

Religion

Chapter 13

* Religion

- it is a symbolic institution
- involves beliefs & practices based on recognizing the sacred
- sacred - surpass limits of human knowledge, holy
- profane - ordinary, everyday elements of life
- ritual - formal ceremonial behaviors
- faith - belief based on conviction rather than scientific evidence
- sociologists study of religion & why it takes a certain form, how it changes, etc.
- religiosity - how important religion is to someone

* Emile Durkheim

- sociology of religion
- 3 functions of religion (structural functionalism)
- social cohesion - shared values & norms by adhering to a certain religion
- social control - promote conformity
- providing meaning & purpose - life has a purpose, there is greater meaning

* Types of Religious Organizations

- church - well integrated into the larger society
- usually exists for centuries, leaders are formally trained & ordained
- accepts profane ways of world
- conceive God in intellectual terms
- are abstract moral standards - avoids social controversy