

BUREAUCRACY

- * Bureaucracy is an accomplishment, as well as an irritant

Affordable care act

- Bureaucracy getting a bad name
- Seems incredibly complicated

People & Bureaucracy

- Bloated
- Doesn't care about you
- Treated as a number

Max Weber

- Frames Bureaucracy in terms of understanding power
- Power vs Authority
 - ex. someone holding gun to your head holds power; people with authority are acknowledged ~ taxes (acknowledging that they have the right to do this ~ voluntarily)
- Argues there are **3 stages**
 - 1.) **Charismatic leadership** (greek for "touched by God")
 - Hitler
 - Martin Luther King Jr. (Pastor at church - become key leaders)
 - Problem ~ based upon worship of the leader
(Martin got the Nobel Peace Prize & when he was assassinated, they didn't know who to give the prize to)
 - 2.) **Traditional Authority**
 - Queen Victoria - inherited authority
 - solution to the problem of succession (not following a charismatic leader ~ following the king)
 - People believed that God picked the people who become king
 - Parallels between heaven & earth (Picture of Jesus & the disciples & king & all his followers)
 - Problem ~ bloodlines can't guarantee talented leadership
 - 3.) **Rational** - legal authority
 - authority granted to a set of rules (ex. the US ~ no king)
 - constitution - rules we live by/laws that will govern the nation
 - Works for Religions, Universities, Businesses ~ structure for rules

-Weber offers **6 characteristics**:

- 1.) Specialization ~ division of labor
- 2.) Competence ~ training to perform roles
- 3.) Hierarchy ~ clear lines of authority
- 4.) Rules & Regulations ~ specified procedures to follow
- 5.) Impersonality ~ who you are shouldn't matter
- 6.) Formal, Written Communication ~ there are records

-Hallmark of Bureaucracy:

- the organization chart

-Bureaucracies interlock to create complex social systems

ADVANTAGES

- they can be rather large
- to control a large amount of space - bureaucracies are needed
- to last long periods of time

*Still, bureaucracies have tensions

George Ritzer

- McDonaldization - modern bureaucracy
 - McDonald's is a new kind of bureaucracy
 - Narrowly defined set of rules
 - Scripted interaction
 - From a limited menu, to options for different ages & lifestyles
- Countries that have McDonald's don't go to war (not completely true)

PROBLEMS WITH BUREAUCRACIES

- World War I trench warfare -machine guns
- 19th century - battles were fought by masses of troops

Societies depend on organizations with bureaucracies

- Organizations can mobilize resources to solve problems
 - ex. march of dimes for polio
 - vaccinations for kids

**Primary impulse of bureaucracies

- they want to continue to operate

