

SOC Chapter 1

Sociology: the systematic study of human society and social interaction

-we study how human behavior is shaped by group life and how individuals affect a group

Early thinkers: a concern with social order and stability

Auguste Comte- "founder of sociology", positivism (a belief that the world can best be understood through scientific inquiry)

Harriet Martineau- translated & condensed Comte's work, explored the status of women, children, and "sufferers"

Herbert Spencer- societies develop through a process of "survival of the fittest", natural selection

Emile Durkheim- social facts (patterned ways of thinking, acting, and feeling that exert social control over each person) "the crucial figure in the development of sociology as an academic discipline"

Differing views on the status quo: stability verses change

Karl Marx- believes that conflict is necessary to produce social change and a better society, *economic changes are the most important*, owners vs workers

Max Weber- sociology research should be "value free", thinks that bureaucracies were destructive to human vitality and freedom

Georg Simmel- social interactions change depending on the size of the group (dyad, triad), "geometry of social life", "social spheres", focused on small social groups

functionalist perspectives: the sociological approach that views society as a stable, orderly system

conflict perspectives: the sociological approach that views groups in society as engaged in a continuous power struggle for control of scarce resources

symbolic interactionist perspectives: how people make sense of their everyday social interactions

manifest functions: functions that are intended and/or overtly recognized by the participants in a social unit

latent functions: unintended functions that are hidden and remain unacknowledged by participants

Conventional research process

(deduction and quantitative) 1. selecting and defining the research problem 2. reviewing previous research 3. formulating the hypothesis, constructing variables 4. developing the research design 5. collecting and analyzing the data 6. drawing conclusions and reporting the findings

Qualitative approach

1. formulate the problem 2. collect and analyze data 3. report the results