**Basic Stratification Terms**

1. Stratification: ranking system for groups of people that perpetuates unequal rewards and life chances in society.
2. Socioeconomic status (SES): prestige, honor, respect, and lifestyle associated with different positions or groups in society (p. 300).
3. Social mobility: movement of people or groups from one class to another (p. 295).
   - Intragenerational (within) or Intergenerational (between).
4. Slavery: economic forms of inequality in which some people are legally the property of others (p. 292).
   - Slavery systems vary in how slavery status is determined and whether mobility is allowed.
   - Chattel, Child Slavery, Debt Bondage, Servile forms of marriage, Human Trafficking.
5. Caste system: stratification system based on heredity, with little movement allowed across strata (p. 294).
6. Estate system (feudal system): stratification system in which high-status groups own land and have power based on birth (p. 294).
   - Little social mobility is allowed.
7. Social class: group of people who share a similar economic position in society, based on their wealth and income (p. 295).
   - Marx: Economic Class.
   - Weber: $ Economic Class, Status, Power (Modern SES approach).
   - Sociologists typically measure socioeconomic status (SES) by combining income, occupation and education (not wealth).
   - Sociologist Dalton Conley has recently proposed that wealth must be added to measures of SES.
   - Of blacks and whites with similar SES, whites tend to have much more wealth.

**Four Stratification Systems**

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**Selected Occupational Prestige Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Prestige Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanic</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank teller</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welder</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare worker</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairdresser</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail apparel salesperson</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck driver</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiter</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitor</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyer</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College professor</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church member</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered nurse</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary teacher</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer programmer</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor/reporter</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police officer</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actor</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer operator</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If all U.S. wealth, public and private were evenly distributed every single man, woman, and child would receive $425,000 (Macionis 2007).

Inequality (stratification) is functional and a source of social order. Function of stratification described by Davis & Moore:
- Society needs to fill most important and difficult jobs with the most talented people.
- If all jobs had same rewards, people would get little training and take easiest jobs.
- By attaching better rewards to more important positions, society motivates people to get training and work in more important jobs.

Pluralist view serves as checks and balances:
- Unions, Free Market, Lobbyists ensure no one entity becomes too powerful.
- Ideology of Individualism, American Dream, Meritocracy.
- There are no legal limits on social mobility: Open opportunity structure.

Criticisms of Davis-Moore Hypothesis:
1. Assumes better paying jobs are more important – Who decides?
   - Social and civic importance of job – Trash collectors.
   - Criteria for determination: Specialization vs. By (Surgeons vs. Farm Workers).
2. Assumes training for top jobs is undesirable
   - Inherent value of education/training.
   - Pride in Work – Cement Finishing, Aluminum Polishing, TA.
3. Stratification involves ascribed characteristics (e.g., race & gender)
   - Limited access to opportunity structure.
   - Different starting points.
4. Overly focused on income, however, as Conley noted, "Wealth Matters".
   - Investments, oil income, generate most individual wealth.

Marx’s Cylindrical Theory of Social Evolution

HAVES
- Thesis
- Antithesis
- Synthesis

HAVE NOTS

Materialism

Conflict Views
- Stratification is a source of conflict, coercion and unhappiness.
- Stratification systems are designed to benefit “have” at expense of “have-nots”.
- Marx’s class model: two-class system focuses on means of production and ability to control labor of others (Infrastructure).
- Means of production: land, commercial enterprises, factories, and wealth that form the economic basis of class societies (p. 297).
- Capitalist (bourgeoisie): someone who owns the means of production and is able to purchase the labor power of others (p. 297).
- Worker (proletariat): individual who neither owns means of production nor has the ability to purchase the labor power of others and who must instead sell his or her own labor to survive (p. 297).
- petite bourgeoisie: self-employed tradespersons and laborers.
- intellectuals.
More recent conflict models have built upon Marx’s insights but add other variables:
- Wright’s class model (p. 299) includes managers, who have authority but not ownership of the means of production.
- Conflict models of political power apply Marx’s insights to critique pluralist view that power in U.S. society is unevenly distributed among a number of diverse interest groups.
- Mills’ Power Elite.
- Corporate CEOs, Political Power, Military Industrial Complex.
- Domhoff’s Power Elite.
- Corporate CEOs, Political Power, Military Industrial Complex.
- Other conflict theorists have focused on non-economic factors that affect stratification, e.g., gender and race.

Conflict theorists argue that people are often unaware of the effect of stratification on their life-chances:
- False consciousness: situation in which people in the lower classes come to accept a belief system that harms them; the primary means by which powerful classes in society prevent protest and revolution (p. 298).
- Class consciousness: awareness of one’s class identity and interests.

Class Revolutions have had limited success:
- Underestimates significance and success of peaceful revolutions and/or social movements.
- Often conspiratorial.
- Potential remedies are hypothetical.
- Discounts significance of micro interactions in producing, perpetuating, and addressing inequalities.

Resolution = Revolution:
- Thesis: Current Arrangement = False Consciousness.
- Antithesis: Class Consciousness.
- Synthesis: Revolution.

HAVES:
- Thesis of power arrangement.
- Antithesis of class consciousness.
- Synthesis of socialism.

HAVE NOTS:
- Socialism.
- Communism.