

Political System

- Social institution founded on a recognized set of procedures for implementing and achieving society's goals (cultural universal).

Economic System

- Social institution through which goods and services are produced, distributed and consumed (cultural universal).

Power-

- The ability to exercise ones will over others (Weber)
- Types of power
 - o Force: actual use of threat or coercion to impose one's will on others.
 - The government has the exclusive right to use violence or force.
 - "Violence is the ultimate foundation of any political order." (Berger 1963)
 - o Influence: the exercise of power through the use of persuasion
 - o Authority: institutionalized power recognized by whom it is exercised.
 - Traditional authority - acquired via tradition, cultural beliefs and practices - often transferred through lineage. (custom)
 - Legal-rational authority: acquired via legitimate laws, and the written (or formal) rules and regulations of a political system. (collective)
 - Charismatic authority - acquitted through one's exceptional personal attributes and emotional appeal to people. (one person)

Types of Government

- Monarchy: hierarchical society linked to land and based upon traditional authority
- Democracy: "power to the people"
 - Citizenship – by virtue of birth and residence people have basic rights. Government is responsive to the will of the people, NOT the people to the will of the government.
- Oligarchy: a few individuals have seized power.
- Dictatorship: one person has seized nearly total power.
- Totalitarianism: total control of a people by the government

Economy

- Two primary economic systems: capitalism and socialism
- Capitalism-----Socialism
- Modern day economies are responses to industrialization.
 - Industrialization: dependence upon mechanization to produce goods and services needed by society
- Capitalism
 - Means of production are privately controlled and primary goal is the accumulation of profit. (ex. Show me the money)
 - A pure capitalist system (laissez-faire capitalist system): has no government intervention to regulate the economy. Business regulates itself.
- Socialism
 - Means of production and distribution in a society are collectively (publicly) owned. Meeting societal needs is the primary goal.
- Communism
 - Citizens control the means of production and social stratification does not exist
- Changes in the economy
 - Deindustrialization: withdrawal of investment in industry.
 - Downsizing: reduction in a company's workforce
 - Diversity: more women, racial and ethnic minorities in the workforce
 - E-commerce: people use the internet to do business

Power Structure

- Economic and political systems are interconnected, as the goals and purposes of each overlap
- Perspectives of Power Structures:
 - Pluralist(Functionalist): Maintain order and stability. Establishes societal goals and organizes to achieve those goals.
 - Power is diffuse among many special interests groups and across institutions. All groups have access to government so that one group dominates.
 - Power elite models (conflict): Society is governed by a small group of individuals who share common political and economic interests.
 - Marx: bourgeoisie (business people)
 - Mills: military, government and business figures

Reading 37 - Power Elite - Mills

- The power elite is made up of business leaders, military leaders, and political leaders
- In order to be a member of the power elite you have to cycle through these domains
- The people moving across domains are gaining social capital thorough the networking that they are doing
- Mills is not arguing that the power elite is a conspiracy looking to take over but are working toward the same thing. Their own interests (conflict perspective)

Ritzer and McDonaldization

- Same food
- Convenient
- Control, efficiency (convenient), calculability, predictability
- Has changed banking in term of ATM and now online banking
- Online shopping less face to face interaction