

## **Summary of Davis and Moore's "Some Principles of Stratification"**

The main function of stratification is "placing and motivating individuals in the social structure."

1. Each society must (a) place individuals in social positions and (b) motivate them to work.
2. Some positions are more functionally important than others and/or require more training or talent than others.
3. Societies place appropriate (i.e., skilled and trained) people in these positions and motivate them to work by connecting these positions to better rewards.
4. Thus, the resulting stratification system is functional for society.

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### **KEY POINTS**

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### **INTERNAL FACTORS THAT AFFECT A SOCIETY'S STRATIFICATION SYSTEM**

1. How specialized are positions in the society?
2. What type of social organization is emphasized by the society (e.g., family, religion, political, capitalism)?
3. What is the amount of social distance between positions?
4. How much opportunity for mobility is available?
5. How much are different classes organized to pursue their interests?

### **EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE INTERNAL FACTORS**

1. The stage of cultural development
2. Relationships to other societies
3. Size of the society