

Tumin, Melvin M. 1953. "Some Principles of Stratification: A Critical Analysis." *ASR* 18(4):387–393.

Some claims of Davis and Moore and Tumin's responses to them:

1. Certain positions in any society are functionally more important than others.

How do you know what positions are functionally more important?

2. Only a limited number of individuals in any society have the talents that can be trained into the skills appropriate to these positions.

Stratification systems create obstacles to discovering talent.

3. The conversion of talents into skills involves a training period during which sacrifices of one kind or another are made by those undergoing the training.

Is training for a functionally important position (e.g., attending college) really a sacrifice?

4. In order to induce the talented persons to undergo these sacrifices and acquire the training, their future positions must result in privileged access to scarce and desired rewards.

Couldn't people be attracted to functionally important positions and motivated to do them by feelings of workmanship, duty or service? Don't these positions offer more satisfaction anyway?

Tumin further claims that:

"Social stratification systems function to provide the elite with the political power necessary to procure acceptance and dominance of an ideology which rationalizes the *status quo*, whatever it may be, as 'logical,' 'natural,' and 'morally right.' In this manner social stratification systems function as essentially conservative influences in the societies in which they are found."