

way of connecting individuals within a society. In “Microfoundations”, Fligstein and MacAdams touch on this idea by exploring the idea of the social and how it plays into a society. People from a similar culture would tend to behave in a similar way. Durkheim takes that idea from a different perspective, looking at it through religion. Religion provided individuals with the reasoning behind their actions and their place in life. Both perspectives touch on the idea of how important it is to be apart of a group rather than being an individual.

Fligstein and MacAdams believed that the social was made up of things such as the sudden proliferation of art, elaborate grave goods, and distinctive local tool assemblages that were essential for the group to be united. This unity helped the society have similar experiences and understandings of the world, rather than having every man for himself. Their collective conscious allowed for the society or culture be on the same page, not seeing what others were doing as abnormal. They referred to the human abstract thought to be “double-edged”, meaning that if they interpret everything on a deeper level they may become overwhelmed. This is a problem in individuals. When the people were trying to figure things out on their own, they often were overwhelmed and became focused too much on the “inner perspective” and get lost. This aligns with Durkheim’s perspective on the matter. Using religion as a belief system provides individuals with an understanding of things that may confuse or mislead them. Depending upon a belief system could actually be a negative thing if people begin to only trust in their belief systems and not each other or even themselves. People are shaped by the group they are put into, their collective consciousness. We see this today in how parents feel about their children and the friends they find themselves with. Parents believe that the people their kids surround themselves

above, each individual also has their own say in their actions.

Every individual has the option to live in the world lonesome or part of a group of some sort. Fligstein, MacAdams, and Durkheim would all agree and argue that being a part of a group is an important part of becoming a good citizen of the community and in your own growth. People need a belief system of some sort to function well and be able to carry out life situations. In a world that is so divided in modern terms, falling back on the idea of a collective consciousness could reunite differing parties.