

Ch. 9 Global Stratification

The power of Society

-In a world of unequal economic development, how does a child's country of birth affect the chances of survival?

Global Stratification: an overview

-Richest 20 percent of world population gets 77% of all Global Income and 93.6% of global wealth

Changing Terminology

-Old terminology

- First world: industrial rich countries
- Second world: less industrial socialist countries
- Third world: non-industrial poor countries

-Problems with old terminology

- After the cold War, the second world no longer existed
- The third world is too economically diverse to be meaningful

-New terminology

- High income: Nations with the highest standard of living
- Middle income: Somewhat poorer nations with economic development typical for the world
- Low income: Nations with lowest productivity and extensive poverty

-Advantages

- Focuses on economic development rather than political structure (capitalist or socialist)
- Provides better picture of the relative economic development of various countries

New Terminology

-High income Countries

- First to develop during industrial revolution 2 centuries ago
- Enjoy 64% of the world's income
- Control of financial markets, which means control of other countries

-Middle-income countries

- About 52% of the population lives in or near urban areas and have industrial jobs
- About 48% live in rural areas and engage in agricultural activities – a general lack of access to schools, medical care, and safe water

-Low-income countries

- Mostly poor, rural economies
- Agrarian, with some industry
- Very short life expectancy
- Hunger, disease, and unsafe housing shape the lives of the world's poorest people

Poverty

-The Severity of Poverty

-Relative poverty

- Lack of resources that others take for granted
- This sort of poverty exists in every society, rich or poor
- Absolute poverty
- A life-threatening lack of resources
- 1/3 or more of the people in low-income countries experience poverty at this level

-Extent of poverty

-Is poverty life-threatening?

- In some African and Asian countries, half of annual deaths are children under age of 10
- Every 10 min, 100 people die of hunger, about 25,000 people a day

-1.4 billion people suffer from chronic hunger in the world

-Poverty and Children

- 100 million children in poor countries are forced to work the streets (beg, steal, sell sex)
- Tens of millions of children are orphaned or have left their families and live on the streets
- Many girls, with little or no access to medical assistance, become pregnant

Women, Slavery, and Poverty

-Women

-Jobs

- 70% of the world's 1 billion people living near absolute poverty are women
- In all societies, a woman's work is unrecognized, undervalued, and underpaid
- Sweatshop workers are mostly women

-Childbirth/health

- Most women in poor countries receive little or no reproductive health care
- World's poorest women typically give birth without help from trained health care personnel

-Slavery

-5 types of slavery

- Chattel slavery: one person owns another
- Child slavery: a more common form of bondage
- Debt bondage: Employers hold workers to pay debts
- Servile forms of marriage: women married against their will or forced into prostitution
- Human trafficking: Third largest source of profit to organized crime

Correlates of Global Poverty

- Technology: about ¼ of the people in low-income countries use human or animal power to farm land
- Population growth: population for poor countries in Africa doubles every 25 years
- Cultural patterns: People resist innovations; accept slavery as a way of life
- Social stratification: Low-income countries distribute wealth very unequally
- Gender inequality: Raising living standards means improving women's standing
- Global power relationships: Historically, wealth flowed from poor societies to rich nations through colonialism
 - Colonialism: process by which some nations enrich themselves through political and economic control of other nations
 - Neocolonialism: "New" form of global power relationships that involves not direct political control but economic exploitation by multinational corporations

Theories of Global Stratification

-Modernization Theory

- Technology
- Population Growth
- Cultural Patterns

-Dependency Theory

- Social Stratification
- Gender Inequality
- Global Power Relationships

Modernization theory

- Model of economic and social development that explains global inequality in terms of technological and cultural differences between nations
- Structural-function approach
- Historical perspective
 - Centuries ago, the entire world was poor
 - Exploration, trade, and the industrial revolution transformed Western Europe and North America
 - Absolute poverty declined and standard of living jumped in some areas of the world

- Weber: Cultural perspective
 - Protestant Reformation reshaped traditional Christian beliefs
 - Wealth became a personal virtue
 - Individualism replaced the traditional emphasis on family and community

Rostow's Stages of Modernization

- Traditional stage: changing traditional views
- Take-off stage: use of talents and imaginations
- Drive to technological maturity: Diversified economy takes over
- High mass consumption: mass production stimulates consumption

The Role of Rich Nations in Global Economic Development

- Controlling population: Exporting birth control and educating people on its importance
- Increasing food production: using of new hybrid seeds, modern irrigation methods, the use of chemicals and pesticides
- Introducing industrial technology: Sharing machinery and information to facilitate shifts in economies
- Providing foreign aid: using money for equipment necessary for change
- Evaluation: modernization simply has not happened in many poor countries
 - Fails to recognize how rich nations benefit from the status quo of poor nations
 - Ethnocentric approach holds up the richest nations as the standard to judge other societies
 - Blames global poverty on the poor societies

Dependency Theory

- Historical perspective
 - Model of economic and social development that explains inequality in terms of the exploitation of poor nations by rich ones
 - People living in poor countries were better off in the past than they are now
 - Social-conflict approach
- Importance of colonialism
 - Europeans colonized much of the west, south and east
 - African slave trade is the most brutal form of human exploitation
 - Neocolonialism is the "essence" of the modern capitalistic world economy

Wallerstein's Capitalist World Economy

- Today's world economy is rooted in the colonization that began 500 years ago
 - Rich countries: form that core of the world economy and are enriched by raw materials from around the world
 - Low income countries: are the peripheries by providing inexpensive labor and a market for industrial products
 - Middle-income countries form...
- Narrow, export-oriented economies:
 - Poor countries produce only a few crops for export to rich countries
- Lack of industrial capacity:
 - Poor countries sell raw materials to rich countries, and then buy finished products at high prices
- Foreign debt:
 - Unequal trade patterns have plunged poor countries into debt

Comparing Theories

- Importance of colonialism
 - Modernization Theory: views how rich nations produce wealth
 - Dependency Theory: views how countries distribute wealth