

Stratification

Ryan Cragun – Summer, 2005

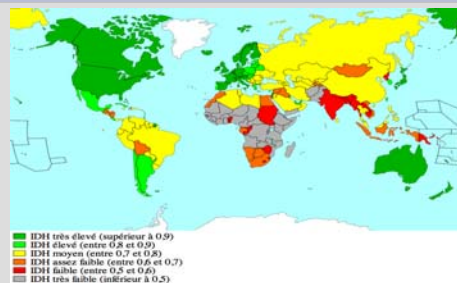
Economic Stratification

- Other forms of stratification: gender, race, religious
- Caste vs. class
- Poverty
 - Objective
 - Subjective
- 1 billion people live on less than \$1 per day
- 11 million children die every year; 30,000 per day
- Why are women and children most affected?

Global Inequality

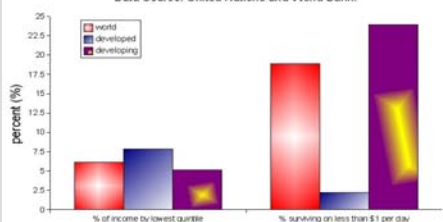
- first-world, second-world, third-world
- developed vs. developing countries
- Human Development Index
 - life expectancy
 - literacy rates
 - GDP

Human Development Index



Poverty Indicators

Global Stratification Indicators: % of income earned by lowest quintile (20%); % of population surviving on less than \$1 per day. Data averaged from 1990-2005. Data Source: United Nations and World Bank.



U.S. Inequality

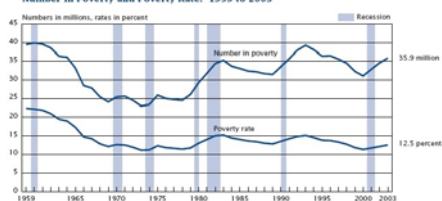
Poverty Thresholds in 2003 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years (Dollars)

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years							
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven or more
One person (unrelated individual)								
Under 65 years	9,873							
65 years and older	8,825							
Two people								
Householder under 65 years	12,321	12,482						
Householder 65 years and older	11,122	12,634						
Three people								
	14,360	14,810	14,824					
Four people								
	16,879	16,286	16,661	16,725				
Five people								
	22,487	25,227	22,550	21,658	21,623			
Six people								
	36,324	26,459	25,684	25,362	24,586	24,126		
Seven people								
	30,280	30,479	29,827	29,372	28,526	27,536	26,454	
Eight people								
	33,879	34,175	33,590	33,021	32,256	31,298	30,275	30,019
Nine people or more								
	43,711	43,940	43,444	42,947	42,196	41,153	39,995	39,572

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

U.S. Inequality

Figure 3. Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2003



Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, 1960 to 2004 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Structural Functionalism

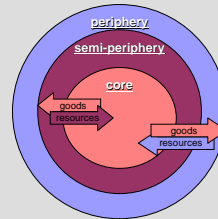
- Stratification regulates society; helps complex societies work
- Rewards are related to importance
- Limitations:
 - assumes it is necessary
 - supports the status quo

Social-Conflict/Marxism

- Stratification equates to inequality
- Marxist approach:
 - position in hierarchy is determined by relationship to means of production
 - bourgeoisie
 - proletariat
 - capitalism will lead to collective conscience and revolution
- Why no revolution?

Dependency Theory

- Marxism at the global scale
- core countries exploit peripheral countries
- maintains power and wealth imbalance



Concluding Thoughts...

- What can be done about stratification?
 - global scale
 - national scale

Class Questions