

Chapter 8

Social Stratification

* Social Stratification

- system by which people are ranked in a hierarchy
- it is universal, variable, & transferred
- transferred - what parents are is what you are at birth, social mobility
- an unequal system is fair

* Caste vs. Class

- caste - based on birth, little changed is allowed, India
- class - based on birth & individual achievements
- open to social mobility, all people are equal

* Meritocracy

- idea of stratification based on merit
- what one does determines where one ends up
- never existed in pure form

* Classless

- communism & socialism
- USSR - Russian Revolution 1917 - state controlled everything

* Ideology & SS

- ideology - why ideas exist
- Plato - all cultures consider some inequality fair
- Herbert Spencer - survival of the fittest, took theories from Darwin & applied to society

* Function

- SF

- Davis-Moore Thesis - SS lends its operations of society; the more costly a job, the better the reward