

Social Stratification

The division of people according to their property, power and prestige

Every society stratifies its members, some with more inequality than others. 4 major systems - Slavery, Caste, Estate, Class

Slavery

A form of social stratification.

3 main causes: Debt, Crime, War

Bonded labour - a voluntary contract for services

Caste

Caste system, birth determines status. Ignores acquired status
Societies with caste practice endogamy - marriage within one's own group

or
apartheid - separation of racial groups

Estate

European middle ages, 3 groups - Nobility, Clergy and Commoners

Royalty Church

Class

Social stratification based on money or possessions/possessions

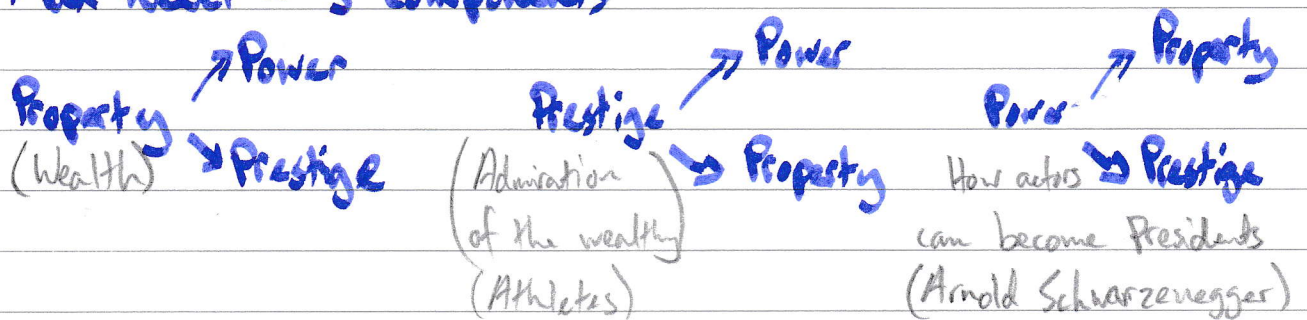
Global Superclass

World's wealthiest people.

to Top 10% own 85% of world's wealth

Karl Marx - If you own a means of production, you are a bourgeoisie (capitalist)
If not, then you are a proletariat (worker)
If neither, then you don't have class consciousness
the feeling of being exploited

Max Weber - 3 components



Why is Social Stratification Universal

Functionalists Davis and Moore

- 1) For society to function, positions must be filled
- 2) Some positions are more important than others
- 3) Important positions must be filled with qualified people
- 4) Important positions must have great rewards for motivation

Tumin disagreed. Why are some positions more important?
If described as above, society would be a meritocracy

positions based on merit
, society would benefit everyone but it doesn't

Conflict theorist Mosca - No society can exist unless organized

↳ Leadership

↳ Human self-centredness

(modern society) leads to more inequality

Levi-Strauss thought - societies with surplus ← conflict theorist
without surplus ← functionalists
(hunter gatherers)