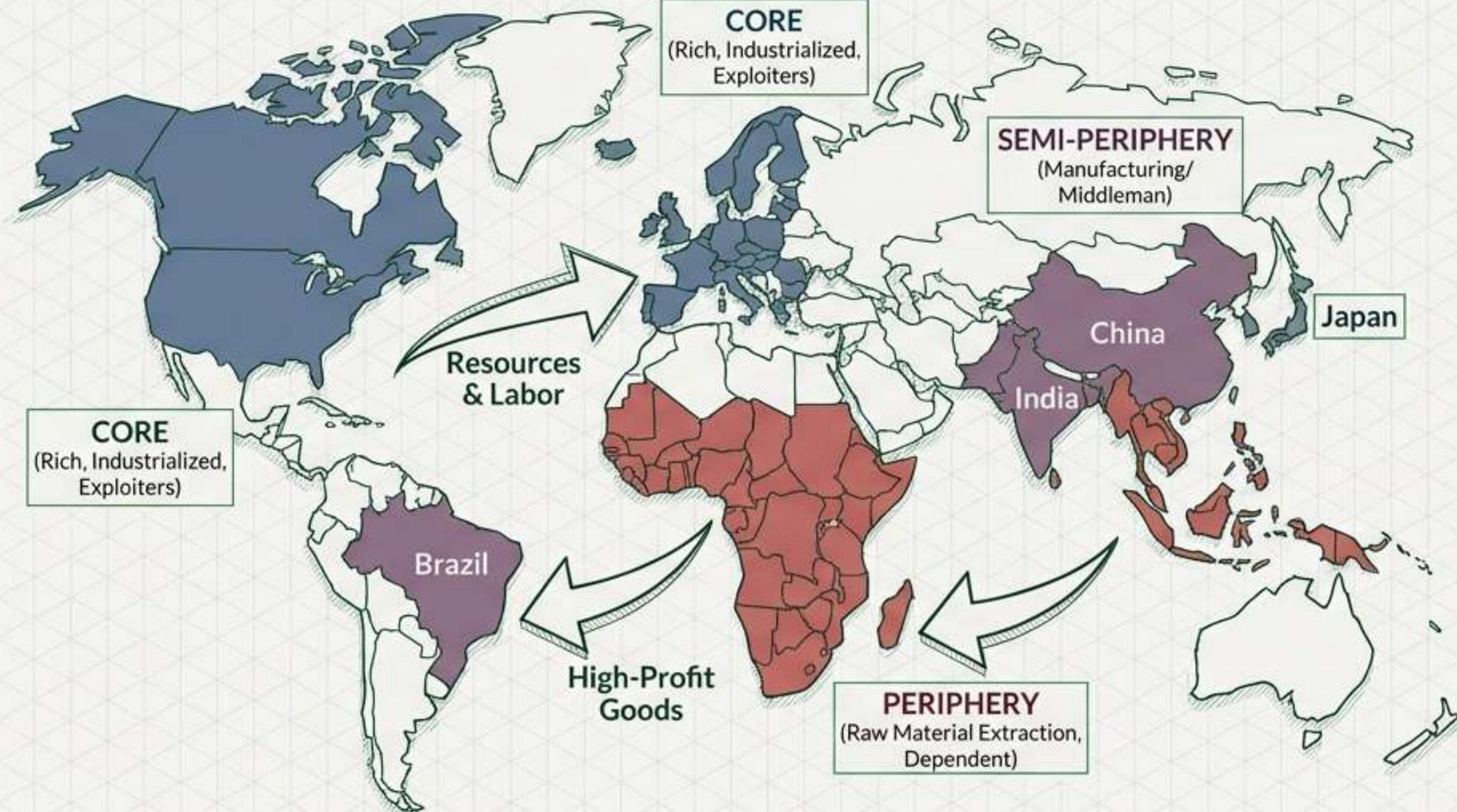


CLEP Strategy

DEMOGRAPHIC ALERT:

Women + Children make up the largest group in poverty.

GLOBAL STRATIFICATION: WORLD SYSTEMS THEORY



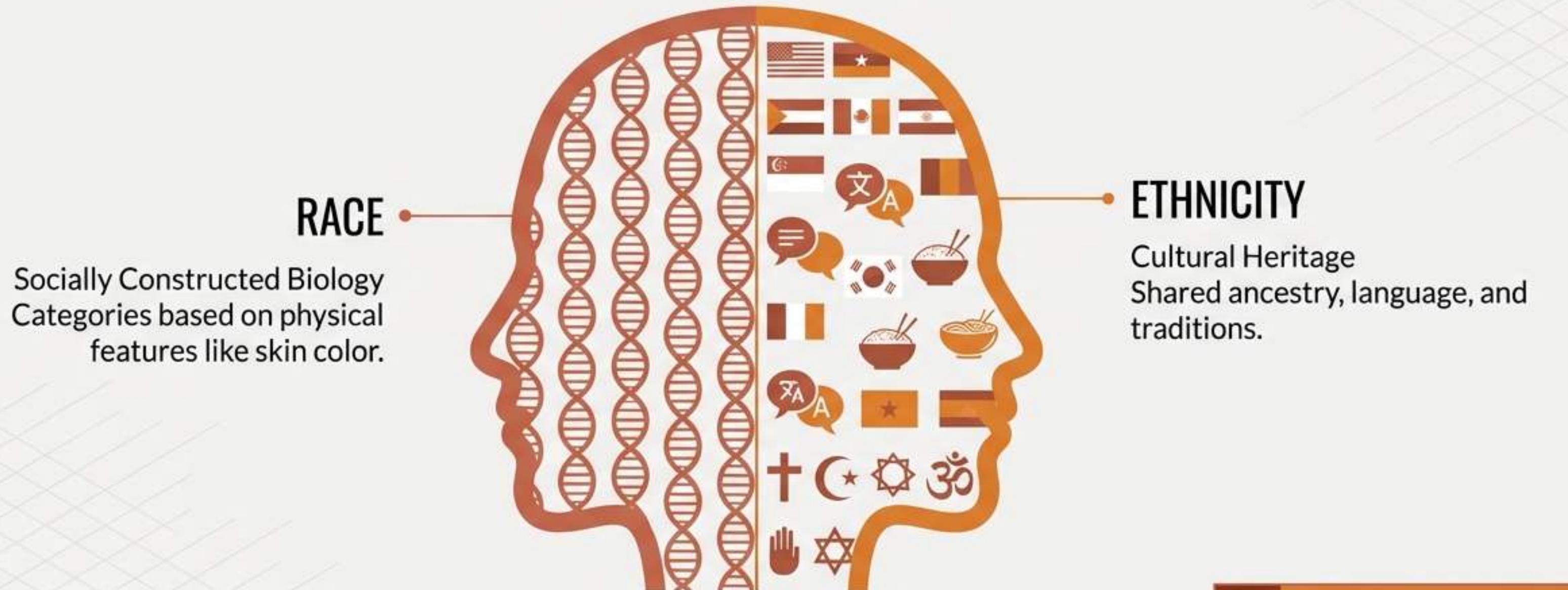
Neocolonialism

Economic dominance of poor nations by rich nations without direct political control.

CLEP Strategy

DIFFERENTIATION:
Colonialism = Armies and Flags.
Neocolonialism = Debt and Markets.

RACE VS. ETHNICITY: BIOLOGY VS. CULTURE



CLEP Strategy

TRAP ALERT: Women are a numerical majority, but a sociological "Minority Group" because they lack power relative to men.

PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION: ATTITUDE VS. ACTION



PREJUDICE

(Internal / Attitude)

A negative pre-judgment or belief.

Example: Stereotypes.



DISCRIMINATION

(External / Action)

Unfair treatment or behavior directed at a group.



INSTITUTIONAL

(Systemic)

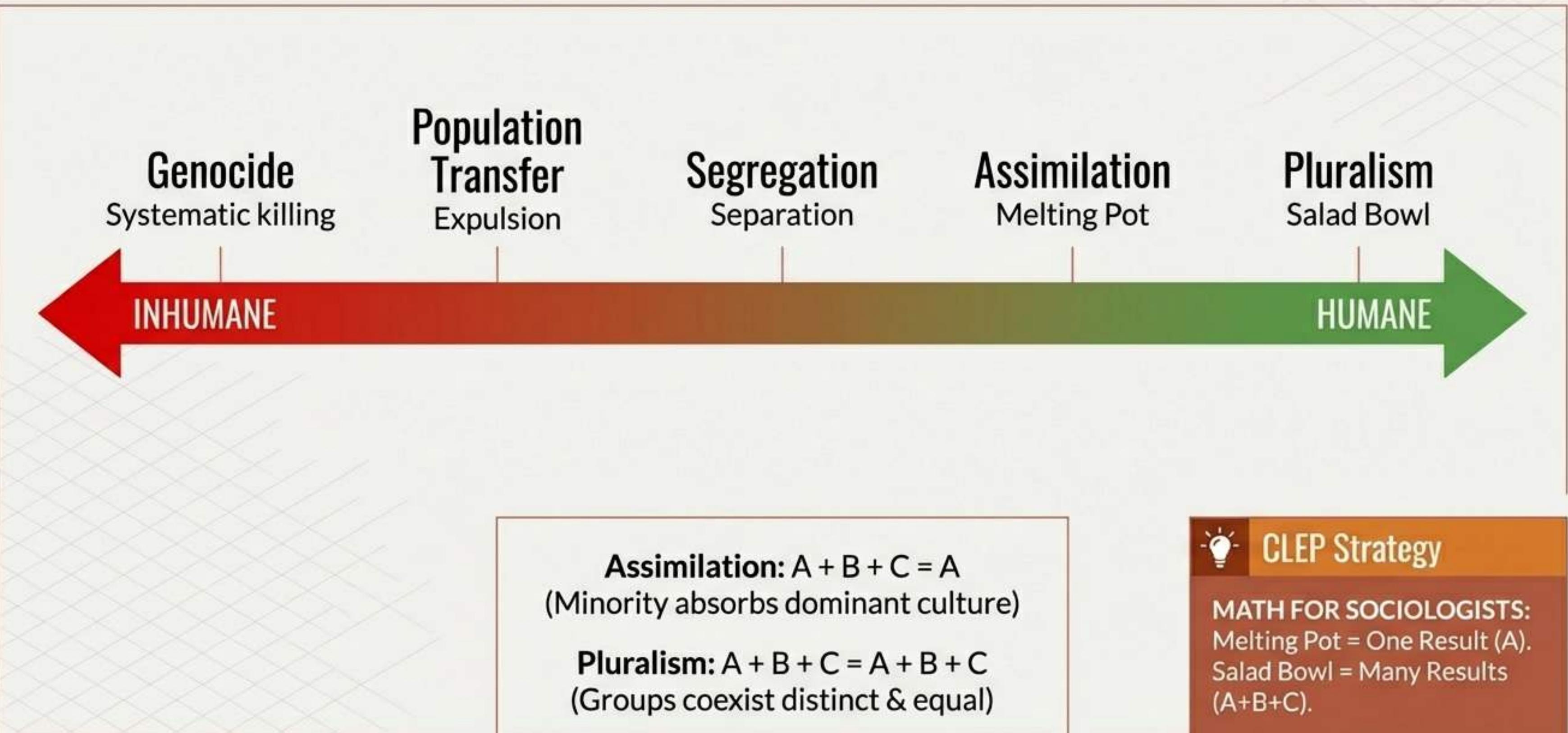
Bias built into the operation of society (laws, lending, hiring).



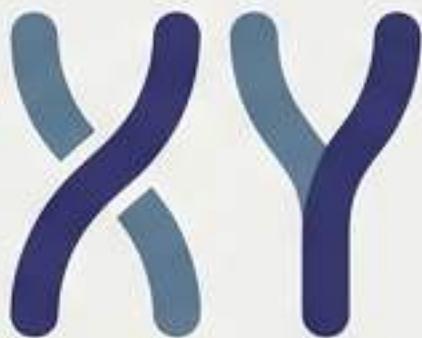
CLEP Strategy

MNEMONIC: Prejudice is in the head (Thinking).
Discrimination is the act (Doing).

INTERGROUP RELATIONS: THE HUMANITY SPECTRUM



SEX VS. GENDER: NATURE VS. NURTURE



SEX

"Biological Hardware"

Physical distinction between male and female (organs, hormones, chromosomes).



GENDER

"Cultural Software"

Social significance assigned to biological differences.
Masculinity vs. Femininity.

Gender Socialization: The process of learning society's expectations (e.g., 'Blue is for boys').

Gender Roles: The specific tasks and behaviors expected of each gender.



CLEP Strategy

DISTINCTION: Sex is what you are born with.
Gender is what society teaches you to be.

GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

THE GLASS CEILING



Invisible barrier blocking women from top executive positions.

THE GLASS ESCALATOR



Men in female-dominated fields (nursing, teaching) rise faster to leadership.

Patriarchy

Social organization where men dominate.

The Second Shift

Working women perform the majority of housework and childcare *after* their paid job.

CLEP Strategy

Don't confuse them:
The Ceiling stops women.
The Escalator boosts men.

FINAL REVIEW: HIGH-YIELD CHEAT SHEET

Theory & Methods

- **Functionalism:** Focuses on ORDER, Stability, and Parts of a System.
- **Conflict Theory:** Focuses on POWER, Inequality, and Struggle.
- **Interactionism:** Focuses on SYMBOLS and Micro-interactions.
- **Research:** Correlation is NOT Causation.

Institutions & Stratification

- **Socialization:** The FAMILY is the #1 most important agent.
- **Stratification:** Weber's 3 P's (Property, Prestige, Power).
- **Poverty:** Women and Children are the largest demographic.
- **Culture** Relativism = Good (Understanding). Ethnocentrism = Bad (Judging).



EXAM DAY STRATEGY: Read the question stem carefully. Is it asking for a THEORY or a METHOD? Eliminate answers that don't match the category. **GOOD LUCK!**



CLEP Strategy

DISTINCTION: Sex is what you are born with.
Gender is what society teaches you to be.